

The Crittenden Press

See Marion water chart | Page 10

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THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022

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

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ONE DOLLAR

KENTUCKY REAL PROPERTY TAX TAKES A DIP FOR 2022

Kentucky's real property tax rate has been set for 2022 and it's a bit lower. The recalculated rate for taxes due later this year is 11.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, representing a reduction of four-tenths of one cent from the 2021 rate of 11.9 cents. There are no changes to the state rate for any of the various other tangible property classes.

MORE THAN HALF OF KY IN NEAR DROUGHT STAGE

Despite welcome rain in parts of the state over the past few days, the U.S. Drought Monitor shows more than half of Kentucky is now in a "moderate drought" category, including much of Crittenden County. It's been a tough summer for Marion to be facing a drinking water shortage. Marion and 55 percent of Kentucky is considered in moderate drought in the latest report, up from 31.05 percent the previous week. Just over 25 percent of Kentucky, including parts of Crittenden County, are also one step below full drought, in an abnormally low category. The estimated population of Kentucky now in moderate drought is 1.7 million according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

BIKERS ROLLING THROUGH

This week marks the annual motorcycle rally at Sturgis. Bikers have already begun rolling through Marion en route to the event that draws thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts. It runs from Thursday through Sunday.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion City Council meets in regular session at 5 p.m., Monday, July 18 at city hall.
- Crittenden County Board of Education's Local Planning Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 19 at Rocket Arena conference room.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, July 21 at the courthouse.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Marion continues to seek volunteers to help at the bottled water giveaway at the former armory. Call city hall to help out at 270-965-2266.
- Crittenden County Fair begins Tuesday, July 19 and runs through Saturday, Aug. 6. See complete schedule elsewhere in this edition.
- Crittenden County School District will have later starting date than in recent years. Students' first day back to class will be Monday, Aug. 29.



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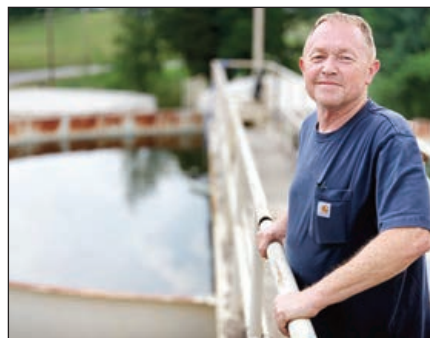


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We ♥ Marion Every Gallon Counts



Philip Parish of Parish and Hooks Farms helps line up one of the large tankers it's mobilized in support of Marion's water crisis. The tankers can haul 5,500 to 6,000 gallons of raw water each from the Tradewater River to Old City Lake.



Jeff Black, Marion's water superintendent, is in charge of making sure water stays fit to drink.

Rain elusive, but water is flowing

STAFF REPORT

While Mother Nature remains uncooperative in Marion's water crisis, other water producers in nearby counties, the National Guard and P&H Farms are carrying a lion's share of the load to make sure the town doesn't go dry.

Late last week, the local farmers got the okay from state government to join the military reserves in hauling raw water to Old City Lake. Right now, they're getting it from the Tradewater River, but there's some consideration of finding another point of collection for raw water, perhaps at Mill Bluff Spring near Fredonia or even the Ohio River.

Crittenden-Livingston Water District, with cooperation from Webster County Water District, is now pouring 130 gallons per minute, or 187,000 gallons a day, of drinking water into Marion. That's almost 60 percent of the town's demand with Stage 3 Conservation Measures in place. With residents cutting back, the daily need is down to near 300,000 gallons a day from a normal demand of around 450,000.

Rain is desperately needed to help Old City Lake remain viable in the production of potable water, but precipitation has been slim to none over the last couple of weeks.



The City of Marion issued a boil water notice on Thursday, July 7. It will remain in effect until further notice.

Although a second July rainstorm passed through the area late Friday, very little fell on Old City Lake. Measured rainfall at the water plant was just one-tenth of an inch, while the Kentucky Mesonet weather station north of town near Mattoon recorded almost a full inch of rain.

Since the beginning of July, the weather station has recorded 5.1 inches of rain while Marion's raw water lake – only about six miles south – has gotten just over one-

See **WATER**/page 10

STAFF REPORT

It's tough enough during normal conditions to morph what looks like murky marsh water into a sparkling drink. With Marion's H₂O in crisis, Jeff Black has been putting in long hours and spending a great deal of time tossing and turning in bed. He feels the pressure of his job every moment of the day.

Black is superintendent of the Marion Water Plant. He's put in extra hours at the facility since May and thinks about it when he's home.

"The worst part is I don't have time to see my grandkids," said Black, who has worked at the facility off Chapel Hill Road for 17 years.

Getting the chemistry right to ensure that the town's drinking water stays clear, crisp, odor free and safe hasn't been routine over the past several weeks. At public meetings and behind the scenes, a number of Marion leaders have called Black a true hero in the battle to avoid running out of water.

"I am glad to be in the middle of it," he said. "I live here, too, and drink the water. I care for the people and want them to have good water and plenty of it."

The plant has two licensed operators. Black has a Class 3 operators license. Tom Mason is the other operator and Trevor Peppler is a trainee working toward certification. The three of them operate the plant seven days a week. It typically runs about 15 hours a day, but because

See **PLANT**/page 9

Living the Dream

Hunt's artistry lights way for Buckeye football program

STAFF REPORT

Ethan Hunt grew up a sports fan and a talented athlete in Crittenden County.

He's now rubbing shoulders with sports icons like Lane Kiffin, Tim Tebow, Laura Rutledge and he figures he'll bump into LeBron James soon.

Hunt, 22, has found a way to paint his passion into sports masterpieces rendered with a camera, computer software, along with uncanny creative talent. His newest job is assistant director of creative design for Ohio State University, which has one of the premier college football programs in the country.

"It's neat to see some famous faces in the building," Hunt said about his brushes with well-known sports icons.

A few weeks ago, he left Oxford, Miss., where he'd been interning at the University of Mississippi to become a full-time creative assistant for the Buckeyes in Columbus, Ohio.

With the emergence of social media as an all-star player in the recruiting business, many high schools, colleges and professional teams are plunking tremendous resources into electronic market-



Marion native Ethan Hunt poses in Ohio State's media room with Archie Griffin's second Heisman Trophy. Griffin won the trophy in 1974 and 1975. He donated this one to Ohio State.

See **HUNT**/page 4

School district retirees



Seven retirees of the Crittenden County School District were honored at the end of the school year. Above from top are central office secretary Vanessa Shewcraft, maintenance director Greg Binkley, superintendent Vince Clark, special education director Jenni Gilkey; special education instructor Millie Hughes; elementary teacher Mandy Gardner; and elementary teacher DeLois Paddock. Each received a personalized cutting board commemorating their retirement.

Deaths

Howard

Tammy Howard, 51, of Marion, died July 5, 2022 at her home. Surviving are her father, Bruce Howard of Marion; a brother, Tony Howard of Illinois; two sisters, Vanessa Adams and Trudy Howard, both of Marion; three nieces and three nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Mae King; and her grandmother, Mae Howard.

Services were Monday, July 11 at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Matheney

LaNora Mae Metheny, 77, of Marion, passed away peacefully at Salem Springlake Nursing Home on Friday, July 8, 2022. She was born on June 30, 1945 to LeVon Metheny. She was a long-time member of Central Baptist Church. She was a former employee of the Crittenden County School District and Crittenden Hospital. She used her gifts to care for many little ones and older ones in their homes throughout the county. She loved to spend time reading her Bible, talking and visiting with friends, traveling and taking care of others.

Surviving are an uncle, John (Elizabeth) Pickens of Mississippi; two aunts, Mary Beth Pickens of Colorado and Sandra Pickens of Idaho and numerous cousins she never forgot growing up with. She also will be dearly missed by her Central Baptist Church family, along with the O'Neal and Linzy families.

Preceding her in death was a special friend, Jim O'Neal; grandparents, Curtis and Maude Pickens and Anna Pickens all of Marion; her mother, LeVon Metheny; uncles, Curtis Pickens of Minnesota, James (Peggy) Pickens of Missouri, George Pickens of Arizona, Joseph Pickens of Colorado and David Pickens of Idaho; aunts Katherine (James) Lemon of Ohio, Elizabeth (Willard) King of Missouri, Louise (James) Cochran of Ohio, Royce Pickens of Marion and a few cousins that were also her childhood friends.

Matheney brought her smile and sunshine to many people. Graveside services were Tuesday, July 12 at Mapleview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Central Baptist Church. *Paid obituary*

Rudd

Wanda Priscilla (Browning) Rudd, 77, of Marion, died Saturday, July 9, 2022 at Princeton Nursing & Rehabilitation. She was born Nov. 25, 1944 in Lexington, the younger child of Shellie and Alma Gladys Brown-

ing. She lived most of her childhood on a 60-acre farm on Wildcat Road in Symsonia, and with her husband Richard, raised her own children there. She was a 1962 graduate of Symsonia High School and a long-time member of Clarks River Baptist Church, followed by 28 years as a member of Marion Baptist. She also was a member of the Crooked Creek Home-maker's Club. She worked for a short time as a bookkeeper at Symsonia High School and later as a partner with her husband in the Rudd Honey Company. Together they served as volunteer missionaries for four years in the 1980s, first at Highland Lakes Baptist Center in Martinsville, Ind., where she served as head cook for year-round camps and retreats, followed by a year at Newcastle Baptist Church in Wyoming.

Rudd was a loving and committed wife, mom, and grandmother who took great pride in making a comfortable and peaceful home for her family. She and Richard together created a homestead complete with mul-

tiple vegetable gardens, cattle, bees and chickens. She was an avid baker, canner, seamstress, quilter, crafter and decorator, and she especially loved creating family traditions around birthdays, holidays and snow days. Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Richard; two daughters, Regina (Todd) Merrick of Marion and Andrea (Ted) Peak of Charlestown, Ind.; four grandchildren Emily Merrick (Ben Jay) of Brooklyn, NY, Ellen Merrick of Evansville, Adam Peak and Susanna Peak of Charlestown; a brother, Wayne (Rosemary) Browning of Sym-

sonia; many cousins, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gladys and Shellie Browning. Funeral services are at 1 p.m., Thursday, July 14 at Clarks River Baptist Church, 10926 KY-131, Symsonia KY, with burial in Clarks River Cemetery. Visitation was from 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 13 at Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home in Benton. Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to The Gideons International at sendthword.org. *Paid obituary*



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County fair features fan favorites

STAFF REPORT
Gone are the days of carnival rides and funnel cakes at the Crittenden County Lions Club Fair, but the same events that serve as the main attractions to the late-summer ritual are back this year.
Contingency plans to operate the fair despite Marion’s water shortage are in place. While events at the fairgrounds use very little water other than spraying down the track for some of the feature events, organizer Natalie Parish said water will be hauled in to support the fair. Portable toilets always are on

site for events at the fairgrounds. Concessions will be sold as usual.
This year’s fair events span from July 19-Aug. 6.
Following is a list of featured events:
•July 19 Miss Crittenden County Pageant, 6 p.m., Fohs Hall. Contact Parish (270) 871-1363.
•July 23 Bluegrass Blowout Car Show, fairgrounds. Awards presented to top three vehicles in class. Contact Matt Tinsley (270) 704-1477.
•July 30 USA Pullers Truck & Tractor Pull, 7 p.m. Contact Jared Belt (270) 871-4502.

•July 31 4-H Cupcake Wars. Register by calling (270) 965-5236.
•Aug. 2 Youth Pet Show, 6 p.m., fairgrounds
•4-H Exhibits viewing, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug 3 and 1-6 p.m., Aug. 4.
•Aug. 5 Fair Breakfast and Crittenden County Agriculture Hall of Fame Induction, 7 a.m., Lions Club building
•Aug. 5 Enduro Derby, 7 p.m. Call (270) 704-2818 for details.
•Aug. 6 Demolition Derby, 7 p.m. Nine categories. Visit Iron Outlaw Promotions on Facebook for details.

Local woman suing schools in religion case

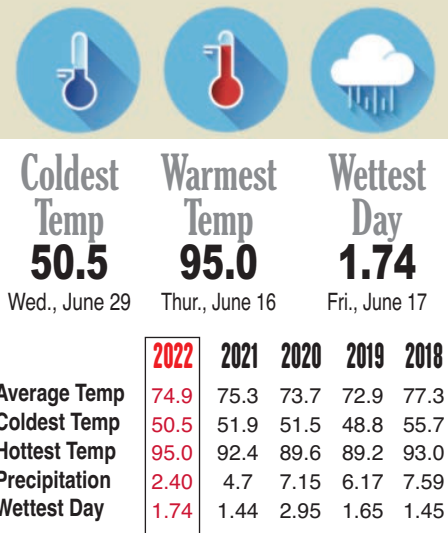
STAFF REPORT
A civil lawsuit has been filed by a Marion woman against Crittenden County Board of Education and an elementary school administrator alleging violation of free speech and First Amendment rights.
Jennifer Wood, a mother of four local students, claims in the lawsuit filed July 1 that during the spring 2022 school semester, one of her children came home from class asking questions about church and religion. In one instance, the teacher had allegedly dis-

cussed words that sound alike but have different meanings, using alter and altar as an example. The teacher allegedly defined altar as “like when you go to church and you kneel down and ask God to save you.”
According to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court Western District of Paducah, Wood reported the incident to Assistant Principal Laurie Holcomb, who investigated the matter. The complaint, which tells only the plaintiff’s side of the story, alleges that no disciplinary action was taken against the

teacher; and furthermore, that a school administrator had sought to have Wood reprimanded by her superiors at Audubon Early Head Start, where Wood was working.
Wood, who the lawsuit describes as non-religious, is seeking damages for severe emotional distress, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish and other losses to be determined at trial. No trial date has been set. The school board and administrator have until July 22 to file an initial response.

JUNE 2022

Weather Yearbook



■ Last month was the driest Crittenden County June since 2016. The 2.4 inches of rainfall was a good bit more than 2016’s one inch, but still well below the average for that month. It was the driest month so far of 2022 and together with May, the community received just 5.6 inches of precip. Some areas got more than 4 inches on one day in early July. After the first 10 days of July, pockets in the northern part of the county had gotten almost 5 inches more rainfall than Marion.

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of June 2022 to the same month in 2021. The chart also includes the previous month’s totals, year-to-date police activity totals and a five-year monthly average.

CATEGORY	JUNE 2022	JUNE 2021	MAY 2022	2022 YR TOTAL	MONTHLY 5 YR AVG.
Miles driven/patrolled	3,486	3,983	3,975	22,192	2970.9
Criminal investigations	9	13	15	65	13.3
Domestics	10	12	7	43	8.5
Felony Arrests	14	7	0	35	4.4
Misdemeanor arrests	7	16	3	45	8.3
Non-criminal arrests	11	6	9	67	6.8
DUI arrests	0	0	1	2	0.8
Criminal summons served	2	8	1	18	2.5
Traffic citations	26	22	2	97	18.3
Other citations	46	24	16	175	19.4
Traffic warnings	1	4	2	20	7.6
Parking tickets	0	1	0	1	0.2
Traffic accidents	9	4	6	34	5.7
Security checks/alarms	27	39	39	217	52.0
Calls for service	175	185	165	1,016	185.9



Gas prices down, but...

Average gasoline prices in Kentucky fell 14.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.39 per gallon early this week, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 2,623 stations in Kentucky. Prices in Kentucky are 42.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand \$1.51 higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 8.5 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.65 per gallon.
Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, said the country may see the trend last a bit longer, as long as oil prices remain cooperative and don’t surge beyond \$105 per barrel, and as long as refinery production of gasoline remains strong. But we’re not completely out of the woods. There remains risk of a price spike in August that could mean new record levels, should any disruptions occur.

The Crittenden Press

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VIP Event

@ FOHS HALL

Thursday, July 21 6 p.m.

\$125 per ticket

Includes reserved seating at Saturday July 23 performance of “REMOVE THE VEIL!”

Private, mini-concert performed for an intimate, VIP audience, with opportunities to meet and have dinner with the artists.

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Crittenden County School District has declared a state of emergency due to the uncertainty of the availability of drinking water and has begun to develop a plan to temporarily tap on to the Crittenden-Livingston Water District prior to the beginning of classes on Aug. 29.

The declaration was unanimously approved at last week's school board meeting. School leaders discussed a variety of issues regarding the necessity, logistics and construction that will be needed to run a new independent water line from the high school and middle school campus across Gum Street (US 60 West) in order to link up with the county water distribution system.

Crittenden Community Hospital a couple of weeks ago connected to a county water line just across Country Club Drive from the hospital.

Building a connection to the county water system will be costly, school leaders said, but it must be done in order to assure water will be available when students return for the fall semester.

A temporary connection to Crittenden County Elementary School will be easier to achieve, School Board Chairman Chris Cook said.

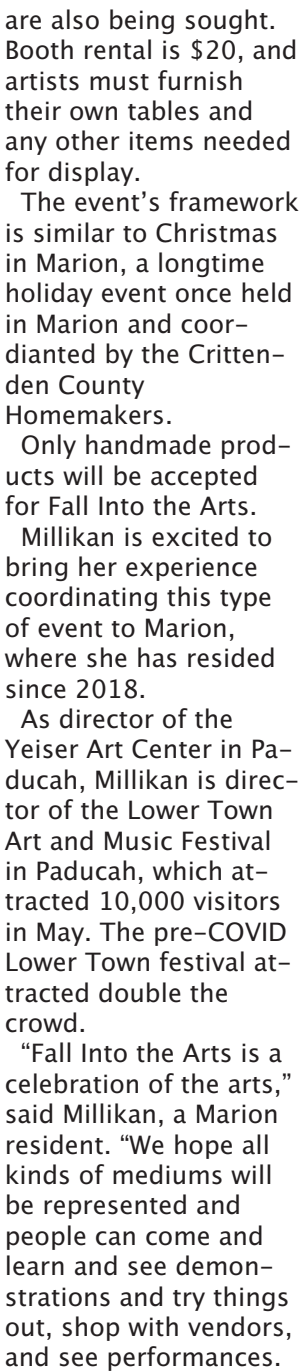
There is also some exploration among community leaders of the possibility of connecting the county jail to Crittenden-Livingston's distribution system.

Arts exhibits, vendors and demonstrations will showcase the talents of local and area residents this fall during a Fall Into the Arts Festival at Fohs Hall all day Saturday, Sept. 24.

Organizers say the event pairs perfectly with historic Fohs Hall, which is a community centerpiece for cultural events.

Art and fine craft vendors are being accepted through Aug. 1 for Fall Into the Arts, said organizer Lexie Millikan, a Community Arts Foundation board member and artist who has shared her artistic talents throughout the United States and abroad.

Millikan said booth space is available for rent for individuals who wish to sell their products. However, demonstrations of dance or artistic performances



For almost two years, Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital, Kentucky Cancer Program and Kentucky CancerLink have worked together to combat colon cancer, ensuring that cost is not a barrier to Kentucky residents receiving a potentially life-saving screening colonoscopy.

Colon cancer is preventable with timely screening and doctors can treat colon cancer successfully when it's found in the early stages.

Through this state-funded program, Kentucky CancerLink directs Kentuckians who qualify to no-cost colonoscopies at Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital. Eligible Kentucky residents must be between 45 and 75 years of age and be uninsured or have an insurance plan that does not

To the Editor:

Fohs Hall, Inc. is pleased to announce closure of its successful campaign to raise funds to install new sound and light systems in the building. When we embarked on the campaign in July 2021 it was truly taking a leap of faith. We hired a contractor and started purchasing equipment before we had raised a dime. But we knew it had to be done for the good of Fohs Hall and the community. The goal was to raise \$50,000 and the goal was ex-

cover preventive screenings or are under-insured which means there is a high deductible/out-of-pocket that is a barrier to receiving colonoscopy services.

Those who qualify and who have a family history of colon cancer, or certain health issues that increase the risk of colon cancer, may be eligible for a colonoscopy before age 45. The program can also cover individuals who do not have Medicare Part B coverage and meet other eligibility guidelines. Financial guidelines and health history can be discussed on an individual basis.

"I had a routine colon screening just weeks after turning 50 years old, as my doctor had suggested," said Crittenden Press owner Allison Mick-Evans.

"While it was a shock learning that I had Stage 3 colon cancer, it was a blessing that the tumor was found before progressing to an unoperable or untreatable stage."

Taking time to get a colon screening is incredibly important, Mick-Evans said, and she encourages everyone age 45 or older or anyone with a family history of colon cancer

Continued from page 1

ing, branding and other visual compositions. His job at Ohio State is much like it was at Ole Miss, to create snappy graphics that student-athletes and potential recruits can use to promote themselves, or that the college can deploy for its own marketing strategies.

Hunt, who knew early in life that he had a knack for artistry, decided soon after earning a degree in graphic communications media and graphic design from Murray State that athletics would be his field of dreams, and the internet would be his canvas. He urged Murray State to give him a shot at developing engaging graphics to promote its football program. At small or medium sized universities like Murray State, there's not too much money for graphic artists dedicated to one sport. Until he joined the team, MSU's recruiting coaches had been left to scratch out social media designs on their own. In some cases, their feeble attempts lacked the thump that Hunt showed he could bring to bear.

"At times, theirs were just bare bones," Hunt said, so MSU warmed up to his talent quickly and that gig spilled over into other sports, too.

When his longtime girlfriend Ellie Smith started college at Ole Miss, Hunt tagged along on a leap of faith then landed a job with the Rebels football program. There, he made a name for himself and

ceeded by raising almost \$65,000.

On behalf of the board we say thank you to the over 55 separate contributors. A special thank you for the leadership shown by the Marion Tourist Commission, by stepping up and being our first major contributor. A list of all contributors appears separately on this page.

Part of the excess funds raised were used to buy additional equipment that was required through the installation. The remaining funds will be used to establish a reserve fund for the booking of artists and performers.

The goal of the project was always to take Fohs Hall to the next level as a regional performing arts center. So far this year Fohs Hall has hosted the always successful Old Kentucky Hayride, Joshua McMillen Band, children and youth play "Into the Woods Jr." produced by the Community Arts Foundation – which was wildly successful – and the Ben E. Clement Mineral Show.

to take advantage of this opportunity in Paducah.

"Since 2019, nearly 500 patients have received no cost colonoscopy services through Kentucky CancerLink, with approximately 45% of those having polyps removed," says Cancer Control Specialist Angie Kinsey Timmons with the Kentucky Cancer Program.

"Kentucky CancerLink provides a wonderful service and so we're pleased to be working with this organization on the colonoscopy program," says John Montville, executive director of Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital's oncology service line. "Our collaboration includes the support of Purchase Anesthesia, PSC, and Pathology Associates of Paducah, PSC, as we all work together to ensure we catch cancer early in everyone, regardless of their ability to pay."

Contact Kentucky CancerLink at 877-597-4655 for additional information about eligibility and/or be enrolled in the program. For more information on colon cancer symptoms and risk factors, visit [cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal).

Funding for the screening program is courtesy of the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Program at the

Kentucky Department
for Public Health, which
helps address the prob-
lem of colon cancer in
the Commonwealth.

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Reducing worry takes discipline

“Over the long term, the future is decided by optimists. To be an optimist you don’t have to ignore all the many problems we create; you just have to imagine improving our capacity to solve problems.” Kevin Kelly – 68 Bits of Unsolicited Advice at The Technium (<https://kk.org/thetechnium/68-bits-of-unsolicited-advice/>)

It is one thing to say, “Don’t worry.” It is quite another to figure out how to do it without living in denial of very real situations that push us to the limit of our faith and stamina, and then demand still more of us. Optimism and diminishing anxiety are not the same thing but they are related. Reducing worry in our lives, like anything worthwhile, takes practice and discipline.

The following list is my own. They work for me. Hopefully some of them work for you, too. Our culture is absolutely saturated with anxiety. It floats around and gloms on to all sorts of issues. It sticks to our leaders. It shoots out of our souls and wounds the people we say we care about most. It is something that less is always better than more.

Reducing worry is not about ignoring or denying the real problems we face. And I say reducing because there will always

be some of it around. It is what we do with it that makes the difference. I recommend the website quoted above. Some readers are likely familiar with Mr. Kelley. I find him refreshing.

Here is a short list of attitudes and habits that help me reduce worry in my life. I expect you have your own list and I would love to hear what those are.

I don’t have to change you for us to be friends. I have people in my life, good friends whom I would trust with my life who have radically different views than I do. It reduces stress immensely if friendship is based on how we treat each other instead of what we believe.

The movement of history is long and generally in a good direction for humans. We will always take steps back, but things are better for more people today than when I was born a few decades ago. When we consider how much different they are than 150 or 300 years ago, things are definitely better. We have made embarrassingly awful mistakes. Some of our

ancestors have a lot of explaining to do. But so will we. Just be part of making things better for people not in your own tribe.

Don’t grieve as others who have no hope. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, “We do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.” (NIV)

Transformation is possible and perpetual. People change. They change when there is a new, better path forward that is accessible. It requires grace, forgiveness and safety. There is no more vulnerable time in the life of a person than when the old is being shed and the new is being attempted. It requires honesty, care, and gentleness. After encouraging transformation in Romans 12, Paul later says, “Accept one another, as Christ accepted you.” (Romans

15:7).

Light doesn’t worry about dark – it just makes it go away. Jesus said of his followers in the Sermon on the Mount. “You are the light of the world... let your light shine.” Be light- let the darkness do the worrying.

I take time to be still. Psalm 46 speaks of trouble and turmoil. It speaks of the earth giving way and storms at sea. It ends with the answer to when life moves too fast for us to comprehend. “Be still and know that I am God.” Slow down enough to gather yourself. Things may be as bad as they seem – or worse. Slowing the action down helps us make better decisions.

Let the game come to me. One of my professors once said to me, “Prepare yourself and you will be ready when the time comes.” It is fine to be aggressive occasionally. Competition is often a good thing. But pressing too hard and worrying about outcomes takes it toll on us. Do what is in front of you to the best of your ability.

I am optimistic about life in general. I try not to worry. Peace.

Dr. Sean Niestrath is a minister in Madisonville, Ky. He holds a doctoral degree in ministry. You may contact him at sean.niestrath@outlook.com.



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

In Christ, we have victory—no matter what we face

Question: I have recently lost my job and if that wasn't enough, this week my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. Our health insurance went out the window with my job loss. I'm worried about my wife's health and that our savings and future security will soon evaporate. I'm battling discouragement. Is there any hope for us?

Answer: None of us knows what lies ahead. In life, we will all have suffering. It's been said, “Anyone who isn’t suffering now

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



likely will be soon.” We will face problems that are too BIG for us. We’ll fight battles we don’t know how to fight.

In our times of loss, pain and bewilderment, we need to rely on God’s strength and help. “God is our refuge and strength, an

ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1). Ask God for guidance and He will show you the way to go (Prov. 3:5, 6).

Discouragement is hard to fight and depression is an even bigger battle. Jesus encouraged His follower, “Take heart! I have

overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33). He did not say “maybe” or “hopefully.” He spoke confidently because He was God present in human flesh and He overcomes all hardship. Our pain or hardships are never as powerful as Jesus is.

If we have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, He’s our conqueror. We can have peace and live with courage and hope because our victory is in Christ.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Community Events & News

- Fredonia First Baptist Church is providing laundry service for Marion, Ky. residents at the old Fredonia school parking lot through Sunday, July 30. Laundry can be dropped off starting at 8 a.m. weekdays. Weekend hours may vary. Laundry will be washed, dried and folded. For more information visit the church Facebook page.
- CCHS SBDM will meet at 3:30 p.m., Thurs., July 14 in the high school library.
- The Virgil Jones VFW will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14 at 412 N. College Street in Marion. Refreshments will be served after meeting.
- Marion General Baptist will host its annual homecoming on Sunday, July 10. The Stone Family will provide special music following the 11 a.m., service and meal.
- The VFW in Marion will be having Bingo starting at 5 p.m. every Tuesday at 412 N. College St., Marion.
- Marion show and shine will be the fourth Thursday every month through Oct., weather permitting. Cars, trucks and motorcycles permitted at Crittenden County Courthouse, 107 S. Main St., Marion, Ky. Sponsored by City of Marion Tourism. City of Marion Police Dept. authorized.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church's clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

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3 Bed 1 Bath - 2722 Mott City Rd.....	SOLD\$89,900NW
4 Bed 2 Bath - 1071 Claylick Rd	\$164,900RP
2 Bed 1 Bath - 116 N Yandell St	\$44,900BF
Mobile Home - 237 Cruce Rd	\$28,900ML
3 Bed 2 bath Split-Level - 417 College St.	GOING\$159,900WW
3 Bed 1bath - 212 Leland Ave	SOLD\$70,00MP
2 Bed 1 Bath - 115 W Graham St., Fredonia	SOLD\$24,900DW
3 Bed 1(full) 2(half) Bath on 35+- Acres, 1985 Weldon Rd.	SOLD\$9,900BW
3 Bed 2 Bath - 2070 Vine St., Carrsville.....	SOLD\$149,000MD

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46 +- AC with Small Cabin - Good Springs Rd	\$129,900
650+- AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY	SOLD\$1,300,000
Cave-In-Rock Island - 160+- AC	ACTIVE\$359,900 AE

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Father John Okoro

Mexico Baptist Church




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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



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

Emmanuel Baptist Church



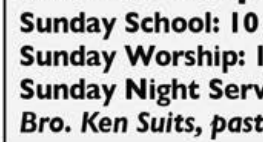
108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.
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Bro. Alex Kirby, Pastor We invite you to be our guest
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The People of The United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist



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

Freedom General Baptist Church



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

Marion Baptist Church



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

SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



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

Crayne Community Church



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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

growing in grace




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

Marion Church of God



334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 10 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH




Pastor: Greg Rushing
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Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian




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

Marion United Methodist Church



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

Frances Community Church



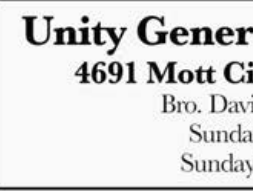
Bro. Butch Gray
Wed. night prayer meeting & youth service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Worship service: 11 a.m.

Hurricane Church



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

Unity General Baptist Church



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

Marion Church of Christ



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

A visit to Odessa school and Salt Peter Cave

In the eastern part of Crittenden County there was a one-room school named Odessa. This school was located in the area of Crittenden County known as Blackburn. The road to Blackburn used to be named Porters Mill Road, but today it is named Blackburn Church Road. Also located in this area was a church and cemetery, known as Blackburn Baptist Church. It's been years since there were services there, but it is still standing today and the cemetery is still well maintained and still in use. Behind the church was the bluff named Turkey Hill, and the Bevins Branch ran through this area.

Not far from the church was the one-room school of Odessa. After the one-room school closed and consolidated with other schools, the Odessa school house was turned into a home by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McConnell. In January of 1900, while the trees were still bare of their summer leaves and the beautiful rocky landscape was easily visible from all around, the teacher, Mr. J. B. McNeely, took his students on a long hike and a wonderful visit to the Salt Peter Cave.

Visit To Odessa and Salt Peter Cave

The school enjoyed a pleasant trip to the old noted Saltpeter Cave one afternoon last week. This is truly one of the wonders in east Crittenden. The main cave is in the shape of a half moon, straight edge along the side is about 100 yards and from center to vortex 60 yards, overhead is roof shape forming an arch each way and the whole is half surrounded by a continuation of steep cliffs.

Salt Peter Cave

Salt Peter cave is truly one of the wonders of Crittenden County. But today things aren't like they once were, where one could visit and enjoy these sights, most of these wonders are now hidden from us and we are not allowed to visit them. Due to destruction and vandalism of careless sightseers, the locations of these sights now are heavily posted, and not even owned by Crittenden County residents.

As far back as 1880, this cave was considered a wonder. This is a description of the cave that

was printed in The Crittenden Press, March 10, 1880.

There is a remarkable cave in the eastern part of this county, by those who live within its vicinity it is commonly called the "Peter or Salt Peter Cave.

Having heard some talk of the peculiarities of this cave while in its neighborhood, we concluded to visit it and gratify our curiosity concerning the cave and believing it would be of interest to the readers of The Press we have purposed to give them an account of what we saw.

The cave is about nine miles east of Marion. It is located upon the farm of Messrs. Cam and Eph Hill. (Owned today by a non-local person and marked No Trespassing.)

Our way to the cave led us through several fields and cedar thickets up a gentle slope. This slope terminated at the base of an abrupt elevation which forms an apex of a considerable hill. On the side opposite the one we ascended and immediately under the hill, the cave is located.

Standing upon the brink of the precipice formed by the almost perpendicular declivity of the hillside, a grand sight presents itself to view. Grim, gray cliffs crowned with mournful pines and gloomy cedars and decked here and there with patches of moss and rock ivy, form a romantic amphitheater of semicircular form about the mouth of the cave.

There is something amazing about these cliffs; for they are not only very high, but their stupendousness consists in being with but a few exceptions, formed by one solid stone. Some of them forming grand towering walls to the height of 300 feet.

Five hundred feet below through the intervening timber, old Piney Creek could be indistinctly seen, "moving its slow length along" like some huge silver serpent.

The scene near the mouth of the cavern is somewhat impressive. The grim over hanging crags with their time stained fronts; throwing their lengthened shadows



The large half-moon shaped opening of the Salt Peter Cave is an impressive sight surrounded by rocky walls, cliffs and overhangs.

ows across the tall leafless oaks far over the immediate vicinity of the cave, lend to the scene a melancholy influence. The solitude was intense.

History of Cave's Name

On entering the cave we discovered a number of rudely constructed hoppers filled with a grayish brown dust. This dust subsists in great quantities in the cave, and contains a large percent of niter. The dust is thrown into the hoppers, water is then poured upon it till saturated, this produces a kind of lye. The lye is put into large kettles, boiled down and then run into troughs to crystallize. This is the method of farmers in the neighborhood of making saltpeter for their domestic use.

Cave of Bones

Our curiosity was aroused on seeing the great quantity of human bones scattered about the cave, mingled with the dust. While we were examining these fragments, our companion who was familiar with the place proposed "why don't we dig up an Indian?" We accordingly went to work, using our hands as digging tools, in absence of more efficient utensils. Every handful of dust contained fragments of human bones.

At the depth of about three feet, we examined a complete skeleton; but it was was so highly decomposed that the skull crumbled in our hands in the attempt to remove it. Our companion, with the assistance of a clapboard, brought to light a fine skeleton in a tolerable fair state of preservation. The skull was above the medium size and the jaw bone quite massive. We compared it with our skeleton, but found it a great deal the largest, and we must acknowledge that we have quite a reasonable quality of cheek ourselves.

This skeleton was evidently the frame work

of some big 'Injun," the arm and thigh bones were long and heavy and were undoubtedly once clothed with muscles of great power.

We felt quite safe in beholding the remains of our red brother all peaceable and composed at our feet. But our feelings would have been different no doubt had he been alive and desirous of lifting our hair.

We think the archaeologist could make some very interesting discoveries by investigating the cave and its contents. The history of the human bones as well as those of animals, deposited there, is unknown. They were evidently placed there at a very remote period.

The interior of the cave is very dry, and it must have required a great lapse of time to have wrought upon these their present state of decomposition. Our private opinion is that a bone would not rot in a thousand years in such a place. What a tale could they unfold, were they empowered to speak.

My notes: This article was written for The Crittenden Press in March of 1880, 142 years ago. The cave probably kept many of its secrets buried for many years. I'm not sure when the popular search started of finding and digging up these Native American bones, artifacts and history of the past, but Salt Peter Cave was a favorite destination during many years past for such diggings. I'd say it was picked clean many, many, years ago of anything of importance. But it's nice to be able to read how it was all those many years ago and what a wonderful place it was to visit.

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



Entering the cave you can see its massive size. A humble feeling goes over you as you realize the history that you are standing in and the hundreds of years the cave has been there, realizing it's history has been removed over the years.



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Crittenden County FAIR PAGEANTS

Tuesday, July 19 6 p.m. Fohs Hall

Miss Crittenden County Pre-Teen, 8-12 Years
Miss Crittenden County Teen, 13-15 Years
Miss Crittenden County, 16-21 Years
Lady of Crittenden County, 22+

**Crittenden County Winners Advance to
Kentucky State Festival in November**

Pre-Teen - Church Attire, no pageant gowns
Teen - Party Dress or Formal,
pageant dress not required
Miss - Pageant attire only

**Winners Advance to
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Pre-Teen - Pageant attire only
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Miss - Pageant attire only

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County Pageant

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Travis takes home titles in dance event

Carly Travis, of Marion, along with Beverly Rogers Academy of Dance came home with many National Titles from Platinum Dance Co.

Travis' solo scored platinum and she is the National Champion in jazz.

Her trio scored Platinum Plus, 2nd over, National Champion in Contemporary and was 1 of 3 duo/trios invited to the Battle of the Best.

Her 3 small groups scored 2 Platinum Plus and Platinum. They took the 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall places. They are National Champions in both contemporary and musical theatre.

Two small groups were invited to the National Championship Gala where they competed with 7 other groups. They took the 2nd place in the Best of the Best Championship.



Travis



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Yard sale and giant puzzle sale, Fri., July 15 and Sat., July 16, 7 a.m.-?, 229 W. Depot St., Marion, Ky. Lots of yard sale items, canceled in case of rain. (1t-28-p)

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bid notice

SURPLUS PROPERTY BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court has declared on behalf the Sheriff Department the following as surplus property and is accepting sealed bids. One 2008 Pontiac G6, Maroon in color, and 192,412 miles. The unit can be inspected by contacting the Sheriff Department at 270-965-3400. All bids must be submitted to the county Judge Executive's office at 107 S. Main St.- Ste. 208 Marion KY 42064 or

emailed to jada.williams@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. July 20, 2022. Bids will be opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Fiscal Court on July 21, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate "BID - PONTIAC G6" on the outside of the envelope or in the subject line of an email. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the Sheriff Office at 270-965-3400. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-28-c)

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Recalling early days of the county’s water district

We’ve talked quite a bit about gardens in my past articles, so I’m wondering if you’re harvesting lots of veggies. Hopefully you’ve had enough rainfall to make your garden produce well. With all of the water woes faced by folks in Marion, it is good to see that watering gardens is on the “approved” list of water usage this summer.

Speaking of water, I’m guessing that most of you have no idea that I grew up in the water business. That was a long time ago. The story actually begins back before I was even born. Many of you know that I was born and reared in Salem, just down the road from Marion. In 1952-53, my dad, J.W. Clarke, along with some other capable men, installed the original water system for the town of Salem.

Daddy was the backhoe man; he would have been 31 years old in 1952. The brains of the outfit was Bub Butler (father of Gerald Butler and co-owner of Salem Telephone Company) and Bob Shelby. (Mr. Shelby had a small elec-

trical/plumbing shop at the edge of Salem across the road from the Salem hospital.)

The original well for the Salem water system was located at the corner of US 60 and Crawford Lane just west of Salem, near the current Tambco station. As the city grew and there were more demands for water, especially with a hospital and a nursing home, the city needed an additional water supply. A new well was drilled about 500 feet south of the original well, also on Crawford Lane. The 2-inch submersible pump in the new well provided almost double the water of the 1 1/2-inch pump in the original well. Plus, the water quantity seemed unlimited as the new pump could not lower the water level even with continuous pumping.

I’m guessing that I was 10-12 years old when the new well and pump went online. I remember “helping” install the pump into the new well. This increased availability of water was more than adequate for a time. However, if my memory is correct, when the Salem hospital installed a sprinkler system, the Salem Water System did not have the water pressure or pipe capacity to provide the water flow necessary for the sprinkler system. I believe that this was when it was determined that the best way to

provide adequate quantity of water flow and water pressure (those are 2 totally different things, by the way) was to install a new water line to connect with the Marion Water System.

Can you imagine a time when Marion had enough water to sell to another wholesale distributor?

When the new line was installed, it tied into the Marion system just west of the US 60 West and Country Club Drive intersection on the south side of US 60 in Marion. Many of you will remember the large blue water standpipe, otherwise called a water tank, on the north side of US 60 on top of Moore Hill. That standpipe had Salem printed on it. The best I can figure out, the Salem and Marion line was installed around 1976 or 1977. Thanks to Angela Hunter for helping to determine that date by looking through the City of Salem archives.

Once connected to the Marion water line, Salem hospital had no problems having adequate flow and pressure for their sprinkler system. In fact, the pressure at the hospital’s meter was around 135 PSI coming off of the new 8-inch water main before the pressure regulator valve was installed by the meter to reduce the pressure to its desired specifica-

tions.

I helped my dad several times install new water service connections to the Salem-Marion line between Salem and the top of Moore Hill. I even read the water meters for a time. As I recall, customers west of Crittenden Springs Road were Salem customers; Marion had the customers east of that point.

I also remember working with Bro. Robert Phillips on several occasions. I believe he was in charge of the Marion Water System for several years.

In February 1981, my dad went to work full-time with the USPS as a rural letter carrier. He had been a substitute mail carrier for 25 years. When that occurred, the City of Salem hired me to become their water superintendent. I was 23 years old. Having grown up in the water system, I was pretty well-acquainted with all of the water stuff. Daddy was never too far away and always happy to assist with locating pipes and valves, plus sharing additional wisdom along the way.

Salem was also making plans to install a city sewer system the following year. I went to “water school” the summer of 1981 to get my water treatment and water distribution certifications. I also received my sewer treatment and sewer distribution certifi-

cations. Then something totally unexpected happened. God called me into full-time ministry. I surrendered to the ministry on Sunday, Nov. 8, 1981. I went to Salem City Hall the following day to resign from my position as water superintendent.

I had a farm machinery auction in December and relocated to Campbellsville in January 1982 where I began this brand new chapter in my life – college and seminary. There’s so much more to this story, but I have filled my available space. We’ll have to complete the story next month and include George Patmor, Crittenden-Livingston Water District, etc. By the way, how many times do you flush your toilet each day? Did you know that by simply replacing your old toilet – which probably uses five gallons of water for each flush – with one of the more modern toilets – 1.6 gallons per flush – you can save lots of money on your monthly water bill, and roughly 1,000 gallons of water.

I’ll see you next month. In the meantime, let’s all pray for rain!

Author Chris Clarke was raised in Crittenden and Livingston counties and has a cowby ministry called Happy Trails. You can contact him via email at wcclarke1@gmail.com.

Thiero little known Cal recruit, but solid

Adou Thiero is the lowest rated and least known newcomer on John Calipari’s roster this season and knew he had to show quickly that he belonged at Kentucky.

“I’m surprised by how my teammates are very consistent with their shot. Everyone is fast. Everyone talks on defense,” Thiero said. “I didn’t really play against people like that (in high school), but it’s a good thing to see now.

“I think it will help me a lot. They’ll bring out the best in me so I just have to bring it every day.”

He had gone against Kentucky senior center Oscar Tshiebwe once in a high school scrimmage game and it was a turning point in Thiero’s career at Quaker Valley (Pa.).

“I got my starting position after playing them because nobody wanted to challenge Oscar and go get a rebound. So I went in and got a rebound over him,” Thiero said. “That’s when my coaches realized, ‘He wants it. He’s going to play hard every second.’” Tshiebwe sort of remembered the scrimmage and Thiero getting a rebound a little differently.

“He had a lot of confidence. He was playing good,” Tshiebwe said about Thiero. “I was doing my thing. He was just a kid. He has got better and he is in a program where everybody is working.”

So how did a freshman

guard get a rebound against Tshiebwe?

“Some rebounds just come in your hands. The ball just jumps in your hands and you can say, ‘I got a rebound against Oscar,’” Tshiebwe said. “I’ll let them get those. I tell them, ‘You can get many rebounds in practice, but you’re not getting those in the game.’”

Alabama four-star defensive back Avery Stuart is one of the higher rated recruits that coach Mark Stoops has landed at UK and currently the highest ranked player in UK’s 2023 recruiting class. He picked UK over Florida State, Auburn, Penn State, Oklahoma and others.

With all the focus on how name, image and likeness (NIL) and the impact it is having on recruiting, I asked Alabama Christian Academy coach Michael Summers if any NIL incentives influenced Stuart’s decision.

“Not that I know of,” Summers said. “I think some other schools ... (UK assistant) coach (Frank) Buffano said he could not talk about that kind of stuff right now.

“I respect that. That is being by the book. I am sure if he gets there and does his job, that stuff will take care of itself. But they (UK) had enough integrity not to break the rules.”

Stuart is the No. 20 highest rated commitment all-time at UK according to 247Sports and raved about receivers Dane Key and Keaten Wade, two stars in the 2022 recruiting class, and 2023 receiver Shamar Porter. He is regarded as the nation’s

12th best safety by 247Sports and 197th best player.

Stuart also plays receiver because Alabama Christian is a 1A school enrollment-wise playing up in 3A against schools with more numbers.

“He obviously plays safety but we also need him at receiver,” Summers said. “That’s not his natural spot but we beat our city rival who was state runner-up and he had a big interception but also a really big touchdown catch.

“We are a run team but our quarterback is pretty good at getting him the ball. We are hoping people double team him and we can run it down their throat. If not and they don’t double team him, we are going to throw it up and let him go get it.”

Summers said he’s known Stuart was special for several years and has tried to help promote him as much as possible.

“We got information out on him but he also plays a lot of 7-on-7 ball to get his name out there. He went to a lot of camps to get a lot of tape out. A combination of all that and his special talent made a lot of schools notice him and Kentucky is getting a really, really good player,” Summer said.

Freshman Cassidy Rowe says her first month with the Kentucky basketball team has been “amazing” and while the transition to college basketball has been hard it was what she was expecting.

“The coaching staff, my teammates, everyone has just been so good to me,” Rowe said. “I feel like

Kentucky’s coaching staff has great coaches but they also care for you as a person first. That is huge with them every single day and that makes the atmosphere here amazing.”

Rowe suffered two major knee injuries during her prep career at Shelby Valley and then broke her right wrist late last season. The Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series was her first time back.

“Now I am getting more confidence every practice we have,” Rowe said.

She’s even got a taste of boxing through a team bonding function coach Kyra Elzy had.

“We went through a boxing class and it was pretty hard. We hit a punching bag for eight or nine rounds of different techniques. It was really a hard workout,” Rowe said. “We also did some ab exercises. I had never worn boxing gloves or done anything like that before and had no idea how hard it would be.”

Kentucky got a huge recruiting commitment from 6-4, 300-pound Alabama lineman Koby Keenum Saturday. Rivals.com ranks him as the No. 3 center in the 2023 recruiting class.

However, there was a time Keenum envisioned himself as an elite baseball prospect.

Mars Hill Bible School coach Darrell Higgins says Keenum was a baseball player when he came to the school as an eighth-grader.

“I had to talk him into playing football. Finally his sophomore year he fell in love with football and the grind,” he said.

Free science activity kits available at public library

Free, family-friendly science learning kits will be available at Crittenden County Public Library beginning Wednesday, July 13.

Created by Kentucky Science Center in partnership with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), these Do Science at Home STEAM Kits will encourage families to learn together through a variety of STEAM experiences, Examples of available activities include discovering art and patterning through weaving, taking on engineering challenges with light-up dough sculptures, and analyzing hidden messages using a cypher code.

There is no need to register, families can drop by the library any time after Wednesday to pick up the kits. Each family can receive one of each of the three kits while supplies last. Kits are provided free of charge to families thanks to a \$75,000 Institute of Museum and Library Services grant from the KDLA.

With themes like Create, Explore and Sleuth, each Kentucky Science Center Do Science at Home STEAM Kit will feature 3-4 activities focusing on developing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) skills in a fun way. Each kit includes guided instruction and additional resources for continued exploration for families with students in grades 3-6.

“Our Do Science at Home STEAM Kits make it possible for science learning to continue throughout the summer in a way that’s hands-on and engaging for children

and parents alike,” says Kentucky Science Center Chief Executive Officer Mike Norman. “As the State Science Center of Kentucky, we are excited for this opportunity to provide high-quality science activities direct to communities throughout the Commonwealth, ensuring that families who don’t have the chance to visit our flagship location in Louisville still have the opportunity to Do Science with us.”

Kentucky Science Center’s Do Science at Home STEAM Kits will aid statewide and local initiatives to eliminate STEAM learning gaps between in-school and at-home experiences available for students. By providing students with durable science kits available through state libraries, Kentucky Science Center and KDLA hope to introduce STEAM opportunities at an earlier age, promote literacy through library engagement, and help address Kentucky’s statewide proficiency gaps.

Kentucky Science Center is a nonprofit educational institution that encourages people of all ages to do science in engaging, educational and entertaining ways to inspire a lifetime of learning. Designated the “State Science Center of Kentucky” by the 2002 Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Science Center features interactive exhibits and engaging programs for children, families, and adults. Kentucky Science Center is committed to growing a scientifically literate community that investigates, questions, and challenges.

THROW BACK

THURSDAY

OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879

50 YEARS AGO

July 13, 1972

- Michael Nelson purchased the local Babb Drugs business.
- The Dycusburg Alumni held a meeting in which new officers were elected. They were Neoval Decker, vice-president; Geneva Dycus, secretary-treasurer; and Ralph Bragdon, president.
- Charles Richard Aldridge was awarded the Gordon Smith and Thomas G. Smith scholarship for the 1972-73 school year.

25 YEARS AGO

July 17, 1997

- Brent Corley of Marion was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army as a result of participating in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program while at Centre College.
- Chris Yandell assumed the duties of treasurer of the Interfraternity Council at Murray State University.
- Heather Loveless was named an All-American Scholar and a United States National Award winner by the United States Achievement Academy.

10 YEARS AGO

July 12, 2012

- Sherri Wright Mayo and Nancy Drone were formally celebrated for their artwork at the dedication ceremony for nine murals that depict Marion buildings as they were many years ago.
- Beck’s Hybrids Seed Company awarded Corey Bruns of the Crittenden County FFA Chapter with a scholarship to assist him with his college expenses. Bruns served as chapter chaplain and vice president as well as being chosen as Pennyryle Region Star Farmer in Agribusiness.
- Marion’s junior Bobcats finished their season after playing in five tournaments and 17 games total. Members of the 8-under travel team were Evan Belt, Ian Ellington, Logan Young, Peyton Purvis, Maddox Carlson, Hayden Jones, Jack Reddick, Benjamin Evans, Tucker Sharp, Travis Perry, Luke Crider and Tanner Beverly.



Crittenden County’s 10-under all-star fast-pitch softball team was runnerup in the Caldwell County Tournament played the weekend before last. Pictured are (front from left) Ava Tabor, Alivia Mattingly, London McCord, Aria Kinnis, Whitley Lovan, (back) Addie Nelson, Lilly Capello, Sadie Green, Madison Teas and Brooklyn Lovell. The coaches are Tanner Tabor, Joe Capello and Wes Lovell.

Too Much Chlorine or Bleach is Harmful

Be careful with bulk water containers

Pennyrile District/Crittenden County Health Department does not test drinking water for chlorine residual. Officials at the local health department say the Division of Water regulates drinking water.

The health department recommends bottled water for drinking, especially for anyone that is immunocompromised.

If you are filling water tanks, fill with water from a municipal chlorinated drinking water source, according to the local health department.

Water tanks will not hold chlorine for long periods of time. Sodium hypochlorite, household bleach (unscented), can be added to water tanks. Test strips are available at some retail stores and online. The test strips for swimming pools will not work, they must be for drinking water.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 30 minutes after the addition of sodium

hypochlorite, there should be no more than 4.0 mg/L (4 PPM) of free chlorine residual present to ensure that the water does not have an unpleasant scent or odor.

Twenty-four hours after adding of sodium hypochlorite to containers that store water, there should be a minimum of 0.2 mg/L of free chlorine residual present to ensure microbiologically clean water. When using test strips to check chlorine levels make sure you look at the free chlorine indicator to determine chlorine amounts.

Too much bleach or chlorine can be harmful.

If you are not using water from a public water source do not use the water for food contact surfaces such as countertops, utensil, dishwashing or personal hygiene.

Anyone who is immunocompromised may need to contact their physician before using water under a boil water advisory or water from a non-pub-

lic water supply for personal hygiene.

Gov. Andy Beshear and Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman are taking steps daily to keep city residents safe and healthy and successfully end this water emergency, said John A. Mura, the cabinet's spokesperson.

"For any residents with a compromised immune system, have an infant, that are pregnant or elderly, or who could be at an increased risk during a boil water advisory, we recommend they seek advice from their health care provider or local health department," Mura said.

Additional information can be found in this CDC document concerning boil advisories: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-water/emergency/dwa-comm-toolbox/before/tools/Fact-Sheet-About-What-to-Do-During-BWA-508.pdf>.



Water Distribution Schedule

Free bottled water distribution continues at the former armory on Rochester Street. Distribution is from 9 a.m., to noon and from 2 p.m., until 6 p.m., each day that the center is open. The center is closed from noon until 2 p.m. Last names starting with A-F can pick up water on Mondays, names G-L on Tuesday, names J-R on Thursday and S-Z can get water on Friday. A driver's license must be presented to receive water. This water is to be used for drinking and cooking. Each person can get about two gallons for every person in their household. There is no distribution on Wednesdays because that day is set aside for accepting donations and replenishing water supplies at the center. Volunteers are needed to help at the distribution center. Call 270-965-2266 or 270-704-3523 to register as a volunteer or for special arrangements to receive bottled drinking water.

Churches help with water, laundry, plates, wipes

A couple of church groups are coming to the aid of Marion residents during the water crisis.

A Church of Christ disaster relief agency will begin distributing water and other items to help conserve water Wednesday.

The CCHS football team

helped unload pallets of bottled water Monday that will be distributed Wednesday from 10:30-5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at Marion Church of Christ. Marion Church of Christ is located at the end of West Elm Street next to the Crittenden County High School annex.

The Churches of Christ Disaster Relief agency from Nashville has additional trips to Marion planned, and will provide gallons of water, paper plates and cutlery and large bathing wipes.

Church member Teresa Foster said families can circle through the parking lot and

water will be loaded for them. A youth group from Mayfield's Seven Oaks Church of Christ is also assisting. Distribution is for families as well as businesses.

Fredonia First Baptist Church is offering a laundry service.

The church will have a laun-

dry truck in its parking lot at the Old Fredonia School off Cassidy Ave., through Sunday, July 30.

They open at 8 a.m. on weekdays and laundry can be dropped off and picked up at no charge. No laundry detergent is needed. Contact the church on its Facebook page.

PLANT

Continued from page 1

of the raw water shortage, that's been trimmed back to 12 hours.

Water from Old City Lake is being sucked into the plant where it's purified, filtered, purified again then pumped to the city's two 600,000-gallon stand pipes on top of Wilson Hill.

As the lake has become more shallow, treating its water has gotten tougher. The boil water advisory is-

sued late last week was due to difficulties meeting state guidelines for drinking water. Fighting manganese, iron, organics and other elements not suitable for potable water is part of a balancing act for Black and the other operators. At their disposal are fluoride, chlorine, coagulants, caustic soda and other chemicals and additives that create drinking water from a fishing hole.

"We are always keeping an eye on the pH level," he said.

"We're doing the best we can do with what we've got."

Testing is done daily. A water quality consultant has been at the plant often during the water crisis to help make sure the chemistry stays on track. Water in the lake is also monitored regularly.

"We check the level first thing in the morning, at noon and then before we leave in the evening," Black said. "Right now, we're just keeping our head above water."



Inside the Marion Water Plant off Chapel Hill Road last week, city employee Trevor Peppler (left) and water technician Bob Cashon of S4 Water Sales and Service measure chemistry in samples taken. The plant has been running between 12 and 16 hours a day over the last few weeks.

MULLIGANS ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF ADDITIONS AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES!

Mulligans is excited to announce that **TAYLOR HARDIN** has joined our staff as Bar Manager! We feel you will notice the added energy in the bar that Taylor brings.

KEVIN WALLACE, Taylor's brother, brings his expertise to the Mulligans kitchen. His adjustment to our pizza sauce has been one of several favorable changes he will be making.

We think you will be happy to see our hours open will be according to our schedule.

EXTENDED HOURS

Sunday Lunch/Brunch
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - Restaurant & Bar

Sunday Dinner
3-9 p.m.- Restaurant & Bar

Thursday
4:30-10 p.m.-Restaurant & Bar

Friday & Saturday
4:30-10 p.m. - Restaurant & Bar
10 p.m.-midnight - Bar with limited food menu

Golf Hours: Daylight til Dark
Beautiful 9-Hole Golf Course
Women's Golf League each Wednesday
Men's Golf League each Thursday

Effective July 15: The discounted fee prices will be eliminated and regular fees will be used for all. Fee schedules are available in the Pro Shop.

Please take a look as soon as you can! We miss you and want to have a chance to earn your respect again!

8 BALL TOURNAMENT

2 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY, PRACTICE AT 1 P.M.
\$10 BUY-IN • PLAYER AUCTION • LIMITED ENTRIES

XTREME BAR BINGO

FREE EVERY THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. IN THE DINING ROOM

Saturday Night Music

LIVE BANDS!

ENJOY PUBLIC POOL DAYS

TUESDAYS ARE OPEN FOR ALL
11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

ONLY \$6 PER PERSON

Refreshments may be purchased at the pool!

Pool Parties - New Bookings

Members: \$300 • Non-Members: \$350

NOTE: The fee includes lifeguard expense. The price adjustment is to cover cost of adding water that must be brought in and chemicals required to cover extended usage. Water may only be brought in from the outside.

Full Service Restaurant & Bar

2 Beautiful Patios
Dine In - Carry Out - Catering
Mobile Pizza Truck

651 Blackburn St., Marion

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WATER

Continued from page 1 half of an inch.

In a new development, plans are being finalized to build an above-ground water line from Crittenden-Livingston’s water line near the hospital to the Crittenden County Detention Center.

The jail requires about 18,000 gallons of water each day for the nearly 200 inmates housed there. Without water, the jail would have to transfer out all of its inmates to other locations, voiding state and federal contracts worth well over \$2 million.

While the objective to get water to the jail is clear, it’s still uncertain exactly how and when that will happen. Preliminary discussions have included building an overland distribution line from Gum Street behind the high school campus and then along Carlisle Street to the detention center. Part of the street would have to be temporarily closed while the line is in use and the pipe would somehow need to cross Weldon and Yandell streets. The line would have to be drained during winter time to prevent freezing, but that’s typically a period when enough rainfall provides Marion with plenty of raw water to meet the needs of its roughly 1,500 customers, including the jail.

Sen. McConnell weighs in

Sen. Mitch McConnell’s office in Washington, DC issued a statement late last week regarding Marion’s ongoing crisis.

“My team has been in close contact with local officials to see how I can help the City of Marion resolve their critical water shortage,” McConnell said.

“While the state government typically coordinates the immediate response to situations such as this, my office is

looking at a number of federal grant programs that could possibly help the community formulate a long-term plan to address this crisis. Every Kentuckian deserves access to safe, accessible drinking water.”

Boil water advisory

For the first time since the water shortage began, the City of Marion issued a boil water advisory last Thursday.

Although it was not unexpected, the order was a clear signal that the town’s raw water level had become seriously low.

“The City of Marion Water System is experiencing operational conditions that compromise the water quality,” the city said in a statement.

The news release explained that city water customers should boil what comes out of the tap before using it for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth or cooking. The advisory says water should be boiled for three minutes.

“Do not drink water from appliances connected to your water line,” the city said. “All tap water should be boiled even if filtered. Use ready-to-use formulas or breast-feed infants.”

“Due to water conservation efforts and high temperatures, the disinfection levels have fallen below the regulatory requirement,” the city said. Because of that, its water may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems. For more information about the boil advisory, call Marion City Hall by phone 270-965-2266 or contact the local health department.

City officials are also warning individuals using bulk water tanks to be aware of potential for

bacteria growth and contamination. For further details, contact the Division of Water or see further information on page 9 of this edition.

Update on Options

•Crittenden-Livingston Water District continues to be among the most helpful partners in the crisis and was expected to enter this week into a three-year contract to sell water to Marion. However, right now, they cannot fulfill all of the town’s needs. With assistance from Webster County Water District piping water into the county system, Crittenden-Livingston is currently able to provide Marion with more than half of its daily demand for drinking water.

In order for Crittenden-Livingston to be a long-term supplier for all of Marion’s water needs, it would need to expand its plant at Pinckneville in Livingston County on the Cumberland River and run a 12-inch main from Salem to Marion. Some preliminary estimates for that type of long-term solution to Marion’s crisis would appear to be in the \$25 million range, or more. Some type of federal or state assistance would be necessary to meet such a financial commitment.

•Shady Grove Pump Station: The idea of drawing water from the Caldwell Water District with a connection on KY 139 has been abandoned due to complications.

•A connection through Crittenden-Livingston Water District and Caldwell Water District could be a viable option for Marion to get drinking water from Princeton in both the short-term and then in the longer term, too. Engineers continue to study the feasibility of those options. Under an emergency order, there is a plan to connect Princeton and Marion through

third-party lines owned by Caldwell County Water District and Crittenden-Livingston. That relationship could provide a limited volume of water to augment what’s already being provided from the Crittenden-Livingston district.

A longer term option could be running a large diameter pipe from Marion to Princeton’s nearest water main, which is in Caldwell County, a few miles southeast of Fredonia. Princeton has told Marion officials it has enough capacity to serve Marion’s full needs year round.

•Plans continue to see if water can be pumped from Sturgis through Crittenden-Livingston Water District and into Marion. If so, it could be a short-term solution for part of Marion’s daily demand. Work on that link could begin next week.

•While repairing Lake George was largely dismissed by state experts early on as a viable short- or long-term solution, it appears there is a greater appetite now to investigate it further.

For the near-term, there’s a chance that some minor repairs to the levee and the pipe running through it could allow the basin to catch water that would then be pumped into Old City Lake. Salvaging any part of the lake as a raw water source was disregarded a few weeks ago, but the lack of other affordable alternatives may be prompting decision makers to reconsider.

•Raising the levee at Old City Lake: There has been some temporary sandbagging at Old City Lake that could prove beneficial, allowing the lake to hold a bit more raw water when it rains. This is considered a short-term solution. There would be great challenges to enlarging Old City Lake or raising

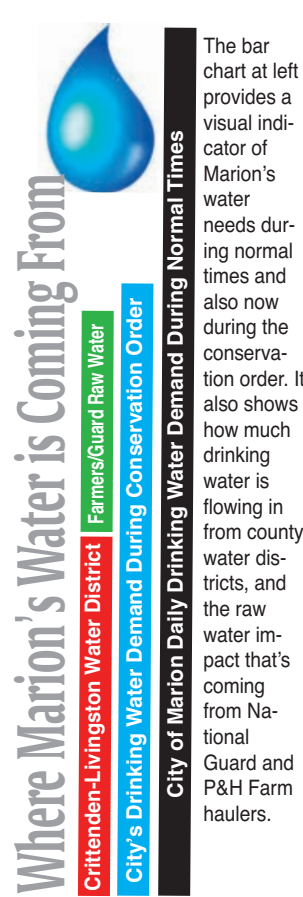
the damn permanently. As it has existed for decades, Old City Lake holds enough water to supply Marion’s needs during times of normal rainfall. About one inch of rain every week or two would keep the lake viable, but getting consistent rainfall between June and September is not likely. Since 2016, The community has not gotten four inches of rainfall during those months three-fifths of the time (15 out of 24 months saw less than four inches), according to the Kentucky Mesonet weather station north of Marion near Mattoon. Four inches of rainfall spread out over a month’s time is enough to keep Old City Lake viable as a raw water source.

•Lucile Mine: When the state took over management of the water crisis a couple of weeks ago, it moved away from further exploration of raw water at the abandoned mine – at least for now.

•A pipe to the Ohio River: Although that was an option early in the crisis, it’s no longer considered among the most viable options and has been moved off the drawing board due to cost and other geographical and hydraulic challenges.

•Water wells: There was some talk early about drilling wells to provide Marion with water. There are already three wells near the water plant, but city officials have said the volume they can provide is insignificant. Geological and other data on the area around the lake indicate that finding suitable raw water in ample volume would be highly unlikely.

•Leak detection and repair activities conducted by the Rural Water Association and Marion maintenance crews eliminated three leaks late last



week.

Leaks in the water transmission system have long been a source of water loss, and city officials estimate that at least 25 percent of the water it has been making has been lost in transit to customers because of cracks in the system. The city said it will continue to ferret out leaks in order to conserve water.

Marion leaders encourage people to alert them of signs of a water leak. To report a leak, call city hall weekdays during normal business hours at 270-965-2266 or call emergency dispatching after hours or on weekends at 270-965-3500.

A leak is often indicated by water emerging from or sitting on top of the ground during otherwise dry conditions. It could appear as standing water or a muddy, wet spot.



July 19 thru August 5

PAGEANTS
Saturday, July 19, 6 p.m.
@ FOHS HALL
Gate \$5, 7 & over, 6 & under free
Miss Crittenden County Pre-Teen, 8-12 Years
Miss Crittenden County Teen, 13-15 Years
Miss Crittenden County, 16-21 Years
Lady of Crittenden County, 22+
Open to Crittenden County residents and all Kentucky county residents, separate winners for each.
Contact Natalie Parish (270) 871-1383

















TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL
Saturday, July 30, 7 p.m.
@ THE FAIRGROUNDS
\$30 Registration Fee
Gate Fee: \$12, 7 & Over, 6 & Under FREE
Sanctioned by USA Pullers
Contact Jared Bet (270) 871-4502

BLUEGRASS BLOWOUT CAR SHOW
Saturday, July 23
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
@ THE FAIRGROUNDS
Free entry to public
\$15 Registration Fee per vehicle
Registration 9 a.m.-noon, Awards 3 p.m.

Contact Matt Tinsley (270) 704-1477

EDURO DERBY
Friday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.
@ THE FAIRGROUNDS
Gate Fee: \$5 ages 6-15; 16-up \$15; 5-under free
FULL CONTACT RACING
\$1,000 to win "Modified"
100% PAYBACK "Stock"
Youth Modified 100% Payback
For more information call (270) 704-2818

DEMO DERBY
Saturday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.
@ THE FAIRGROUNDS
Gate entry: \$5 ages 6-15; 16-up \$15; 5-under free
Iron Outlaw Promotions
Power Wheels, Big or Lite Weld, Big Car Windshield, Mini van/truck, Lite world compact, windshield compnact, youth mowers, stock mowers, lite weld mower
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 Mon.-Sat. 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. 6 a.m.-10 p.m. 129 N. Main St.	 10 a.m.-8 p.m. 214 North Main Street (270) 965-3730	 728 S. MAIN ST. (270) 965-7060 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK
 La Potosina Restaurante Mexicano MON.-THURS.: 11 a.m.-8 p.m. FRI. & SAT.: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 113 N. Maple St. (270) 965-9787	 Thurs. 4:30-10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 4:30-11:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 651 Blackburn St. (270) 965-7100	 914 S. Main St. • (270) 965-3035 Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 113 Sturgis Rd. • (270) 965-4538 Hours: Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	 301 Sturgis Rd. • (270) 965-7099	 HOURS: 7 a.m.-9 p.m. 213 Sturgis Rd. (270) 965-4261
 108 S. Main St. • (270) 965-7090 4-8 p.m. Mon.-Sat	 218 S. Main St., Marion Mon., Wed. & Fri. 6:30 a.m.-noon	SERVING PLATE MEALS:  DELIS AVAILABLE AT:   

Upcoming Events at Fohs Hall:
THE RETURN OF THE TAPESTRY "REMOVE THE VEIL" JULY 23 (FEATURING THE BEATLES ABBEY ROAD)
TERRY MIKE JEFFREY "THE KING & DIAMOND" SEPTEMBER 17 (MUSIC OF ELVIS PRESLEY AND NEIL DIAMOND)
"OLD KENTUCKY HAYRIDE" NOVEMBER 5
THE RETURN OF THE PADUCAH SYMPHONY DECEMBER 11

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