

Several former Rockets return to hardwood for alumni games | Page 18

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Yarbrough to head Webster schools

Crittenden County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rachel Yarbrough has been hired to head the public school system in Webster County after six years in that role here.

Webster County Board of Education made the decision to hire Yarbrough at Monday night's



Yarbrough

meeting, according to interim Webster County superintendent Pete Galloway.

Her first day on the job there will be July 1.

Of 16 applicants for the Webster County post, hers was the only name presented by a screening committee to the board for consideration.

Dr. Yarbrough said the decision to leave Crittenden County was difficult, but in effect, she feels as if Webster County is home, since that is where she graduated high school and spent the first 19 years of her educational career. She was a teacher and administrator at Webster before coming to Crittenden County.

"It really is bittersweet," she said Tuesday.

Hired in 2008 to head Crittenden County schools, Dr. Yarbrough is proud of where the district now stands.

"I feel really good about all that has been accomplished here," she said.

Crittenden County Board of Education Chairman Chris Cook applauded her efforts.

"Dr Yarbrough has given her heart in leading this district for the past six years," said Cook. "She has taken us to new levels of effectiveness in every major facet of our school district."

Cook said the search for a new superintendent will begin immediately.

Clerk closes office Monday afternoon

Crittenden County Clerk Carolyn Byford's office will close at 12:30 p.m. Monday in order for the clerk and deputies to attend a training session.

Public meetings

- Crittenden County High School site-based decision making council will meet at 3:30 p.m. Monday in the high school conference room.

- Marion City Council will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at Marion City Hall.

- Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday in the judge's courthouse office.



Last week, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear announced he would appeal a federal judge's ruling that the commonwealth must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. For this week's online poll, we asked, "Should Gov. Beshear have appealed a court ruling that Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages?"

The majority of voters support the governor's action. The results were:

- Yes: 64%
- No: 33%
- Uncertain: 3%



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Health department to shut school clinics

By JASON TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

A partnership disrupted by bureaucracy.

That's the message sent by Pennyriple District Health Department officials on the decision to no longer provide in-house school clinics at Crittenden County schools after the current academic year. In fact, last Wednesday, the health department announced it will be closing all of its school clinics at the end of June in the five counties with which it partners.

The action will also lead to layoffs within the district

health department, but how many was unclear at press time.

Allison Beshear, the director of the Pennyriple District Health Department, said the district board of health met Feb. 27 and decided to close the remaining eight school clinics that serve Crittenden, Caldwell, Livingston, Lyon and Trigg counties after their contracts with those school districts expire.

"Many options were considered, and after a lengthy discussion the board voted to discontinue this program July 1, 2014," a news release

from the district health department read.

The closures come on the heels of a reduction in personnel at school clinics over the last several months. At the beginning of the 2013 fiscal year, the health department had 10 school clinics in its five-county health district. During that year, two clinics closed — one at Crittenden County High School and another in Caldwell County — due to limited funding because of Kentucky Spirit, a

managed care organization, not paying for services.

Last May, Crittenden County Board of Education agreed to keep two school clinics open for the current academic year. The clinics are located at the elementary school and middle school, which shares its clinic with the high school. To keep two full-time nurses and one full-clerical assistant at those clinics cost \$63,000. Crittenden County Board of Health agreed to pay \$10,000

toward the amount, lowering the board of education's commitment to \$53,000.

Health department officials said over the last three years, the school health program has struggled due to cutbacks from Medicaid and having to pay a 30-percent match on every Medicaid dollar received.

"The managed care organizations have put so many restrictions on what they will allow to be reimbursed in a school health setting," Beshear said. "We were not

See **NURSE** /Page 20

Out of rhythm



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

High school chemistry teacher Glenna Rich explains a concept to students Khyla Moss (left) and Lauren Watson. Rich said snow days didn't just affect class instruction; it also cancelled the chemistry students' field trip to Westlake.

Snow days disruptive to instruction

By JASON TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

Most students would appreciate missing a few days of school due to winter weather conditions. But as of last Friday, Crittenden County students had missed 17 days of instruction, with only two having been made up.

Making up those missed school days will shorten summer vacation, especially a disadvantage for graduating seniors preparing to begin college in the fall. While make-up

days are scheduled, the on-again, off-again nature of the spring semester has so far played havoc with valuable student instructional time as teachers work to cover all standards in course work.

Crittenden County Schools Instructional Supervisor Vince Clark said officials are concerned with the number of snow days and how they have created what Clark refers to as a disruption to student learning.

"There is a disruption to the rhythm of delivering instruction for

your students," Clark said. "When it's interrupted like it has been this year, it does impact how students learn because there's a lot of re-teaching. Some of the new information gets pushed back a little."

However, Clark called last Friday an important day in moving the school year forward. Although students received another day off because of hazardous travel concerns, teachers were able to return to the

See **CLASSES** /Page 16



Effie Shaffer of Crittenden County will celebrate her 100th birthday today.

Turning 100 another goal for Shaffer

By DARYL K. TABOR

PRESS EDITOR

It's fair to say, when Effie Shaffer sets a goal, she achieves it.

Her first goal in life was for her daughter to graduate college. A second goal was for her and her husband to own their own home. Her third goal was to see all 50 states.

Check, check and check. And her fourth major goal was to

See **GOAL** /Page 7

New director to be hired at senior center

By DARYL K. TABOR

PRESS EDITOR

Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center should have a new director named by today (Thursday).

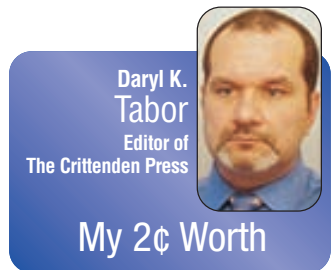
Judy Peterson, executive director of Pennyriple Allied Community Services (PACS) in Hopkinsville, said on Tuesday that interviews of candidates were conducted on Monday to seek a

See **DIRECTOR** /Page 4

Numbers help tell tale of just how bad Winter 2013-14 has been

If Mother Nature had an e-mail address, her inbox would surely be overloaded with complaints about her behavior this winter. She's been relentless with her bitter cold and winter storms — not just here, but across a large swath of the nation.

Last week's icing event seemed to take the cake. Yet again, businesses and public offices were forced to close, eating into profits and cutting employees' hours; schools were left closed for the entire week of instruction for the



second time this winter, pushing the school calendar into June; street and road crews worked overtime doing their best to clear roadways; vehicles wound up in ditches

or stuck in drives; and utility bills continued to soar to new heights.

It's been the same tale over and over this winter.

As if adding insult to injury, last week's dose of winter weather came in March, a time when we begin turning our thoughts to warm sunshine, baseball, greening grass and blooming flowers. Luckily, the past few days have given us a break; and, hopefully, for the sanity of us all, the last of any significant snow, sleet and freezing rain

is behind us.

From Salem to Shady Grove, Dycusburg to Tolu and all points in between, people in Crittenden County are sick of winter.

And it's no wonder.

Consider a few numbers from the Kentucky Mesonet climate and weather data station in Crittenden County that help tell the tale of Winter 2013-14:

- As of Sunday, it's been 102 days since we gorged on turkey and football; and since that Thanksgiving Day, there

have been 81 days with temperatures below freezing.

- Twenty-eight of those days never saw the mercury reach above 32 degrees.

- The average daily temperature since Thanksgiving has been just a hair under the freezing point.

- In January, there were only four days that didn't register freezing temperatures. In December there were nine and only six in February. Through Sunday of this

See **WINTER** /Page 20

Summer rec ball deadline near

Saturday is the deadline for registering boys and girls ages 4-12 in summer recreational softball and baseball leagues at Marion Crittenden County Park. For more information, see Sports on Page 17.

CrittendenFiscalCourt

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

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the courthouse open on Saturday? Yes. Most offices are open a half-day Saturday except during holiday weekends. The PVA and judge-executive's office, however, are closed on Saturday.

When is the solid waste convenience center (trash repository) on U.S. 60 East open? Monday through Friday from 8 a.m., to 4 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m., to noon. It is closed only on Sunday.

Do I have to have a dog license? Yes. Licenses are available for \$5 through county Animal Control Officer Denise Peek (969-1054) at the animal shelter on U.S. 60 East.

EDITORIAL

Governor right to appeal fed ruling on state marriage laws

In November 2004, Kentucky voters went to the polls to vote for more than a president and candidates for local office. On the ballot was a constitutional amendment defining marriage in the commonwealth as between one man and one woman. The amendment resoundingly passed with the approval of 75 percent of voters.

Almost 10 years later, a federal judge overturned the results of that election spurred by a lawsuit filed by two same-sex couples who were married outside Kentucky. They sought to force the state to recognize their unions as legal, reported The Associated Press.

On Feb. 12, U.S. District Judge John Heyburn ordered Kentucky to recognize out-of-state same-sex marriages, capsizeing the choice made by nearly 1.2 million Kentuckians a decade earlier and effectively usurping the democratic process.

Judge Heyburn's opinion was that the ban on recognizing same-sex marriages violated the equal-protection clause in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because it treated "gay and lesbian persons differently in a way that demeans them."

The ruling did not overturn the fact that same-sex marriages cannot be performed in Kentucky; it simply required the commonwealth to recognize those marriages performed in other states and countries.

On Feb. 28, Judge Heyburn finalized his judicial order and gave Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway 21 days to appeal the ruling.

On March 4, Conway, a Democrat from Louisville, said he would not appeal the ruling from the federal court. In a teary-eyed press conference, he said it was because "I would be defending discrimination. That I will not do."

Just a few moments later, Gov. Steve Beshear, a fellow Democratic and attorney from Dawson Springs, exercised his authority over the matter, issuing a statement that the state would hire outside attorneys to appeal the legal decision. He said the issue, because many other states are facing the same legal chaos, should ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Earlier on the same day that Conway and Beshear made clear their intentions, Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom sent out an e-mail to several local constituents urging them to contact Conway's office and ask that the attorney general "appeal the decision of this federal judge and that he uphold the current 'Marriage Law' of Kentucky as it stands."

"I am not going to speak as to the 'rights' of one particular sexual orientation over another, as I feel that is a personal decision for us all..." wrote Newcom in his plea for action. "What I do wish to speak about is the fact that the democratic process is being completely undermined with this federal district (court) decision."

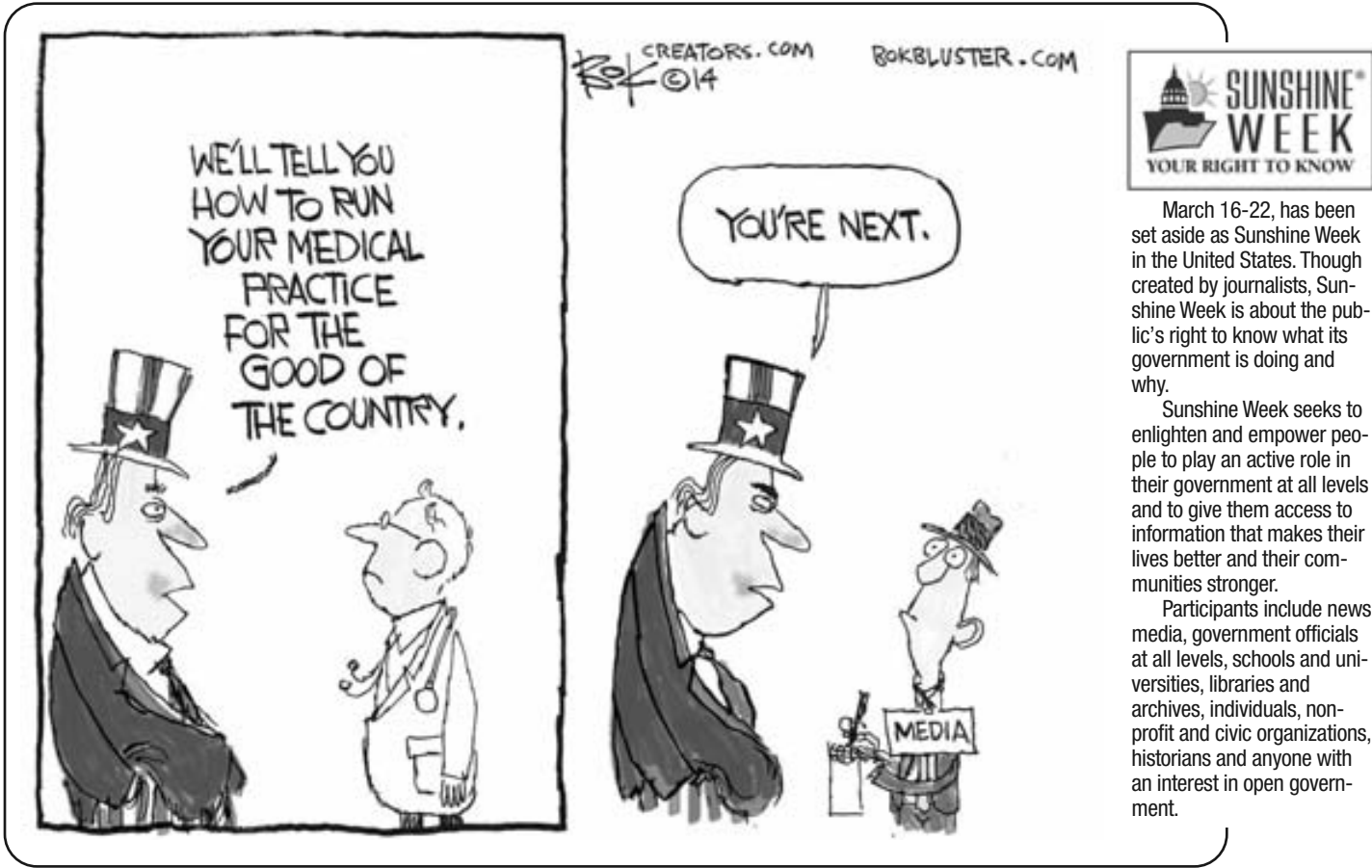
Newcom's appeal to his constituents was not out of turn.

In 2004, 3,282 Crittenden Countians supported the constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Only 447 voted against it. That's more than a 7-to-1 margin who stood to defend traditional marriage.

We applaud Newcom's request and Gov. Beshear's action to appeal a law passed resoundingly by the people of Kentucky; and judging from the local election results of 2004, we feel it is safe to say most Crittenden Countians do as well.

Our opinion is in no way intended as an affront to those in the gay community, but as full support of a democratic process in which most Americans still believe and entrust their future.

As a sovereign state, until Kentucky voters alone overturn the 2004 constitutional amendment at the ballot box, the law should stand without intervention by the federal courts.



March 16-22, has been set aside as Sunshine Week in the United States. Though created by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing and why.

Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Participants include news media, government officials at all levels, schools and universities, libraries and archives, individuals, non-profit and civic organizations, historians and anyone with an interest in open government.

Geese remarkable, adaptable birds

If you've been outdoors for any length of time this winter, you've probably heard a flock or two of geese honking overhead. Sometimes we look up to see as many as 50 geese in a V-shaped formation headed to who knows where? As a child, I was told they were flying north in the spring and south during the winter months. Today, due to changing weather and food factors, that information may be only partially correct.

My interest in geese migration was piqued when a friend showed me pictures she had made in January on a lake in southern Illinois. I had never seen so many varying colors and sizes of geese all on the ground at the same time. So, when my husband and I got out one bright, cold winter day for a drive-around, I said, "Let's go to Ballard County. We might see the geese." That was right down Eddie's alley anyway.

We were there in about an hour, circling through the wildlife management area, not seeing any water fowl as we expected, only a few deer grazing in the fields. I was pretty disappointed. We could see deer on our farm. I was hoping for birds.

We drove down gravel roads and farmland, watching for any signs. All of a sudden,

Linda Defew
Crittenden Press guest columnist



Defew's Views

Eddie came to an abrupt stop on the country road and pointed up in the sky over a harvested soybean field. "Look, Linda. What in the world is that?"

The sight caught my breath. What appeared to be a huge black tornado swirled in the sky, lowering itself gracefully to the ground. As if they were falling from a funnel, thousands of geese, both black and white, landed on the field and began to forage for leftovers the combine had left behind. In all his years of hunting, Eddie had never seen anything like it.

Of course, as soon as we got home, I began searching the Internet. My knowledge of geese hadn't expanded since my early years. Why were the geese in western Kentucky this time of the year? Were they in their migratory pattern? Down deep, I hoped this signaled an end to winter. Maybe they were hurrying home to Canada to spend the

summer in a cooler location. It was time for an update.

At the risk of sounding like a student writing an assignment on geese, I scanned the highlights quickly. I was able to identify the gray/white geese we had seen as Snow Geese (5 million in population) and Canadian Geese (4-5 million), with several subspecies mixed in, plus varying colors according to age. Other interesting facts were that geese pair for life, usually during the second year, and breed the third year. The females come back to the place they were hatched to breed from late May to mid-August, but spend more than half of their year on their migratory path.

What I found out about their migration was a bit confusing, not only to me, but to scientists who are dedicated to the health and well-being of geese in general. Yes, the geese are migrating north to south with stops all across our part of the United States, with western Kentucky and Illinois right in the middle. But, with the exception of this winter, previous years had been mild, causing some to want to stay here in our area of the country. They weren't migrating as far south, which some scientists believe had led to over-population. Adequate food supply, man-made

lakes and waterways, and lack of former predators such as coyotes, fox and raccoons had affected migration. The end result showed that the ones who came back to the tundra in the Artic returned healthier than in the past when they had to depend solely on marshlands.

Here in Kentucky, there was plenty of agricultural grain to eat and many days above freezing. Now, geese populations have grown so that some people see them as pests and are trying to find ways to eradicate them.

The information was enlightening, but seeing thousands of geese put on a show right before my eyes was overwhelming. From now on, I'll be more vigilant when I see geese flying overhead. They are extraordinary fowl who know how to survive from year to year and how to adapt regardless of human alterations. They have become the most common waterfowl species in North America. And, if things keep going like they have in previous years, we will be seeing more of them every year.

(Linda Defew is a freelance writer from Livingston County who has had numerous works published. Her column appears in this newspaper periodically.)

Anytime good time for travel across Kentucky

It's only my opinion, but I think any time, as in any month, is a good time to travel in Kentucky. I'm well aware that for Kentucky, like many other states, the traditional vacation time is from Memorial Day through Labor Day. After that, some venues actually scale back their hours and even days of operation.

But don't despair. For those who have the flexibility to get up and go regardless of the month, this can be a good thing. Good in that venues are often less crowded, hotels usually offer lower rates and, for me personally, those hikes over state park trails can be done without encountering some of those critters I'm not enamored with.

There are so many places across the state that can be enjoyed in less desirable weather than the spring, summer and fall months afford us most of the time.

I plead guilty to using the phrase "a hidden treasure" or "a best kept secret." These words seem to appear in many of the travel brochures everywhere. The fact is they are often true.

And one of those is the Museum of Fine Art in Owensboro on Frederica Street.

There's something about a visit here that just makes you feel better. It's one of those wonderful museums that

Gary P. West
Syndicated columnist



Out and About

offer up a pleasant surprise of sophistication and culture, while at the same time a certain amount reflects the southern heritage that includes Kentucky art from as far back as the early 1800s.

The art collection here is diverse, to say the least. American, European and Asian exhibits are among the treasures of international works.

A museum of this caliber would often be found in a much larger city than Owensboro.

The Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort is now 14 years old, and the 167,000-square-foot structure is a must see even if you've been there before. It retraces Kentucky's history as far back as 12,000 years.

All told, museum collections number more than 120,000 artifacts, plus more than 8,000 oral history interviews.

The Patton Museum at Fort Knox has been around in one form or another since 1949. George Patton was one

of America's greatest and controversial generals. As commander of the 3rd Army in World War II, his troops swept across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, liberating and conquering more than 81,000 miles of land.

The museum is dedicated to the preservation of the U.S. Army and its armor branch of the military.

Renfro Valley in Mount Vernon is a Kentucky icon when it comes to founder John Lair's vision for the 650-seat theater he built in a big barn. His goal was to help preserve Appalachian music and culture from what he perceived as the over-commercialization of country music.

The first musical broadcast dates back to 1939, and over the years, the likes of George Jones, Aaron Tippin, Merle Haggard, Mickey Gilley, Ronnie Milsap, Charlie Pride, Lorie Morgan and Loretta Lynn have and still do perform there. Be sure and call for show times and dates.

Toyotas are built in Georgetown and this massive 7.5 million-square-foot facility that employees more than 7,000, has one of the finest automotive plant tours in the world.

Every tour begins in the 11,500-square-foot visitor's center where trams are then boarded for a comfortable

tour that last from one and a half to two hours. Reservations are a must.

Of course, in Bowling Green is another car plant tour. The Corvette Assembly Plant is the only place in the world that "America's Sports Car" is built. And with the National Corvette Museum sitting adjacent to the plant, visitors can have a two-for-one experience.

The Newport Aquarium in Newport sits on the banks of the Ohio River in this northern Kentucky city and has been recognized as one of the best museums of its type in the nation.

With some 70 exhibits and 14 galleries that include more than 200 feet of seamless acrylic tunnels which allow visitors to surround themselves with numerous varieties of aquatic life from throughout the world, the 1 million gallons of water in the giant aquarium is home to more than 7,000 aquatic creatures in an almost unbelievable state-of-the art setting.

These are only a few of getaways Kentuckians can enjoy even when the weather is not to your liking.

(Gary P. West is an author of several books, a freelance writer for several magazines and a syndicated columnist for several newspapers in Kentucky. He can be reached at west1488@insightbb.com.)

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GUEST OPINION

Economists advocate local option sales tax

By PAUL COOMES AND WILLIAM HOYT
GUEST COLUMNISTS

This year, the Kentucky state legislature could give citizens a chance to a vote on allowing time-limited local sales taxes for dedicated projects. These would be optional at the local level, probably a 1-percentage-point rate added to the 6 percent rate now levied by Kentucky state government. As economists, we write not to recommend higher taxes overall, but to explain why local sales taxes are both popular around the United States and a useful addition to the financial toolbox of local communities.

Economists see many advantages to local sales taxes compared to other taxes. One axiom of economics is that if you tax something you get less of it. Thus, taxing consumption encourages saving, while taxing income punishes effort and achievement. Moreover, households tend to view sales taxes as associated

with the voluntary act of purchasing something desirable, but view income taxes as a forced extraction from their hard earned wages and salaries. Hence, voters are more likely to approve sales tax increases, particularly when they see the funds dedicated to an important public good or service, but to reject income tax increases.

Local governments around Kentucky need some financial flexibility. They are on the front lines of services to residents and businesses, including public safety, fire protection, EMS, sanitation, roads, sidewalks, libraries, parks and recreation facilities. Yet, they are increasingly squeezed by huge employee pension costs required by state government. Local governments rely on



Coomes



Hoyt

property tax revenues, which have been flat for many years, and occupational and business taxes that discourage work and risk taking.

And, being closest to voters, local public officials hear the “no new taxes” message the loudest and most frequent.

A more subtle, but equally important, point is that communities around Kentucky aspire to grow and prosper in different ways. Some want more safety, some more parks, some more libraries, convention centers, bike paths, arts facilities, buses or swimming pools. Some want less. Kentucky state government has traditionally provided many of these economic- development and quality-of-life amenities for communities. But state government has its

own fiscal constraints and should spend its growth dollars on truly statewide issues, like highways, bridges, higher education, health care for the poor and prisons.

With the option of adding, say, a penny to the sales tax, local governments could place on the ballot a proposal to spend the extra money on a specific package of public services most in demand by local citizens. If they approve it in a referendum, clearly the community wants to tax itself to get items in the package. If the referendum fails, the tax would not go into effect. The complicated state-local funding structures to build the Louisville downtown arena and the rebuilding of Rupp Arena in Lexington are great examples of projects that could more cleanly be funded by a local sales tax.

Under one format, the additional sales tax revenues are used to service the debt on a bond issue, typically with a 20-year life, with the bond proceeds dedicated to

Tax legislation

Kentucky Senate Bill 135 and House Bill 399 propose an amendment to the state constitution to allow local governments the authority to levy a local option sales and use tax upon voter approval.

some community enhancement projects rather than core local public services like police. When the bonds are paid off, the local sales tax expires unless voters re-authorize it for new projects.

The local sales tax option also creates the possibility of changing the structure of taxation without raising overall taxation. For example, a community could vote to reduce or get rid of its occupational license tax or net profits tax and replace the revenues with those from a sales tax.

Thirty-seven U.S. states allow local sales taxes. Eighty of the largest 108 American cities have local sales taxes. Of our bordering states, only Indiana and Virginia do not allow them. Tennessee uses

local sales taxes extensively, with rates up to 2.25 percent (on top of the state rate of 7 percent), and is thus able to function without taxation of wages and salaries anywhere. Kentucky’s constitution currently allows general sales taxation only at the state level. But an amendment to the constitution, allowing local sales taxes, has been offered to the legislature, and with approval from the General Assembly will be submitted to voters later this year. We believe adding this tool to the toolbox of communities in Kentucky makes good economic sense.

(Editorial note: This op-ed was writtenden by Paul Coomes, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Louisville; and William Hoyt, Ph.D., Gatton-Endowed Professor and Chair of Economics, University of Kentucky. Coomes can be reached at paul.coomes@louisville.edu or (502) 608-4797. Hoyt can be reached at whoyt@uky.edu or (859) 257-2518.)

Lawmakers remember King’s march on Frankfort

Many lawmakers joined thousands of Kentuckians gathered along Capitol Avenue last Wednesday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s March on Frankfort. It was a cold and blustery March 5 when Dr. King led 10,000 others in a march up to the front door of our Capitol in support of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

Retracing his steps with some of those who walked with him then was a wonderful demonstration of how far we have come as a state and nation. And a poignant reminder that we are writing history and paving a future for our state with the laws we make in these truly hallowed halls.

Every bill we pass – both the mundane and the magnificent – is a tribute to decades and centuries of struggle and sacrifice for



Senate in Review

freedom and equality and a more perfect representative democracy.

Many bills were discussed last week. More than a dozen gained full Senate approval.

Among them, Senate Bill 109, passed 36-2, would prohibit the sale of “electronic cigarettes” to minors. E-cigarettes are sometimes marketed as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes because they are smokeless. But they still emit a vaporized form of nicotine to users that supporters of the meas-

ure feel is addictive and unsafe for youth. SB 109 would put e-cigarettes under the same rules and regulations of tobacco products.

Several of the bills approved by the Senate last week focused on the concealed-carry law in the state.

SB 100 would modernize and streamline the concealed carry (CCDW) application process by allowing electronic submission for licenses in the state. This would expedite the electronic application process to two weeks (as opposed to two months for a paper application). SB 100 has the support of the Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Sheriff’s Association and the National Rifle Association.

We hope this measure will help with the backlog of CCDW applications the state is dealing with. This would not change any training or

licensing requirements, but would simply allow law-abiding citizens to receive their CCDW license more quickly.

In an effort to make the CCDW application process more straightforward for veterans, SB 125 would further clarify the allowance for certain honorably-discharged service members to forgo the training requirement for a CCDW license. The measure would allow them to sign an affidavit confirming completion of military handgun training. These men and women have served and defended our state and nation and have proven they can be trusted to safely and responsibly handle weapons outside the military.

These bills now go to the House of Representatives for further action.

Last Thursday, I was pleased to meet with individuals from across the state

Staying in touch

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Legislative Message Line
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Bill Status Line
(866) 840-2835

Calendar (Meetings) Line
(800) 633-9650

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representing our public libraries. Public libraries play a vital role in our communi-

ties. Kentuckians use their libraries to meet their basic needs and to enhance their lives. They use the public libraries to save money, educate their children, find jobs and access the Internet.

Another important milestone was reached this week as we completed two-thirds of the session: The deadline for filing new bills. With 800 bills introduced this year, we will have plenty to consider in our final 20 working days. And while no new bills will be introduced, there is still plenty of time for you to exercise your rights and get involved with any of the bills already in the process.

(Sen. Ridley, a Henderson Democrat, has served in the Kentucky Senate since 2004 representing Senate District 4, which is comprised of Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Webster, Union and Henderson counties.)

The Press letters policy

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author’s name, address, phone number and signature. Phone numbers and addresses are required, but will not be published.

Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words or be submitted within 30 days of your last submission. The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Original submissions will not be returned.

Your letters to the editor may be brought into our office or sent to: Letters, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064-0191 or e-mailed to thepress@the-press.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Upward offers more than games

To the editor

I read an article on the Internet recently in which the author was talking about how nice it was that her kids were in a small school where everyone gets to play on any ball team they choose, where no one is cut because they aren’t good enough, where if you wear the uniform, you get to play.

We live in a small town, but that’s not how it works here. Kids do get cut, and just because the kid has the uniform on doesn’t mean he’ll get off the bench.

Sometimes, I think living in this small town makes getting cut or not getting off the bench even harder because there are fewer that it happens to. Watch the faces of the kids who don’t get playing time. They’re not content just to be there; they want to play. That’s why they signed up, why they come to practice and why they’re at every game just waiting for their chance to get in.

There is a league, though, where everyone gets equal playing time and no one ever gets cut. There is a basketball

league in Marion where a young child who might not ever get playing time on a school or traveling league was able to score 4 points on a recent Saturday. And it brings tears to my eyes to remember the look of pure joy on his face when he saw the basketball go through the net, not once but twice.

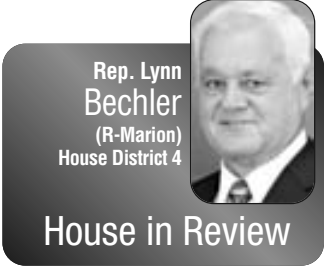
The entire gym cheered for his accomplishment. Parents, grandparents, friends and coaches from both teams were clapping and yelling for this boy because we all knew how much it meant to him to make those shots.

The league he plays for is Upward Basketball. My family has been part of Upward for 10 years. My sons have played and coached basketball, and I’ve coached cheerleading. We love Upward not just because everyone gets a fair shot, but because Upward is partly responsible for the salvation of my husband, myself and both of my boys.

The Upward program that Marion Baptist Church operates invited our family to church and accepted us as we were, not just to the basketball team, but to God.

Stefanie Graham
Marion, Ky.

Bill to forgive missed school days filed



House in Review

The winter weather interrupted the General Assembly when last Monday’s session had to be canceled due to road conditions across the Commonwealth. The session was gaveled in on Tuesday and activity began again.

The last day to file new legislation has passed with 584 bills being introduced in the House and 240 bills being introduced in the Senate. Of these 824 bills, four are now law and four are waiting for the governor’s signature. One more bill has been passed by both the House and Senate but has yet to be enrolled (signed by both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate). Most of the remaining bills will not become law in the remaining three weeks or so of the session, but I expect a flurry of activity in the remaining weeks of this year’s regular session. In addition to the bills I mentioned, there have been 192 resolutions introduced in the House and 216 resolutions introduced in the Senate.

House Bill 62 passed the House last week. This bill would forbid a person convicted of rape in the first degree to have parental or visitation rights with respect to any child born as a result of that sexual assault. It is hard to believe that a law such as this would be necessary since common sense would also forbid such a thing. However, in today’s society, it seems as if common sense is not so common, so such a law is required. I, of course, voted yes on HB 62.

Another bill that passed the House last week was HB 333, which did a number of things. One would allow the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System (KTRS) to use and accept electronic signatures. Another would require public employers other than school districts to provide paid leave to teacher trustees serving on the KTRS board. Other provisions clarified types of pay, addressed insurance and investment consultants and yet another would set regulations requiring more frequent reports from school districts.

This was one of a number of “housekeeping” bills that seem to arise every session. These types of bills are filed because technology changes, things were missed or there were unintended consequences of the original legislation. There were many positive things in HB 333, but two concerned me. The first was the requirement that public employers other than school districts must provide paid leave to teacher trustees serving on the KTRS board. The second was the provision setting administrative regulations to require more frequent submission of reports by participating employers.

Since teachers at times work during the summer months at another public entity, a potential employer might choose not to hire that teacher due to the special leave with pay requirement. It also seems to me that the legislature should not dictate

that our tax dollars be used to send people to a pension board meeting if those people are not working at the school at the time of the meeting. I filed an amendment that would have changed the wording of the bill to allow, but not require, a public entity to pay a KTRS board member for the board member’s attendance at a board meeting. My amendment was defeated on a roll call vote.

I also filed an amendment that would limit the number of reports a school district would be required to file to four per year. That amendment was also defeated on a roll call vote.

Based on the defeat of those amendments, I reluctantly voted no on HB 333.

At the time this column was submitted on Monday morning, the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee had still not held a hearing on the proposed budget, but I expect that to change shortly. The various subcommittees that are working on different portions of the budget are to report to the full committee this week, so I am hopeful that the budget bill will be brought to the full House in time for a thorough debate on the details. Since the budget originates in the House, it will have to go to the Senate after House approval, but time is running out.

HB 410, which would provide a waiver of up to 10 instructional days for schools that have missed days during the 2013-14 school year, has been filed. I have received many calls, letters and e-mails on this bill and most have been in support of it. Interestingly, but probably not a surprise to anyone, a

large number of the calls have been from students themselves. In fact, this is the only legislation that has engendered much if any communication from students!

Should HB 410 come to the full House for a vote, I will support it as currently written, but I will do so with some trepidation. Education, as we all agree, is of vital importance and lessening our current instructional requirements is not a good thing. This winter’s weather might be an aberration, but there is no certainty that the same weather patterns won’t be with us next year or some other year in the future. I would rather see the number of scheduled “off” days during the school year substantially reduced so that a year like we just had would allow time for makeup days to be scheduled in order to allow a complete school year to be completed before June.

As always, thank you for reading my updates and thank you for contacting me with your concerns and thoughtful suggestions. It is a privilege to represent you in the Kentucky House of Representatives and your input helps me make decisions that best represent the views of the 4th District.

I can be contacted by the information found on this page, and I am also on Facebook, and you can follow my periodic posts if you “Like” my Lynn Bechler, Kentucky State Representative page.

(Rep. Bechler is a first-term Republican representative from Marion. He represents House District 4, which is comprised of Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and a portion of Christian County.)

Lung cancer preventative program aims at reducing risk

By **JASON TRAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

Capitalizing on the success of the state's health care exchange, kyneet, last month Gov. Steve Beshear outlined a broad plan to improve the health of all Kentuckians. Part of that plan included reducing the number of statewide lung cancer deaths attributed to cigarette smoking by calling for higher tax rates on cigarette sales and legislation aimed at banning smoking in public buildings and workplaces statewide.

The number of statewide deaths attributed to lung cancer certainly reaffirms many concerns of health care officials. According to figures from the Kentucky Cancer Registry, from a five-year period beginning in 2007 and ending in 2011, lung cancer was ranked as the leading type of cancer in the state based on data released Nov. 1, 2013. Locally, it contributed to an estimated 38 deaths in Crittenden County and 56 deaths in Livingston County during that same five-year period. A sepa-

rate report indicates almost 17,000 Kentuckians died from lung cancer during that time.

Joan Lang, Pennyrile District Cancer Control Specialist for the Kentucky Cancer Program, said approximately 80-90 percent of lung cancer deaths result from cigarette smoking.

To help individuals kick the nicotine habit, Lang will facilitate a program entitled Plan to be Tobacco Free. The program will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. April 3 at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion.

The one-day intervention is designed to help individuals make a successful attempt to quit smoking. Those interested in attending the program must pre-register by calling the Crittenden County Extension Service at (270) 965-5236. The program is a Community Christmas approved educational class.

Lang also encourages individuals to call or go online to the Kentucky Tobacco Quit Line, which offers one-on-one counseling for tobacco users who are ready to quit smoking or

using tobacco products. The quit line is available at (800) QUIT NOW or online at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/mch/hp/quitline.htm>.

The Kentucky Cancer Program is a state-mandated cancer-control program funded by the General Assembly and is a joint initiative of the Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville and the Lucille Parker Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky.

Lang reports to the Brown Cancer Center at Louisville. She covers the nine counties in the Pennyrile region. The program's goal is to reduce the incidence and mortality from cancer through education programs, health fairs, screenings and participation in committees that focus on health issues.

This month is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorec-

tal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the state.

Lang said the word cancer can inspire fear in some people but emphasized it is important to overcome that fear and receive regular screenings.

"The point of screenings is to find cancer early before people know it's there and get it taken care of before it threatens life. Screening is important," Lang said.

Efforts to educate the public on the importance of screenings have proven effective in recent years. Lang said in 2007, Kentucky was the No. 1 state tied with West Virginia for the highest mortality rate for colorectal cancer in the nation. In 2010, the state dropped to fourth place, tying with Iowa.

From 2007 to 2011, there were an estimated 12 colorectal cancer

deaths in Crittenden County, according to the cancer registry. Livingston County registered 11. Statewide, 4,343 deaths were reported during the five-year period.

In recognition of Colon Cancer Awareness Month and with the help of the Kentucky Cancer Program, Baptist Health Madisonville will provide free take-home colon cancer screening preparation kits and other education materials will be available on a first come, first served basis in the hospital main lobby from 8 a.m. to noon Monday.

For more information on the event, visit www.baptisthealthmadisonville.com/events/.

Officials stress there are a limited number of kits available and should be used for those who truly intend to be screened for colon cancer.

There will also be a 20-foot inflatable replica of the human colon on display in the hospital's front lawn for visitors to get an up-close look at healthy colon tissue, colorectal polyps and more.

DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1

replacement for Alicia McDowell, who resigned her position two weeks ago. Peterson could not discuss the circumstances surrounding McDowell's departure.

"We think we have a young lady hired," Peterson said Tuesday, adding that the decision is pending background checks and other formalities. "We should be ready to make an announcement tomorrow or no later than Thursday."

Friday was the deadline for applications.

Peterson would provide no name until the hiring process is finalized. She said PACS plans to have a special event Friday at the center on North Walker Street in Marion to introduce the new director to the patrons of the center and the community at-large. That event will be a senior center fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. A chili dinner with all the trimmings will be served for \$5 per person, said Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom.

PACS has been conducting a search for a new center director since McDowell resigned last month. She had served as director of the local center since January 2012.

"There were several good applicants," Peterson said.

She added that the PACS office's tentative selection is from Crittenden County and has lived her entire life here.

"She knows the seniors and is a good administrator," Peterson added.

The senior center in Marion was closed all last week due to the weather, but reopened this week without a permanent director.

Senior centers in the nine counties PACS serves provide a variety of services, including in-house and delivered hot meals as well as transportation for local seniors and regular activities at the centers on weekdays.



PHOTOS BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS



Springlike weather brings out fun at park

Children and parents alike enjoyed a warm, sunny afternoon Monday at Marion-Crittenden County Park as temperatures reached nearly 70 degrees just one week after a winter storm crippled the area and kept children out of school for a week. Above, Brandon Rushing helps his daughter Caydena, 2, down a slide at the playground as mothers Felecia Murray (left) and Casara Butts watch their children enjoy the fun the park has to offer on a springlike day. At left, Tristin Bell, 5, makes his way through a tube that is part of the playground equipment. All areas of the municipal park were busy with activity after schools dismissed for the day.



PHOTO BY KENTUCKY LRC

Bechler visits with local educators

Rep. Lynn Bechler (R-Marion) visited with top education officials from Crittenden County on their recent visit to Frankfort. Pictured above with Bechler (center) are Crittenden County Board of Education Chairman Chris Cook and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rachel Yarbrough.

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WEST ELM ST...3 BR, 1.5 BA, lg living room, dining room, all appliances. np
RARE FIND...country setting, income opportunity, Bed & Breakfast, Hunting Lodge, Family Retreat, Home cooking style restaurant. 8,500 sq ft. living space, 7 BR, 8 BA, 1,400 sq ft. family room. Call for more info. Gm
FORDS FERRY...3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, dining room, 3 car garage all appliances on 2.19 acres. Jb

FENCED YARD...2 bedroom, 1 bath home in Marion on a corner lot. 1561 square feet of living space. If **PRICED REDUCED**
2002 MOBILE HOME...located in Salem. 4 BR, 2 BA, family room, fireplace. All appliances, privacy fenced yard. Well kept, storage shed. sc
SALEM RANCH...3 BR, 2 BA, gas log fireplace, appliances included, sunroom, large lot, storage shed. mr
VICTORIAN HOME...3 BR, 2 BA home in town. Completely remodeled including electric, plumbing, HVAC, floors, walls, doors, ceiling. Original doors restored, custom woodwork & much more. km **PRICED REDUCED**
LIONS DR...2 BR, 1 BA home. jh
LIVINGSTON COUNTY STONE...This Salem home has Livingston Co. Stone on the exterior. Features 2-3 BR, 1 BA. ch **SOLD**
WEST CENTRAL...3 BR, 2 BA brick home in town. Gas central heat and air, eat-in kitchen, master bath w/2 sinks. tj
ON TOP OF THE HILL...3 BR brick home w/baths that have both showers & tubs, his/her vanity's. Great room, kitchen includes built in stove, ovens, microwave, trash compactor. Al
GREENWOOD HGTS AREA...4 bedroom, 2 bath brick home, eat in kitchen, walkout basement, 2 car detached garage. Call for appointment. rj

CORNER LOT LOCATION...2 BR, 1 BA, close to schools, hospital and Country Club. Call for more info. gb
BUILDING LOTS
0.80 ACRE LOT...located in Marion City limits, building lot, also mobile home can be moved to this site if it confirms to city code. Dc **PRICE REDUCED**
CORNER LOT...vacant, ready to build.
LARGE VACANT LOT...located in Marion. gb

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COMMERCIAL BUILDING...Office space and utility type buildings located in Marion on 2.07 acres.
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7.7 ARCES...located in Marshall Co. KY. Kentucky Lake area, Wooded property, great location for secluded home close to great fishing & hunting that is available within a short distance to the property. Ab
14 ACRES...3 BR, 2 BA brick home in Crittenden County. Eat in kitchen w/ appliances, walk out basement. dw
40 ACRE ESTATE...serenity is what owners call this home. 5 BR, 5 BA brick with views of countryside. Amenities include: in ground pool, work out room, fireplace, built-in cabinets, plus too many others to mention. jh

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Elizabeth A. Maddux, DVM

TIP contract violations can be costly

Wow, is anybody ready for spring? This winter has seemed a bit long and drawn out. I hope everyone is doing well. Please remember, if you have any changes in your operation to bring them in as soon as possible. We are trying to get all our records updated before we start our new sign-ups for the upcoming programs in the new Farm Bill. We do not yet know many details but we will keep you posted.

TIP reminders

Transition Incentive Program (TIP) contracts are contracts that retiring landowners could use to transition their expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract to a beginning farmer or rancher by way of long term lease or contract of purchase. This program is no longer taking new applications, but we would like to remind current participants who have TIP contracts of their requirements. Participants are to follow the specified conservation plan. These plans required a buffer strip to be left on the edge of the field for a specific time frame. If you are a TIP participant, please make sure you are fully aware of your conservation plan requirements.



Also participants have to honor their long-term lease/contract for purchase agreements. If either party voluntarily breaks the long-term lease or contract for deed, then the TIP contract is in violation. If the TIP requirements are not followed and the contract is found to be in violation, then a \$1,500 penalty will be assessed to the applicable participant or participants. In addition, all TIP payments made will be required to be repaid. We want to remind TIP participants that even though they have received their final payment, they are still required to maintain their long-term lease or contract for sale. TIP contracts offered an additional two years of payments, however, they required a minimum five-year lease. What this means is even after the landowner has received their final payment, they have at a minimum, three additional years of lease requirement with their

operator. If these leases are broken, then the TIP contract is in violation as clarified previously. It can be very costly if a violation occurs, so please make sure that you fully understand your requirements if you participate in the TIP program. **Contract management** As soon as the fields dry up a little after all the snow, ice and rain, producers can resume management or maintenance activities on their CRP contracts now until nesting season starts on May 15. In Kentucky, if you are not scheduled for a cost shared management practice, you should still be conducting maintenance activities. Maintenance activities include spot treating any areas of concern like volunteer trees, volunteer shrubs, noxious weeds, etc. Spot treating can consist of mowing the affected area or treating it with chemicals. Please remember, if you are chemically spot treating, seek guidance as to when the best time to apply may be and how to apply the chemical in order to obtain the best result possible. Kentucky recommends that you mow half of your contract every year in order to help maintain the desired

cover. The next year, mow the other half. This can be done in blocks or strips, whichever is more convenient for your operation. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact the office. If you feel that you have an issue that you are not sure how to handle, please let us know and we can send Natural Resources Conservation Service to visit and give a recommendation. We can add additional cost-shared management practices in your plan if needed, depending upon what year your contract is in. We are always happy to answer any questions you have and work with you on any issues that may arise. **Upcoming** - April 15: Tentative start date to sign up for Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP). - April 15: Tentative start date to sign up for Livestock Forage Program (LFP). - July 28: Last day to apply for Emergency Loan (Livingston County). *(Laura Kessler is the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency executive director at the Salem service center, which serves both Crittenden and Livingston counties. She can be reached at (270) 988-2180.)*

Renewing farm tags benefits 4-H programs

STAFF REPORT Kentucky 4-H has an opportunity to raise funds for Crittenden County and statewide 4-H programs through the Ag Tag Voluntary Donation Program. Soon after taking office in 2012, Commissioner of Agriculture James R. Comer announced all farm license plate voluntary donations would be split evenly among 4-H, FFA and the Kentucky Proud program. Farmers can make the voluntary donation of \$10 when renewing their farm license plates at the county clerk's office. With more than 160,000 farm plates bought or renewed each year in Kentucky, the commissioner's action could

generate up to \$1.6 million annually. "Kentucky 4-H has been given a tremendous opportunity by Commissioner Comer to raise significant funds to support 4-H," said Keith Rogers, executive director of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation. "The voluntary donations from the Ag Tag Program will help 4-H give young people around the Commonwealth opportunities that develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills." More than 238,000 youth are involved in Kentucky's 4-H program. Kentucky ranks in top 10 in several 4-H enrollment categories nationwide. All 120 counties in Kentucky have 4-H programs, and all counties will

receive a portion of the support from this fund raising opportunity. Last year, the 4-H statewide shared total was \$160,895.06. The Kentucky 4-H Foundation splits the donations between the county where the funds originated and the 4-H Foundation. That means part of the Ag Tag donations stay in Crittenden County, funding programs and activities that teach children and teens about, leadership, citizenship, science and technology, communications, public speaking, agriculture and more. Crittenden County 4-H's share in 2013 was \$178.34. Only 13 percent of Critten-

den County farmers donated to the program last year. This year Crittenden County has a great opportunity to increase financial support to help 4-H youth in this county by encouraging farmers to make the donation. Making the voluntary \$10 donation is an excellent opportunity for our agricultural community to support the youth of our community and help fund the programs that can make a lasting difference in their lives. For more information about Crittenden County 4-H Programs, contact the University of Kentucky Crittenden County Cooperative Extension Service at (270) 965-5236.

March begins new license year in commonwealth

By KEVIN KELLY
KENTUCKY AFIELD OUTDOORS March 1 ushered in the new license year in Kentucky. A fishing license unlocks myriad angling opportunities across the state and buying one now maximizes its value. "When you think about what that gives you - all these bodies of water, all these different species that we provide for people - it's a tremendous value," said Ron Brooks, director of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' fisheries division. "We have limits on what anglers can take sometimes. Even with those limits they can feed their family a lot throughout the year just by going out on some public water and catching fish, not to mention all the recreational aspects." Individuals and families on a budget will appreciate the value of what amounts to a season-long pass to the great outdoors. An annual fishing license runs \$20 for Kentucky residents. "You can't take your fam-

ily out to eat for \$20 and you can barely go out and eat yourself for that amount," Brooks said. New this year is a three-year fishing license for residents. It is \$55 and available online only at fw.ky.gov. Other options include the resident \$30 combination hunting and fishing license, a savings of \$10 if purchased separately. The joint husband and wife fishing license costs just \$36. Children 15 and younger can fish without a license. The sportsman's license is available to residents only and at \$95 represents an exceptional value. It bundles a combination hunting and fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, a migratory bird and waterfowl permit along with a trout permit. Buying each separately would cost \$150. Unless license exempt, anglers intending to keep trout must have a trout permit. For those who may only get out to fish once or twice a year, a one-day license at \$7 is a good option. Residents and non-residents can

fish any Kentucky waters without a license during Kentucky's free fishing days June 7-8. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife has documented a slight rise in angler participation over the past two years. "That's probably due to a combination of the outstanding resources we have, our heightened efforts to promote the opportunities we have in Kentucky and an increase among adults and people in general in locally grown and organic foods," said Brian Clark, assistant director of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's public affairs division. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives no tax dollars from Kentucky's general fund. Instead it relies on the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, boat registration fees and federal programs for funding. "Fishing and hunting licenses are extremely important to us," Brooks said. "It really is what makes this whole department run." Licenses are sold through a variety of outlets, including the following locations in

Marion: - Crittenden County Clerk's office, Crittenden County Courthouse. (270) 965,3403 - Hodge's Sports & Apparel, Sturgis Road, (270) 965-4717. - Shopko, Sturgis Road, (270) 965-4003. Other vendor locations are available on the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also can be purchased online or by calling (877) 598-2401. The Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide provides complete licensing information and is available online and wherever licenses are sold. It can be debated that March belongs in the discussion of the best sports month of the year. For many anglers, it is unparalleled. Deciding where to go and which species to target can be difficult with so many options available. The 2014 Fishing Forecast produced annually by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and posted on the department's website at tinyurl.com/om2nom7, contains a wealth of information about Kentucky's major fisheries.

Ky. 56 in Union County to see \$11.5 upgrade

STAFF REPORT Gov. Steve Beshear on Tuesday joined local officials to break ground on the much-anticipated Ky. 56 widening project in Union County. "The Ky. 56 project highlights a growing need for improved infrastructure and access into our rural communities," Gov. Beshear said. "Motorists will soon enjoy a safer, more reliable roadway." The nearly 4-mile project widens Ky. 56 from downtown Morganfield to Ky. 360 near Spring Grove. Crews will essentially rebuild this portion of Ky. 56 by correcting the roadway alignment and fixing certain pavement deficiencies. The new route will be widened to include two 12-foot lanes with paved 10-foot shoulders. This initial widening project is part of an overall venture to expand Ky. 56 to Ky. 109 near the Shawnee-town Bridge over the Ohio River. Despite being a major artery for Union County, Ky. 56 remains underutilized by commercial and regular traffic due to the narrow, curvy and hilly nature of the roadway. Currently, trucks with an AAA Trucking Route rating are prohibited from traveling along the narrow, shoulderless

Ky. 56. Truckers must detour nearly 30 miles out of their way via Ky. 109 and U.S. 60 to reach Morganfield. The completed project will allow truckers to shave nearly 13 miles off a one-way trip. The proposed widening project for the remainder is included in the Governor's 2014 Recommended Highway Plan. "I am pleased to see this important infrastructure project moving forward," said Sen. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson). "Widening this busy thoroughfare will be welcomed by Union County residents and visitors alike." The 3,200-foot Shawnee-town Bridge opened to traffic in 1956, maintaining a historic transportation link that started with ferry service at the site as early as 1802. On average, about 3,800 vehicles cross the bridge daily. The bridge also serves as an important agricultural and industrial link between Kentucky and Illinois. HICON Construction of Bardstown was awarded the \$11.5 million contract for the Morganfield-to-Spring Grove section in December. The anticipated completion date is September 2015.

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Livestock producers affected by severe weather urged to keep good records

STAFF REPORT The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia, last week repeated his appeal to livestock producers affected by natural disasters such to keep thorough records. This includes livestock and feed losses, and any additional expenses that are a result of losses to purchased forage or feed stuff. "The 2014 Farm Bill provides a strong farm safety net to help ranchers during these difficult times," said Garcia. "We'll provide producers with information on new program requirements updates and signups as the information becomes available. In the meantime, I

urge producers to keep thorough records. We know these disasters have caused serious economic hardships for our livestock producers. We'll do all we can to assist in their recovery." In addition to western drought and the early-winter snowstorms, there are a variety of disasters from floods to storms to unexpected freezes. Each event causes economic consequences for farmers and ranchers throughout the United States. FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including: - Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, sup-

plemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses. - Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts. - Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures. - Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed. - Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov or an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans. For information about USDA's Farm Bill implementation plan, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

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Christians bring salt, light to a tasteless, dark world

"You are the salt and light of the world."
These are the words Jesus said of His followers. There are more pro-fessed Christians in the world today and yet more moral and spiritual dark-ness than at any time in modern history.

How can that be? Decep-tion! We are warned in Rev-elation 20:7-10 that before the Lord's second coming there would be deception worldwide that would bring on a horrible battle against all of God's people that would end only in fire com-ing down from God out of Heaven and devouring the enemies. If the enemy is worldwide, then the fire will be worldwide.

What is deception? Cov-ering the truth with a lie. Wake up sleeping, disin-terested, disbelieving, com-promising and lukewarm professors whom Jesus said He would spew out of His mouth and look around us. Paul told us in the last days, times would be per-ilous because men would be lovers of their own selves.

The sad truth is, hu-mans are born with an evil nature inherited from Adam and Eve in the fall. Its only cure is to be born again by the Spirit of God to receive power to not only discern deception, but to resist it.

A great prophet said in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things



and desperately wicked." He then asked, "Who can know it?"

Thank God the prophet gave us the desperately needed answer in Verse 10, "I, the Lord, search the heart."

The sinful nature of man falls for anything that is easier and satisfies the de-sires of the flesh.

That is why the total change by the new birth of man through Jesus Christ and the infilling of the Holy Spirit makes you "partak-ers of the Divine nature" that Peter tells us of.

Peter spoke to those who had obtained precious faith through the righteousness of God and Jesus Christ. He declared upon them multiplied grace and peace through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, and then declared in 2 Peter 1:1-11, "According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious prom-ises: that by these you

might be partakers of the divine nature, having es-caped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

He continued to tell us to add to that faith and partaking of the divine na-ture, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, god-liness, brotherly kindness and charity.

He then said those who do not have these things are blind and cannot see afar off and have forgotten they were purged from their old sins.

He also told us that if these things be in us and abound, we would never fall, and so an entrance shall be ministered unto us abundantly into the ever-lasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please read those verses. But when people are taught that once they are saved they will never fall, even if they do not add all these Godly attributes and that it is all up to God to do all of that just as long as we have faith, the flesh wants that easy way out. But that is unbiblical, and the judgment will prove it.

So there is no wonder our nation and world is in spiritual, physical and mental darkness in the age of so-called enlightenment. We are so easily deceived.

Asia is the only contin-ent out of the seven that does not uphold same-sex marriage and all the per-ersion attached to it. All

Asia is pagan except Israel, which does not believe in Jesus as their Savior. This really tells us all we need to know about the whole world being in darkness.

When Russia – a com-munist, atheist country – is the only nation on the Eu-ropean continent that does not accept same-sex mar-riage, this tells us just how far America has fallen. It also shows just how degen-erate we really are when the electorate puts a presi-dent over us that not only supports same-sex mar-riage against all of God's word, but demanded that our Olympic participants work to bring shame on Putin for rejecting it.

No wonder Putin and the world laughs at Obama try-ing to tell him how wrong he is in doing anything!

Almost every day, some-where in once-called civi-lized, Christian America, a young child is abducted, molested and found slaughtered somewhere in ditches, woods, dumpsters and many times in bits and pieces or smoldering piles of flesh and rubble behind some evil, sin-filled per-son's hovel. However, it's never the assailant's fault, because their Mama abused them when she slapped them because they cursed her.

When an individual or nation leaves God, He be-gins to withhold His favor, protection and blessings, and all evil that hell has a

monopoly on spills out on all of us.

Jesus' words are still true to His true followers: "You are the light of the world; you are the salt of the earth."

So that tells us we must let our lights shine brighter than ever before so the lost can see the folly, loss, suf-fering, ignorance, shame and eternal damnation they are bringing to themselves and all they love and every-thing they hold dear. They need to see how much hap-pier and beneficial the light bearers are than they themselves.

We must be the salt that makes life taste better than the sin in the lives of sin-ners and the destruction they help bring on those loved ones they will leave

behind. All truly born-again and Spirit-filled Christians must do as Isaiah pinned from God in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgressions;" Ezekiel 33:7 reads, "Therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth and warn them from me;" Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "...Preach the Gospel to every creature;" and Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word, when they want it and when they don't."

(Rev. Lucy Tedrick of Marion shares her views regularly in this newspaper. Her opinions are her own, and are not necessarily those of the newspaper.)

Church notes

■ West Kentucky Associa-tion of General Baptists will hold a youth rally from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday at Camp David Tabernacle located at 134 SR 1668, just off U.S. 60 W. on Crittenden Springs Road. All youth ages fourth grade and older are invited to attend. For more information call Bro. Barry Hix at (270) 625-1248.

■ Salem Baptist Church will hold a flea market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Christian Life Center. For

more information call (270) 704-1567.

■ Crayne Cemetery clean-up day is set for 9 a.m., Saturday at the ceme-tery. The rain day will be March 22.

■ Maranatha General Baptist Church will have its monthly community singing at 6 p.m., Saturday. Refresh-ments will follow.

■ New Union "Ditney" General Baptist Church will have a free spaghetti lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. March 23. Donations will be accepted for the Crittenden County Relay for Life team. Tumblers and T-shirts will also be available for pur-chase.

■ Mexico Baptist Church's clothes closet will be open 9-11 a.m., each Monday.

Waving of Sheaf of Firstfruits symbolizes Christ's Resurrection

By FELTY YODER
GUEST COLUMNIST

The waving of the Sheaf of Firstfruits before the Lord was the third event at Israel's first annual feast. It followed the Passover and was during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It took place the first day of the week, or the 16th day of the first month.

All three events in connec-tion with the first annual feast find their fulfillment in the death and resurrection of Christ. The Passover event was on the day of the crucifix-ion, which in the New Testa-ment is called the Preparation,

or the day before the sabbath. (See Mark 15:42)

Then followed the days of Unleavened Bread.

The day after the sabbath; the Sheaf of Firstfruits was waved for the Lord. We see from Matthew 16:21 that Jesus was to be killed and be raised again the third day. Ac-cording to the generally ac-cepted terms of the day, this was equivalent to saying he rose after three days, accord-ing to Matthew 27:63.

To fulfill the Old Testament type, Christ was crucified on the day of the Passover, the

next day was the sabbath, and the following day was the wav-ing of the Firstfruits. This wav-ing of the Sheaf of Firstfruits before the Lord typifies the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the "morrow after the sabbath."

The time between the cru-cifixion and the resurrection is what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 12:40 where he says, "So shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

After Christ died on the cross, He went to Paradise (also referred to as Abraham's

bosom) and took one of the thieves with him. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:19-20, "He went and preached to the spirits in prison; which sometimes were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah."

In Acts 2:31, Peter refers to the prophesy of David in Psalms 16:10 when he "spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that He was neither aban-doned to Hades, (the un-known world, or hell, if you will) nor did his flesh suffer decay."

The blood of Jesus wasn't

contaminated with sin. There-fore, God sees us as holy, when we walk in union with His Son, we are washed from our former sins in the water of baptism. And we are purified with the blood of Jesus.

The water cleanses, but the blood purifies, for the life is in the blood. This purification is an ongoing process as long as we are sojourners in this tab-ernacle. It is our sanctifica-tion. What we are saying is this, we are justified by faith and repentance, but there is no such thing as an immedi-ate sanctification.

Israel's first feast was at the beginning of the harvest sea-son when the fields showed the signs of ripening grain, but was prior to the main harvest. One sheaf was gathered and waved before the Lord on the first day of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This one sheaf would remind Israel that a great har-vest was son to come, and that brings us to the Feast of Pentecost.

(Feltly Yoder is a resident of the Salem community and has lived with his family in the area for two decades.)

Come worship with us...

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
—Matthew 18:20

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Pastor Justin Reynolds
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study • Children and Youth Activities
www.emmanuel.org

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
224 W. Bellville St. • Marion, Ky.
Dee Ann Thompson, pastor • Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Night Worship Service 6 p.m.

St. William Catholic Church
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father Gregory Trawick
860 S. Main St.
Marion, Ky.
965-2477

Hurricane Church
Hurricane Church Road off Ky. 135 West
Bro. Wayne Winters, Pastor
Sunday school, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday and Wednesday evening services, 6:30 p.m.

Tofu United Methodist Church
Bro. Selby Coomer, Pastor
We invite you to be our guest
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 am • Service 11 am • Wednesday night youth 6:30 p.m.

Marion United Methodist Church
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of the United Methodist Church
Rev. Wayne Garvey, pastor
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
www.the-press.com/MARIONunitedmethodist.html

Marion General Baptist Church
WEST BELLVILLE STREET • MARION, KY
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. • Tony Perryman, Pastor
For rides, call 965-0726 • Find us on Facebook!

Unity General Baptist Church
4691 U.S. 641 • Crayne, Ky.
Barry Hix, pastor • 365-5836 or 625-1248
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 6 p.m.

Life in Christ Church
A New Testament church
2925 U.S. 641, Marion
Sunday services 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. | Wednesday services 7 p.m.
➤ Chris and Sue McDonald, pastors

Marion Church of God
334 Fords Ferry Road • Marion, Kentucky
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."
Lucy Tedrick, pastor

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church
585 Sugar Grove Church Road • Marion, Ky. • 965-4435
Rev. Terra Sisco • Sunday School 10 a.m. •
Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Frances Presbyterian Church
Bro. Bitch Gray • Bro. A.C. Hodge
Wednesday night prayer meeting and youth service - 7 pm
Sunday school - 10 am • Worship service - 11 am
Every fourth Sunday evening service - 5:30 pm

Marion Baptist Church
College and Depot, Marion • 965-5232
• Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
• AWANA: 5:45 p.m.
• Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
• RAs, GAs and Youth Craze: 5:45 p.m.
Pastor Mike Jones

MARION CHURCH OF CHRIST
546 WEST ELM STREET • 965-9450
Richard Harp, minister
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
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Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church
State Route 506 - Marion, Kentucky
Sunday School 10 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.
Pastor Daniel Hopkins
A New Beginning, Going Forward and Looking to the Future

Mexico Baptist Church
175 Mexico Road, (270) 965-4059
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training 6 p.m. • Sunday Evening Service 7 p.m. • Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Pastor Tim Burdon
Minister of Youth Robert Kirby
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Visit us at www.mexicobaptist.org

Barnett Chapel General Baptist Church
• Sunday school: 9:45 a.m. Bro. Steve Tinsley, pastor
• Sunday worship: 11 a.m. Barnett Chapel Road
• Sunday evening: 6 p.m. Crittenden County, Ky.
• Wednesday night Bible study: 7 p.m.
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

Crooked Creek Baptist Church
261 Crooked Creek Church Road, Marion, Ky.
Sunday school, 10 am
Sunday worship: Morning, 11 am | Evening, 6 pm
Wednesday Bible study, 6 pm
Join us every fourth Sunday of the month for gospel singing at 6 pm

Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church
Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Rev. Trae Gandee

SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Located between Dycusburg and Frances on Ky. 70
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am, 6 pm • Wednesday: 7 pm
Dr. Bobby Garland, pastor
— Fundamental, Pre-Millennial, Independent —

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Marty Brown, Pastor
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m. "Whatever
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. It
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Caldwell Springs Missionary Baptist Church
2212 Ky. 855 • Marion, Kentucky
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
"We invite you to worship Jesus with us."

Crayne Community Church
Crayne Cemetery Road
Marion, Kentucky
Pastor, Bro. Tommy Hodge
Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
Sunday school, 10 a.m. | Sunday worship, 11 a.m.

OBITUARIES

Simms

Robert Harold Simms, 78, of Providence died March 6, 2014, at his son's home.

He was a plumber for more than 50 years and enjoyed hunting, fishing and farming.

Simms is survived by four sons, Bobby Simms of Providence, Darrell and wife Kathy Simms of Providence, Terry Simms of Manitou and Billy Simms of Sebree; two daughters, Peggy Rine of Princeton and Doris Simms of Henderson; a brother, Cecil Simms of Providence; a sister, Jewell Jones of Madisonville; nine grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mamie; a son, Donald Simms; and a daughter, Nancy Hill.

Funeral service were Monday at Jones & Erdman Funeral Home in Providence. Interment was in Oakley Home Cemetery in Hopkins County.

Buchanan

Coleman David "Skip" Buchanan, 85, of Waverly died March 6, 2014, at Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson.

He was a member of the International Association of Bridge Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 395. He was a member of Main Street Baptist Church in Marion.

Buchanan is survived by his wife, Maxine Buchanan; two daughters, Sherri and husband David Clements of Waverly and Anita and husband Greg Ressett of Dixon; a son, Paul and wife Dena Buchanan of New Roads, La.; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse Lee and Rosa Lee Buchanan; two sons, Michael Buchanan and Kenny Buchanan; two brothers, Paul Buchanan and Raymond Buchanan; and a great-grandson.

Funeral services were Saturday at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield with Rev. Gary Murray officiating. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery in Spring Grove, Ky.

— PAID OBITUARY —

Baird

Billy Wayne Baird, 82, of Marion died March 10 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services in Salem.

He was a member of Mexico Baptist Church and an avid hunter and fisherman.

Baird is survived by two daughters, Carol Belt of Marion and Judy Cosby of Marion; four grandchildren, Kyle Cosby of Marion, Scott Belt of Marion, Abbie Belt of Marion and Josh Cosby of Marion; and a great-grandchild, Landon Belt of Marion.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace Baird; his parents, Virgil Euell and Effie Marie Baird; a brother; and two sisters.

Services were Wednesday at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion with interment in Mexico Cemetery.

Donations may be made to: Mexico Baptist Church, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064; or Mexico Cemetery, 6152 U.S. 641, Marion, KY 42064.

Myers

James "J.D." Myers, 82, of Marion died March 5, 2014, at Crittenden Health Systems in Marion.

He had retired as a consultant in the steel industry and was the owner of Myers Bed and Breakfast in Marion. He was a member of Marion Christian Church, a member of Crittenden Hospital Auxiliary and had served on the Marion Tourism Board.

Myers was very active in community affairs, having played Santa in many Christmas parades and served as grand marshal. He served as bus driver and host for years for the Marion Bobcats baseball team. He transported Amish and was recognized by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce as an Unsung Hero.

He is survived by his wife, Merle Myers of Marion; a son, Craig and wife Martha Myers of Baytown, Texas; two daughters, Vicki and husband Bubba King of Marion and April and husband Randy Lunsford of Cleveland, Texas; two brothers, Delmar Myers of Portage, Ind., and Wayne Myers of Sullivan; a sister, Hazel Lee Ford of Portage; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Myers was preceded in death by his parents, William Lewis and Hazel Hayes Myers; a daughter, Dotti Wooley; a grandson, Michael Jones; two brothers; and a sister.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday at Myers Funeral Home in Marion.



Myers

GOALS

Continued from Page 1

reach 100 years old. She can now check that one off her list.

"She always said she was going to live to be 100," said her daughter, Linda Cook.

Shaffer, a lifelong resident of Crittenden County, reached the century mark today (Thursday) with a small, private celebration with friends and family at her residence at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion.

"Mama always thought of what was possible," said one of Shaffer's two grandchildren, Chris Cook. "If someone told her that something was impossible, that just made her that much more determined to make it possible. It is from this perspective that she always set goals for herself and her family."

Effie Dixon was born on March 13, 1914. Her childhood home was in the Barnett Chapel area of northern Crittenden County, and she grew up modestly with family and faith as the centerpiece of life.

She married Jesse Shaffer in 1933 and worked as a housewife, making a special effort to entertain her own family, friends and her church family with meals.

In 1940, the couple welcomed their only child, Linda, into the world. Faith remained at the center of family life.

"Mother always took me to church and Sunday school," Linda said. "Bible stories were read to me daily."

Effie would often have to send Linda off to Sunday school while she stayed home preparing Sunday dinner for family and guests.

"My mother is a shining example of unselfish love," Linda said. "She always put her family and others first."

That selfless nature would see her labor over her own garden in order to can and preserve food. She and Jesse also milked cows by hand and sold the milk and eggs to ensure they had enough money to send Linda to college.

"I often told her, the first word she taught me was college," Linda said, emphasizing her mother's intent that she would become the first Shaffer to get a college education. "Mother worked hard to send me to college."

It was during the lean years of The Great Depression and World War II that Effie began putting away money to create a college fund for Linda. And when Linda graduated high school, there was enough money set aside in savings to send her to college.

"...By 1958, all those eggs and all that effort paid off," said Effie's other grandchild, Charles Cook. "Education, in her mind, would ultimately lead to a better life for her daughter and grandchildren."

And it did.

Linda graduated with her bachelor's degree in 1962 and later earned a master's degree. She was a teacher for many years in Crittenden County's school system before retiring, and both Chris and Charles completed their college education and maintain successful professional careers.

Though education was always important to Effie, she was never able to attend college or even high school, as there was no area high school for her to attend in those days. So she attended eighth grade twice to enhance her education, and later earned her GED after he daughter had graduated with her first degree in the early 1960s.

After Linda graduated college and married Virgil Cook, Effie's next goal was in clear sight – for she and Jesse to purchase their own home. After carefully saving money for that accomplishment, it happened in March of 1972 when the couple bought a home on Second Street in Marion.

"He was shocked when he found out she had enough money to buy that house," Linda said her father's response to Effie's savings.

Effie has never been afraid of work to help achieve her goals. She worked as a library assistant at Tolu and Frances schools, in the cafeteria at Crittenden County High School and at a grocery store and two restaurant in Marion. But it was her 14-year stint as an Extension Service assistant that was the highlight of her career. After a forced retirement from that job at the age of 70, she also worked as a babysitter and caregiver to the elderly.

"She always gave 110 percent at whatever she did," Linda said.

All that work and saving also helped Effie achieve a third important goal in life – traveling to all 50 states. In 1993, just three months after celebrating her 60th wedding anniversary with Jesse and at the age of almost 80, she took her two grandsons, Charles and Chris, with her to her final destination, Alaska.

Jesse would pass away later that year, leaving Effie alone in the house on Second Street the couple had purchased together two decades earlier. But Linda said Effie maintained her independence, driving her 1989 Geo until just a few years ago.

Several years ago, Effie's doctor told her she would live a long productive life. She has now outlived that doctor and as well as many of her friends.

And while her memory may have slipped a bit as she neared her goal to reach 100, she is going strong at Crittenden County Health and Rehab, still working word search puzzles, saying the Lord's Prayer, singing hymns and doting on her family.

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Fish, Tater Tots, Hushpuppies, Slaw, Beans, Dessert & Drink

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Thank You

The family of Jerry Douglas Campbell Sr. would like to thank everyone for any and all acts of love and support during the sudden loss of our loved one. Perhaps it was through a word of encouragement, a card, food, a visit or a phone call – especially your prayers. We thank you so very much.

A special thank you to Bro. Gary Hardesty and Bro. Jerrell White and the staff at Dunn's Funeral Home for all their support and kind words.

May God bless you all.

*From the heart of his wife,
Detra Campbell,
his children, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren*

Joseph Habedank in Concert

Marion 2nd Baptist
would like to invite the community to hear
Joseph Habedank in concert
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Help teens become responsible adults

All parents want their children to grow up to be responsible, self-sufficient adults, but the transition from childhood to adulthood—the teenage years—can be rocky for parents and children. It’s during this time that children often test parents’ limits and start requesting things like cell phones, later curfews and less adult supervision. This is also the time when many parents have to decide where they stand on many issues, financially and morally, and learn how to graciously and responsibly let go.

Letting go, while at the same time raising children to be responsible adults, is a huge task for anyone, but



fortunately it’s one that millions of parents have accomplished since the beginning of time, and it’s something you can do too. While to you your child may always be your little baby, children grow up quickly. College and adulthood will be here before you know it. Many parents play an active role in their child’s early life and some might even admit to being overly involved. Now is the

time to start seeing your teenagers as the young adults they are becoming. You have helped shape their beliefs since they were little. You can now work specifically to help them develop a sense of responsibility as they grow older. One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to listen to your children. They have valuable ideas and reasons for their actions. Chances are you can glean important information about their friends at school and their habits, their teachers, schoolwork and their developing views of the world. If you don’t agree with everything your child thinks or does, don’t be quick to

scold. They may start hiding parts of their lives from you altogether. Instead, ask them questions that make them critically think through their actions and help them realize there are consequences for inappropriate behaviors. At the same time, you need to set clear limits and develop clear consequences for unacceptable behavior. This way your children understand what happens if they don’t do their homework, receive failing grades or lie about the people they are with. If your child has a group of close friends, make it a point to meet the parents, if you haven’t already. Discuss with them how you feel about all of

these new freedoms your child is requesting and ask where they stand on these with their child, such as the appropriate amount of adult supervision at parties. You may be able talk about establishing similar guidelines for your child’s core group. For example, if all the teens have the same curfew, chances are one isn’t going to feel they are being treated unfairly by their parents. When kids are babies and toddlers many parents praise them for every milestone they hit, such as saying their first words, walking, reciting their ABCs, etc. But as kids get older, these praises seem to decline. Don’t always focus

on what your child does wrong. Praise them when they do something right. Tell them you’re proud of them when they get good grades, are kind to others, say no to smoking, etc. You can also attach specific rewards, such as going over to a friend’s house or getting the car for the night when they cheerfully complete chores without having to be reminded. These seemingly mundane, routine tasks, learned over time as children and youth, form the basis for responsible behavior as adults. It is a parent’s responsibility to model such behavior as they train their young ones toward maturity.

McDonald to perform national anthem at KHSAA Girl’s Sweet 16 tournament

STAFF REPORT
For the second year in a row, Erin McDonald has been selected to perform the national anthem at the Kentucky High School Athletic Association’s Girls’ Sweet 16 basketball tournament held this week on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. McDonald, a Crittenden County High School senior, was selected as one of 16 individuals out of 60 entries to sing the national anthem. She will sing at 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday.) McDonald said she enjoys performing in front of live audiences and responds to their enthusiasm. “They get excited, and I see the expression on their face, and I love to see their



McDonald

energy,” she said. She describes last year’s opportunity to sing the national anthem in front of the large crowd at Diddle Arena a surreal moment. “You always see people on television sing the national anthem at events and dream about that being you someday,” McDonald said. “That song is such a powerful song. I love to sing it because it makes me think about all the sacrifices made for us to live the free life that we live. Even to be able to freely sing that song

is a huge honor.” Penned by Francis Scott Key during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, the tradition of singing the Star Spangled Banner at sporting events gained popularity during World War II. It’s also known as one the most challenging songs for a performer to sing. McDonald said it definitely takes muscle memory to remember all the words, she but feels it’s important not to second-guess yourself once you’ve memorized the lyrics. In addition to performing the anthem at local ballgames, McDonald is a choir member at Life in Christ Church. She is the daughter of Chris and Sue McDonald of Crittenden County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tumble team takes honors

The Tumble Extreme tumble team competed in Edwardsville Ill. Feb 1 and 2. Members earned the following results from the competition: (front row, from left) Rhianna Maness, sixth tumbling, second double-mini, fourth trampoline; Kiley Croft, seventh tumbling, fifth double-mini, fifth trampoline; (center row, from left) Madison Mott, sixth tumbling, fourth double-mini, eighth trampoline; Paityn Maness, fourth tumbling, second double-mini, sixth trampoline; Belle Minton, second tumbling, second double-mini and second trampoline; (back row, from left) Riley Summers, third tumbling, fourth double-mini, fifth trampoline; Michaela West, third tumbling, second double-mini, second trampoline and Trinity Hayes, sixth tumbling, seventh double-mini and 14th trampoline.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Woman’s Club elects new officers

The Woman's Club of Marion met March 8 at the club room for its Annual Meeting and Membership Lunch. Members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and an informative talk from guest speaker Cynthia Barnes, GFWC KENTUCKY 1st District Governor. Although Barnes has not been a member for many years in the Murray Woman’s Club, she has held many posts and has grown in knowledge over the years. She was on hand to install the new officers of the Woman’s Club of Marion. Shown (from left) are Barnes, Becky Zahrtre, president; Barbara Myers, treasurer; Gladys Brown, corresponding secretary; Carolyn Belt, secretary; Kathy Bechler, vice-president. The next meeting is 6 p.m., April 3 at the club room and will focus on conservation. Upcoming dates include the Woman’s Club Quilt Show, the bake sale on April 25 and the Spring Gala on April 29.

Community CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 19
■ The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter 1373, will meet at 11:15 a.m., at the Crittenden County Public Library. The discussion will focus on the April NARFE Spring Sprint at Miss Scarletts in Grand Rivers, located at Exit 31 on I- 24. All current and retired federal employees are invited to attend the meeting.
Thursday, March 20
■ The hospital auxiliary will meet at 4 p.m., at the new emergency management building next to Par 4 Plastics.
Friday, March 21
■ Diabetes Support Group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office. The program will be provided by Crittenden Health Systems on exercise.
Sunday, March 23
■ Lady Rocket Basketball

will host a Be Joyful painting party at the multi-purpose room at Crittenden County High School. Classes will begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. All materials are provided, many styles of door hangings available. Cost is \$35. Find Be Joyful on Facebook for samples of painting projects. Registration is encouraged to ensure the project of your choice, by calling Christy Moss at (270) 836-2040 or Alison Evans at (270) 704-0447.
Saturday, March 29
■ The track team will be selling ribeye sandwiches from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Conrad's.
Thursday, April 3
■ Crittenden County Elementary School will hold Family Fitness Night from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., for students and their families.
On-going
■ Livingston County Pre-

school/Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents can call (270) 988-2867 or (270) 928-2244 to schedule an appointment.
■ The Crittenden County Health Department Relay for Life team is designing a T-shirt fundraiser for survivors and loved ones lost to cancer. Due to limited space, only names of Crittenden Countians are being accepted. To submit names for T-shirts or for more information, call the health department at (270) 965-5215 before March 14. T-shirts will be available for purchase in April.
■ All veterans are invited for coffee and breakfast at 7:30 a.m. each Tuesday at the VFW building in Marion.
■ The Crittenden County Public Library hosts Lego Club at 3:30 p.m., each Tuesday when school is in session.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

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 age 60 and older. Milk, coffee or tea are available each day. Reservations are requested.
Every day, the center at 210 North Walker St. in Marion offers billiards, card games, Wii games and use of the exercise equipment. Call the center at 965-5229 for further information.

This week's activities and menu include:
- Today: Menu is baked catfish, navy beans, beets, turnip greens, cornbread and ambrosia.
- Friday: Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m. Menu is beef ravioli in sauce, peas and carrots, rosy applesauce and a wheat bread slice.
- Monday: Menu is baked potato soup, chicken drumstick, coleslaw, apples and caramel sauce and cornbread.
- Tuesday: A Kentucky legal aide will be available beginning

at 10:30 a.m. Menu is hot turkey sandwich on wheat bread, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and apple cinnamon crumb cake.
- Wednesday: Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m. Menu is baked spaghetti, buttered carrots, creamed peas, wheat garlic bread and mandarin oranges.
- Next Thursday: Bible study with Pastor Terra Sisco begins at 10:30 a.m. Menu is hamburger on wheat bun, pork and beans, French fries and snickerdoodle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Five generations

Capturing special moments in time. That’s what this family of five generations did when they came together for a special family photo. Included are (from left) Leo Asher, Ronnie Asher, Jennifer Asher Wright and Laiken Chambliss with son Rhett.

Fredonia Heritage Society receives state history awards

STAFF REPORT
Fredonia Valley Heritage Society was the recipient of two Kentucky History Awards from the Kentucky Historical Society. The awards were received on Nov. 13, 2013.

This program recognizes outstanding achievements by public history professionals, volunteers, business and civic leaders, historians, libraries, communities and local history organizations throughout the commonwealth. The nominated projects are required to promote the preservation, awareness and appreciation of state and local history.

Several members of the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society traveled to Frankfort to accept the awards at the annual awards ceremony held at the Old State Capitol. Those attending were society members Nicky and Gary Beth Baker, Donnie Boone, Brenda Bugg, Steve and Pam Faughn, Maggie Gammon,

Scott Giltner, Rita Oldham, Marion Ivy Phelps and Glenna Rowland.

The first award received was the prestigious Volunteer Organization or Group of the Year Award. This award is given to an organization that is managed exclusively by volunteers or a volunteer group that has made a substantial contribution of time and/or talents that benefits state or local history organization or project and/or that has helped to make a historical organization a more effective service-provider in the community. This award was based on all the activities of the organization throughout the year. Accepting this award were society President Pam Faughn and society Secretary Gammon.

The second award received was a publication award for their booklet, "Our Ancestors in the War of 1812" and their brochure commemorating the 100th anniversary of the War of

1812. Accepting this award were War of 1812 Committee Chairman Oldham, and committee members, Nicky Baker and Phelps.

Fredonia Valley Heritage Society is for anyone interested in learning more about the heritage and history of the Fredonia Valley and for those who want to see the history of our community preserved for future generations. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every odd numbered month where you can learn more about the history of the Fredonia Valley through informative programs and speakers.

Membership fees are \$15 annually for an individual, \$25 annually for a family, \$30 annually for a business per voting member and \$250 for a lifetime membership.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society is encouraged to attend the next meeting on May 1.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Attending the Kentucky History Awards ceremony in Frankfort were (front row, from left) Maggie Gammon, Pam Faughn, Rita Oldham (middle row) Brenda Bugg, Glenna Rowland, Donnie Boone, Scott Giltner (back row) Nicky Baker, Gary Beth Baker, Steve Faughn and Marion Ivy Phelps.



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

CCMS outstanding students named

Last month the seventh grade class began nominating students for "Most Outstanding" in their courses each month. Students earning the most outstanding recognition in February include Josh Sarles, social studies; Pate Robinson, math; Blake Curnel, language arts and Caitlyn Lynch, science. Students recognized for the month of March include John Claude Duvall, science; Julia Davidson, social studies; Hannah Cooksey, math and Hunter Boone, language arts. Pictured (from left) are Robinson, Curnel, Lynch, Duvall, Davidson, Cooksey and Boone. Not pictured Josh Sarles.

Financial assistance available for classes

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County students can now apply for scholarships for a unique online learning opportunity.

The Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG), a not-for-profit organization and one of the nation's leading gifted summer programs, has announced that scholarships and financial assistance are now available to Crittenden County students for their Online Learning Program.

Gifted and talented students between the ages of seven and 12 in Crittenden County can apply for financial assistance toward their participation in SIG's Online Learning Program. In addition, SIG participants who receive free or reduced

lunch will be eligible to take a course free of charge.

The program, which begins June 18, runs for eight weeks and features courses that offer students a curriculum beyond what is available during the school day.

The courses are wide-ranging in potential interest areas for individualized learning and engage students in hands-on learning while applying school content through speaking, writing, researching, analyzing, reasoning and questioning.

To learn more about the Online Learning Program or to apply for financial assistance, visit www.gifted-study.org/beyond/online. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1.

Consult colleges on honor roll placement

STAFF REPORT
Some colleges and universities, such as Murray State University, do not release dean's and president's lists to newspapers. This may also include graduation an-

nouncements and honors. If a student wants their information posted in a local paper, the student must request this information through their respective school.

CCES student wins essay contest about grandparents

STAFF REPORT
A Crittenden County Elementary student was selected in the 2013-2014 Grandparent of the Year essay contest sponsored by AARP Kentucky and the Kentucky Retired Teachers' Association (KRTA).

Charity Conyer, the daughter of Donna and Mike Campbell, is among thousands of Kentucky fifth-graders who partici-

pated in the 13th annual essay competition of 2013-14. Students submitted to their fifth-grade teachers essays answering why their grandparent should be the AARP Kentucky Grandparent of the Year. The teachers select the school's winner.

As county winner, Conyer receives a framed certificate for her efforts, and the essay will be submitted for

district competition. Crittenden County Retired Teachers Association also gives the winner \$20.

Conyer and other district winners then become eligible to participate in the state finals.

In a recognition ceremony, the Grandparent of the Year and student nominating them are honored April 22 at the Annual KRTA Convention in



Conyer

contributions that older Kentuckians make toward

Louisville. The state winner also receives a \$100 reward.

The essay competition is a unique way to recognize the significant contributions that older Kentuckians make toward

shaping the lives and values of youth across the Commonwealth.

Across the country and in Kentucky, an increasing number of adults 50 and over are the primary caregivers to many children.

Census 2010 data showed nearly 87,000 grandchildren in Kentucky live with grandparents who are the householders. Almost 48,000 of these chil-

dren live in homes where the grandparent householder is responsible for them.

The AARP Grandparent of the Year essay contest is organized by local Retired Teacher Association units and AARP Chapters, who help secure local school participation, promote the activity and serve as local contest judges.



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A unique proposal

Scavenger hunt for puzzle pieces helps groom-to-be pop question to sweetheart

By ALLISON EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Colby Davis deserves high marks for the creative proposal he choreographed in asking Bethany Heaton's hand in marriage.

Using a giant puzzle he ordered online and the handiwork of his co-workers at National Railway Equipment Co. in Paducah, Davis led Heaton on a scavenger hunt for puzzle pieces before popping the question on the dock of his uncle's McCracken County pond.

Weeks in the making, Davis summoned Heaton's college roommates to put the plan in motion.

"My girlfriends had planned to meet in Paducah after work, and as we were leaving the restaurant, one of them gave me an envelope," said Heaton, 24.

"At first, I stuck it in my purse because I thought it was a letter from her, and I would read it later, but she told me to read it. It was from Colby."

At the end of the letter, she was instructed to call Davis' dad, who gave her a few puzzle pieces to go along with others her roommate had in the car.

From there, she was instructed



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Colby Davis and Bethany Heaton plan to marry in July. At left, a photo helps explain the unique way in which Davis proposed to Heaton.

to go to his aunt's house in Paducah.

"She had a couple questions to ask me – one of which was his birthdate, which I got wrong because I was so nervous – before she gave me more puzzle pieces," said Heaton, a resident of

Marion.

"It was a Wednesday night, and I really didn't expect it, but I did start to suspect something when I got to his mom's house, and she gave me more puzzle pieces."

She put all the pieces together, revealing one empty hole in the center of the collage of images from their relationship, which began as students at Murray State University. The map on the puzzle depicted a fork in the road which led Davis to a job in Florida and Heaton back to Marion after graduation.

On the last stop at Davis' uncle's house, she found her future husband on the dock.

"He got down on one knee and gave me the last puzzle piece that says 'Will you marry me?'"

With all the puzzle pieces in place, family and friends who were in on the surprise helped the couple celebrate.

While Davis, a 2nd Lt. in the Kentucky Army National Guard, has spent five months in Fort Leonardwood, Mo., Heaton has been working, pursuing a second degree at Madisonville Community College in Madisonville and planning the July wedding, which will be

See PROPOSAL/Page 13

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Bethany Heaton & Colby Davis
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Wedding Date: July 12th

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Bridal Guide

Strapless styles can give look of sleekness to brides

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The traditional bridal gown isn't a skimpy silhouette: It's long and typically without a plunging neckline or high slit. There's often a whole lot of fabric. One of the few opportunities for brides to be a little bare is to go with a strapless or sleeveless dress – and go with them they do.

David Tuter, wedding planner, designer and host of WeTV's "My Fair Wedding With David Tuter," says that besides those restricted by religious customs, he encounters very few brides who want to be more covered than they have to be. More often they want to savor their moment in the spotlight and show themselves off as youthful, pretty and sexy, he says.

New bridal collections are dominated by dresses with no sleeves, even though that takes many women out of their comfort zone.

There was a brief period when sleeves were hot – after Kate Middleton wore a long-sleeve Alexander McQueen gown to become the Duchess of Cambridge – but it didn't last. Bare arms are again the norm.

It wasn't always that way. "It feels like strapless has been the go-to in wedding dresses forever, but, historically speaking, it's still a very recent trend," says Keija Minor, editor in chief of Brides magazine. "With some notable exceptions, gowns had high necks and long sleeves up through the 1990s. Just think about Princess Diana's wedding gown in 1981 with those big puffy sleeves. It was larger than life to be sure, but still very on trend for the times."

The shift, she says, came about 20 years ago as tradition gave way to a hint of sex appeal.

Strapless wedding dresses "are the majority of what's out there. They dominate in the stores and on every bridal magazine's editorial pages. They are the easiest to try on and fit," says designer Romona Keveza.

Brides' Minor says that women of many sizes and



METRO SERVICES
One of the few opportunities for brides to be a little bare is to go with a strapless or sleeveless dress – and go with them they do.

shapes, including full-figured ones, can benefit from the illusion of a longer, leaner arm created by the uncovered shoulder.

And, Keveza adds, strapless gowns have come a long way and are now comfortable, sturdy and stable.

Still, she thinks there's room for a few more sleeved and off-the-shoulder numbers.

"Brides have come to believe a strapless gown is 'the uniform' even if it's not what she wants," she says.

Tuter says brides should consider the season, location and overall vibe of the wedding before heading straight to strapless. It's ideal for a beach wedding, but at a ski resort? Not so much, he says.

A compromise could be the strapless dress topped with a mohair-lined silk shawl or a dramatic cape, suggests designer Anne Bowen.

Whether a bride chooses to be sleeved or not, she needs to find balance in her gown, adds Bowen. If it's a "big ball of tulle ballgown," then the open neckline and bare arms might be the way to go, she says, but for a slim column gown, sleeves that go past the wrist can be delicate and feminine. (She'd stick with a light fabric, such as lace or sheer silk.)

Tuter also likes those airy, light illusion sleeves – although he'd cut them at a shorter bracelet length – or a short cap sleeve; poufy satin ones "will bulk up the bride," he says.

His solution is the detachable-sleeve gown he introduced into his collection. "You take them off after the ceremony. You can feel comfortable and confident when all eyes are on you, but you don't have to have sleeves for the pictures."

Calm those last-minute jitters

METRO SERVICES

Brides- and grooms-to-be are often nervous when the day they will tie the knot finally arrives. The realization that months and months of planning and anticipation are finally about to come to a head often inspires some jitters in the days leading up to the wedding. But the following are a few ways couples can calm those nerves in the hours leading up to the moment they have devoted so much time and effort to planning since becoming engaged.

- Get a good night's rest. Couples should prioritize a good night's sleep the night before they are set to walk down

the aisle. Make your last night as an unmarried couple an early night so you will look your best and have plenty of energy on your big day, which will no doubt start early and end late.

- Spend time with family and friends. Chances are your closest friends and family members are playing significant roles in your wedding, and spending time with them is a great way to keep your nerves in check while having a fun time before, during and after the ceremony.

- Don't be afraid to delegate responsibilities. In spite of months of planning, couples will still have a to-do list come their wedding days. If such a list

is overwhelming, brides- and grooms-to-be should not be afraid to delegate some of the tasks on their lists.

- Relax as the ceremony draws nearer. As the start time for the ceremony approaches, couples about to tie the knot should take time to sit down and relax. Once their hair and makeup is finished, brides-to-be should sit down and exhale or arrange for the photographer to snap some fun pre-wedding photos with their bridesmaids. Grooms-to-be can do the same with their groomsmen, sharing a few last-minute jokes to ensure everyone is relaxed and ready to go..

Blue making way into bridal decor

METRO SERVICES

As weddings become more and more personalized to the bride's own tastes, blue and other colors have been making their way into the bridal picture, both in decor and in jewelry.

"In addition to our wide selection of pearl and crystal jewelry for brides, we have seen increased interest in sapphire and other colors like topaz for brides," according to Jill Maier, Vice President of Design at CAROLEE.

As the "jewelry destination for brides," CAROLEE has for decades had its finger on the

pulse of what brides want. Sapphire blue stones are now a staple in their bridal collection, with stones set in silver and gold tone metal. Topaz stones set in gold have become popular, and rose gold metal is another color option that brides have gravitated to. These trends also influence jewelry for bridesmaids.

While color is making news in bridal circles, pearls will always play a lead role in the world of bridal jewelry. Classic styles like single and double row chokers, often mixed with crystal, are truly classic and always appropriate for brides. But there

are now many modern twists, both in design and in ways brides choose to wear pearls.

Modern brides often personalize their pearls by wearing bolder, longer styles, by mixing and layering different millimeters and by twisting, tying or knotting them.

The bottom line is that brides are more than ever expressing their personal style in every aspect of their weddings. Jewelry selection is a wonderful way to do this because it is a focal point that frames the face and will live forever in glorious photos of the memorable day.

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Bridal Guide

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By BETH J. HARPAZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buying a diamond ring can be intimidating. What do you look for? How much should you pay?

Demystify the process by learning about the four C's: carat, color, clarity and cut. This system of grading diamonds was developed 60 years ago by the Gemological Institute of America.

Then do some research online or visit jewelers. You'll soon understand your options. Here's a primer on the four C's and other advice.

The Four C's

- Carat is a weight measurement. A 1-carat diamond weighs 200 milligrams. But there's no ideal size for a diamond. It depends on your budget and taste. Some women want a big rock; others prefer a delicate, less blingy look.
- Small diamonds are cheaper than large diamonds. A ring with three small diamonds totaling 1 carat costs less than a single 1-carat stone of similar quality.
- Color is graded by letter, starting with D for rare, colorless diamonds. E and F are considered excellent, but G or H diamonds will look just as good to the eye.
- Farther down the scale, you'll notice differences. "If you put a K color beside a G color, you'll notice more yellow in the K," said Russell Shor, senior industry analyst for the Gemological Institute.

- Clarity measures diamond flaws, called inclusions, which might appear as tiny spots, clouds or cavities in the stone. The clarity grade SI stands for "slightly included." VS is a better grade, "very slightly included." VVS is even higher, "very, very slightly included." Most inclusions in the VVS-SI range cannot be seen by the untrained eye "unless someone tells you where it is," Shor said.
- Cut measures workmanship, rather than a diamond's inherent qualities. The way a stone is cut enhances sparkle and luminosity and can hide flaws. The best cut rating, ideal, is rare. About a third of diamonds are rated fair, good or very good.

The formula

What should you look for in each of the C's?

"The one thing you should not trade off on is the quality of the cut," said Shor. "Even a nice color stone, if not well-cut, will be dull and lifeless. But if it's a middle color – like K – and it's got a real excellent cut, it will pop and flash with all the sparkle that diamonds are famous for"

After choosing the cut, "balance the color, clarity and carat weight based on your personal preference to find the best diamond for you and your budget," said Amanda Gizzi, spokeswoman for Jewelers of America.

For example, for \$2,000, you might



METRO SERVICES
Demystify the process of buying a diamond ring by learning about the four C's: carat, color, clarity and cut.

pick a 1-carat, K-color stone with a slight inclusion, or a half-carat, G-color, with a very slight inclusion. An L or M-colored diamond at that price "will get you a 2-carat honker, but you'll definitely notice the yellow and you'll see some inclusions," said Shor.

Consumers pay \$3,500 on average for engagement rings, according to Jew-

elers of America. On the low end, Shor recommends spending at least \$700 to \$1,000 to get "something that's not too small and of reasonable quality, a respectable half-carat stone."

It's easy to compare options online. At BlueNile.com, set your price range, then play with carat size and the other C's to see tradeoffs.

Many websites list the four C's for every ring they sell. Brick-and-mortar stores should be able to provide grading reports, whether from GIA or another expert lab.

Shape and style

Engagement rings traditionally feature gold bands with a center diamond, though some have smaller diamonds on either side. Melissa Colgan, senior style editor for Martha Stewart Weddings, says the engagement ring that Prince William gave to Kate Middleton, a large sapphire surrounded by diamonds, has increased interest in rings with other gemstones.

Diamonds can be cut into many shapes. Round, the most common, offers "the biggest bang for your buck because the difference between the raw and cut diamond is smaller," Colgan said. But she said unusual shapes with retro looks and names like marquise, Asscher and pear are having a resurgence, partly because celebrities are wearing them.

Whether a shape is flattering depends on your fingers. "If you have long thin fingers, you can wear something like Asscher or princess that is more square-cut," Colgan said. "If you have shorter fingers or muscular hands, marquise or oval will elongate your fingers." But long nails don't mix with oval: "It looks like you've got a weird nail in the middle of your hand."

Avoid pitfalls when merging finances

METRO SERVICES

Newlyweds often have a lot on their plates upon returning from their honeymoons. One of the more critical issues newly married couples must address is their finances and how those finances will be combined going forward.

Combining finances can be a touchy subject for many couples, especially those who had not given much thought to their finances prior to tying the knot. But there are steps couples can take to make the process of merging finances go more smoothly.

- Discuss finances early and often. Allowing finances to be the elephant in the room is a mistake, as couples do not want to begin their lives together treading lightly around an issue as significant as finances. Couples should discuss their expenditures and spending habits as early as possible, as one of the biggest

hurdles newly married couples must clear is coming to grips with one another's financial habits. If such habits have already been discussed, then developing a financial plan will be much easier once that time comes. When discussing finances, define both short-term and long-term goals and how each of you can adjust your spending habits to make those goals come true.

- Pay off any debts. The cost of weddings has skyrocketed over the last several decades, and many newlyweds find themselves in a considerable amount of debt upon returning from their honeymoons. When merging finances, couples should prioritize paying down such debt, as debt is a significant source of stress for newlyweds and long-married couples alike. Newly married couples with little or no debt should avoid spending above their means in the months after they get married. Such

spending is commonplace, as newly married couples often want to fully furnish their new homes or reward themselves for pulling off their weddings. But new debt can be just as stressful on a marriage as debt from the wedding, so avoid this potentially problematic pitfall by paying down existing debts with your newly merged finances.

- Make note of mutual expenses and open a joint account to pay for those expenses. Mutual expenses like mortgage payments, food and utilities should be the responsibility of each partner, and a joint account should be established to handle such expenses. When opening a joint account, discuss how much and how often each partner will contribute money. One partner might earn considerably more money than another, so work out a reasonable agreement that details how much each partner will contribute each month, and

whether such contributions will be made on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis.

- Make concessions for one another. When merging finances, couples often discover that they don't see eye-to-eye on how each person spends money. Couples who successfully merge their finances often note the importance of making concessions with regard to their partners' spending on certain hobbies or luxuries. As long as those hobbies are not putting couples in debt or jeopardizing their financial goals, couples can make concessions so their partners continue to be happy and enjoy their favorite activities.

Merging finances is an issue that looms for many newlyweds or couples about to tie the knot. Though it's not always easy, merging finances early and discussing goals can ensure newlyweds get off on the right financial foot.

Summer sees most marriages

METRO SERVICES

There are many different reasons couples opt to get married in a particular month. Warm weather and the best chance for good photo opportunities spurs many couples to tie the knot during the summer months.

Although June has long been the most popular month for getting hitched, times are changing. Numbers from the American Na-

tional Center for Health Statistics indicate that July and August have had more marriages than June for the last several years.

In North America, the most popular month to walk down the aisle is July, followed by August, June, May, September, October, December, November, April, February, and March. January has the least number of weddings.

Married couples proven healthier than singles

METRO SERVICES

Proponents of marriage may quote any number of reasons why couples should tie the knot instead of living a life of singlehood. A desire to raise children together is one reason many couples wed, but getting hitched might also be better for your health. That's right, a growing body of evidence has suggested marriage may be beneficial for men and women from a health and wellness standpoint.

A 2006 study published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community found that, compared with married people, people who are widowed, are divorced/separated or have never married are more likely to die earlier. In addition to a greater combined wealth that may make access to health insurance or better healthcare possible, there are a number of possible reasons behind why married couples tend to be healthier and happier.

- Safety: Being married and committed to one partner reduces your risk of developing a disease through intimate encounters. Furthermore, married couples tend to be less involved in behaviors that may put them at risk for violent altercations between others. Research by the U.S. Justice Department has found that single and divorced women are four to five times more likely to be victims of violence in any given year than women who are married.
- Health monitoring: Married couples may pay attention to and monitor changes in each other's health more so than boyfriends and girlfriends. Couples who can recognize the subtle changes in physical or emotional health may be able to identify problems before they become more serious.
- Improves mental health: Many people joke that getting married removes freedoms that lead to happiness, but researchers find that this isn't the case. In their book, "The Case for Marriage: Why Married People Are Happier, Healthier, and Better off Financially," authors Linda Waite

and Maggie Gallagher found married men are only half as likely as bachelors and one-third as likely as divorced guys to take their own lives. Wives are also much less likely to commit suicide than single, divorced or widowed women. Married people are much less likely to have problems with alcohol abuse or illegal drugs. An international study of 17 developed nations from Steven Stack and J. Ross Eshleman found that "married persons have a significantly higher level of happiness than persons who are not married."

There are many health-related benefits to getting married. Men and women about to enter into a new life together can add good health to why they are happy about their upcoming nuptials.

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Bridal Guide

Being a good wedding guest: Do's and don'ts of attending

By LISA A. FLAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Of Tiffany Schutt's 250 wedding guests, one surely stood out.

Not only was she not invited, but the young guest, a relative with whom the couple wasn't particularly close, turned up in a white dress – and a short and sexy one at that.

In fact, she was one of five uninvited relatives whose names were added to invited guests' response cards. Schutt, who married in Indianapolis, was flattered but also in disbelief that they so badly wanted to attend. "We are very laid-back, thankfully, so that day I took it in stride," she said. "It just seemed not to be the best etiquette."

When it comes to manners, experts say wedding guests do well overall but are still causing headaches on a few fronts.

"The No. 1 thing that I hear about from frustrated brides is guests not RSVPing, not RSVPing on time or RSVPing for more than one person," said Anna Post, great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post and co-author of the upcoming new edition of "Emily Post's Wedding Etiquette" (William Morrow). "It's all about the RSVP."

Blame it on the relaxed culture, busy lives or the hope of a better Saturday night offer, but some people just can't get it together to mail the response card back. And don't get brides started on the guests who say they will attend, only to end up as no-shows.

"People have gotten casual about this," Post says. "When it comes to the wedding they think, it's not a big deal. I'm just one person, it'll be fine. And it's really not. It's a lot of money and

a lot of stress for the couple."

Brides and grooms might want to add a cushion of a week or so before they have to give a headcount to the caterer or venue so they can chase people down.

"The key is to keep the frustration out of your voice," Post says. "It can't be those sweet words with a nasty tone because that defeats the purpose of wanting to invite them in the first place. You can't say, 'I'm so annoyed with you, you're uninvited.'"

New York wedding planner Marcy Blum suggests adding an enclosure with the invitation listing an email address people can use to RSVP or ask questions.

Brides put thought into addressing their invitations, which spell out exactly who is invited. When guests treat the RSVP card like a write-in ballot, a phone call is in order, Post said, so they understand that their date or child was not invited.

Some parents don't like leaving their children home, but experts urge couples to resist such pressure.

"Do not cave to this, because it's completely unfair to all the guests who do find child care and respect your wishes," Post says.

Besides RSVPs, another etiquette trouble spot is smartphones – in particular, those guests who crowd the aisle to take pictures and then post the images online before the ceremony is even over, scooping the couple's wedding photographer.

"A bride is very particular about how she looks at her wedding, and she does not want the photo that isn't the most possible flattering photo to be all over Facebook before she gets to look

at her wedding shots," Blum said.

Photos aside, phones detract from the solemnity of the ceremony.

"If you're so busy tweeting and Instagraming, you're not paying attention," Blum said. "It's almost a cosmic faux pas. People want your energy with them and focused on what they're doing."

Blum, who has planned the nuptials for notables like LeBron James and George Soros, says couples can try to head this off by including a note in the welcome gift or on the program. The officiant or best man can make an announcement, or you can place a sign at the entryway.

Keeping guests from snapping away at the reception, though, may be a losing fight, Post says, though couples can ask guests to refrain from posting the photos online.

"I would pick and choose your battles," she said. "The ceremony is the right place to focus."

Other do's and don'ts for guests:

Behavior

Arrive early, and stay to dance, mingle and converse at dinner. "Being social and engaged is one of the best ways to be a good guest, along with not getting too drunk, or drunk period," Post says.

Dress

Don't be too informal, and avoid wearing anything that's too sexy, too over-the-top or too white. Blum notes a resurgence of women wearing white to weddings, and says brides don't appreciate that on their big day in white.

"For many, many years it was

never an issue because etiquette was stricter all around, so people didn't do it," Blum said. "Now that things have loosened up a bit, that is something that brides still get very upset about."

Gifts

Some regional traditions may call for bringing the gift to the wedding, but experts say that in general they are best sent ahead of time, avoiding the possibility of theft and the hassle for the couple of hauling them home. If not, a gift should be sent within three months, Post says.

Toasts

Toasts to the couples can get out of hand if guests, sometimes tipsy ones, start asking for the microphone. Proper form says guests should not speak unless they are asked or receive permission.

Despite reality shows sensationalizing crazy wedding behavior, Blum says guests do seem better behaved today as couples create their guest lists with great care.

"There's something about a wedding that for the most part," she says, "brings out the best in people."

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Tips for trying on gowns

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Many brides-to-be look forward to the day when they visit a bridal salon and are able to try on gowns for the first time. There are certain tips that can make the day go much more smoothly and potentially reduce the amount of time it may take to find the perfect gown.

- Wear a supportive, well constructed strapless bra or corset in your correct size. If you will be wearing a petticoat, also have the right size available.

- Try to wear your hair similar to the style you have in mind for your wedding.

- Note that the size of the wedding gown you will wear is typically one to two sizes larger than your day-to-day clothes. Proper measurements can be matched to designers' size charts.

- It's best to limit the number of people with whom you shop to one or two trusted friends or family members. An entourage can be confusing.

- It's always better to order a slightly larger gown and leave room for alterations if you are between sizes.

PROPOSAL

Continued from Page 10

held in the open-air tabernacle at Hurricane Campground.

"I've been planning it, but he has an opinion about everything," Heaton says with a laugh. "But he liked the idea about Hurricane. It is a very peaceful, quiet place and fits both of our personalities."

Heaton, the daughter of Tom and Russene Heaton of Marion, attended or has been a counselor at Hurricane Youth Camp since second grade. She plans to be a counselor again in June, just weeks before the two tie the knot with seven bridesmaids and groomsmen and six flower girls and ring bearers by their sides.

With such a romantic and well-designed proposal, one has to wonder about the honeymoon.

"It is a surprise. He said I need a passport, and it will take 20 hours to get there," Heaton says, admitting she's expecting sun and sand but won't know the exact destination until after the rehearsal dinner.

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Bridal Guide

Don't underestimate worth of wedding day photography

METRO SERVICES

Limousines, gowns and flowers are each important components of a couple's wedding day. But few aspects of a wedding are as important as photography.

Thanks to the popularity of social media, some couples may overlook the importance of hiring a professional photographer for their weddings. Although there is something to be said for candid images captured on phones and personal cameras, the pictures a couple will cherish and look back on for decades are best supplied by a professional photographer.

Even if you will be hiring a videographer and having photos snapped by loving friends and family, professional wedding photography is an ideal way to immortalize this special day. Most couples say "I do" with the hopes of staying together forever, giving them only one chance to capture the magic of the wedding day on film. Leaving photos to chance by hiring an amateur photographer may be something couples regret down the road.

Professional photographers use high-quality equipment that will produce much better results than photos snapped on the average digital camera. Plus, the photographer has experience with posing, placement of arms and legs, head tilting, and lighting, each of which ensures that the photos come out looking as good as possible. While a friend may not notice an eyesore in the rear of a photo composition when taking a picture, a professional may notice something that will stand



A professional photographer will provide the expertise to produce beautiful wedding photos.

out and make adjustments. Furthermore, professional photographers tend to have an eye for interesting angles to capture images that may be overlooked. Rather than a series of portraits at one level, he or she may climb high for aerial shots or lie on the floor for a different perspective. The results may be unique vantage points that set your wedding photos apart from those of the masses.

Price alone should not dictate which photographer to hire. Although wedding budgets are

often stretched, skimping on a photography allotment may result in subpar results. That doesn't mean you need to hire the most expensive photographer, but couples should realize the value of experience and professional equipment, both of which tend to come at a premium price. Do not expect to pay package prices that would be offered at department or discount stores. Many photographers are artists who take their work very seriously. A photographer will be spending all day with you capturing hundreds of photos. Each image will then need to be reviewed, repositioned and potentially enhanced or retouched. This time-consuming attention to detail is often what dictates the higher costs of a very good pho-

tographer.

Keep in mind that photographers are unique individuals and not all the visions and styles of particular artists will meld with your own perception of how you want the wedding to look. Expressing your expectations and comparing your goals with the portfolios of photographers will help you find the best fit. Do not feel shy about asking for testimonials from past customers or talking to couples you know who have recently gotten married and asking for a recommendation.

While couples are making wedding day magic, photographers are behind the scenes capturing all of the memories couples can relive for years and years to come.

Song choices for special dances take careful thought

METRO SERVICES

Wedding traditionalists know there will be a number of required dances at the reception to keep them on their toes. From spotlight dances to special requests, the night is sure to be filled with memorable moments on the dance floor.

While it may be tempting to leave musical selections entirely up to a band or disc jockey, couples should choose the songs they dance to during special dances.

A bride's dance with her father and a groom's dance with his mother are special moments during a wedding reception that can evoke strong emotions and a few tears from family and friends. Part of what makes these moments so memorable are the songs themselves. Choosing the right songs can be difficult, but there are ways to make the decision-making process go more smoothly.

Start out by making a list of songs you like and believe convey feelings you want to share with others. Ask your father or mother to make a similar list. These lists can be compared and then a common element may become apparent. Many brides and grooms will happily defer the choice to their parents, which can give parents a role in the wedding planning and make them feel they have had an important hand in the festivities.

When considering songs, select among songs that have a special meaning or represent the bond between parent and child. There may be a song from your

youth that you enjoy or one that you sang to a parent at a school performance that is particularly memorable. Songs that seem to transcend time often work best for these spotlight dances, rather than something that is too trendy.

When choosing a song, it helps to consider a song that has some sort of back beat. This can make it easier for novice dancers to follow along and still move gracefully. Do not feel the song has to be extremely slow. If your dancing partner and you are confident on the dance floor, there are many different songs that can be fitting, from country to soft rock to jazz.

Timing of the song is also important. Father-daughter and mother-son dances are not the times for lengthy songs. While these certainly may be good choices for when the DJ needs to take a bathroom break, their length could leave you on the dance floor too long and bore your guests as a result. Keep spotlight songs short and to the point.

If you and your parent are not the sentimental types, then by all means select a song that's less traditional.

In some cases the spotlight dance can be even more poignant when a parent is no longer living and is attending the wedding in spirit only. You may opt to have a few special words said with a particular song that reflects a parent's personality. Otherwise, you can dance with another person in your mother or father's stead.

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Marion grew from crossroads to a vibrant city

The history of our town and county is always interesting. No matter how many times I read of the history, I learn new things that I missed before. Here is some history from those early days, explaining where the county court held some of its early meetings and the first residential home that was built in Marion.

The early pioneer town of Marion in her early days probably wasn't built with the expectation of any great number of permanent residents, but rather as a center or gathering place for the people living in the territory for miles around. Public buildings were established in such new towns to house all agencies of the government of the surrounding territory.

Soon, markets of all types quickly sprang up around the public buildings to take advantage of the community-gathering place. So it was with the town of Marion during its first year and a half.

The town had been established only for the purpose of a county seat, or as a centralized location for the erection of public buildings to house the government and public records of the newly formed Crittenden County. Its subsequent rapid growth into a mercantile and residential community was not planned nor even visualized by most of the early town fathers, many of whom were also early county officials.

It has been noted before that, at first, the county officials did not reside in or near Marion, but would commute to and from their homes on horseback when county court was in session.

Harvey W. Bigham, Crittenden County's first court clerk who lived near the town of Salem, must have soon found the rapidly increasing records of the county becoming too bulky for daily carriage in his saddlebags, which had previously been his practice. Therefore, he was determined to build a permanent residence in Marion on land which he had purchased from Dr. John S. Gilliam.

There were a few log and frame cabins scattered



throughout what is now downtown Marion and along Fords Ferry (now North Main Street) and Centerville (now Moore Avenue) roads within a half-mile of the public square. But there is no doubt that the two-story brick mansion built in 1846 by Harvey W. Bigham and later owned and occupied by R.W. Wilson and S.M. Jenkins was Marion's first permanent residence.

When it became a certainty in 1842 that Dr. John S. Gilliam's donation of the site of Marion would be accepted as the location of the new county seat, the members of Bethany Presbyterian Church – who had been sharing their 40-year-old log building with the newly-organized Crooked Creek Baptist Church – decided to sell their old meeting house near Cross Keys to the Baptists and build a larger brick church in a more centralized location nearer Marion.

The Presbyterians found a tract of unclaimed land about a half-mile from the southwest corner of the Marion reservation. They started procedures to acquire a Kentucky Land Grant that would include as its northeast corner, the low hill which is now the site of the Old Marion Cemetery on Moore Avenue and West Gum Street.

There, the congregation built a rectangular-shaped meeting house on the northern side of this hill. (The portion of the hill on which the "Old Brick Church," as it was popularly known, stood was cut down by the construction of U.S. 60's western entrance into Marion on West Gum Street.)

The justices of the county courts in Kentucky of the 1840s had the responsibility of total governmental administration to all parts of the counties not incorporated, thus Marion in the year and a half of its formative stage

was under the supervision of the Crittenden County Court.

The court appointed Joel E. Grace, William Hughes, Issac H. Wheeler, John Wright and Isham Clements as a commission to let out and superintend the erection of a courthouse in Marion.

They were given the monies left in the county treasury after claims against the county had been settled with the tax levies of 1843 and 1844. They awarded the contract to H. B. Pierce for the erection of the new courthouse, a brick building located at the same spot and about the same size as the northern wing of the present courthouse.

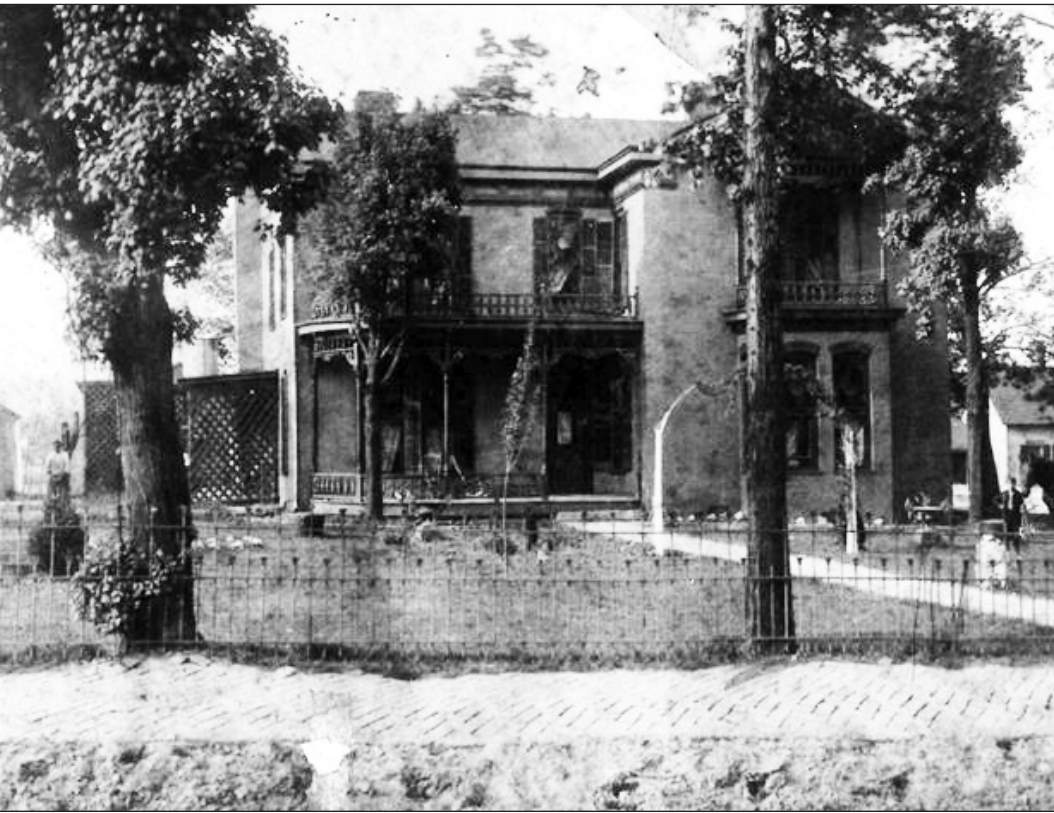
On May 8, 1843, the Crittenden County Court moved its court meetings to what is now the City of Marion for the first time. They had rented the previously-mentioned Brick Church from the Bethany Presbyterians, who had not yet used the newly-constructed meetinghouse as their new church, and they held court there until the new courthouse on the Marion public square was decided ready for occupancy.

Finally, in 1844, the county court accepted the new courthouse and became responsible for its custody. The court allowed Summer Marble and J.W. Headley the use of "one of the small jury rooms" in the courthouse for their law office in return for assisting Clerk H.W. Bigham in taking care of the building.

Soon after the incorporation of Marion, the county court appointed John S. Elder, James R. Hanks, William Rochester, W.A. Brooks and James L. Hill as commissioners to "view out" a road to lead through the town of Marion so as to correspond with the streets and the plans of the new town and to intersect the old road near the brick church.

In the following month, James M. Smith was appointed surveyor of Fords Ferry and Belleville roads beginning at the courthouse in Marion and extending a half-mile each way.

Smith was given the privilege of calling on every able-bodied male resident



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Harvey Bigham home was the first residential house built in Marion. It was later known as the Wilsonian after it was traded to R.W. Wilson. It sat on the corner lot of Main and East Depot streets where the Boston/Dickey home is located today.

along these roads to the extent of the town boundaries to assist in clearing, smoothing and cleaning all parts of those roads so as to make verification of the new town.

"The History of Kentucky" states that by 1847, Marion had a brick courthouse and other public buildings, six stores, one tavern, one house of entertainment, four lawyers, three doctors and four mechanics. This would indicate that at least seven mercantile buildings and a hotel and a stable, as well as a blacksmith shop and some offices existed. It also states that the 1847 population was 120, which indicates that there were quite a few permanent residences built after Harvey W. Bigham started that trend in 1846.

Harvey W. Bigham, the first Crittenden County Clerk and Circuit Clerk, was born July 25, 1806. He died Dec. 5, 1849, in New Orleans, La., from injuries received in the explosion of the steamer Louisiana on which he was a passenger.

He was married to Sarah J. Rice. They had a son, James W. Bigham, who was born May 7, 1844, and was the first

white child born in the newly formed Crittenden County. What is interesting about this story is that later in his life, the son, James, lived in Florida but came back to visit Marion in August 1906.

This is what he told The Press reporter on his visit:

"Rev. J.W. Bigham of Bartow, Fla., was in Marion a few weeks ago and being in a reminiscent mood, talked somewhat freely of Marion and old times. Standing at the corner of Yandell-Gugenheim Co. store (Frazer, Rogers and Peek Law Office today) and replying to a number of questions he said, 'Yes, it is true I was the first child born in the town of Marion, Ky.'

"Pointing his finger across the square he said, 'I was born in the double log house that stood on the south side of the street immediately in front of the old Dr. Crawford property. I am, therefore, not only one of the first homecomers, but I am one of the first comers to this good town of Marion.'

"I have seen three Marions reared on this present site of the town, and have seen three courthouses reared in that courthouse yard. The first one was destroyed by the rebels dur-

ing the war in the year of '63, I think, and the second one was burned accidentally by working men repairing the roof."

"My father built the dwelling house now owned and occupied by Mr. R.W. Wilson, but on the death of my mother in 1846, he would not live there anymore, so he traded the property for the brick tavern corner now occupied by Yandell-Gugenheim Co."

"We moved to the dwelling near the old brick church cemetery in 1846, which is now occupied by Mr. T.H Lowry, the distiller. The place was known then as the Marly House. It is there that I have the first recollection of anything on this earth."

Stories such as these help us to know the very early history of our town, even though all the physical signs are gone and just the site of the Old Marion Cemetery is all that is visible today of the history told in the article.

(Brenda Underdown is Crittenden County's historian and serves on the board of the historical and genealogical societies in the county. She is also active in maintaining Crittenden County Historical Museum.)

Tree seedlings ready for purchase

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Kentucky Division of Forestry has tree seedlings available and says the time to plant for the best chance of success is by the end of April.

Kentucky landowners may purchase single trees for \$5 each, \$30 for a bundle of 10 or \$38 for a bundle of 100. The agency says its foresters are available to help with technical assistance.

Seedlings aren't shipped

after April.

Some local offices have consolidated. Information about which office serves each county is available at <http://1.usa.gov/OjZID3> or by calling (800) 866-0555. An order form is available at the same website.

Order forms are also available at local cooperative extension, Farm Services Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service offices.

Murray State names 2 presidential finalists

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murray State University has narrowed its presidential search down to two finalists after a third person dropped out because of health issues. The next president was expected to be selected Wednesday.

University Vice President of Communications Catherine Sivills told The Paducah Sun and Murray Ledger & Times that Robert "Bob"

Davies, president of Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Ore., and James Smith, president of Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., are finalists for the position.

Both men visited the campus earlier this week.

Happy 100th Birthday
Effie Shaffer

Our Mother, Mama and Great-Mema Effie Shaffer will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Thursday, March 13th.

We are asking her friends and family to assist us in celebrating this very special birthday, by sending her a birthday card to: Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center, 201 Watson St., Marion, KY 42064.

Her family and friends have always been a special blessing to her. Your cards will be a highlight.

Thank you in advance,
Her family;
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- 4 Bedrooms 2 Baths, with Wood Floors and Central Heat and Air. Located at 2631 Nunn Switch Road Marion, KY. \$94,900
- 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Corner Lot, Appliances Stay. Located at 602 Travis Street, Marion, KY. \$29,900

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- 2 Lots 1+/- Acre Located at 310 Cherry Street Marion, KY. \$4,900
- 0.35+/- Acre Located At 229 N Weldon Street Marion, KY. \$3500
- 2 Corner Lots Located at 131 Lewis Street Marion, KY. \$6,995
- Great Lots for Business or Home. Pick one or all Four. Within City Limits, starting at \$5,000 for one, or \$29,800 for all.
- 97.83+/- acres in Crittenden County and Livingston County, Attached, Frontage HWY 885. \$159,000
- Building Lots at Grand View Estates. Located In Crittenden County, Lots range in Price \$8,500 - \$12,000

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Lawmakers weighing heavy issues

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

It's the biggest job Kentucky's lawmakers have – passing a state budget every two years.

On Tuesday, the House budget committee OK'd an almost \$20.3 billion biennial budget for the commonwealth. That spending plan would trim most areas of state government, leave some areas alone and offer pay increases for teachers and state employees.

House Bill 235, the name the proposed budget carries through the lawmaking process, closely mirrors the budget proposed by Gov. Steve Beshear in January. Like his budget, the House proposal would ensure an additional \$189 million in base per pupil funding (SEEK) for schools, protect Medicaid and provide nearly \$1 billion in new General Fund-supported debt for capital construction while fully funding required payments into the state's pension system. The measure also would expand preschool for more than 5,000 additional 4-year-olds and increase funding for schoolbooks, though at lower levels than the governor's plan.

There is also a 5 percent

2014 Legislative Session

Kentucky General Assembly

cut across most of state government – a cumulative 41.5 percent cut since 2008 for some agencies – with lesser cuts of 2.5 percent for state universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Kentucky State Police. At the same time, teachers and state employees would receive pay raises over the biennium with higher amounts given to lower-paid state workers in 2015.

Unlike the governor's budget, it appropriates millions of additional dollars for some programs. It would give \$1.2 million to hire more social workers for the Department of Public Advocacy and boost private child care provider rates by \$6 million over the next two years.

HB 235, along with a separate revenue-generating bill and judicial and legislative budgets, went to the House floor for consideration

Wednesday, when a vote was anticipated.

Once approved in the House, the budget bill goes to the Senate, where it is sure to be altered and tweaked. But time is running out for lawmakers, as the 2014 Legislature adjourns in mid-April.

Smoking ban bill dead

A Kentucky House bill that would enact a statewide ban on smoking in shared public spaces and places of employment is dead for the year after meeting strong opposition, the sponsor says.

"It appears that the bill has been pronounced dead for the 2014 session," Democratic Rep. Susan Westrom of Lexington told The Associated Press last week.

Local option gains support

All eight living Kentucky governors announced Tuesday that they're endorsing local option, saying it's the best way for citizens across the Commonwealth to have a direct voice and vote in making investments that improve their communities.

HB 399 would raise money for local governments through

a temporary sales tax put in place with approval of voters. The measure passed a House committee Tuesday and now awaits an uncertain future on the floor. Because it's a constitutional amendment, it takes three-fifths support from House members to advance.

Marion Mayor Mickey Alexander has said he supports this proposal.

Minimum wage hike alive

Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers said Friday there's a "real possibility" the Republican-led Senate will pass some form of a minimum wage bill, breathing new life into a top priority of Democrats in the House.

Stivers (R-Manchester) told reporters that senators are working on the House-passed measure but didn't provide details about changes.

The House passed a measure that would increase the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour incrementally over the next three years.

(The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission and The Associated Press contributed to this story.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Fundraiser slated for Senior Center

Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center will be hosting a fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the center on North Walker Street. Chili and all the trimmings will be served for \$5. Proceeds go to the center.

State jobless rate inches downward

Kentucky's unemployment rate has inched downward, dropping to 7.7 percent in January.

The state Office of Employment and Training says the statewide jobless rate in January was down from the 7.9 percent rate in December.

It's also an improvement from a year ago, when the statewide jobless rate was 8.2 percent in January 2013. Kentucky's jobless rate re-

mains above the national rate.

The state agency said this week that Kentucky's construction sector posted an employment increase in January. Other parts of the economy showing gains included the government and services sectors.

— The Associated Press

CHS board annual meeting next week

Crittenden Health Systems Board of Directors' annual meeting will be at noon next Wednesday at the education building on the campus of the hospital.

Park board director sought for vacancy

The board of directors that manages Marion-Crittenden County Park has a vacancy. Anyone interested in serving on the park board should con-

tact Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom's office at (270) 965-5251 to submit their name.

Crittenden Fiscal Court will consider names for the appointment at Tuesday's monthly meeting.

Precinct officers sought for primary

The secretary of state's office is urging Kentuckians to sign up as precinct election officers for the May 20 primary election.

Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes says about 15,000 Kentuckians are needed to help administer the election.

To serve as a precinct election officer, someone must be 18 on or before Nov. 4, 2014, and be a qualified voter. Those wanting to serve cannot have changed their party affiliation one year prior to their appointment.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ridley recognized for KET support

The Friends of KET Board, a statewide network of volunteers, traveled to the Capitol in Frankfort recently to thank state leaders for their support of KET. Recognized as a leading public broadcasting network in the nation, KET provides educational programs and instructional resources to Kentucky's schools and classrooms. KET is the national provider of GED preparation materials and workforce development skills for public broadcasting and other leading institutions. Pictured above are (from left) KET Friend Sean Mestan, Sen. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson), KET Friend Kathy Brauer and KET staff members Teresa Day and Amy Grant.

CLASSES

Continued from Page 1

classroom to plan and realign the standards they have to cover before the end of the school year.

"Our teachers are great professionals," Clark said. "They meet the challenges head on."



Clark

Crittenden County High School chemistry teacher Glenna Rich said missing weeks of school because of winter weather has meant some course work needed to be taught again. She said her chemistry students are now learning about chemical reactions and the different processes that encompass those reactions.

"We are dramatically behind where we should be right now. Having two separate weeks out, it has been very difficult to stay consistent and keep moving forward," Rich said.

Like all educators, Rich wishes there was time to go

more in depth with her students on some course material.

"I really have had to push through some of the material I would have liked to have gone over more thoroughly just so I can get all of the standards in this year," she said.

Rich said her chemistry students – made up of sophomores, juniors and seniors – have a good maturity level and have handled the breaks in instructional days well.

Catching up on instruction isn't the only challenge students and educators face, however. Testing is around the corner, as juniors prepare to take the state mandated ACT on Tuesday.

"We have end-of-year-testing, K-PREP, AP exams and end-of-course exams," Clark said. "There are a host of things. The disruption does impact the instructional cycle. These are critical times as we get into testing."

Unless Crittenden County Board of Education elects to amend the academic calendar at Tuesday's meeting, June 5 will be the final day of classes with graduation on June 6, assuming no more days are missed.

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NOTICE

Crittenden County Clerk's office will close at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2014, in order for clerk and deputies to attend a training session. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Thank you,
Carolyn Byford

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RUNNING

5K race March 29

There will be a Spring Fling 5K at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 29 at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Proceeds benefit the Lady Rocket softball team. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Cost is \$25.

SOFTBALL

Opener in jeopardy

Lady Rockets are scheduled to host Carlisle County for their softball opener Thursday at Marion-Crittenden County park. However, the game is tentative because of the conditions of the field following recent wet weather.

UPCOMING SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

March 13 Carlisle County
March 17 Caldwell County
March 18 at Union County
March 21 at Hopkins Central
March 22 at Todd Central Invitational

TRACK

CCHS opens Tuesday

Crittenden County will open its track and field season Tuesday with a meet at Marion.

OUTDOORS

Hunting seasons

Groundhog	Year Round
Coyote Daytime	Year Round
Coyote Nighttime	Feb. 1 - May 31
Turkey Youth	April 5-6
Spring Turkey	April 12 - May 4

Hunter safety Friday

A free Kentucky Hunter Education course will be held March 14-15 in Marion with the Friday portion starting at 6 p.m., and the Saturday class starting at 8 a.m. Online pre-registration is required by visiting the Hunter Education page at fw.ky.gov. The class will be at the Marion Ed-Tech Center. For more information, call Greg Rushing at (270) 704-0334.

Hunting license renewal

It is time to renew your Kentucky hunting and fishing license. Your 2013-14 license expired on March 1. See page 5 for details about license offerings from KDFWR.

BASEBALL

Saturday deadline, player assessments

Registration for recreational softball and baseball for boys and girls ages 4-12 is now under way. Crittenden County Dugout Club is accepting registrations via mail or during a skills assessment from 9-11 a.m., Saturday at Crittenden County Middle School gym. Only players age 7-up will attend skills assessment. Registration forms are available online at The-Press.com (follow the Sports link), on the Dugout Club's Facebook page, at Crittenden Middle School office or The Crittenden Press. Forms were sent home to CCES students last month. For information, contact Chris Evans at (270) 965-3191. Deadline to register without penalty is Saturday. No 7-up registrations will be accepted after March 21 because the local teams will be participating in a league that includes Princeton, Dawson Springs and Eddyville, and rosters will be frozen.

Rec umpires wanted

Anyone interested in being an umpire for Crittenden County's summer youth baseball and softball games should contact Lafe Riggs at (270) 564-5000. There will be two area clinics and umpires need to attend one of them. The clinics are at 2 p.m., April 20 at Princeton's Legion Field and April 27 at Fredonia's Buddy Rogers Park.

MISCELLANEOUS

All-Conference players

The Pennyrile Athletic Conference (PAC) has announced its fall sports All-Conference player list and 10 Rockets are among those chosen. The PAC, formed last year, includes teams from Crittenden, Union, Webster and Hopkins Central. Crittenden County All-Conference selections were as follows:

- Volleyball** - Brittney Buell Buell and Haylee Young.
Soccer - Paige Hicks and Anna Schnittker.
Golf - Aaron Owen and Devin Belt
Football - Daniel Wagoner, Travis Gilbert, Lane Wallace, and Brenden Phillips.

Phillips inks with Brescia

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County two-sport standout Brenden Phillips has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Brescia University in Owensboro.

Phillips is a catcher who hit .250 as a junior for the Rockets and was second on the team in on-base percentage and third in hits in 30 games. Phillips had the team's highest fielding percentage in 2013. In 185 chances last year, Phillips made just two errors.

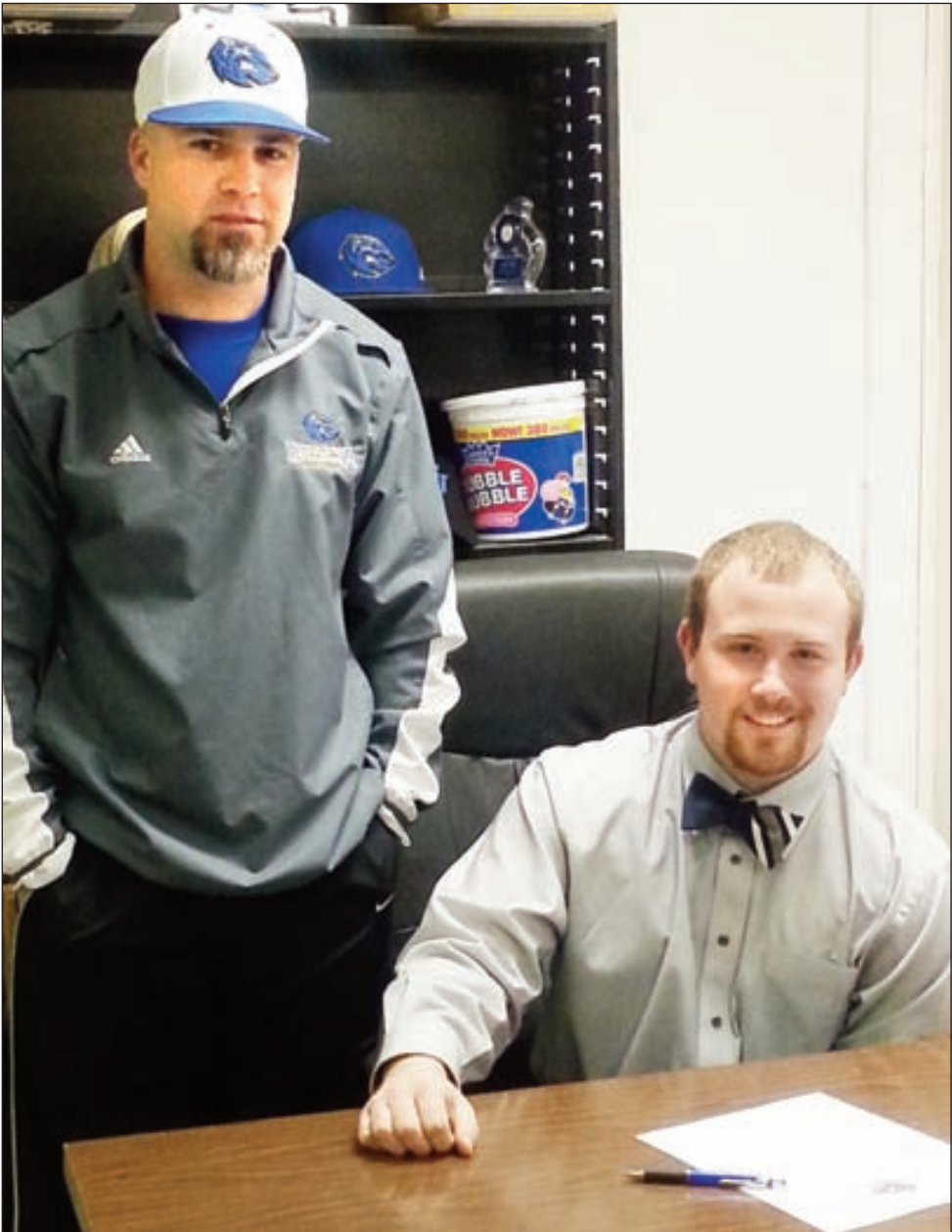
He will be back behind the plate again this spring as the Rockets begin their season today at Hopkinsville.

Phillips was also a four-year starter at linebacker and running back for the Rocket football team.

Brescia is a member of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Association and plays baseball in the NAIA.

The Bearcats are headed by four-year skipper Aaron Biddle. Brescia was third in the KMAC last year and won the league championship in 2012. The club is 14-6 this spring.

Phillips is the son of Donnie and Kara Phillips of Marion.



Brenden Phillips recently signed to play baseball and attend Brescia University. He is pictured here with Bearcat baseball coach Aaron Biddle.

Rockets Marooned in regional opener

STAFF REPORT

It was over pretty early. Crittenden County's voyage to the Second Region Tournament for the first time in seven years turned into a 72-30 shipwreck at the hands of tournament host Madisonville.

Before the game was over, the officials had ordered a running clock as the Rocket deficit became insurmountable in the second half.

Madisonville (19-9) marooned the Rockets (9-21) in a sea of trouble from the outset. The hosts' athleticism governed the game as the Maroons rushed out to a 16-4 lead. At the half, Crittenden trailed 35-10 and was struggling to find open shots.

Seniors Devin Belt and Aaron Owen were the Rockets' high scorers with just seven points apiece. Crittenden managed just nine field goals the entire game.

Meanwhile, Madisonville's offense never missed a beat. The Maroons scored 22 at the foul line alone. Senior forward Ross Thomas led the way with 18 points while sophomore phenom Jaiveon Eaves scored 10 for the winners.

"They just dominated us. They put their best defender on (Owen) and he didn't get but one or two looks the whole game. And they pressured everyone else, too," Rocket coach Denis Hodge said.

The tournament game was more lopsided than when the teams met earlier in the season and Madisonville won by 25 on its home floor.

Crittenden had some shots inside early Saturday but the entry opportunities disappeared as Madisonville's defense gained steam and got physical in the paint.

"When we didn't make some shots early it got out of hand quick," Hodge said. "They just really got after us defensively."

Despite the loss, the second-year Rocket skipper was pleased that his team earned its first trip to the regional tournament since 2007.

"Now we want to get back to the region again and compete, to beat someone," Hodge said.

The Rockets will come back in 2014-15 with several seniors and juniors on which to build a competitive team. However, its leading scorer - Owen, who ranks fifth in scoring in Rocket history - will be gone and so will the inside presence of Devin Belt.



Rocket senior center Devin Belt (30), above, can't get a handle on this rebound while teammate Dakota Watson (24) takes position inside. At right, senior Taylor Champion (15) drives into the lane looking for a shot in the regional tournament Saturday at Madisonville.



PHOTOS BY DEREK MCCREE



Livingston's Caitlin Merritt signed with Brescia flanked by Bearcat coach Traci Smith (left) and her parents, Jared and Christie Merritt.

Merritt signs with Brescia

Livingston Central High School senior Caitlin Merritt has signed a scholarship to play softball and study at Brescia University in Owensboro.

Merritt is projected to play an important role as a freshman next year.

"Caitlin is coming from a strong high school softball program, and I am excited to sign her," said coach Traci Smith. "She will add depth to the Bearcat softball team and be able to make an immediate impact."

Merritt played in 40 games for the Lady Cardinals last season, batting .377 with 16 doubles, three triples and a home run. She pitched in 14 games with an 11-0 record and had a 1.65 ERA.

BASEBALL

Rockets open season today

Crittenden County returns a strong nucleus for this spring's baseball season.

Catcher Brenden Phillips and infielders Travis Gilbert, Taylor Champion, Devin Belt and Dylan Hollis are returning starters.

Adam Driver and Nick Castiller played a great deal last year and will return to the lineup. Shelby Robinson, who was hurt, will be back, too.

Denis Hodge will coach the Rockets this spring, his first season back after a brief hiatus. He was previously the skipper from 1996 through 2009.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY Rocket Baseball Schedule

March 13 at Hopkinsville
March 14 at Paducah Tilghman
March 18 Webster County
March 28 Graves County
April 4 at University Heights
April 14 All A Classic v. Caldwell
April 18 at Trigg County
April 19 at Madisonville
April 21 University Heights
April 25 Caldwell County
April 26 at Caldwell County
April 28 Trigg County
May 1 at Webster County
May 3 at Marshall County
May 3 Mayfield
May 5 at Dawson Springs
May 6 Dawson Springs
May 8 Madisonville
May 10 Paducah Tilghman
May 12 Hopkins County Central
May 13 at Union County
May 15 Union County
May 16 at Hopkins Central

POST SEASON

BOYS 2ND REGION Quarterfinal Game

Madisonville 72, Crittenden 30				
Crittenden County	4	6	10	10
Madisonville	16	19	20	16
CRITTENDEN - Owen 7, Gilbert 5, Belt 7, Young, D.Watson 5, Tinsley 2, Champion 2, Hicks, Driver, Hadfield, Myers 2. FG 9. 3-pointers 3 (Owen 2, Gilbert 1). FT 9-14.				
MADISONVILLE - Carver 8, White, Parish 2, Combs 2, Gray 5, Buntin 2, White, McCuiston 4, Eaves 10, Mason 8, Hayes 2, McFarland 3, Thomas 18, Couch 4, Jackson 4. FG 23. 3-pointers 2 (Carver, Gray). FT 22-24.				

CAREER SCORING UPDATE



Aaron Owen
1,180 points
5th all-time



Travis Gilbert
524 points
53rd all-time

ROCKET STAT LEADERS

Player	Pts. Avg	FT	Reb. Avg.
A.Owen	12.3	99-165	2.3
D.Belt	10.6	45-89	5.7
L.Young	6.9	27-42	1.9
T.Gilbert	5.8	35-48	1.2
D.Watson	4.3	31-53	3.1
N.Dickerson	3.7	12-21	2.5
C.Watson	3.4	25-45	2.6
Z.Tinsley	2.3	8-21	1.6
T.Champion	1.3	4-14	1.2

Complete stats at Press Online Sports

2nd Region Tournaments

Boys' at Madisonville
QUARTERFINALS
University Heights 85, Trigg 60
Henderson 84, Caldwell Co. 71
Hopkinsville 96, Union Co. 75
Madisonville 72, Crittenden 30
MONDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Henderson Co. 98, UHA 92
Hopkinsville 97, Madisonville 65
Tuesday's Championship
Henderson vs. Hopkinsville, 7 p.m.

Henderson junior **Maci Brown** has been selected to the All-Region and All-Region Tournament teams. She is daughter of Nicky and Danette Brown, formerly of Marion.



Girls at Henderson
QUARTERFINALS
UHA 60, Union County 54
Madisonville 58, Livingston 43
Caldwell 70, Lyon County 57
Henderson 65, Christian Co. 31
SEMIFINALS
Henderson 77, Caldwell Co. 43
UHA 63, Madisonville 41
SUNDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Henderson Co. 67, UHA 54

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The Crittenden Press

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All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

for sale

22nd Anniversary sale on Porta/Grace number 1 metal roofing, siding and trim. 40-year warranty. Call for low prices. Gray's Carports and Building, 907 Hopkinsville St., Princeton, Ky. (270) 365-7495. (13t-45-p)

Quality handmade leather belts. Made in the U.S.A. by Yoder's Saddlery. Available at Marion Feed Mill 501 E. Bellville St., Marion. (270) 965-2252. (tfc)ys

for rent

Creekside Apartments is taking applications for 1, 2 and 3 BR apartments. Within walking distance to grocery store, pharmacy, restaurant and dollar stores. Laundry room on-site. Call (270) 965-5000 or come to the office Monday - Friday mornings. Equal Housing Opportunity. (tfc)

real estate

3 bedroom 2 bath home for sale, 310 N College St. 1,900 square ft with 2-car detached garage & fenced in back yard, \$82,000. Serious inquiries only please (270) 704-6404. (4t-36-p)

House for sale, 1508 sq. ft., extra nice, move-in ready. 3 BR, 1 bath, 114 Autumn Lane, Marion, Ky. Lot size 1.4 acres. Serious inquiries only, call (270) 965-3896 or (270) 969-8739. (4t-36-p)

agriculture

Round bale grass hay for sale, (270) 704-0114. Will deliver if necessary. (3t-38-p)

Fescue hay, barn kept, 6x5 round bale, \$30/bale. (270) 704-1787. (3t-38-p)

Family farm operation seeking crop ground and pasture ground for rent. Contact Josh at (270) 952-1827. (8t-38-p)

Hay for sale, good quality, square bales \$3.75; round bales \$35. (270) 704-0463. (4t-38-c)dj

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Buying Indian arrowheads and artifacts, especially interested in pipe, pottery and bannerstones. Single pieces to entire collections. (812) 686-3865. (52t-29/15-p)

animals

ADOPTING A PET from Crittenden County's Animal Shelter gives an animal a second shot at life. Animals can now be seen online at crittendenshelter.blogspot.com. The shelter holds animals from Crittenden, Lyon and Livingston counties, so be sure to check with the shelter online or at 969-1054 for your lost or missing pet. (nc)

automotive

1990 Chevy 4x4 stepside, \$3,000. (270) 965-2703. (1t-36-p)

lost

1933 keepsake ring lost at or near Conrad's Food Store. If you find it, please call Tink Hicklin, (270) 965-5135. (5t-38-p)

sales

Indoor flea market, Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Salem Baptist Christian Life Center (old Salem School). Booths are \$15 for 10x10 space. Booths still available. Call 988-2033 or 704-1567 for more information. (2t-36-c)ch

services

Need help with spring cleaning, cleaning closets, outbuildings, or your basement or just getting caught up on housework? I can help. References provided. Call (270) 965-5955. (4t-38-p)

employment

Coppertop Bar-B-Q, 102 Cassidy Ave, Fredonia, will conduct open interviews for kitchen help, pizza makers, and servers on Friday, March 14. Apply in person between 8:30-10:30 a.m. (1t-36-c)

Fabricators Needed

Well established company has immediate openings for Fabricators. Applicants must have a minimum of 7 years fabrication experience. Experience should include the ability to read blueprints and welding symbols and weld with all types of wire and stick. Must be able to run shear, brake, iron worker, work well with others and take a project from start to finish. Must have own basic tools and be able to install finished machine parts. These positions include an excellent benefit package which includes health, dental and vision insurance, paid

holidays and vacation and a 401k retirement plan. The pay is based on the applicant's experience. The positions are for permanent, full time employment, Mon.-Fri., 1st and 2nd shift. Applicant must be able to pass a physical and drug screening. To apply send resume to: Saturn Machine, Attn: Fabricator, P.O. Box 69, Sturgis, Ky. 42459 or come in person to Saturn Machine and fill out an application. (2t-37-c)

notices

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that on March 5, 2014 Joyce R. Harwell of 25195 Hwy. 43, Picayune MS, 39466 was appointed executrix with will annexed of Anna Pauline Moreland, deceased, whose address was 108 Kevil Street, Marion, Ky. 42064. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the Executrix with will annexed on or before the 5th day of March, 2014 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.

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-36-c)

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Colonial Life: Seeking licensed agents or B2B sales representatives to market voluntary benefits to employees. Commissions average \$52k+/yr. Training & leads. Call Mallory 502-272-9670, MM-Mayhall@ColonialLife.com

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NURSE

Continued from Page 1

able to recoup the Medicaid money like we projected when we put our budget together. This is a trend we've seen the last few years. I think we will continue to see more Medicaid cuts."

Beshear said alternatives to avoid closing the school clinics were discussed. They included raising local health tax dollars in communities that receive the health services in their schools. Another option was asking local school boards for more money toward their contracts. Reducing clinic operating hours was also considered, which would have cut employee hours to part-time versus full-time.

"It was a lengthy and very hard conversation," she said. "This board feels it is a very important program. We tried everything we could do. Until the state either wants to fund it, wants to mandate it or works out issues with Medicaid where we are properly reimbursed, it's just not a sustainable program. And that's unfortunate because it is a very important program."

Beshear noted that nurses in school clinics are seeing students who may not see a doctor on a regular basis.

"We had a great partnership with these schools. And it's sad for our staff. They really loved working with the kids and being in the schools. It's really hard for them to realize that chapter will close for them," she said.

Crittenden County school board chairman Chris Cook expressed regret on the clinics' closing, and said the



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS
Jessica Belt, a registered nurse at Crittenden County Elementary School's health clinic, demonstrates an EpiPen used to treat patients who have an allergic reaction. Last week, Pennyriple District Health Department announced it would be doing away with its school health clinic programs with partnering school districts.

school district would explore other options.

"It's certainly a disappointment to the district because it has been an invaluable service to our students, staff and schools. But I completely understand the fiscal constraints that all government funded agencies are dealing with," Cook said. "We as a school board and school district are exploring every possible option to be able to provide medical services similar to the current school nurse program within our own fiscal constraints."

Cook said part of that exploration process will include conversations with the county board of health. At the school board's working session held last Tuesday night, board members discussed the issue and explored available options. Because its contract with the Pennyriple District Health Department doesn't expire until after the end of the academic year, immediate action was not taken at the working session.

The next school board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Rocket Arena.



Rescue squad buys ATV

Crittenden County Rescue Squad recently purchased a new all-terrain vehicle with \$16,000 in federal monies awarded through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for the purpose of bolstering the rescue team's rescue and recovery capabilities. The Kawasaki Teryx4 four-seater is a four-wheel drive. It will be used primarily for land-based search and rescue operations and will take the place of a similar unit the rescue squad already uses. An All Terrain Res-Q Off-Road Rescue Trailer has also been purchased that allows the ATV to pull behind a gurney used to remove victims from the scene of remote accidents so they may get medical treatment. The money for the two pieces of equipment came from a portion of \$2.8 million in Homeland Security program grants awarded across the state last year. Donnie Arlack, the longtime rescue squad chief pictured above alongside the new ATV, said the complete \$30,000 award is more than double the all-volunteer rescue squad's typical annual budget. A submersible rescue training dummy designed for water search and recovery exercises has also been purchased. The remaining money will be used to purchase turnout gear for the squad's 20 or so active members. Arlack said the squad was in need of all the equipment.

WINTER

Continued from Page 1

month, two days had given us a complete thaw.

- There have also been 25 times since Thanksgiving that we have seen precipitation on days when below-freezing temps were recorded. That doesn't mean all were ice or snow events with a significant

effect, but it gives you an idea of the nature of this winter.

- Perhaps the most painful number to many is 17. That's the number of classroom instruction days Crittenden County missed this winter due to weather. Only two of those days have been made up thus far.

But for all who are tired of winter, there is one more number to consider - 7. Yes,

in only seven more days, spring will arrive, and no matter what Mother Nature throws at us, after next Thursday, we can officially wipe our hands clean of winter.

(Daryl K. Tabor is editor of The Crittenden Press. His column appears in this newspaper periodically. He can be reached at (270) 965-3191 or thepress@the-press.com.)

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