

The Crittenden Press



Here comes the bride...

GET READY FOR THE BIG DAY WITH OUR HELP

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\$1 NEWS
STAND

USPS 138-260 • MARION • KENTUCKY 24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS [THE-PRESS.COM](http://the-press.com)

Warm February has spring fever budding

One of the warmest winters on record has many in the community suffering from spring fever. According to the Kentucky Mesonet weather monitoring station in Crittenden County, the average daily temperature in February was 57 degrees, compared to 48 and 36 in the second month of 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Though spring has not officially sprung, the turn of the calendar to March means meteorological spring has begun. Some other upcoming signs of spring include:

- Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 12.
- Spring formally begins Monday, March 20.
- Free spring dumping at the county's convenience center will be in April. No date has been set yet, however.
- Spring break for students in the county is April 3-7.

Extended library hours now in effect

New hours now implemented at Crittenden County Public Library will keep the facility open longer on four days each week, including until 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Hours will also be extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday and 3 p.m. Saturday. The library closes at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday. It opens at 9 a.m. each day, and is closed Sunday.

Daniel Boone visits on Marion Saturday

Frontiersman Daniel Boone will be portrayed by Kentucky Chautauqua performer Kevin Hardesty in a Community Arts Foundation presentation slated for 7 p.m. Saturday at The Woman's Club of Marion building on East Carlisle Street. Admission is free and open to the public.

Owens Road closed today for tile work

A portion of Owens Road in the southern tip of Crittenden County will be closed today (Thursday) for replacement of a tile near the end of the county road. The closure may extend into Friday if delays are met, said Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom.



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Income survey aimed at saving city \$1 million

STAFF REPORT

There are few times when people can impact how much they pay for their own municipal services.

That's why Marion City Administrator Adam Ledford is urging city residents approached beginning next week to participate in an income survey that could lead to \$1 million being knocked off the cost of the city's mandated wastewater treatment upgrade. City employees starting Monday will be knocking on about 350 randomly-selected doors, asking them to complete a short, 12-question survey required for a federal



Ledford

grant application.

"It is not often that individual residents can have a dramatic impact on the community's ability to obtain grants, but that is not the case this time around," Ledford explains.

The city administrator said the state-mandated upgrades to the Marion wastewater treatment system, which includes a new sewer plant, are estimated to cost about \$11 million. If 51 percent, or 164, of the residents contacted complete the income survey when contacted, the city could qualify for a community development block grant (CDBG)

based on low- to moderate-income standards (LMI). If received, the grant would cut about 10 percent off the total cost of upgrades, thereby saving the city's 1,400 water and sewer customers as much as several hundred dollars over the course of construction financing.

Already, customers are being charged an environment assessment fee on water/sewer bills. Former City Administrator Mark Bryant said last year the fee was calculated to pay for the entire project, but Ledford said that is not necessarily the case.

"When it comes to the im-

See **SURVEY** /Page 5

New mayor slated to be picked Wednesday

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council was scheduled to pick a new mayor at 4 p.m. Wednesday, following long-time Mayor Mickey Alexander's resignation effective Tuesday. Mayor Pro-tem Jared Byford will conduct the meeting.

To fill the unexpired term, the council may select any legal voting resident of the city over the age of 21, but it is expected the council will select one of its own. The body would then be required to fill that vacant seat at a later date. Appointees for either post will serve for the remainder of the

unexpired term that ends December 2018.

Because the meeting was set to take place after the newspaper was printed, The Crittenden Press planned to report the name of the new mayor Wednesday evening at The Press Online. The full story will appear in next week's print edition.

Alexander served as mayor for nearly 29 years after himself being appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bernard Wood in 1988. Alexander cited increased work responsibilities as his reason for retiring from city government.



To find out who Marion's next mayor will be, visit
The Press Online at the-press.com

Board of ed starts recallable nickel tax campaign

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Schools have begun a campaign to offer the community all it needs to know about the board of education's consideration of a

Nickel tax news release Page 3

Kids," referencing a so-called recallable nickel increase in the levy on property.

The school system kicked off its information blitz last week with a news release, which is being published in its entirety in this newspaper. Also planned are short YouTube videos, a PowerPoint presentation and FAQ posted on the school district's website

Recallable nickel by the numbers

5.8 In cents, the so-called "recallable nickel" tax increase the board of education is considering on each \$100 of assessed property.

52.1 In cents, the new tax rate for the school district should the levy be approved.

44 In dollars, the additional amount property owners would pay annually to fund school construction should the recallable nickel be enacted.

31 In millions of dollars, the construction needs of the school system as identified in a recent facilities plan.

8 in millions of dollars, the cost to build a new high school, which would free up the current high school for middle-schoolers.

4.75 In millions of dollars, the current bonding potential of Crittenden County School District.

6 In millions, the extra dollars passing a recallable nickel could generate for school construction. This include a \$3 million match from the state.

Slow growth



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

Linda Morris' new home at the corner of Hillcrest and Summit drives in Greenwood Heights is only the sixth new home built inside the City of Marion since 2009 and the first in the subdivision in 33 years. City officials are aware of the slow growth in the city and are meeting with a planning coordinator next week. Below, Morris stands in what will be the patio doorway of her 2,000-square-foot home.

Greenwood Heights construction only 6th Marion home since 2009

STAFF REPORT

Linda Morris is surprised that her home in Greenwood Heights is only the sixth new house built in Marion proper since 2009.

In fact, the 2,000-square-foot home on the corner of Hillcrest and Summit drives is the first new construction in the last 33 years in that subdivision.

"We're not growing very fast, are we?" Morris said with a chuckle.

She grew up on Brown School Road only a few miles north of what is now Greenwood Heights, but well into a more rural part of the county.

Her parents had lived on Brown School Road before she was born. A tornado destroyed their home in 1938, and they rebuilt nearby, which is where Morris was born a year later.

After she married, Morris and her late husband, Joe, built a house in 1975 near her homeplace. There, she had resided until only recently. After her husband passed away four years ago, Morris knew taking care of the 4,000-square-foot home and 7 acres would be too much. So she moved to town.

Renting doesn't suit her, so the retired hospital employee purchased a corner lot in Greenwood Heights and made history, so to speak.

She wanted to invest in a new home in the city, something rare these days.



"I'd been on Brown School Road about my whole life. It was hard to leave, but I guess I will get used to it," she said.

There has been scant growth inside the corporate city limits of Marion over the last three decades. Records are readily available for new residential housing starts since 2010. There were two homes built in the city that year, but only four since that time, including Morris' home that's now under construction by Mennonite builder Reuben Miller of Fredonia. There were no new homes built in Marion in 2015, 2013 and 2012, according to records at Marion

New home construction

The vast majority of new-home construction in Crittenden County since 2010 has been in rural areas outside the City of Marion. The totals below tell the story of stagnant growth inside the city compared to the county as well as a growing problem with manufactured homes.

YEAR	COUNTY	CITY
2017.....	5.....	1
2016.....	10.....	1
2015.....	16.....	0
2014.....	8.....	1
2013.....	9.....	0
2012.....	7.....	0
2011.....	n/a.....	1
2010.....	n/a.....	2

■ Of the 249 single-wide mobile homes inside Marion, 50 are unoccupied.

City Hall.

Local leaders say they're aware of the stagnant new growth and are beginning to develop a plan for addressing it. Professional planning coordinator Craig Morris from the Pennyryle Area Development District (PADD) will be pres-

See **HOMES** /Page 3

4 lb. Bag
Hy•Top
Sugar

97¢

10 lb. Bag
Leg
Quarters

29¢

Grand Opening
Taste Of The
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FREE Giveaways

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Bar-S
Franks

49¢

Crittenden County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT


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*District 5 (Precincts 3, 6 12)*
Currently vacant
Phyllis Orr resigned the seat due to health reasons. Five have applied for the post to be appointed by the education commissioner.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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GUEST OPINION

Kentucky traffic fatalities on rise

No one is ever prepared to say a final goodbye. There's a unique sting that accompanies deaths that were seemingly avoidable and unnecessary. Last year in Kentucky, 835 people died in crashes. More than half were not buckled up and 20 percent died with impairment as a factor. For the families, co-workers and communities left behind, each number represents an irreplaceable person whose life was snuffed out too early. These are grim, and all too common realities in Kentucky.

It's tempting to downplay 835 deaths compared to 4.4 million residents but the fact is 2016 was among the deadliest years for traffic deaths in the state and nation. Even more startling, nearly 4,000 people have died on Kentucky roads since 2012. Unless we make changes, those numbers will climb.

Deadly crashes don't just happen. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that driver behavior is a factor in 90 percent of road fatalities. We all know the culprits- speeding, unbuckled drivers and passengers, and driving distracted, drowsy, drunk or drugged. Those "4Ds" can transform vehicles and cell phones into deadly weapons. With more vehicles on the road, we're all at greater risk of being involved in a crash.

It's a common misconception that teenager drivers are the primary victims of fatal crashes. In fact, young drivers had the lowest fatality rate in 2016, representing less than 6 percent of highway deaths. The stats show professionals and older drivers, ages 25-64, make up 60 percent of those who have families that have had to say the ultimate goodbye.

While crashes take an emotional toll on those left grieving the lives lost, we can't ignore the collateral costs they impose on communities.

When people die in crashes, there's a far-reaching financial impact too. A crash-related death or life-altering injury creates financial burdens for families and communities from lost wages, property damage, hospitalizations, continuing care and cost of emergency response. Commerce is affected when major routes are closed, causing delivery delays and decreased productivity. In crash-prone metropolitan areas, rising insurance rates reflect the uptick in this deadly trend.

It doesn't have to be this way. Every driver can take simple steps to reverse this trend. Buckle up for every trip, every time. It's the number one way to survive and to go home to loved ones after a crash. Put the cell phone down. Distracted drivers accounted for two-thirds of crashes in 2016. Whatever it is, it can wait. Don't drink and drive. Before you pick up a drink, pick up the phone and plan a ride home. It's up to each individual make the right choices. Choose well and avoid saying the last goodbye.

— Dr. Noelle Hunter, Ph.D
Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

Vet nursing home bill OK'd

It was another busy week in Frankfort.

Senate Bill 2 was brought to the House floor to address badly needed transparency of our retirement systems. For the Judicial Form Retirement System, which administers both the Judicial Retirement Plan and the Legislative Retirement Plan, the bill would require disclosure of meeting notices and agendas for all board meetings at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. It would also require, among other things, disclosure of the names of board members, system staff and their salaries, a list of the professional consultants and their fees and a list of the system's expenditures.

In addition to the new requirements for the Judicial Form Retirement System, the bill adds more requirements to the Kentucky Retirement System (KRS) and the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS). Disclosure of fees or commissions paid to each individual manager or partnership as well as the names and addresses of all managers or partners in any fund where system assets are invested would be required should the bill become law.

I voted yes for a House amendment that would require gubernatorial appointments to have investment experience, and I also voted yes on SB 2 it-



Rep. Lynn BECHLER
Kentucky House Legislative Review

R-Marion
House District 4
Crittenden • Livingston
Caldwell • Christian (part)

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Committees
Transportation; Elections,
Constitutional Amend-
ments & Intergovern-
mental Affairs; Economic
Development & Work-
force Investment

Service
House: 2013-present

self. SB 2, as amended by the House passed, and was sent back to the Senate for its concurrence.

This is the second pension transparency bill that was passed this session. SB 3 was taken up earlier and has already been signed into law. SB 3 made the pensions of legislators – current and former – open to the public to see. We need transparency of Kentucky's pension systems, and I am glad to see movement in that direction.

HB 13 would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10.5 million for construction of a veterans nursing home in Bowling Green if the project gets to the point where it is OK'd by the federal government. Should that happen, federal matching funds will be available for construction. This is an important step in helping to take care of those who gave so much for our country. I voted yes, and the bill passed the House unanimously.

HB 237 is a bill that would provide legal immunity to food providers for their donations to a non-profit organization. Kentucky law already gives a tax break to farmers and grocery stores for donation of food that is wholesome but may not be "pretty enough" to sell, and HB 237 merely provides that they are not subject to civil or crimi-



LRC PUBLIC INFORMATION
Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, presents House Bill 123, a bill regarding children who are committed to the care of the state, in the House Judiciary Committee last week in Frankfort.

nal liability for donating as long as the donation is done in good faith. I voted yes, and this bill also passed the House unanimously.

HB 241 is a bill that acknowledges the problems of concussions in youth sports. It would prohibit coaches from playing students diagnosed with a concussion and would also prohibit students from returning to play if no licensed medical provider is available to evaluate them for a concussion. I voted yes, and this common sense bill is another one that passed unanimously.

HB 311 would allow the executive director of the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers to hire licensed nursing staff on a contract basis in order to provide long-term care of veterans who are in state veterans' nursing homes. These contracts could provide a higher salary than their state employed counterparts but would not include state benefits. The bill is needed when there are shortages of licensed nursing staff in these homes and more nurses are needed. I voted yes, and the bill passed.

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 House District.

(Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, has represented House District 4 – Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and portion of Christian counties – in the Kentucky General Assembly since 2013.)

Bill: Teens must make 60 on citizenship test to graduate

As our time in Frankfort grows shorter, our work escalates. We passed the halfway mark of the 2017 legislative session last week, but there is still much to be done and important bills are still making their way through the legislative process.

Education has been and will continue to be at the top of our priority list. Last, we passed several measures out of the Senate dealing with education.

One such bill, Senate Bill 153, directs that postsecondary funding would be guided by performance-based measures, such as the number of students receiving degrees. The legislation would phase out a funding model based on how much a school received in a previous budget cycle, and instead base it on educational success.

The legislation is the result of a work group made up of the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, university presidents, state budget officials and legislators. The group's final report endorsed the Council on Postsecondary Education's goal of raising the percentage of Kentuckians with postsecondary degrees or certificates from the current level of 45 percent to 58 percent by



Sen. Dorsey RIDLEY
Kentucky Senate Legislative Review

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Crittenden • Caldwell
Henderson • Webster
Livingston • Union

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Committees
Agriculture; Banking &
Insurance; Committee on
Committees; Rules; State
& Local Government;
Transportation

Service
House: 1987-94
Senate: 2004-present

2050.

Under SB 153, the postsecondary funding formula would appropriate 35 percent of funds based on student success tied to outcomes, 35 percent would be tied to total student credit hours and 30 percent would be based on campus operations and student support needs.

The funding model established by SB 153 would be phased in over several years. The bill also calls for a postsecondary work group to review the results of the new funding approach every three years to see if it is successful, and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

Other bills that dealt with postsecondary education or credentials were:

- SB 147, which would remove the maximum number of advanced practice doctoral programs that may be offered by the six comprehensive universities.
- SB 116, which would require the Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy to license out-of-state applicants who did not graduate from an accredited education program but who are licensed or certified in another jurisdiction with comparable requirements to Kentucky.
- SB 107, which would grant the governor the power to abolish and replace the governing boards of all state universi-

ties, KCTCS and the Kentucky Board of Education if he/she determines it is no longer functioning according to its statutory mandate.

Beefing up our students' knowledge of civics was the intent behind SB 159. This measure would require all public high school students to pass a test, based on the citizenship test, in order to receive a diploma. Students would have the opportunity to retake the test as often as needed in order to pass. The passing score was set at 60 percent.

SB 161 would allow the superintendent to determine whether a national background check is required for each initial hire in a classified position as a condition of employment.

Along with addressing some important education issues, the Senate dealt with SB 120, which would revamp significant policies in our criminal justice system. A primary focus of the bill is to reduce recidivism by removing barriers to employment of felons after release. The bill eliminates automatic bans against felons seeking professional licenses or certifications. A mechanism is established to allow private businesses to operate inside prisons, so long as they do not compete with other businesses,

giving inmates an opportunity to learn real-life job skills while also working to pay restitution, child support and their own incarceration costs. The bill also allows greater flexibility for certain inmates in county jails to participate in work release programs.

And because drug abuse is often a reason for both incarceration and post-release unemployment, the bill creates a re-entry drug supervision pilot program and establishes mechanisms for local law enforcement to allow drug abusers to seek their help without fear of being charged for possession.

Some of the other bills that cleared the Senate last week were:

- SB 86 adds dating violence and abuse victims to protections and reporting requirements currently in place for spousal abuse.
- SB 21 permits eligible patients to use investigational drugs, biological products or devices for a terminal illness.
- SB 42 permits a peace officer to make an arrest for assault in the fourth degree when the violation occurs in a hospital and the officer has probable cause.
- SB 89 requires insurance coverage for U.S. Food and Drug

Stay informed

There are several ways to keep up with the 2017 legislative session and share your thoughts with lawmakers.

Legislative Message Line
(800) 372-7181

TTY Message Line
(800) 896-0305

Bill Status Line
(866) 840-2835

Legislative Calendar Line
(800) 633-9650

General Assembly website
LRC.ky.gov

Write any lawmaker
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Legislative Offices
702 Capitol Ave.
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Email any lawmaker
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LRC PUBLIC INFORMATION
The Senate State and Local Government Committee today passed Sen. Dorsey Ridley's Senate Bill 242 relating to cost-of-living adjustment for pension plans for former cities of the third class. The Kentucky League of Cities supports SB 242. Ridley's bill now before the full Senate for further consideration.

Administration-approved tobacco cessation medicines and services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

- SB 129 requires hospitals to provide an opportunity for a patient to designate a lay caregiver, an individual who provides after-care assistance in the person's residence, prior to discharge.

The Senate still has hundreds of bills to vet in the second part of the session. We are just starting to hold hearings on House bills, and there are some important measures headed our way, including the much-talked about charter school legislation.

With the days getting longer and our time to pass legislation getting shorter, your input is more important than ever.

(Sen. Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, has represented Senate District 4 – Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Webster, Union and Henderson counties – in the Kentucky General Assembly since 2004.)



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Business of the Month

Hometown Bookkeeping has been honored by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce as its business of the month. The Chamber regularly recognizes members with the award. Beth Hunt Mullins operates the business which centers its client services on personal and business taxes but offers a full range of bookkeeping resources. Mullins is a 1964 graduate of Crittenden County High School. She has maintained an office in Marion for 10 years. She also has a business in Hopkinsville. She has four employees. Pictured are (from left) Susan Alexander, Chamber executive director; Randa Berry, Chamber president; Mullins; Angel Henry, Chamber director and Holly White, Chamber director.

NICKEL

Continued from Page 1

this week, as well social media posts and a public forum slated for later this month. Superintendent of Schools Vince Clark said the district wants to be as transparent as possible.

“Hopeful to expand learning opportunities for its students, the Crittenden County Board of Education is considering the adoption of a second nickel tax to fund a facilities plan that would lead to the construction of a new high school and move the middle school into the current high school building,” last week’s news release began.

The recallable nickel, also referred to as a second nickel, allows Kentucky boards of education to effectively double property tax revenue committed to facility construction, as a first nickel dedicated to capital projects is already built into the school tax. A facilities plan adopted last fall for the district identifies more than \$31 million in building needs, but the board in the short-term is looking at about \$8 million to vacate a nearly 70-year-old middle school that has undersized rooms and out-of-date infrastructure.

“Aging electrical, plumbing and heating/cooling systems are past their prime,” Clark points out in the release. “Replacing them is not feasible or reasonable for a post-World War II building.”

Classrooms in the middle school are also 100 square feet below Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) standards of 750 square feet. Science classrooms call for an additional 350 square feet. Additional services offered at the school need more space, too.

Building a new high school to meet the growing 21st century needs for secondary students would permit middle-schoolers to move into the current high school.

Though called a recallable nickel, the district will be seeking a nickel plus nearly an entire penny – 5.8 cents. The KDE publication “Nickel Facts” explains that local school building taxes are called nickels because they are 5-cent equivalent taxes.

“The actual tax rate that districts levy to produce the 5 cents equivalent tax is greater than 5 cents because the ... calculation takes into consideration that the tax is exclusively applied to real estate and personal property,” the publication reads. “However, it is not applied to motor vehicles and also adjusts in anticipation that districts will collect less than 100 percent of actual tax revenue owed.”

If approved by the board of education, the additional

HOMES

Continued from Page 1

ent at the next Marion Planning Commission meeting, which is next Thursday.

“We have asked PADD for assistance,” said City Administrator Adam Ledford. “We need to have our eye on the future ... the next 20 years.”

He said a town of Marion’s size, just over 3,000 residents, should be seeing three to four new homes every year, and that’s just not happening

“We need to seriously look at what’s hindering that development,” he said.

School district news release explains need for tax increase

SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

Hopeful to expand learning opportunities for its students, the Crittenden County Board of Education is considering the adoption of a “second nickel” tax to fund a facilities plan that would lead to the construction of a new high school and move the middle school into the current high school building.

Superintendent Vince Clark explains that a local planning committee consisting of parents, teachers, administrators and other community leaders conducted a five-month assessment late last year to determine district needs. While more than \$31 million in needs were identified, Clark says the plan under consideration by the board can be accomplished with a budget of around \$8 million. This would include construction of a new high school, renovating the current high school and 8th grade wing of the existing middle school, and demolishing the sixth- and seventh-grade wing of the middle school.

Clark says the age and structural needs of Crittenden County Middle School are driving factors for the facility plan.

“Built in 1949, CCMS is more than 67 years old,” said Clark. “Aging electrical, plumbing and heating/cooling systems are past their prime. Replacing them is not feasible or reasonable for a post-World War II building.”

Limited learning spaces are an additional concern. Clark said that the Kentucky Department of Education requires new classrooms to be at least 750 square feet, with science classrooms being at least 1,000 square feet. The classrooms in the middle school are only 650 square feet.

Additional space is needed for the school nurse, media and technology needs, Mountain Comp Counseling, a new service providing emotional and behavioral health services to students, and Bridgeway 21st Century Learning Center.

“Also, increasing enrollment will require an extra teacher and administrator in the middle school at the start of next year’s school year,” explained Clark. “We have a lot of students and a lot of programs, but we have very limited space.”

Currently, the school district has a bonding potential of about \$4.75 million, a little more than \$3 million shy of the needed \$8 million for the proposed plan. In order to bridge that gap, Clark says a second nickel tax provides the greatest opportunity to the district’s students.

nickel is subject to recall by voters, who could petition for to take the tax to ballot. If that occurs, Clark said the board could pay for a countywide special election.

It’s not certain when the board might vote on the recallable nickel should they move ahead with the idea, but if it is done in time for 2017 tax bills sent out this fall, a special election would have to take place. That would likely cost the board around \$15,000. The next scheduled election is not until 2018.

School districts are required to transfer the entire amount produced by the recallable nickel to their building fund. Currently, the school district has bonding potential of \$4.75 million. A 5.8-cent tax increase would generate about \$3.1 million locally, and that would be matched by state funds, though not dollar for dollar. That would allow the board to begin construction much sooner than if no additional tax were added.

“We can wait until the year 2025, when some of our bonds for past projects are paid off and evaluate what building projects can be built with the funds available,” explains Clark in the district’s news release, adding that construction costs continue to rise 5-7 percent annually. “Or with the support of our community, our board of education can adopt

the second nickel.”

Clark said the state money through the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky comes from all taxpayers in the commonwealth, including those in Crittenden County. Without taking the recallable nickel, that money will not come back home and will continue going to the 50-plus school districts who have adopted the additional nickel.

Nancy Rodriguez, a spokesperson for KDE, said the recallable nickel does not have a sunset provision. However, the state match would terminate on June 30, 2038, or the date the bonds for the high school project are retired, whichever comes earlier. At that time, the board could eliminate the 5.8-cent tax or keep it with the revenue restricted to future capital outlays.

The recallable nickel is not

“We have two options. We can wait until the year 2025, when some of our bonds for past projects are paid off and evaluate what building projects can be built with the funds available,” said Clark, stressing that construction costs continue to rise five to seven percent with each passing year.

“Or,” he continued, “with the support of our community, our board of education can adopt the ‘second nickel,’ which will generate an additional \$3.1 million locally.”

Clark explained that the state will match that amount, generating over \$6 million additional funds for capital/building projects only.

“We all pay state taxes,” said Clark, “but only those school districts that adopt a second nickel qualify for the state match.”

Many districts in our region, including Henderson, Marshall and McCracken, have adopted the second nickel tax to help fund new schools in their communities. A second nickel is the term given when an additional tax is assessed.

Property owners currently pay 46.3 cents per \$100 of assessed property. This rate is down from the previous 47.8 cents. The state sets aside the first nickel out of that amount to establish the district’s current bonding potential of \$4.75 million, about half of what is needed to upgrade facilities, as outlined in the project proposal. Although the term nickel is used, Clark explains that the nickel is equalized by the state, and for Crittenden County, would equate to 5.8 cents.

If 5.8 cents is added to the county’s current rate of 46.3, then the tax rate would be 52.1 cents per \$100, still 10 cents below the state average of 63 cents per \$100. In Crittenden County, the average property value is \$76,000. Adding a second nickel tax would result in the difference of \$44.08 per year, over the life of the 20-year bond.

Clark says the time is now to move Crittenden County school district forward with facilities that match students and staff with the resources they need to be competitive and successful in a quickly-changing world.

“It does come with a cost,” added Clark, “and we understand that this is not an easy decision. I hope our community agrees, however, that this investment in our children is worth it.”

Clark will host an informational forum at 5:30 p.m. March 14 in the Rocket Arena Conference Room. Community members are encouraged to attend to learn more and ask questions.

Cruel summer: Local swimmers could face swelter without pool

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

When summer unofficially begins on Memorial Day, the pool at Marion Country Club may be dry. And it could stay that way all summer.

The pool at the private club each summer has offered recreation and health benefits to members and regularly to the general public at scheduled times during the season. But the pool has been losing money for several years. Labor and chemical costs are the greatest expenses.

In fact, it’s at a point that management is considering closing the pool without a little help. And they have turned to the City of Marion for some public assistance.

“If nothing changes, and we don’t get some support, the club pool will not open,” said Nathan King, who manages the club.

King has met with representatives of the city, including City Administrator Adam Ledford and council members Jared Byford and Phyllis Sykes. Because of its benefits

to the general public, Ledford said the city is willing to help the club, but is not likely to take over operation or subsidize the private organization.

He said the city has discussed selling water at a lower bulk rate and has offered to help the club locate a nagging leak. The city, too, has refunded hundreds of dollars in water costs that have been overbilled due to erroneous meter readings.

But Ledford said King has made known the club wants the city to wade in a little deeper by either taking over the pool altogether or supplementing the cost to operate it.

“We made it clear to him that the city would not buy or subsidize, particularly if he is

wanting to charge the public a fee,” the city administrator said.

He said officials are aware of the pool’s appeal to the community, particularly the youth, but added spending taxpayers’ money on it when the city has been forced to cut staff and line items from the budget would be ill-advised. Both Ledford and Byford have young children, and Sykes is a former elementary school teacher, but none feel diving in feet first to help the club, even with its summertime attraction for children, is something the city should be doing.

Ledford said attempts to follow up on the issue with King through email have yielded no response.

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Ky. child abuse up 55 percent

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Kentucky continues to fail children five years after it pledged to better protect them.

In response to several embarrassing stories and legal challenges by The Herald-Leader and The Courier-Journal of Louisville, then-Gov. Steve Beshear established in 2012 an independent panel of medical, legal and social work experts to review cases of children who are killed or severely injured by abuse or neglect. The panel gives special attention to cases in which the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services had previous involvement with a family but failed to prevent a tragic outcome.

"When a child dies or is critically injured because of abuse or neglect, we must carefully review the practices of all government entities involved to make sure that our system performed as it was supposed to," Beshear said at the time.

However, since then, the number of substantiated child abuse and neglect findings in Kentucky has steadily risen from 9,934 in fiscal 2012 to 15,378 in fiscal 2016, according to Community Based Services. At least 334 children in those cases died or nearly died from mistreatment.

"The numbers are going up, they're not going down," said 5th Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers. "That's horrible."

According to the family court judge for Crittenden, Union and Webster counties, in 2015 along, 21 children died and another 53 nearly died statewide as a result of abuse or neglect.

"That's not a spanking gone too far; it's not just a dirty home," she said.

The heightened scrutiny has not significantly reduced how often children die or are severely injured despite the presence of state social workers. In its 2014 report, the panel said 66 percent of the 116 cases it reviewed had previous involvement by Community Based Services. In its 2016 report, issued at the start of January, that number was 59 percent of 116 cases — still more than half. Among the cases with state involvement, there was an average of 4.25 previous contacts, the report said.

The state's court system proved no more effective at preventing tragedy. Fifty-seven percent of the cases the panel reviewed in 2016 had a history that could be tracked either through criminal proceedings or behind closed doors in dependency, abuse and neglect hearings. Each of those cases averaged 6.2 court contacts before the child fatality or near-fatality occurred.

Nearly half of the children's deaths reviewed in 2016 were "potentially preventable," the panel concluded. It cited many problems it found along the way, from bystanders who failed to report suspected abuse to social workers sometimes "screening out," or rejecting, substantive tips that are called in, leaving children in danger. When the state does act to remove a child from a chaotic home, there might not be enough stable relatives or foster parents available to accept them.

Dr. Christina Howard, a panel member and chief of pediatric forensic medicine at UK HealthCare, said in a recent interview that she has been forced to call child sexual abuse reports in to Community Based Services three or four times before the reports were accepted. Howard said she always insists that social workers call her back to let her know whether a case was opened concerning her report and, if so, to whom it was assigned. Otherwise, she said, she never would know what happened after she passed along her information.

Kentucky isn't making anywhere near the progress it should to keep children safe, panel members said in interviews. DCBS is struggling to monitor too many cases even as more families collapse every year into drug addiction, they said.

"We need a systemic, a top-to-bottom tightening of the safety net in this state, because too many children are continuing to fall through even when we're aware of a bad situation," said Ed Staats, a panel member who oversees more than 700 volunteers statewide through the Citizen



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

Phyllis O'Neal of Marion is sworn in by Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers Tuesday as the first Court-Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, case worker volunteer in Crittenden County. O'Neal will be assigned cases and act as an advocate for the best interest of abused or neglected children until the child is placed in a safe environment. She will follow the cases to fruition, making recommendations to the court based on the specific needs of the children involved in the case.

Foster Care Review Board.

"I think if the public understood the system better, they would be a lot more concerned about it," Staats said. "These cases — every single one of them is serious to somebody. And some of them are truly godawful."

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which oversees DCBS, says it received 105,527 allegations of child abuse or neglect in fiscal 2016, of which 52,424 met the criteria necessary to start an investigation. Of those, 15,378 were substantiated.

The cases reviewed by the independent panel are a small sample of the total.

"Hindsight is 20/20," said Tim Feeley, the cabinet's deputy secretary and a former family court judge. "You never

just say we're taking children away from a parent."

An overwhelmed system

Some of the panel's recommendations over the past five years have proven slow to implement, including opening up family court proceedings involving abused and neglected children so the system can be scrutinized by the public.

The General Assembly passed a law a year ago to launch that effort. But no courts have opened these hearings yet. As written, the law would not allow courtroom observers to make audio or visual records of the abuse and neglect hearings, or publicly report the names of people involved, and that would make news coverage difficult if not impossible. When the panel recommended opening abuse and neglect hearings, it

ries about a puppy being thrown from a truck window, as bad as that is, we should be reading about the dozen children who are being killed or nearly killed by their own families."

Rogers said, she, too, wishes the cases could be made public to raise awareness.

Other recommendations from the panel carry hefty price tags, including its call for "necessary funding" for the "grossly underfunded" DCBS, which has lost tens of millions of dollars because of state budget cuts from 2009 through this year.

Apart from the cuts, Gov. Matt Bevin put \$3.3 million in the current two-year state budget to provide pay raises for social workers and family support employees. Still, some of Kentucky's social workers juggle 60 to 80 cases at once,

Local volunteers for CASA needed

STAFF REPORT

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program of Hopkins, Webster and Crittenden Counties was formed in 2016 to help abused and neglected children have safe permanent homes as soon as possible through the use of volunteer child advocates called CASA Volunteers.

On Tuesday, Phyllis O'Neal of Marion was sworn in as the first CASA case worker volunteer in Crittenden County. Volunteers like O'Neal are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes.

Daphne Maddox, executive

director of the area three-county CASA program, said more volunteers are needed in Crittenden County to do the same job as O'Neal. She hopes for 12-15 to keep the program effective locally.

Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

CASA Program of Hopkins, Webster and Crittenden Counties has other local ties. Chris Cook of Marion acts as the board chairman.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Maddox at (270) 245-5112 or (270) 875-5646.

win wrote in his appeal. "With the numbers and intensity of cases, it was impractical and near impossible for me to give quality services to between 50 and 60 families in a given month."

In November, social workers warned a legislative committee in Frankfort that the state is sweeping abused and neglected children "under the rug" by not adequately funding DCBS. Social workers who remain at the agency are overworked, underpaid and horrified by what they witness every day, they said.

"It's about the exposure to children being beaten until they are dead, or neglected so badly that they eat their own feces because that's how they survived, and having a supervisor who doesn't understand why your investigation is past due," said Rachel Blanford, a DCBS social worker who quit for a job in the private sector. "It's about dealing with mental illness and substance abuse

tor would tell you they're concerned about this. But I can't tell you what they'd be willing to actually do to make the system more responsive for the children," said state Rep. Tom Burch, D-Louisville, a member of the independent panel that reviewed cases.

"I do predict there won't be any tax increases to raise money to take care of these babies," Burch said. "You can take that prediction to the bank right now. We'll pass legislation against abortion all day long, but once the babies are born, they're on their own."

State Rep. Russell Webber, R-Shepherdsville, who leads the House budget subcommittee that controls DCBS funding, said, "Right now, we're still a year away from the next budget session." Nobody has shown him what DCBS will request or how much state money will be available in 2018, Webber said.

Catching the errors

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will spend most of 2017 assembling a list of what it needs from the state budget in 2018 to better serve families, DCBS commissioner Adria Johnson said.

That's likely to go beyond money to hire more social workers, important as that is, Johnson said. For example, she said, the cabinet hopes to restore the Kinship Care program that provided a \$300 monthly stipend to relatives who agree to accept children removed from a troubled home. State budget cuts forced the program to stop accepting new people in 2013.

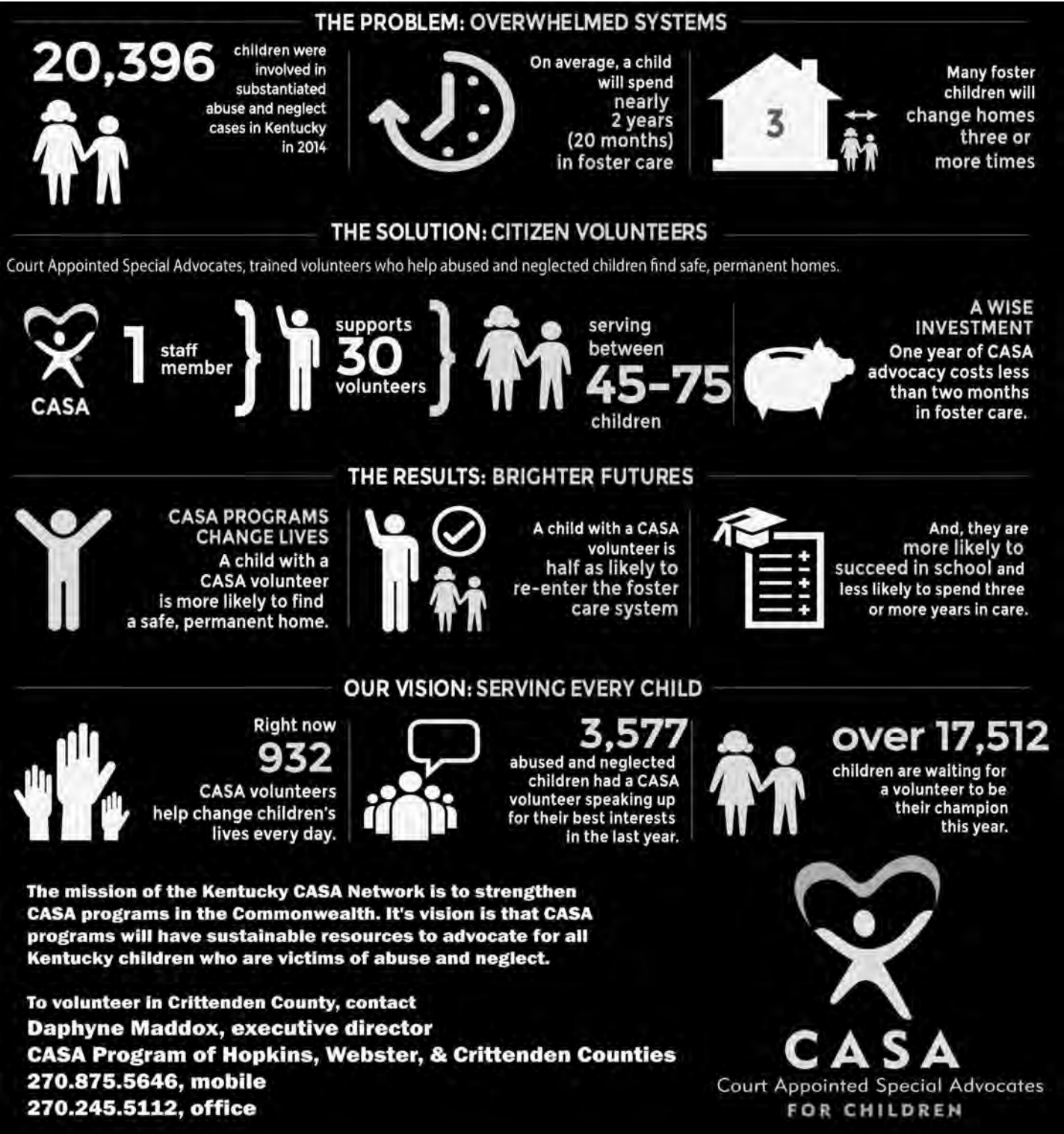
Johnson not only runs DCBS, she also sits on the panel that meets to examine — and often criticize — her agency's work. It has been an educational experience, she said.

"Each case is unique in some respects, so it's hard for me to make a sweeping statement as to 'Here are certain deficiencies,'" she said. "I do think I have a workforce that works extremely hard at doing their job each and every day they come here to do that. I'm also not too naïve to know that when caseloads are high, when the work is overwhelming, that that by and of itself can lead to certain things that we see in certain cases."

Johnson said she is always concerned when DCBS is warned of problems in a home, and yet a child is nonetheless killed or badly hurt. Based on what it has learned from its internal reviews, the agency is working to be more sensitive during the intake process so legitimate abuse and neglect reports aren't screened out, she said. Once an investigation is opened, social workers are communicating more closely with their supervisors. When children at risk are 4 or younger, the county-level offices initiate a "high-risk consult that gets elevated to here (in Frankfort) at central office," she said.

"I do think that we have done a good job of putting into place appropriate supports and higher-level reviews to ensure that a front-line worker isn't making a decision in isolation and has the support that they need, (and is also) looking comprehensively at what has happened with that case and with the prior history," the commissioner said. "It's just continuous quality improvement over our work."

(The Crittenden Press contributed to this story.)



know how it's going to come out, but you have to make the best call when you're seeing a case. On the fatality review board, it's a wonderful review to point out where we might have made mistakes. But they don't — they see those cases that did turn out badly for a child. They don't see the overwhelming number of cases where we do the right thing."

The cabinet's primary mission, Feeley said, is to reunify children with their biological parents.

"When we know that there's a safety issue, we step in and do the best we can," he said. "If we suspect there's a safety issue, it's not so easy to

called for full transparency "to increase public awareness." The legislation that ultimately passed was a compromise measure, panel members said.

"The worst part of my first year as a judge in these cases was that none of the horrible things I was seeing in my courtroom every day — the horrible things happening to children — none of that was reported in the newspaper, because nobody from outside was allowed to watch. And I wish they were!" said Jefferson Family Court Chief Judge Paula Sherlock, a longtime advocate for opening court proceedings. "Instead of sto-

a load that is several times heavier than recommended and that leads to high rates of staff burnout and turnover.

In 2013, DCBS suspended for five days a social worker in Madison County, Robert Wayne Baldwin, who skipped home visits with two dozen of his assigned families for as long as half a year. Before he agreed to accept his punishment, Baldwin briefly appealed to the state Personnel Board, arguing that the case-load he inherited from his exiting colleagues was unmanageable.

"I was unfairly suspended for my being overwhelmed by swollen case numbers," Bald-

and domestic violence and not having adequate training. It's about walking into a home where a mother is lying lifeless with a needle in her arm, and the baby is soaked in urine with a bottle of spoiled milk and cheeks that should be chunky are sunken in, and you have no place to put that baby, no home to place that baby."

Hiring more social workers around the state — there are about 1,800 who work in the division that protects children — would cost millions. But the legislature won't revisit the state budget until next year.

"I think the average legisla-

USDA collecting data on farmland rental rates

STAFF REPORT

Beginning in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service began contacting Kentucky farmers to gather land rental rate information for the Cash Rents and Leases survey. The results of this survey will serve as a valuable decision-making tool for farmers and can be used for 2018 rental agreement negotiations. "This brief survey is our only

source of county cash rental rates," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "By responding, producers ensure USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data, such as for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Farmers will find the information valuable for evaluating land costs." Data uses include: - Farm Service Agency (FSA) uses

cash rent county estimates to determine market-based rates in administering USDA programs, such as CRP. - Other state and federal government agencies, universities, and research organizations use these data for other forms of economic analysis. - The data provide farmers with current information about rental rates in their county and are available for their use in making deci-

sions regarding renting and leasing farmland. NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for nonirrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland Sept. 8, 2017. Nearly 8,500 Kentucky farmers will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure internet connection. In late March, NASS representatives

will begin calling and visiting farmers who have not yet responded. "NASS will combine your responses with your fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of U.S. average rent and lease rates," Knopf added. For more information about the Cash Rents and Leases survey, call the NASS at (800) 928-5277, or visit <https://goo.gl/tCcSP1>.



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Road Scholar

Crittenden County Road Foreman Audi Maraman was recently presented a certification for completing the Road Scholar and Master Program through the University of Kentucky. The program is designed for those who lead public transportation and maintenance systems. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom made the presentation during last week's fiscal court meeting. Newcom said the program includes a number of classes on a variety of subjects to help improve the quality of Kentucky's road foremen and highways officials. The classwork includes areas such as snow removal, communications, managing employees, public speaking and road building and maintenance.

Mineral museum lands \$900 from grant

STAFF REPORT

The Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum has received a \$909 grant from the Kentucky Local History Trust Fund, the Kentucky Historical Society announced last week. The museum on North Walker Street will use the money to add technology capabilities to its classroom so that staff can teach in multiple ways, reach more people and have better interaction with students, scouts and other visitors.

Kentuckians who are due a state income tax refund can designate all or part of it to the trust fund at the time they file their taxes. Donations go toward a grant pool to help local historical organizations — museums, cemetery preservation groups, educators, genealogical societies and more — to meet professional standards and to share their community's role in Kentucky's development. This voluntary dona-



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Ed Clement (left) receives a check for \$909 on behalf of the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum from Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom last week. The money is from a grant awarded by the Kentucky Local History Trust Fund. Clement is the son of the museum's namesake.

tion can be made by checking a box on the tax return, designating a portion of one's state income tax refund to the fund. Any local history organization is eligible to

apply for a grant. The mineral museum is one of 17 recipient organizations from the first grant pool. The Kentucky Historical Society administers the fund.

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1

pact on the environmental assessment, I would point out that until the project is complete and the engineers conduct a final rate assessment, it is unclear if the environmental fee is sufficient or not," he explained.

Ledford said the city is further exploring options to reduce the local burden created by a project of this size by "aggressively" reviewing options that include the length of

debt, the most advantageous debt interest rates and any other grant opportunities that are available.

This will not be the first time the city has conducted an LMI survey. Once completed, they are good for three years, the city administrator said, and could qualify Marion for additional grant opportunities. He said his previous employer, Sac City, Iowa, saved \$1.8 million across four projects through the CDBG program. Ledford said the fact that the City of Marion is under an agreed order with

the Kentucky Division of Enforcement to complete a new sewer plant makes it favorable a grant will be awarded.

The questionnaire asks for demographic, household, water/sewer and income information. Income is indicated by selecting a range. Generally, the questions will be posed by city employees going door to door, asking the questions. Names of respondents will be attached to each completed survey.

Ledford said he understands the hesitancy of people to answer questions seeking

what may be considered rather personal information.

"...But if I knew the result of my action would save my community and my neighbor's money in the long run, I would feel obligated to help," he said. "I also understand those who choose not to answer."

Those choosing to not answer will be counted against the 51 percent needed to qualify for the grant.

Households to be surveyed were chose at random through software utilized by Pennyrile Area Development

District (PADD) in Hopkinsville. PADD staff also devised the questionnaire.

"I can tell you that no one from Marion or Crittenden County was involved in the selection process," Ledford said.

Because response to surveys mailed to homes is generally low, the city opted for the door-to-door method. But during the next two months of surveying, Ledford said those selected for the survey could

choose to stop by city hall and complete the survey there.

"The only step an employee would likely take would be a quick glance over the form to make sure every required line has been completed before placing it in a box," he said. "Once the process is complete, the box will then be handed over to PADD for tabulation."

Anyone with questions about the survey may contact city hall at (270) 965-2266.

USDA Ledbetter weigh-out sale | Feb. 28, 2017

LIVESTOCK REPORT

Receipts: 540				
Last Week: 776				
Last Year: NA				
Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers traded unevenly steady. Feeder bulls steady to 2.00 higher. Slaughter cows and bull mostly steady.				
Sale consisted of 35 stock cattle, 45 slaughter, and 460 feeders. Feeders consisted of 27% feeder steers, 29% feeder heifers, 30% feeders bulls and 16% of feeders were over 600 pounds.				
Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1-2				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	150-200	185	202.50	202.50
1	200-250	200	217.50	217.50
8	250-300	290	164.00-171.00	166.67
5	300-350	312	174.00-180.00	176.20
6	350-400	383	160.00-162.00	161.03
14	400-450	411	159.00-165.00	162.32
12	450-500	483	144.00-156.00	153.37
9	500-550	507	147.00-154.50	151.65
8	550-600	578	125.00-126.00	125.63
1	550-600	560	140.00	140.00
3	600-650	608	130.00	130.00
16	650-700	679	121.00-127.00	125.75
3	750-800	796	115.00	115.00
5	800-850	825	108.00-114.00	112.78
1	850-900	880	104.00	104.00
Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2-3				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	200-250	232	168.00-175.00	171.54
3	250-300	275	153.00	153.00
2	350-400	377	162.00	162.00
5	400-450	419	152.00-155.00	152.83
9	450-500	460	137.00-142.00	140.96
5	500-550	536	131.00-142.00	135.21
1	600-650	605	117.00	117.00
Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1-2				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	200-250	240	138.00	138.00
1	250-300	285	133.00	133.00
8	300-350	345	135.00-145.00	143.18
8	350-400	369	134.00-139.00	136.56
14	400-450	426	129.00-137.00	134.08
42	450-500	470	126.00-135.00	130.07

6	500-550	527	120.00-125.00	122.79
8	500-550	505	136.00	136.00
16	550-600	583	114.00-120.00	115.20
5	600-650	631	111.00-112.00	111.61
7	700-750	716	106.00-109.00	107.28
Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2-3				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	300-350	310	130.00	130.00
4	350-400	382	128.00	128.00
2	400-450	428	121.00-127.00	124.09
4	450-500	477	121.00-125.00	122.94
3	500-550	516	114.00-117.00	114.98
Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
21	300-350	330	160.00-169.00	165.80
9	350-400	375	158.00-169.00	163.14
8	400-450	428	146.00-156.00	153.70
5	400-450	408	160.00	160.00
14	450-500	469	139.00-148.00	144.67
15	500-550	525	131.00-137.00	134.21
23	550-600	584	121.00-127.00	124.83
13	600-650	615	117.00-126.00	120.99
2	650-700	652	115.00	115.00
4	700-750	723	109.00	109.00
1	800-850	815	100.00	100.00
Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 2-3				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	350-400	370	125.00-138.00	131.15
5	400-450	419	134.00-141.00	139.00
8	450-500	479	126.00-136.00	133.73
3	500-550	525	119.00-125.00	122.63
1	550-600	550	115.00	115.00
1	700-750	740	102.00	102.00
Slaughter Cows Breaker 75-80%				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	1200-1600	1470	50.00-52.00	51.30
1	1200-1600	1255	64.00	64.00
1	1600-2000	1645	55.00	55.00
Slaughter Cows Boner 80-95%				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	800-1200	1170	52.00-54.00	52.99
1	800-1200	1145	48.00	48.00
6	1200-1600	1328	52.00-57.00	55.18
1	1200-1600	1365	48.00	48.00

Slaughter Cows Lean 85-90%				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
11	800-1200	1070	49.00-55.00	51.70
4	800-1200	908	45.00-48.00	46.28
1	1200-1600	1205	50.00	50.00
1	1200-1600	1295	45.00	45.00
Slaughter Bulls Y.G. 1-2				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	1000-1500	1475	72.00	72.00
1	1000-1500	1390	66.00	66.00
4	1500-3000	1674	70.00-77.00	73.46
1	1500-3000	1840	67.00	67.00
Bred Cows Medium and Large 1-2 Young				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	1200-1600	1245	107.00-115.00	110.64
Bred Cows Medium and Large 1-2 Middle-Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	800-1200	982	79.00-90.00	874.81
Bred Cows Medium and Large 1-2 Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	800-1200	1078	77.00-89.00	835.16
Bred Cows Medium and Large 2-3 Young				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	1200-1600	1275	71.00	71.00
Bred Cows Medium and Large 2-3 Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	800-1200	921	500.00	500.00
Bred Cows Medium and Large 2-3 Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	800-1200	960	600.00	600.00
Stock Cows and Calves: Cows 7 years to aged with calves at side 900.00-1100.00 per pair.				
Baby Calves: Beef 190.00-310.00 per head.				

Bred Cows Medium and Large 2 Young				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	800-1200	1170	870.00	870.00
Bred Cows Medium and Large 2-3 Young				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	800-1200	970	825.00	825.00
Bred Cows Medium and Large 2-3 Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
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<i>This report reflects price of majority of cattle with a USDA grade, weight and sex on sale date. This report does not represent all animals at sale.</i>				

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Deaths Williams

Jacqueline “Jacquie” Lawson Williams, 78, of Lola died Friday, Feb. 24, 2017. She was born in Chicago, Ill., on May 24, 1938 and moved to Lola in 1969. She was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church. Surviving are her husband, Bob; daughter, Gina Perrin (Mike); granddaughter, Brittany Asher (Cole); and great-grandchildren, Haylee Perrin and Lawson, Sam, Alex and Carmen Asher. She was preceded in death by a son, Robbie; grandson, Bradley; and parents Margaret and Edward Lawson. Services were Sunday, Feb. 26 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Mike Grimes and Bro. E.J. Saint officiating. Burial was Bethel Cemetery.

Croft

Frankie Mae Croft, 92, of Marion died Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 at Crittenden Rehabilitation Center. She was born in Hamilton County, Ill., on May 18, 1924 to William Hayes Easley and Lillian Nation Easley. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her daughters, Carolyn Martin of Henderson and LaNaye Croft of Tampa, Fla.; sons Rickey (Brenda) Croft and Jerry Croft, both of Marion; grandchildren, Chuck Martin, Kim Green, Phylis Martin, Cindy Meredith, all of Henderson, Chad Croft of Lexington, Kristee Croft Shoulders of Marion, Jeremy Croft of Mississippi, and LaTosha Smith of Cordon; eight great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil Croft; sisters, Augriete Easley, Muriel Wright, Anna Hayes Sherer and Louise Loftis; brother, John William Easley; and her parents. Services are at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 2 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremations Services with Bro. Jimmy Porter officiating. Burial will follow at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 11 a.m., until the funeral hour. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Grove Cemetery Fund, c/o Roger Hearrell, treasurer, 43 SR 838 W, Marion, KY 42064.

Weekly Devotion S•T•E•P•P•I•N•G ■ S•T•O•N•E•S

By JOEY DURHAM
GUEST COLUMNIST
Today's devotion is “Perilous Times? Trucebreakers and False Accusers!” My text is 2 Timothy 3:1-3a, where we see, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers... (KJV) We are living in “perilous” or dangerous times because these days are ever increasing with those who will not keep their word. This not only applies to individuals, but also to nations as well. These are ones who would rather fight than bind themselves ethically and morally to keep their word. Trucebreakers are hostile toward any kind of reconcilia-

tion and would rather “get a divorce” and base it on “irreconcilable differences” when the truth of the matter is that they simply will not humble themselves to make amends. This mindset has imperiled many a home and family! “False accusers” also characterize the perilousness of these last days. These are individuals who slander and speak evil of others by telling lies about them. The underlying word for “false accusers” in this text is the same word used in scripture for “devil.” Thus, scripturally speaking, to be a false accuser is to act and speak like Satan himself. These people speak malicious words so as to destroy another's reputation and would rather spread gossip than try to find out whether something is true or false. An uncontrolled tongue

has slain many victims. Christians need to keep their word and control their tongues. In so doing, they will set themselves apart from the wicked days in which we live and be an example of godliness for the honor, praise and glory to the darling Son of God!
(Editor's note: Joey Durham, pastor of Sturgis Baptist Church, shares his views periodically in this newspaper. His opinions are his own and are not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

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Wednesday night Bible study: 6 p.m.
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Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 6 p.m.

Marion Church of God
334 Fords Ferry Road • Marion, Kentucky
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Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.
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**Crooked Creek Baptist Church**
261 Crooked Creek Church Road, Marion, Ky.
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Sunday morning worship, 11 am
Sunday evening worship, 6 pm
Pastor Bro. Mark Gitten

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College and Depot streets, Marion • 270.965.5232
Dr. Mike Jones, pastor
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Life groups/Sunday School 9:30 pm
Late worship service 10:45 pm
AWANA 5:45 pm
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Dennis Weaver, pastor

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Hurricane Church Road off Ky. 135 West
Bro. John Robertson, Pastor
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**Mexico Baptist Church**
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Pastor Tim Burdon
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Sunday school - 10 am • Worship service - 11 am

**Marion General Baptist Church**
341 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.
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**Crayne Community Church**
Crayne Cemetery Road
Crayne, Ky.
Bro. Tommy Hodge, pastor
Sunday school 10 AM | Sunday worship 11 AM



Pages 7-12

Here comes the

Bride

PAGE 7

THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

MARCH 2, 2017

A hashtag, written with a # symbol, is used to index keywords or topics on social media. To put it simply, a hash tag is simply a way for people to search for posts that have a common topic and to begin a conversation.

#Wedding Fails

As hard as we try to make sure every wedding detail is carried out to perfection, there are some things that are simply beyond our control. Others just get fouled up in the rush of trying to make sure everything is perfect.

The Crittenden Press solicited comments

from local brides via social media, and we hope you enjoy these wedding mishaps that surely mortified the bride at the time, but hopefully can create a good laugh now.

Using hashtags to communicate, look closely and see if you can determine the disasters.

Leslea Buffington Barnes

#NotMyChoiceToOpenWith

My Uncle was in a band so their wedding present to us was to play at our reception. They opened with "Trashy Women."

Tiffany Clark Blazina

#MotherinlawDislocatesHipDancingAtWeddingReception

Candy Belt Yates

#ThePreacherCalledMeByMyHusbandsExWife

Viki Jorgensen-Carlson

#BlackLabRingBearer

#GreatExamples

#LastingMarriages

My dog knew he was "the one" before I did! One thing I will never forget at my wedding was both sets of parents were there and still married and all four sets of grandparents were there and still married! It's rare these days.

Andrea Shemwell

I have a plethora of wedding flops. Unity candle blew out, he invited another couple on our honeymoon. He thought I was telling him that "I wanted out" when I was trying to tell him "the (unity) candle went out". We were supposed to be at the church at 10 a.m. for pictures but my sister and I were at Dillard's buying a bra because she forgot hers. Got to the church and she had purchased a 42DD.

Marilyn Shannon Porter

#LitTheUnityCandleTooEarly

#GotBurnt

#CussedInFrontOfPastor

#120DegreesInMemphisHotJulyWedding

#HasItAllOnVideo

Michele Lanham Hodge

#HoneymoonInJail/WaxMuseum

Millie Bailey Jorgensen

#JulyWeddingVeryHot

#UshersWentToLightCandlesOnThePewsAsTheyPutFlameToWickTheCandlesWiltedOverFromHeat

Bridget Davis Terry

#ProjectorBulbBurnedOut

Jennifer Truitt Gibson

When preacher says any objections, groomsman (husband's nephew) passes out. Then, groomsman's mom (husband's sister) yells and cusses at everyone to get back. Twenty-two years later and we still get a laugh out of it!

Jill Lasley Craft

#TheBestManPassesOutAndAnOnlookerFlippedFeetUpInHerChair

Heather Herrin Green

#IceSwansNeckBroke

Casey Winstead

#NoShowGroomsman

Rebecca Guess

I passed out during my best friends wedding. Went down a few stairs. Apparently there is video of it.

Brandy Robertson Wagoner

#funniesthomevideomomentrepeat

A couple of days before our wedding we watched a TV segment on weddings. One couple said, "...for Richard or poorer." My husband has an Uncle Richard, so we laughed at it. During our own vows, he must have been super nervous or something, because when the preacher asked, "Will you take....," he said, "I do!" Then at "...for richer or poorer," he said, "Richard." We started laughing, and it was downhill from there. Neither of us could keep from laughing. Of course, it meant I didn't cry, but watching our video now, you just see us laughing, wiping our eyes and smiling through the whole thing!

Shirley Kirk

Ten minutes before Brittany and Troy got married, the ring bearer (Maeson Myers) decided he was not going down the aisle because he had to go home and feed his dogs. He was crying and missed his dogs.

Robin Duncan-Curnel

#WrongMusicDuringLightingOfUnityCandle

Someone messed up the tapes prior to the wedding, and one of Shania Twain's top hits "Don't Be Stupid" was blaring throughout the church instead of the ballad "From This Moment."

TERESA HASTIE FOSTER

#JuniorGroomsmanPassedOutMinisterSaidGetHimOutOfHere

#MinisterForgotToSayYouMayKissTheBride

David Combs

#ReceptionFail

They dropped one of the tiers of our wedding cake.

Bonita Hatfield

During the rehearsal, my mother was chatting with the minister, and she asked him, "What time is your other funeral today." She had heard he had another wedding that day.

Latisha and Randy Bell

#CouldntFindOurBedAtTheOpryland Hotel

It was in the wall. (Those Murphy beds can be sneaky!) It was crazy! We didn't get there until after midnight because we had a 5 p.m. wedding. Bad idea! We had to call and ask about our bed, and they said, "We will be right up to turn it down." It was so embarrassing! But we laugh about it now!

Brenda Croft

#GroomGivenLaxativeByFriendBeforeWedding

#NotFunnyAtTime

#StillNotTooFunny

Nancy Weldon Hodge

On our marriage license, the preacher wrote Mr. and Mrs. Marty Weldon. Marty ran up the driveway after him.

Lydia Miniard

#DecidedOnSundayToGetMarriedOnMonday

#16PeoplePresent

#LovedIt

#GotMarriedInJeans

Lindsay Thompson Carter

#AirlinesLostMyBridesmaidsLuggageIncludingHerDress

#OurGroomsmanWoreTwoDifferentShoes

#BothBlackShoesThough

My mom drove to David's Bridal in Paducah that morning and, luckily, they had one more left. Her original dress had been altered, so we were nervous. The new dress ended up fitting perfectly, and my mom made it back in time. Christie's luggage showed up after the reception (but) she had to borrow clothes for the rehearsal too. Panic then, but funny now.

Diana Phillips Herrin

While leaning in to get a slice of cake, a guest caught her hair on fire. Didn't burn much, but the process of putting it out was hilarious! I helped plan my niece's wedding and was adamant about tradition! At rehearsal, she and her fiancé cooked up a plan that all but myself were privy to. The bridesmaids and groomsmen danced down the aisle to some heavy metal and pop music. I thought they were serious, and they videoed my reaction without my knowing then had a big laugh. It was fun but I was horrified for a bit!

Kimberly Bonam Shoulders

So all I had on my honeymoon was a strapless bra, not cute in a white tank top and cute pants I had packed Oh, and I had no makeup; it didn't get from the church to my overnight bag.

Allison Mick Evans

#sisterforgottherings

Phyllis Sykes

#TheGroomFaintedAndGroomsmenCarriedHimOutGroomsFatherTookHisPlaceForRestOfWedding

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Wedding Budgets 101

Careful planning can keep expenses of ceremony down

METRO SERVICES

Couples engaged to be married have a lot on their plates as they begin planning their weddings. Whereas tradition once demanded parents of the bride pay for a couple's wedding, nowadays more and more engaged couples are completely or partially financing their own nuptials. That means prospective brides and grooms must develop wedding budgets that won't ensure their first act as Mr. and Mrs. is paying down debt.

In its 2015 Real Weddings Study, online bridal resource The Knot found that many couples still receive substantial financial support from their parents to pay for their weddings. The survey found that, on average, the bride's parent's contributed 44 percent of the overall wedding budget in 2015, while couples financed 43 percent (the remaining 13 percent was financed by the groom's parents and additional sources). Couples who hope to follow that formula or pay for their weddings on their own can heed the following tips to build wedding budgets that won't break the bank but will still ensure a day to remember forever.

- Examine your collective finances. Few couples know the

details of each other's finances before getting engaged. While some may still hesitate to share their personal financial information upon getting engaged, an open and honest discussion and examination of each person's finances is the only way to develop a realistic wedding budget that both partners can live with. Once couples know what they can contribute, they can then consult their parents to determine if their mothers and fathers are intending to contribute.

- Develop a preliminary guest list. A preliminary guest list can give couples an idea of how large and expensive their weddings will be. According to the Real Weddings Study, the average cost per wedding guest in 2015 was \$237. While that cost can vary greatly depending on geography and other factors, couples should keep that figure in mind when drafting their guest lists. If need be, keep costs down by trimming the guest list so it includes only close family members and friends.

- Don't count on gifts. Many couples justify runaway wedding budgets by telling themselves that they will ultimately get the money back via wedding gifts. While many guests will

give financial gifts, counting on such windfalls is a recipe for accruing debt. Do not build potential wedding gifts into your wedding budget. If you do so and your expectations fall short, you could be facing considerable debt upon returning home from your honeymoon.

- Gather quotes before choosing where to tie the knot. Where couples get married will have a great impact on how much money they will spend on their weddings. For example, the Real Weddings Study found that, in 2015, the average wedding in Manhattan cost couples slightly more than \$82,000, while the average Alaskan wedding cost just over \$17,000. Venues within the same city can vary greatly with regard to pricing and offerings as well, so couples should give themselves ample time to gather quotes and find an affordable venue they like.

- Build extra costs into your budget. When determining a budget you can live with, remember to include a little extra for unforeseen costs. Weddings are large undertakings, and it's reasonable to expect some unforeseen costs to arise. Building such costs into your initial budget will make these unforeseen circumstances that much easier to handle.

Budgets can help couples stay on track and avoid debt as they plan their weddings.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Heirloom wedding

Marking a special day while remembering those who are no longer with us is important to many brides. Misty Porter was no exception, as she had her late father Larry Armstrong's wedding ring wrapped around her wedding bouquet. Married on her husband Jeff's family farm near Tolu in 2016, Porter planned ahead for restless children at the outdoor ceremony. "We had our great-nephews and niece in the wedding, so I used old children's rocking chairs for them to sit in and provided coloring books and Crayons in case they wanted them," Porter said. "One rocking chair was my dad's when he was little, so it was special that his great-grandson was sitting in it." The other rocking chair was my sister's that I refinished when she was pregnant with her first daughter, and my great-niece sat in it." Finally, the groom's mother provided a chair from her childhood which was used by his great-nephew.

'I do' take 2: Second weddings growing more lavish

METRO SERVICES

Couples are returning to the altar in increasing numbers, as second and third weddings are becoming ever more popular. Pew Research Center indicates that, as of 2014, 64 percent of divorced or widowed men have remarried, compared with 52 percent of previously married women.

Lavish second weddings were once uncommon, but that trend is also shifting. Couples who are taking another crack at marriage are tying the knot with renewed vigor and with weddings that may rival some first-timers'.

Men and women who are re-marrying after divorce or being widowed may not know how to approach planning their upcoming nuptials. The following are some guidelines to making the wedding sequel a success.

Wardrobe

Couples who have been married before often find that they have more leeway with regard to their wedding wardrobes than they did when tying the knot for the first time. Brides may choose something less traditional than a long, white dress.

In fact, this can be a time to let loose and select something that is festive or even funky. This also may provide a great opportunity to choose clothing styles from different cultures or ties into one's heritage. This freedom also allows brides to broaden their horizons with regard to where to buy their wedding wardrobes.

Grooms may opt for something more casual than a tuxedo or coordinate with their brides-to-be so they are on the same creative page. Colored tuxedos and vintage suits are acceptable, even though such attire might have raised a few eyebrows the first time around.

Guest list

The guest list doesn't have to be a source of anxiety. Others will understand that there may be a melange of people at a second wedding. Children from previous marriages as well as divorced spouses or former parents-in-law are not out of the question. Even if exes will not be included, make sure they know about the nuptials in advance of others. It's common courtesy, and it can help head off feelings of ill-will.

Some couples choosing to tie

the knot again scale back the size of the wedding this time around, feeling something smaller and more intimate — with only the closest of friends and family — is more suitable.

Registries and wedding gifts

Considering couples who have been married previously likely have many of the housewares and items for daily living that first-timers may not, registering for these gifts is not necessary. What's more, some of the same guests may have been present at first marriages and gifted them. In lieu of gifts, couples may ask guests to donate to a specific charity or forgo gifts altogether.

Vows

Couples can use experience to draft vows that have personal meaning to their unique situations and make the wedding ceremony even more special.

People getting married again can impart their own personalities into the ceremony and party to follow. There are no hard rules governing second weddings, so couples can plan their weddings with good times in mind.



METRO SERVICES

People getting married a second time can impart their own personalities into the ceremony and party to follow. There are no hard rules governing second weddings, so couples can plan their weddings with good times in mind.

Memorials can add touch to weddings

METRO SERVICES

Weddings are momentous occasions that are full of happy sentiments. But for couples who recently lost loved ones, an undercurrent of sadness may make wedding ceremonies and receptions somewhat bittersweet.

Loss touches everyone at one point or another, but it can be particularly sorrowful when the loss of a loved one occurs close to couples' wedding day. Even though it can be challenging to acknowledge that someone close is no longer around to participate in a wedding, there are plenty of ways for couples to express their heartfelt sentiments for lost loved ones on their wedding days.

- Establish a memory table. A memory table is a place where you may put a photo of a loved one or items he or she may have given you that mean something

special.

- Play an upbeat song. Invite guests onto the dance floor and request the DJ or band plays a song in your lost loved one's honor. Perhaps it is a song that contains that person's name or is a tune he or she just loved.

- Keep a memento close by. Sew something symbolic of your lost loved one into your wedding gown or tuck it into a pocket of your tuxedo so you know he or she is always nearby.

- Reserve an empty chair. Keep a chair at the ceremony and the reception empty for your departed loved one.

- Dove or butterfly release. Symbolize unending love by releasing doves or butterflies in honor of your lost loved one. This can be both a touching tribute and also a beautiful spectacle that couples and their guests will remember forever.

Average engagement grown to 14.5 months

METRO SERVICES

According to the 2015 Real Weddings Study from the premier multiplatform wedding resource The Knot, the most popular month for couples to get engaged is December. Sixteen percent of survey respon-

dents became engaged in the final month of the calendar year.

The survey also found that the average length of a couple's engagement is now 14.5 months.

Where June once was the most popular month of the year to tie the knot, today's couples are now heading down the aisle most often in October. Seventeen percent of weddings now occur in October, closely followed by 15 percent in September.

And at what age are couples saying their "I dos"? The average marrying age for a bride is 29 and it is 31 for the groom.

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Weddings

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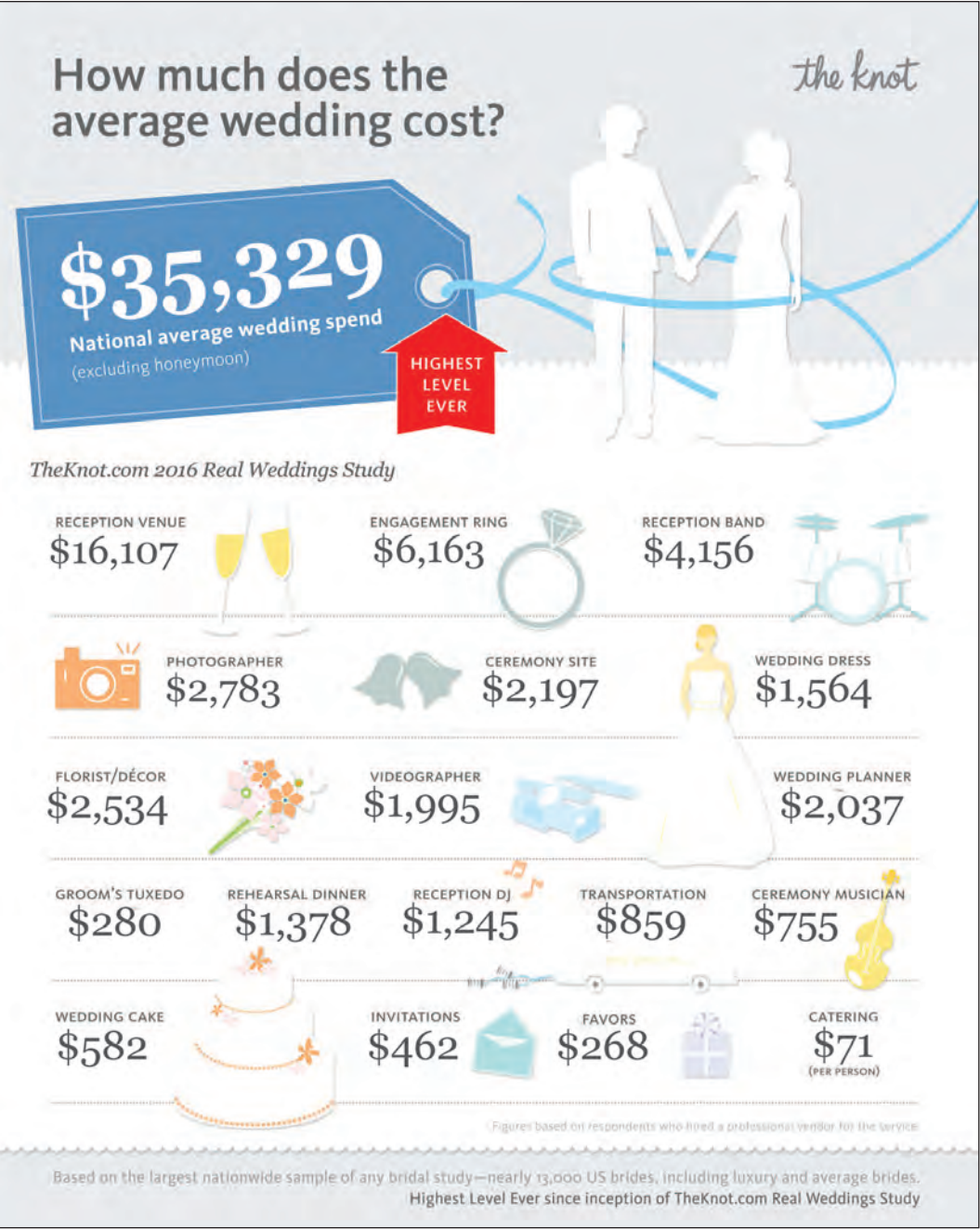
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Average American wedding now costs more than \$35,000

THE KNOT

TheKnot.com just released its 10th annual The Knot 2016 Real Weddings Study, and that means it's time to talk wedding costs and spending trends. After surveying nearly 13,000 real brides and grooms across America, we found that the overall cost of a wedding has soared to new heights, with a national average of \$35,329, and that's not including the honeymoon.

The Knot started tracking the average cost of a wedding in 2006, and 10 years later that amount has hit an all-time high. Since just last year's survey, which revealed a national average of \$32,641, the average cost of a wedding has increased by \$2,688 (a bigger jump than that from 2014 to 2015, a \$1,428 difference).

But remember, this number is still an average, which means, depending on where you choose to wed, your wedding bill could be higher or lower. Tying the knot in, say, Manhattan could cost an average of \$78,464, while an Arkansas wedding will average at \$19,522.

So what trends and habits are causing this drastic leap in wedding spending? Couples today have total personalization and unforgettable guest experi-

Ky. wedding costs \$20,000

STAFF REPORT

The Wedding Report Inc. differs slightly in its results measuring the average cost of a wedding. According to the research company that tracks and forecasts the number of weddings, spending and consumer trends for the wedding industry, the average U.S. wedding cost \$26,720 in 2016, up \$75 from 2015. The average price of a wedding in Kentucky last year was \$20,078. There were 32,768 weddings in the commonwealth in 2016.

ences top of mind. Interestingly, that doesn't mean a larger head count. In fact, the average number of wedding guests has decreased to 141, down from 149 in 2009, while the average cost per guest has increased to \$245, up from \$194 in 2009.

With to-be-weds now shelling out more money per guest, they're more excited than ever to create the ultimate guest experience complete with out-of-the-box entertainment and

exceptional amenities, including everything from food trucks, lawn games and photo booths to aerialists, gospel choirs and live portrait artists.

The average number of wedding guests has actually dropped from 149 in 2009 to 141 this year, so this cash isn't going toward more seats. Instead, spending on custom entertainment has tripled, which means people are shelling out lots more on photo booths, games, music performances, and even fireworks. More couples are splurging on signature cocktails, wine and liquor tastings, and even cigar-rolling stations.

There was also an overall increase in spending across all reception categories in 2016, including catering, cake, flowers, photographer, entertainment and the venue itself.

Though lots has changed about the cost of weddings over time, there's one thing that has remained traditional: who foots the bill. According to the survey, the bride's parents contribute on average 44 percent of the budget, the groom's parents pay 13 percent, and the couple pays 42 percent. Only 10 percent of couples said they paid for the whole thing themselves.

Casual weddings grow in popularity

METRO SERVICES

Elegant, lavish weddings provide moments couples will remember for years to come. But while such storybook ceremonies and receptions remain popular, casual affairs are gaining popularity.

According to the bridal resource The Knot, more and more couples are opting for less pageantry and more laid back panache when planning their weddings. For those who prefer something more intimate and more personalized, casual weddings may be right on target.

There are many advantages to having a "luxé with less" wedding, including the ability to break molds and impart more of the couple's personality into the event.

Another advantage is the price tag. The average U.S. wedding, according to The Knot 2014 Real Weddings Study, costs \$31,213. In some urban areas, particularly New York City, average costs are three times that amount. Golden Girl Finance, a leader in financial digital media, has found that Canadian weddings average \$31,000 with honeymoon included. Although wedding costs have gone up, the average number of wedding guests has gone down. As such, certain couples might look to rein in other aspects of their wedding. Transforming the fes-

tivities into a casual affair can help keep the overall budget low while still allowing for an exciting and enjoyable event. To put casual plans into motion, consider these ideas to help the wedding vision come to fruition.

Venue

Catering halls and other reception sites do a wonderful job of meeting the needs of their clientele. However, food and beverage costs are often the most expensive wedding expense. To reduce the per-guest cost and also incorporate some variety into their wedding days, couples can consider a venue change. Look for public locations that allow couples to hire their own caterer, which may be a favorite restaurant or specialty food shop. The cost per person may decrease dramatically from the venue costs.

Changing the venue also enables couples to pick unique spots that may hold special meaning to them. For example, couples can choose the site of their first date or the location where their proposal took place.

Contrast

Enjoy a casual, free-spirited wedding that incorporates some aspects of formality in an off-beat way. Think about serving fast food, such as fried

chicken or pizza, on fine china. Those wearing tuxedos and gowns can opt for casual footwear, such as athletic shoes. Place wildflowers in crystal vases. These are just some methods to give a rich feel without removing the fun element.

Personal touches

Menus or wedding programs printed at home in a fun font can set the casual tone couples are looking for. Look for eclectic fabrics to use as gift tags or napkin holders. Hand-painted signs or a hodge-podge of picture frames can display pertinent information, such as itineraries or seating arrangements. Encourage friends or family to contribute a favorite menu item to the food offerings. A home-baked dessert can be delicious and budget-friendly.

Wardrobe

Clothing often indicates the formality of an occasion. Everyone from the wedding party to the guests can dress down. Sundresses can replace taffeta bridesmaids' gowns. Guys can opt for tailored sports coats with jeans. Guests may feel comfortable in less formal attire that facilitates dancing and mingling.

Casual weddings are becoming more popular as many couples are playing down the party for various reasons.

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Knowing laws, application process for wedding license can ease stress

STAFF REPORT

There's a lot to think about when planning for your wedding, but obtaining a marriage license and addressing all the legalities can be made stress-free with a little preparation. Knowing the following information can streamline the process:

- A marriage license should be obtained in Crittenden County Clerk Carolyn Byford's courthouse office or from any Kentucky county clerk. Byford's office can be reached at (270) 965-3403 for further information.
- The fee for a Kentucky marriage license is \$35.50 and is required at the time of application. Be prepared to pay with cash or check. The fee is non-refundable.
- The marriage license is valid for 30 days, including the date issued.
- The marriage license is valid anywhere in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- You do not have to be a resident of Kentucky.
- There is no waiting period,

- blood test or physical requirements.
- Applicants must apply for the license together.
- Both applicants must present an acceptable form of ID, including a driver's license, government issued picture ID, passport, original birth certificate or Social Security card.
- Information needed from both parties to complete the application includes name and address, date of birth, place of birth (Kentucky county or other state), father's full name, mother's first and maiden name, current status of bride and groom (single, widowed, divorced or annulled), number of previous marriages of both applicants, occupations of both applicants, race of both applicants, address and telephone after marriage and date of marriage.
- If previously married, applicant must provide documentation to prove a previous marriage has been dissolved either through death or divorce.
- You must be 18 years old

to be married in Kentucky without parental consent. Applicants 16 and 17 years old must have parental consent and the license issued in the county of residence of the underage applicant. If both applicants are under age, the application needs to be made in the bride's county of residence. No one under the age of 16 may be issued a license unless they are pregnant and have a district court judge issue a court order directing the clerk to do so.

- Getting a marriage license with your new name on it does not mean your name has automatically changed. If you need to change your last name, you can use an online marriage name change kit.
- In Kentucky, there are no proxy or common law marriages. First and second cousins are not permitted to marry in the state and Kentucky won't recognize these marriages even if legal in another state.
- Two persons other than

those being married and the person solemnizing the marriage must be present as witnesses.

- Marriages shall be solemnized only by clergy, justices and judges of the court of justice; retired justices and judges of the court of justice, except those removed for cause or convicted of a felony; county judge-executives; such justices of the peace and fiscal court commissioners as the governor or the county judge-executive authorizes and certain religious societies. In Crittenden County, Judge-Executive Perry Newcom no longer performs marriage ceremonies. There are no residency requirements or licensing requirements applicable to ministers or priests who wish to perform marriages in Kentucky. A minister or priest, all justices and judges of the Court of Justice, justices of the peace and fiscal court commissioners may perform marriages anywhere in Kentucky.



Byford

Trim guest list to cut ceremony costs

METRO SERVICES

Weddings are a time to celebrate, and many couples hope to invite as many people as possible to share their excitement. A 2014 study by researchers at the University of Denver found that couples who invite at least 150 guests to the wedding may have happier marriages. The study examined 418 people who were single at the beginning of the study and married five years later. It found that 47 percent of those people who had gotten married in front of at least 150 guests had "high-quality marriages," while those with 50 or fewer guests fell short.

While guests make weddings more enjoyable, and may increase the propensity to enjoy a more successful marriage, couples must be practical and consider their wedding budgets when creating their guest lists. The average American wedding includes 120 guests, according to a 2015 Newlywed Survey released by WeddingWire. Couples who are finding it difficult to create and pare down their guest lists can employ the following tips.

- Create initial lists. When jotting down potential guests' names, write down everyone you want to invite, regardless of budget. Then list the must-have guests for the wedding. This should include the family and friends with whom you interact on a regular basis. Create a separate column for guests who don't make the must-have list.
- Separate friends from friends' friends. If you don't see people outside of events set up by mutual friends, you should not feel obligated to invite those people to the wedding.

They are more likely friends of your friends and not your close friends.

- Know the guest list ceiling. Catering halls or reception rooms often can only accommodate a certain number of people. Know this number before making a final list. The limits of the space may serve as the catalyst for trimming the guest list.
- Consider coworkers carefully. Think about whether you'd still be friends with your coworkers if the company dissolved tomorrow. If not, you should not feel obligated to invite them.
- Have we met? If you don't remember interacting with a person (your parent's long lost friend from high school) or the person has never met your significant other, then they probably can be cut. If parents insist on inviting someone you barely remember, they should help defray the costs.
- Cut out the kids. Even though children's dinner costs may be lower than adults', inviting children can significantly increase the guest list. A no-child policy at the reception can save money.
- Avoid uncomfortable situations. Unless you have remained particularly close, keep former boyfriends and girlfriends off of the guest list.
- Ask for an unbiased opinion. Give the editing pen to someone else if you cannot make a decision. This person may help weed out extraneous guests.
- Paring down a wedding guest list can be a difficult process, but couples should work together and respect each other's concerns when creating their final list.

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Camp Marion housed FDR’s ‘tree army’

Did you know Marion had its own Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp? There is nothing left of the camp for one to even know it was here. But it was here, a town within its own camp, and the men helped our county with many worthwhile projects.

Roosevelt's Tree Army
In the year 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an effort to help the nation, started on a mission to help

find an end to the rampant unemployment and economic chaos that gripped the country. He planned a fight against soil erosion and declining timber resources, utilizing the unemployment of our young men. As President beginning in 1933, Roosevelt revitalized the faith of the nation with several measures, one of which was the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act, more commonly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps, or the CCC. With this action, he brought together two wasted resources, the young men and the land, in an effort to save both. He proposed to recruit thousands of unemployed young men, enroll them in a peacetime army and send them into battle against destruction and erosion of our natural resources. Before it was over, more than 3 million young men were engaged in a massive salvage operation.

Marion's own CCC Co. 1542, E-59
From the archives of The Crittenden Press we learn of Marion's CCC Camp. In May 1933, Marion finds out that Crittenden County may get a conservation camp from the forestry and soil erosion programme of now President Roosevelt, if Kentucky should use its quota of 5,250 men. If all the men are used it would be necessary to start 10 forestry camps and 16 erosion camps in the state. Most of the timber projects will be in the eastern part of the state and the soil erosion projects in western Kentucky. June 1933: Marion was selected as the site for Crittenden County's soil erosion camp. Maxwell Park in Marion would be the selected

site for the camp. (Maxwell Park, also called Cook's Park, was located at the present day site of Riley Tool and Machine on Moore Street.) Plans were at first made to have a boy's camp here, but orders were changed and word received that veterans from the World War would be sent here instead. (Boy's camp was actually young unmarried men from 18 to 25 years of age.) The camp would be in Marion at least six months

and probably two years, the major stated. Work would be carried on in Crittenden and surrounding counties from this camp. July 1933: One hundred and forty-eight men are now in camp. Camp Marion is under the leadership of Lt. Trautman and Lt. Smith, of the U.S. Navy, John Staylor, of the U.S. Infantry and E.J. Rodenberg, U.S. Medical Reserve. Mr. Ashbrook will have charge of fieldwork, which will begin as soon as weather will permit. The camp is looking better each day as they worked hard everyday to get things done. They constructed streets and sidewalks, and the campgrounds looked more like a city than a camp. A large sign was being made out of rock showing the number 1542, and would be set in the extreme west end of the camp facing the street. A bath house was also being constructed for the camp and it would have the most modern conveniences in plumbing.

Carpenters were getting started on the kitchen and are really getting work done, as the mess hall would soon be needed for the men and employees enrolled at the camp. The fieldwork started soon after the men arrived. Thirty badly eroded farms were selected as sites for the first work. The erosion work on the farm of Mr. Conger and Mr. Cartwright has been completed and work will be started this week on the farm of Rev. Spurrier at Mattoon. Other farms that were included in this work were the A. T. Crider farm on Bridwell Loop, the Cloyd farm on Crooked Creek, and the Terry farmland in Forest Grove, as evidence of some



of the rock work is still found today. Tom Crider shared with me that he remembers seeing evidence of some of the rockwork while he helped farm the land years ago. Much of the lands of western Kentucky are good for farming. For that reason they were long ago denuded of their trees to permit cultivation. The land of this section is rolling, in many places quite hilly. With the destruction of the trees the rich, loose soil began to wash away and now about a billion tons of it helps to make up the Mississippi river delta. This is the sort of thing the CCC has set itself to stop. A working force was ordered to a hillside farm, al-

most useless for any purpose whatsoever. Its waffled fields almost unfit for cultivation, affords no pasture, and would not support trees nor even weeds. The men started constructing small dams, seldom more than 3-4 feet high and 15-20 feet long. The dams, placed up and down the length of each gully, help stop the drifting of the soil. Gullies were leveled by shovel, plowing or scraping to a gentle slant. Small diversion ditches were dug across the top of each hill on the project, above the gullies. These gullies henceforth will carry only such water as falls on the hillside itself. The dams placed at the foot and the head of each

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Above, a rare picture, shared by Steve Eskew, shows a section of Marion's Civilian Conservation Corps campsite in 1933. It was all torn down when they left in 1936. Not many photos are available. At middle, located on Crooked Creek Church Road on land owned by Barry Gilbert is another example of the work of the CCC. It has preserved the soil from washing all these years. At bottom, this beautiful example of some of the CCC's handiwork is located a short distance off Ky. 91 North on Forest Grove Road. The rocks were dry stacked to form a dam to help hold back the soil so it wouldn't be washed away with the rains.

wash were always built of native stone, for they must bear the greatest loads. Intermediate dams were constructed of logs, poles, brush, or wire mesh backed by turf. In bad spots stone is used again. After this base work was completed black locusts and black walnut seedlings were planted in the loosened, leveled soil behind the dams and over the entire extent of the project. Almost all rainwater would now either sink into the ground where it falls or be carried off by the diversion ditches. The trees will grow and the hollows behind the dams will gradually fill up with dislodged soil. Marion Camp planted

120,000 black locusts, and 63 bushels of black walnut seedlings on the farms where work had been completed. Owners of the farms where the work was carried were to agree not to attempt to cultivate the land or to turn stock on it for a period of five years. At the end of that time each will be the owner of a fine stretch of recovered land, level, unmarked by weather and bearing a good growth of young trees. Among some other major projects taken on by the local workers was the beautifying of the lake side at the new water system, and the creation of the playground and park on Rochester Avenue, plus work done on many rural roads throughout the county.

In December 1936, we learn that Camp Marion was fast becoming a part of Marion's history. The buildings are being razed and the materials being moved to other camps to be rebuilt. The first buildings to be wrecked were the four barracks, then followed the wrecking of the recreation hall, kitchen and officers' quarters. On Nov. 1, 1935, the place was abandoned as a camp, because the aim and purpose, that of soil erosion, for which it had been brought to this county had been accomplished. After all the buildings were removed the grounds were put back in shape to return to the Playground Association, owners of the land. Camp Marion was no more, and is now only a faint memory of Marion's past, but its presence being here left a legacy to the people and to the land of Crittenden County.

Soon, in 1935, another government project known as the Works Progress Administration, or better known as WPA, would be coming to Marion and Crittenden County and we would also benefit greatly from this project, through the building of roads, several major structures throughout the city and county and the beautification of local grounds. (Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgotten Passages.blogspot.com.)

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Birth

Schiller

Melissa and Martin Schiller of Marion announce the birth of a son, Liam Jace, Feb. 3, 2017 at St. Francis Healthcare System in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Liam weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. He has an older brother and sister.

Maternal grandparents are John and Julie Earls of Paducah. Paternal grandparents are Amanda Belt of Marion and Michael Schiller of Norris City, Ill.

Calendar

– The **Woman’s Club of Marion Annual Meeting** and Membership Luncheon will be at 11 a.m., Saturday at the club building. Program will be presented by First District Governor Paula Robinson. Reservations for members and guests were encouraged by March 1. For information, call Nancy Hunt at (270) 704-0057.

– A **benefit barbecue** will be held from 5-7 p.m., Saturday at the Crittenden County Fire Department for Billy and Lisa Arlack. Meals are \$10 each. Auction including pies, cakes and gift baskets begins at 7 p.m. To make a donation, contact Beverly Davidson at (270) 704-0793.

– Learn how to design and plan your garden, start your own seeds and transplant during a **gardening workshop** at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Crittenden County Public Library. Register by calling (270) 965-5236.

– **Trivia Night** returns to the Crittenden County Public Library at 6 p.m., March 17. The game is designed for adults only. As Trivia Night is on St. Patrick’s Day, questions will follow a “green” theme.

– Deer Creek Baptist Church will host Lading for a Cure soup and dessert auction March 11. The **Relay for Life benefit** begins with the auction at 5:30 p.m., and the meal to follow at 6:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

Extension events

– **4-H Sew Much Fun** will meet from 3:30-4:45 p.m., Thursday (today) at the Crittenden County Extension office.

– **Run Through the Clovers** 4-H 5K registration forms are due Friday to guarantee a t-shirt. Check our Facebook page "Crittenden County Extension Service" for a registration form or stop by the office. The 5K will be held March 18 at the City/County Park.

Senior Menu

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

– Thursday (today): Menu is hashbrown with ham casserole, lima beans, whole wheat roll and ambrosia.

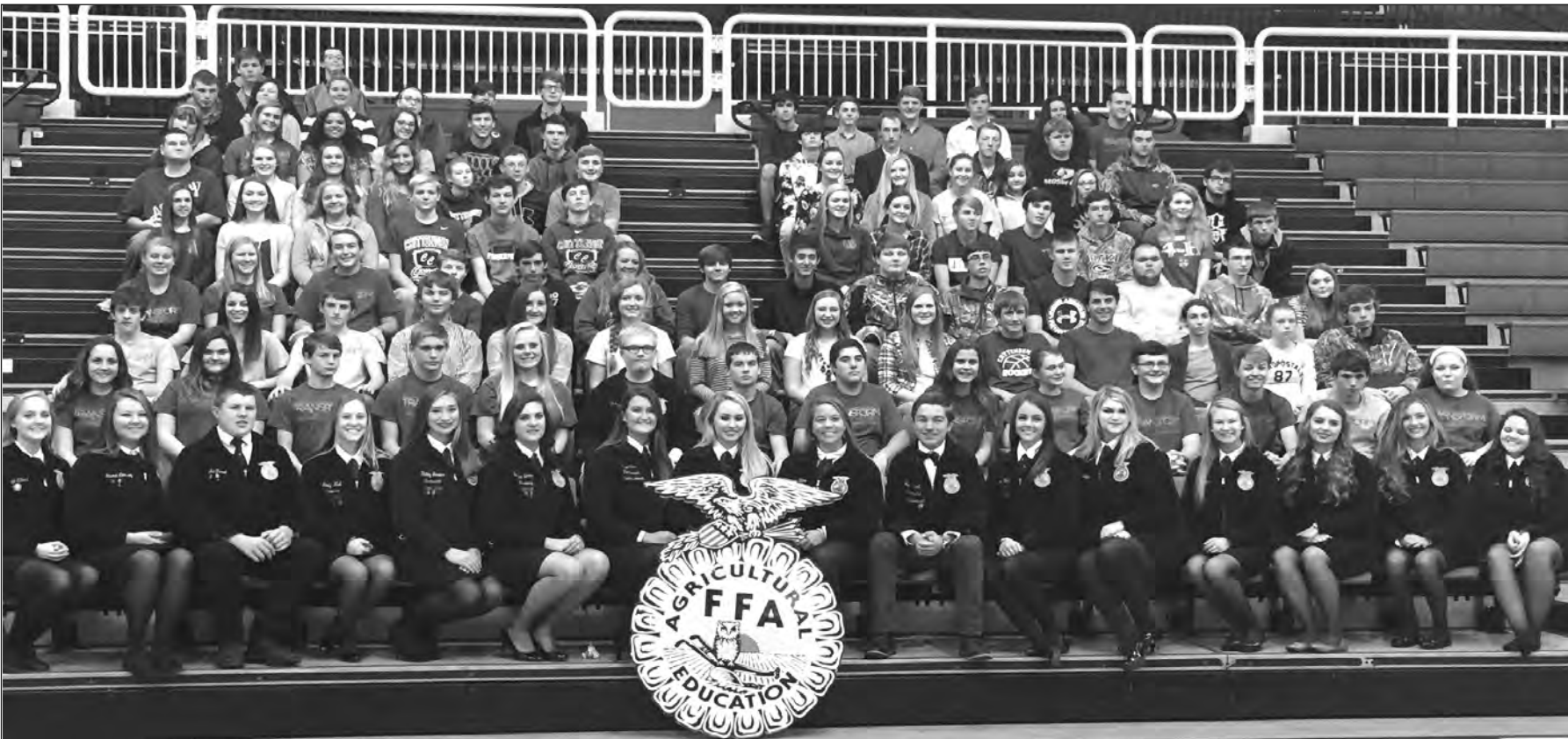
– Friday: Menu is chicken and dumplings, buttered broccoli, seasoned corn, Jell-O fruit salad and cornbread. Lifeline Home Health will offer Bingo at 10:30 a.m.

– Monday: Menu is baked potato soup, chicken drumstick, seasoned peas, cornbread and pear crisp. A pool tournament is planned, and ladies’ exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.

– Tuesday: Menu is BBQ chicken, baked potato with sour cream and margarine, green bean casserole, wheat bun and baked apples and raisins.

– March 8: Menu is hamburger with lettuce, tomato and onion on whole wheat bun, vegetable soup, oatmeal raisin cookie and crackers. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m.

Every day, the center at 210 N. Walker St. in Marion offers billiards, card games, Wii games and the use of exercise equipment. Call (270) 965-5229 for more information.



More than 100 students at Crittenden County High School involved in FFA celebrated National FFA Week Feb. 19-25.

Crittenden chapter celebrates FFA week

BY EMILY HALL
CHAPTER REPORTER

Agriculture plays a key role in our daily lives and in a variety of ways. Last week more than half a million FFA members celebrated the role agriculture plays in our lives while sharing their message of agriculture and agricultural education throughout the country.

FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington’s birthday. This year, the week kicked off Feb. 19 and ran through Feb. 25. The weeklong tradition began in 1948 in recognition of George Washington’s legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. FFA’s mission is to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. Founding members of the organization taught generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it involves science, business and more.

Today, FFA continues to help the next generation rise up to meet new agricultural challenges by helping members develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways. Members enjoy careers as biologists, chemists, veterinarians, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

FFA chapters use this week to help share the message of agriculture with fellow students as well as their community. This year the Crittenden Chapter participated in several activities, including:

Tuesday: Scavenger Hunt Kick-Off and Farmer on a Beach day .

Wednesday: Red vs. Green day, wearing clothing

to support favorite brand of tractors.

Thursday: Animal day, dress as your favorite animal.

Friday: New chapter T-shirt day and Teacher/Staff appreciation meal served by the FFA officers.

The National FFA Organization is a youth organization of 649,355 student members that are part of 7,859 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA’s mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Freshman O for incoming students

STAFF REPORT

To aid students with pre-scheduling, Crittenden County High School will present Freshman O next week.

The orientation will be an informational event for incoming ninth-graders from 5 to 7 p.m. next Thursday. The program will begin promptly at 5 p.m. with a chili and nacho meal, followed by information about Career and Technical Education (CTE) and other high school course options.

Curtis Brown, principal at Crittenden County High School, said the purpose of the event is to complete initial scheduling and provide students and parents the opportunity to learn more about the CTE classes and meet the teachers, as well as the freshman sponsors.

“We believe that educating our students and their families on choices they have prior to enrolling in high school gives them the knowledge they need to make informed decisions, which ultimately leads to a more successful and enjoyable high school experience,” said Brown.

All freshmen will choose a CTE pathway from the following options:

- Family and consumer science
- Business
- Agriculture
- Aerospace

Students will be given more information about these pathways prior to the Freshman O event, and administration and staff will be available that evening to answer any questions students or parents may have.

Additionally, all students completing registration forms the night of the event will be eligible for door prizes, including Rockets sports season pass gift sets. Students who cannot attend Freshman O are asked to complete scheduling online no later than March 10.

For more information about the event, phone the high school office at (270) 965-2248 or email tiffany.blazina@crittenden.kyschools.us.

Heritage Society meets Thursday night

Fredonia Valley Heritage Society will meet at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Fredonia Lions Club Building. The program for the evening will be a presentation by Geoff Badgett, who will speak on the Revolutionary War.

Badgett is past president of the Stephen Trigg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has authored four books on the Revolutionary War, two of which are for children. One is being used in Murray schools as a resource. Badgett will share “Revolutionary War in the Trunk,” using a collection of war items.

Also on the agenda will be refreshments and a business meeting.

Fredonia Valley Heritage Society is for anyone inter-

Happy

16th

Birthday

Payton

Riley!

on March 1st

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Paxton

The Community Arts Foundation presents
A Kentucky Chautauqua Performance of

Kevin Hardesty as

DANIEL BOONE

MARCH 4TH, 7:00 P.M.

AT THE WOMAN’S CLUB OF MARION

Come and see the quintessential Kentuckian, having blazed the trails that would become the map of Kentucky through courage, a love of the newfound beauty and abundance of the region, and his cunning facility with the land and its native peoples.

This program is brought to you in part by the Kentukcy Humanities Council

CAPITOL
Cinemas

Starts Friday, March 3

Faith-Based Movie

The Shack

Fri. 3:50, 6:40, 9:20
Sat. 1, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20
Sun. 1:15, 4, 6:50
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

PG-13

An Older and Wiser Wolverine is Tasked with Saving an Extraordinary Young Girl

Logan

Fri. 3:50, 6:40, 9:20
Sat. 1, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20
Sun. 1:15, 4, 6:50
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

R

Lego Batman

Fri. 3:50, 6:40, 9:20
Sat. 1, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20
Sun. 1:15, 4, 6:50
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

PG

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6:00 P.M.

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For more information, please contact
Mary Beth Gobin at (270) 952-1667
Holly White at (270) 705-4607
Carrie Flahardy (270) 704-0230

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It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at 965.3191.

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

for sale

25th Anniversary Sale on Porta/Grace Number 1 metal roofing, siding and trim. 40-year warranty. Available in 16 colors. We also sell cover sheets, price low as \$1 foot. Call Grays, 907 Hopkinsville Street, Princeton, Ky. (270) 365-7495. (13t-45-p)

sales

Indoor moving sale Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., U.S. 60 East, last house on right before turn to Mattoon Fire Dept. (Ky. 365). Furniture, antiques including cedar cabinet, tools, anvil, 1800s pie safe, lots of old Mason jars, bottles, doors, 4-wheeler, and misc. China, new reclining wheelchair, lots of clothes all sizes. Everything priced reasonably, rain or shine. Look for signs. (1t-34-p)

automotive

2004 Ford Escape XLT, 172,000 miles. \$4,000. (270) 965-3759 or (270) 704-1912. (2tp36)

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agriculture

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for rent

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hunting

Ethical senior hunter seeks deer lease for this season, smaller tracks okay, prefer Livingston and Crittenden Co. Please call (352) 205-6787. (4t-37-p)

real estate

For sale: Hunting lodge/bed and breakfast, 6000 sq. ft. on 7 acres with detached processing/storage building, built in 2007, located in Crayne, Ky. (270) 559-2061. (4t-36-p)

services

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employment

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notice

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legal notice

Notice is hereby given that on February 22, 2017, Larry Tinsley, P.O. Box 502, Salem, KY 42078 and Mickey Tinsley of 195 S.R. 70, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed Administrators of Reba Nell Kersey, deceased, whose address was 78 Church 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 Administrators before the 22nd day of August, 2017, and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-34-c)

Notice is hereby given that on February 22, 2017, Melissa Agent of 116 S. Main Street, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed Administrator of Dortha Helen Jones, deceased, whose address was 3039 S.R. 506, Marion, KY 42064. Hon. Roy Massey, P.O. Box 361, Marion, KY 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administrator before the 22nd day of August, 2017, and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

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CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 353.53 ACRES - Here is a superb hunting tract located in an area known for big bucks with great habitat and topography blend.

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Crittenden County Captures Two Youth League Championships



Crittenden County won the girls’ fifth- and sixth-grade district basketball tournament last weekend at Princeton. The Lady Rocket champions are (from left) Coach Vicki Hatfield, Addie Hatfield, Natalie Boone, Taylor Guess, Maci Hunt, Riley Smith, Jaylen Tapp, Emily Mattingly and coach Mandy Hunt. The league is made up of teams in Lyon, Livingston, Trigg and Crittenden counties.



Crittenden County won the boys’ fifth- and sixth-grade district basketball tournament last weekend at Princeton. The Rocket champions are (front from left) Turner Sharp, Gabe Keller, Tyler Belt, Jaxon Hatfield (back) Zach Counts, Preston Morgeson, Caden Riley, Evan Belt, Seth Guess and coach Richard Faith.

Being a King in Cat Country can have a human toll

Monk ranks among UK’s most dynamic

Playing at Kentucky is the dream for many high school basketball players. Recently even Hillcrest Prep (Arizona) sophomore Josh Green, who only came to the United States two years ago from Australia, said he had that same thought growing up. However, playing at Kentucky can be as overwhelming at times as it is rewarding. Every game is on television and Kentucky fans are so passionate that they analyze – or maybe over analyze – everything about the team.

Kentucky senior Derek Willis actually grew up a Louisville fan. He once was verbally committed to Purdue before changing his mind and coming to Kentucky to play for John Calipari. He played his final home game Tuesday and now hopes UK can get on another March Madness roll. His girlfriend, Keely Potts, has seen the impact that playing at Kentucky has had on Willis. She’s watched him get to play on two Final Four teams, hit key shots and become a favorite of many UK fans because of his home-state roots.

But she’s also seen the toll the criticism/pressure has taken on Willis at times. “I feel like one of the hardest things about playing at Kentucky for Derek is the entire process of it all. By that I mean what it took to get him to where he is now,” she said. “One of the things I value most about my boyfriend is his patience. He is one of the most patient people I know.” She noted his first two seasons at Kentucky when he spent a majority of his time on the bench and may even have wondered if UK coaches could foresee a bigger role for him. “Most players would’ve transferred, and there were a few people who tried to en-

courage him to do so. Did he get discouraged? Yes. Did he give up? No,” she said. “He didn’t let little to no playing time stop him, or people’s negativity and doubt, get the best of him.

“His persistence and his love/passion for this sport pushed him to keep at it. He kept working, and he kept going, and to me that’s a hard situation in itself, and he handled it with grace.” Being in the fan and media spotlight is more difficult to handle than most realize. Potts said anything Willis or teammates did or said was always watched and scrutinized.

“They are held to such a high expectation by the University and the Big Blue Nation. Little kids, and even adults, start to idolize them,” Potts said. “He didn’t change as a person when he signed to play basketball at Kentucky. He didn’t let the hype of UK basketball stop him from being who he was as a person.

“He wasn’t raised in the spotlight, and he wasn’t given any special treatment growing up. So I think coming here and everyone treating him as a celebrity was hard for him to get used to because then and even now, to him he’s just a normal guy. He’s just Derek Willis from Louisville, who got a once in a lifetime opportunity to play for a great school, a historic program, and an amazing coach.

“So the adjustment of it all, I feel was hard for him.” Has Kentucky had a more explosive scorer than Malik Monk? The freshman guard had 27 second-half points in a 47-point performance against North Carolina. Last



Larry Vaught
UK Sports Columnist
Vaught's Views

week he had 30 second-half points after scoring only three in the first half in a win over Florida.

He’s the first UK freshman to have four 30-point games and has been in double figures every game this season. He also continues to lead the SEC in scoring, something only three other freshmen – Chris Jackson (LSU) in 1989, Bernard King (Tennessee) in 1975 and Jim Nolan (Georgia Tech) in 1946 – have done. I talked with former Cats’ Pause publisher Oscar Combs about Monk after his stunning performance against Florida. I started covering UK basketball in 1975 and Combs was doing so before me.

“Jodie Meeks could really score, but he had to have just a little bit more room to get his shot off,” Combs said. “Monk is the most explosive scorer I’ve seen.”

I agreed. Kentucky certainly has had a lot of great players, but we could not find one that we thought was more explosive.

“No wonder when I got on him about a couple bad shots he looked at me like I was crazy. I didn’t know he had 30 in a half,” Kentucky coach John Calipari said after the game.

Get this. Monk didn’t think he was that hot the second half.

“It was just normal. Actually, I was hotter against North Carolina. I didn’t think that much about it,” Monk said.

Even though he decided to transfer to California, sit out a season and then use his final year of eligibility, Marcus Lee still stays in contact with former UK teammates and friends.

“I am still close friends with my old teammates that are still at Kentucky and all my former teammates that are in the pros,” Lee, who was going to watch Dakari Johnson play the same night he talked to me, said.

He was not unhappy at Kentucky when he decided to make a change and go back to his home state.

“I get to see my family every week now,” he said. “I just decided to take a step back and do the student at school things and take a year to prepare for my final year of college basketball. I am really enjoying it here and the lifestyle it provides me.”

He insists his game has improved dramatically already.

“You would see a huge difference in how I play,” Lee said. “I don’t really want to say anything yet. I want it to be a big surprise. I want people to see the difference as I play. I just have more confidence in everything I am doing. I just wanted a year to do this to where I would be able to do these things I can do now confidently.”

Lee has plenty of friends and UK fans often tell him that they wish he had stayed at UK because of what he could have done to help the team this year.

“I don’t let it enter my head, but I do see that,” Lee said. “Things happen for a reason. It is working out for me. You have to go and learn and not look at the past. I made my decision and it’s

working out great.”

Postseason basketball play starts next week with the Southeastern Conference Tournament in Nashville. Kentucky opens play on Friday, but I will be providing special coverage on the tournament and other UK basketball-related items March 6-10 on various radio stations across the state.

If you happen to get a chance to listen (including online), let me know what you think or give me suggestions for what type of information you might like to hear.

Here is my daily schedule: 7 a.m. WKYB-FM (107.5), Danville; 7:15 WPBK-FM (102.9), Stanford; 7:30, WNJK-FM (105.9), Nicholasville; and 8:10 CST WKDZ-FM (106.5), Cadiz, and WHVO-FM (96.5), Hopkinsville.

I’ll also be on air from Nashville Sunday morning with WLAP-AM (630) and hopefully explaining to Mark Buerger what Kentucky did to get to the championship game.

Remember you can always reach me via email at larryvau@gmail.com or on Twitter at [@vaughtsviews](https://twitter.com/@vaughtsviews).

Linebacker Eli Brown quickly found out when he got to Kentucky that he was not as physically ready for SEC football as he thought after a brilliant prep career at Warren East High School in Bowling Green.

He redshirted in 2015 and then last season played in games while making 24 tackles. Now with spring football practice getting close to starting, Brown is hoping to find a way to make an even bigger impact this year.

“I matured a lot and coach (Jeff) House taught me a lot about football in general and playing inside linebacker. I thought I knew everything about football but he took to me another level and I thank coach House for that,” Brown said. “He helped me with schemes. You have to know the schemes for everything. Football is a simple thing if you know the sport and how people line up and how to get to the ball quicker.

“I have been healthy for the first time in a while after coming here with a bad knee. But I feel 100 percent now and have not had any new injuries.”

Brown concentrated on gaining weight during the offseason. He says his technique is fine for the linebacker spot, but he can’t play at 205 pounds like he tried to do last year.

“I just have to put the weight on to play in the SEC. You can’t play under weight,” Brown said. “In practice and games you go so hard and fast it is hard for me to gain weight. Me and Jordan Jones both want to get to the ball and it is hard for both of us to keep on weight. We push and go full speed even in practice. That is our downfall when it comes to the weight gain.

“But there is a big advantage to speed. We have speed you don’t see that often at the position we play and you don’t see people at our weight at that position often, either. I think it gives us an advantage. Not too many



PHOTO BY VICKY GRAFF

Malik Monk's 30-point half against Florida last week just added to his resume as the most explosive scorer to play at UK. (Vicky Graff Photo)

linemen can come get us, so they have to change their scheme just to block us. That gives us an upper hand on a lot of teams and I can’t wait to get started again.”

Kudos to Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell and the UK women for their successful season. Considering the turmoil the team had after last season ended and the lack of depth this season, finishing regular-season play 20-9 overall and 11-5 in SEC play is remarkable.

Kentucky got the No. 4 seed and a double bye in this week’s SEC Tournament in Greenville, S.C. Kentucky will play Friday about 2 p.m. EST in the quarterfinals and the most likely opponent will be No. 5 seed Tennessee, which beat UK 72-65 in Knoxville this year. Tennessee must beat the Alabama-Vanderbilt winner to advance to Friday’s game with UK.

Kentucky got a huge boost for its NCAA resume with a win over then No. 3 Mississippi State on Senior Night when former Marion County standout Makayla Epps put in the game-winning follow shot in overtime. “She’s a team player. A lot of people think she might be

selfish but she does what she needs to do to help us win,” sophomore teammate Maci Morris said. “She’s all the time being less involved and she actually gets pretty mad when we don’t take shots because she wants the assist.

“She just brings so much energy even if it’s not even her making the play. If one of us makes the play, she’s celebrating. It’s just great to play with her.”

Quote of the Week: “I think it goes back to Bam (Adebayo) not getting dumb fouls to be honest with you. It’s just that simple,” UK associate coach Kenny Payne on how Bam Adebayo can stay out of foul trouble.

Quote of the Week 2: “In Australia, everybody that played basketball knew who Kentucky was and dreamed of going there to play basketball,” Prolific Prep guard Josh Green of Australia, one of the top players in the 2019 recruiting class.

Quote of the Week 3: “I just played football growing up. I was never interested in any other sports. I thought basketball was way too soft,” Kentucky defensive lineman Adrien Middleton on why he liked football.



PHOTO BY VICKY GRAFF

Linebacker Eli Brown (32) knows he needs to add weight, but also understands the value of speed at his position.



PHOTO BY JEFF HOUGHCHIN

Derek Willis, left, didn't take the advice of others about transferring from Kentucky and his girlfriend, Keely Potts, said playing at UK never changed his personality, either.

Moss gets school record

Magical season comes to an end

STAFF REPORT

For 25 wins and three quarters, Crittenden County's girls' basketball team rode a wave of unparalleled success.

Then, everything unraveled.

A disastrous fourth quarter Tuesday night allowed 12th-ranked Henderson County to pull off a 64-38 win in the Second Region Girls' Basketball Tournament at Morton's Gap.

The game was much closer than the final score. In fact, the record-setting Lady Rockets (25-8) matched Henderson County (25-5) bucket for bucket for the first 16 minutes. Crittenden led five times in the first half then settled for a four-point deficit to start the final period. The game was tied at 27 before Henderson took the lead for good.

"Turnovers. It was the turnover issue," Lady Rocket coach Shannon Hodge said. "We did not handle the 2-2-1 press like we should have and turned the ball over several times against it."

"When we did get across half court, a couple of times we dribbled into traffic and lost the ball there," the coach said.

Crittenden had trouble handling Henderson's full-court pressure and committed seven



Senior Cassidy Moss works against Henderson's Breanna Chester.

turnovers in the third quarter and seven more in the first six minutes of the final period. The Lady Rockets had similar issues early, committing 10 first-half turnovers, but they shot better than 50 percent in the first half while Henderson struggled from the floor. That allowed CCHS to keep it close until the fourth period.

"We stopped looking to attack," said Cassidy Moss, the Lady Rocket senior who shattered the girls' scoring record Jan. 30 then surpassed Tim Hill's 12-year-old boys' scoring record during her final game. She finishes a storied career with 1,825 points, the best in school history.

"They changed their press a lit-

tle and we didn't handle it like we needed to," Moss said.

She finished with 11 points – needing nine going into the matchup to set the new record – Moss fouled out with 5:20 to play with her team down 15. It got uglier from there for the proud Rocket girls.

"We knew they were going to score and we just had to match it," coach Hodge added. "We did. Then we didn't, and I think that's it."

Henderson shot poorly until they got hot and made seven of their first eight shots in the final period.

"I am proud as I can be of these kids," Hodge said. "They are a great group of girls. It's been a blessing to have been a part of it with them this year."

SECOND REGION TOURNAMENT				
Henderson 64, Crittenden 38				
Henderson Co.	15	25	35	64
Crittenden Co.	15	24	31	38
HENDERSON - Carter, Rideout, Cooper, Dickson 12, Lander 18, Daniel, Chester 8, Morgan, Hope 6, Lyon 4, Owens 16. FG 30. 3-pointers 2 (Lander). FT 2-6. Fouls 11.				
CRITTENDEN - Moss 11, Lynch 16, Collins 5, Champion 4, Nesbitt 2, Evans, Woodward, Summers, Ch.Moss, Long, Woodward. FG 17. 3-pointers 1 (Lynch). FT 3-5. Fouls 9.				



At Hopkins Central

GIRLS TOURNAMENT

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Webster County 50, Lyon County 40

Christian Co. 57, Hopkins Central 32

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Hopkinsville 56, Madisonville 53, OT

Henderson Co. 64, Crittenden Co. 38

SEMIFINALS

Friday at 6pm and 7:30pm

CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday at 7pm

BOYS TOURNAMENT

At Hopkinsville

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Lyon County vs. Webster Co., 6pm

Madisonville vs. Christian Co., 7:30pm

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Hopkinsville vs. Livingston Cent., 6pm

Henderson Co. vs. Dawson, 7:30pm

SEMIFINALS

Monday at 6pm and 7:30pm

CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday at 7pm

BASEBALL

Youth league registration

Youth baseball and softball skills assessment is from 10 a.m., until noon on Saturday at the Crittenden County Middle School gym. There has been a slight fee increase this year for most age divisions. One child is now \$40 for baseball or softball. Kickball fee is the same at \$25 and it is for boys and girls ages 4-5. There are leagues available for boys and girls age 4 to 15. Babe Ruth registration fee for ages 13-15 is \$50. Games in that league will not start until later in the summer. Teams 6-under play only in Marion. Those in older divisions will play at Marion, Dawson Springs, Princeton, Eddyville and maybe Cadiz. For more information or a registration form, go online to The-Press.com or use the following URL: www.the-press.com/2017DCRegForm.pdf. The Crittenden County Dugout Club, which organizes summer diamond sports leagues, is also on Facebook.

Jankowski projected starter

Former Marion Bobcats baseball player Travis Jankowski is projected as a starting outfielder for the San Diego Padres this season. The Padres opened spring training games this week in Arizona with Jankowski working in right field. He played outfield last season in a largely platoon role until late in the season when he became an everyday center fielder. Rookie Manuel Margot and Hunter Renfroe will be vying for starting spots, too, but it remains unclear where the three will start. Jankowski and Margot are odds on favorites to win the job in center. Jankowski will probably bat leadoff in his second full season in the major leagues. The 25-year-old from Lancaster, Pa., played for the now defunct Bobcats in 2011 when he led the team in batting and stolen bases. For the Padres last season, Jankowski hit .245 with two home runs and stole 30 bases.

Travis Gilbert's big start

Crittenden County graduate Travis Gilbert started the spring collegiate baseball season last weekend for Capital University (Ohio) with a breakout day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with two runs scored, four RBIs and a double. The club is playing games in Florida all this week. Gilbert, the winningest pitcher in CCHS history, was originally recruited as a college pitcher, but is now platooning at catcher.

SOCCER

Anyone interested in participating in Youth Spring Soccer should plan to attend the parent meeting and first practice on Monday at 5:30 p.m., for players born 2003-2008 or at Monday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m., for players born 2009-2014. Registration forms are due that day. The form is available online at The-Press.com.

POST-SEASON HONORS AND AWARDS



Shannon Hodge
2nd Region
Coach of Year



Kiana Nesbitt
All 5th District



Cassidy Moss
All 5th District
All 2nd Region



Amanda Lynch
All 5th District



Madison Champion
All 5th District



Bobby Stephens
All 5th District



Gavin Dickerson
All 5th District



5th Time Champs

Crittenden County won the Fifth District championship last week for only the fifth time in school history. The Lady Rockets have compiled a series of accomplishments this season, perhaps its most incredible is the club's 25 victories. Pictured here is the team after cutting down the nets last Thursday at Cadiz. Pictured are (front from left) seniors Meredith Evans, Kiana Nesbitt, Cassidy Moss and Amanda Lynch. In back are assistant coach Bristyn Prowell, assistant coach Jessi Sigler, Matthia Long, Shelby Summers, Nahla Woodward, manager Landry McKinney, Madison Champion, Mauri Collins, Chandler Moss and head coach Shannon Hodge.

Lady Rockets give coach her second district title in 24 years

STAFF REPORT

After her girls cut down the nets at Cadiz last Thursday night, Lady Rocket coach Shannon Hodge was clutching the Fifth District championship trophy like it was a puppy that might get away.

The title means a great deal to Hodge. It was just her second in 24 years as the team's coach.

Crittenden County (25-7) beat Lyon County 36-30 to capture the tournament crown and advance to the Second Region Tournament for the third straight season.

"I am just so proud of these girls," Hodge said. "They have wanted this for a long time, since they were in middle school."

Crittenden had finished as district tournament runners-up the last two years to Lyon. Winning last week was especially sweet, said Hodge.

"These girls have accomplished a lot this year, but had they let this one escape us they'd have been really down," the coach added. "This is the culmination of what they have worked for their entire careers. From the get-go, this has been their goal and I think that's why we opened up a little tense."

The game was a half-court, methodical contest that was close the entire way until Crittenden forged ahead midway through the last

half.

Senior Cassidy Moss scored 14 points against Lyon to lead the Rocket charge. She had a dozen in the first half. Junior Madison Champion scored 12, including seven points during a 9-0 third-quarter run that effectively won the game.

The coach said team chemistry and everyone accepting their individual roles was key to the girls' success, which included an All A Classic Second Region title and quarterfinal finish in the state All A tournament. Still, beating Lyon – a team that had defeated Crittenden 14 of their last 15 meetings prior to January – for the district title was the crème de la crème of a magical season.

"Getting that first win earlier this year against them helped lift that Purple Fog we had talked about," Hodge said.

Hodge said Moss, one of the region's best players and a Brescia University signee, has been "the nucleus" to the team's success, but pointed to the other top five players by name. Moss has led the team in scoring and rebounding, averaging 17 points and nine boards a game.

"Madison can score and she's a good defender. She did a good job on Terrianna (Johnson) tonight," Hodge said after the game.

"Amanda (Lynch) knocks down shots and Mauri (Collins) shoots well. Kiana (Nesbitt) is a workhorse inside and Meredith (Evans) comes off the bench and has been a bright spot for us in several situations," Hodge added.

Certainly, the tournament championship is a most cherished prize, but when history judges this Lady Rocket basketball team, it may well be its school-record 25 wins that stand the test of time. Don Brasher played on the boys' team that won 24 games in 1952. He said each of the girls will have different memories about their successes this season, but the 25 victories will certainly be among them.

"It's a great accomplishment," he said. "I knew this team was going to be pretty good. That senior leadership is important down the stretch," said the hall of famer.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP				
Crittenden 36, Lyon 30				
Crittenden County	8	21	30	36
Lyon County	8	19	23	30
Moss 14, Collins 2, Lynch 4, Champion 12, Nesbitt 4, Evans. FG 13-26. 3-pointers 2-5 (Moss). FT 8-14. Fouls 5. Assists 8 (Collins 4). Rebounds 20 (Moss 7).				
LYON - Holloman 10, Murphy 8, Johnson 5, Ellis 2, White 3, Matthews 2, Doom. FG 13-38. 3-pointers 3-13 (Holloman 2, White). FT 1-2. Fouls 14. Assists 7. Rebounds 20 (Johnson 6).				



At Trigg County

GIRLS TOURNAMENT

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Lyon County 45, Trigg County 23

Crittenden 60, Livingston Central 31

THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Crittenden Co. 36, Lyon County 30

BOYS TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Lyon County 57, Trigg County 51

Livingston 50, Crittenden Co. 45

FRIDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Lyon Co. 61, Livingston Central 59