



LEGISLATORS SCURRY TO PASS
LAWS BEFORE END OF SESSION | PAGE 7

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SWEET 16
³ **UCLA** (31-4)
² **Kentucky** (31-5)
8:39 p.m. Friday
Memphis, Tenn. / CBS
Win advances UK to Sunday Elite 8
UCLA defeated UK 97-92 on Dec. 3

Sun ending Monday
print newspaper

Beginning next week, on Mondays, you will no longer find The Paducah Sun on newsstands in Marion ... or anywhere, for that matter. The newspaper of record for far western Kentucky, The Sun has been a seven-day newspaper since a Saturday publication was added several years ago. However, citing a trend of daily papers dropping their Monday edition due to changes in the industry brought on by e-commerce and the internet, editor and publisher Jim Paxton last month said The Sun will no longer publish a print edition on Mondays starting next week. That means nearly 14,000 subscribers and single-edition readers can no longer open the paper for Sunday sports results or reaction to the Sunday morning talk shows. Subscribers, though, will have access to The Sun online in digital and PDF format. In Marion, The Evansville Courier & Press will be the only paper available on newsstands each Monday morning. The public library carries The Courier-Journal.

Public meetings

- **Marion Tourism Commission** will meet at 6 p.m. today (Thursday). The meeting will be held at the Marion Welcome Center.
- **Crittenden County Public Library Board of Trustees** will meet at 5 p.m. today (Thursday) at the library for its regular monthly meeting. The board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month, except for November and December, when meetings will be held the third Thursday due to holidays.
- **Crittenden-Livingston Water District Board** will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the district office on East Main Street in Salem.
- **Crittenden County Board of Education** will meet for its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Rocket Arena conference room.

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Man wanted for attempted murder

STAFF REPORT
Livingston County authorities are still looking for a local man they say is armed and should be considered dangerous. Christopher "Critt" Curnel, 27, is wanted for attempted murder after a shooting on Lola Road last Thursday. Livingston County Deputy Ryan Burrow is the lead investigator in the case. He



Curnel

talked to Curnel on the phone late last week, and he said the suspect had agreed to turn himself in, but did not show up. The sheriff's department said Curnel was last seen driving a blue 1995 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. The body of the truck is dark blue with light blue front fenders and a primer-gray tailgate. The truck bears a Kentucky registration plate with the number 389LKJ. Curnel faces charges of attempted murder, wanton endangerment and felony theft for an incident at a residence on Lola Road about 2 miles south of Berry's Ferry. Barrow said Curnel was at the home and three other individuals, a woman and two men, were also there. After an argument, the three other people were fleeing the scene in their vehicles when Curnel allegedly fired multiple gunshots at them from a handgun. "This was not just a random incident," the deputy said. The deputy said all of the individuals involved in the incident were acquaintances. He said Curnel is known to law enforcement officers because he has a criminal history. Nobody was hurt in the shooting. Anyone with information about this case should call the Livingston County Sheriff's Office at (270) 928-2122, Kentucky State Police at (800) 222-5555 or Crime Stoppers at (270) 443-TELL.



PHOTO BY DEREK MCCREE, THE PRESS

Spring has sprung

Four-year-old Axle Wood enjoyed the first day of spring as kids often do, playing in the yard of his parents' home in Marion. Spring finally arrived Monday in Crittenden County with mostly sunny skies and temperatures reaching nearly 80 degrees before an afternoon storm brought rains. Wood is the son of Jennifer and Jacob Wood.

Give 5 takes pulse

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR
An informational meeting hosted by Crittenden County Board of Education to share the rationale for a proposed "recallable nickel" for school construction turned out to be more of an inquisition. A vocal opposition, mostly farmers who would be among the most affected by the property tax, raised more questions than could be answered at last week's public forum. But school officials say that was part of the purpose for the public forum – find out what taxpayers need to know about the proposed 5.8-cent increase in the school tax before moving forward. Since the meeting, many of the unanswered questions have been addressed one-on-one and in public settings. Superintendent Vince Clark, the de facto

More on
school tax
Page 14

See **SCHOOL TAX**/Page 14

Country Club Drive concern for city

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR
In Jared Byford's debut as mayor, Marion City Council revisited several issues recently confronting the body, moving forward on most. Byford was appointed mayor earlier this month following former Mayor Mickey Alexander's resignation due to increased responsibilities with his job in the private sector. On Monday, the new mayor picked up the mantle and started a new era in city government. Of significant worry to the council is the rapid deterioration of Country Club Drive. Councilwoman D'Anna Sallin in January brought forward her concerns, largely due to the role the pock-marked street plays in transporting



Sallin

students to school. Parents and buses must traverse the street to take children to Crittenden County Elementary School, which is home to nearly 700 students. "I have had more complaints this week," she said Monday. "I feel it urgently needs to be addressed." The road was initially built to handle a nominal flow of passenger vehicles between Chapel Hill Road to U.S. 60 West. Since its construction, however, the elementary school was built in the early 1980s, and later, Industrial Drive was installed, connecting U.S. 641 to U.S. 60 via Country Club Drive. The connection created a bypass for tractor-trailers and other heavy trucks otherwise forced to negotiate a precarious 90-degree turn at the U.S. 641-U.S. 60 stoplight. Country Club Drive weathered the heavy traffic fairly well until the construction of a new U.S. 641 sent an untold number of loaded gravel trucks from the Rogers Group quarry on Crittenden Springs Road to the construction site south of town. Country Club Drive, after two previous harsh winters, is now in a state of severe disrepair. Spot fixes have not lasted. Meantime, Industrial Drive has better sustained the heavy trucks that pass

See **COUNCIL**/Page 5

Tabor selected to fill vacant council seat

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR
Two immediate past councilmen were the only names considered Monday to fill an open seat on Marion City Council. Darrin Tabor got the nod. Tabor was selected 4-1 to fill the unexpired term of former councilman Jared Byford, who earlier this month ascended to the seat of mayor by appointment. This marks the sec-



Tabor

ond time in four years Tabor has been appointed to fill a vacant seat. He was not present for Monday's meeting. Junior Martin was the only other name considered by the council. Nominated and supported in the vote by Mike Byford, Martin was first-man out in the election last fall to fill the six-person council. Tabor, nominated by

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Road sign thefts grow

STAFF REPORT
The signs of spring are missing again. It happens almost every year about this time, road signs start disappearing. It's a major cost to the county and serious safety concern, said Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom. Two weeks ago, all of the signs on Nunn Switch Road were stolen. A few weeks ago, new road signs were planted along Reiter's View Road. They were paid for by a state project to improve rural road safety. The next day, they were stolen. Last year about this time, signs were stolen from Fords Ferry and Crittenden Springs roads and around Cave In Rock Ferry landing. County Attorney Rebecca Johnson said local officials will be more proactive in investigating and prosecuting cases where road signs have been stolen or vandalized. The sheriff is currently working

County OKs
asphalt work
Page 7

See **SIGNS**/Page 5

Spring Fling Saturday

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will host its first ever Spring Fling Saturday at the Jim Hatfield Exposition Building at the fairgrounds. The event aims to welcome spring and celebrate the Easter season by bringing a number of vendors and customers together under one roof. This event will feature clothing, cosmetics, professional services such as photography and other products. Spring apparel will be the highlight of the mid-day event which starts at 11 a.m., and ends at 2 p.m. Here is a list of some of the vendors who will be there: Courtney Pate Photography, which will be doing Easter and spring mini sessions, Signature Boutique, Matilda Jane, Lu La Roe Boutique, the Rural Route Bus Boutique, Rodan+Fields, Lipsense, Scentsy, JamBerry and Whoopie Daisy Designs and Mary Kay. Most will have Easter outfits and products for sale. There will be opportunities to personalize a child's Easter basket. The Peoples Bank will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt nearby at the park at 11 a.m. For more information, contact the Chamber office at (270) 965-5015.

Marion City Council

Marion City Council normally convenes in regular session at Marion City Hall at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month



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Street & Parks: 270.965.8020 • Water & Sewer: 270.965.2266 • Fire: 270.965.2266

ON THE WEB

City of Marion-related websites
Government: www.marionky.gov
Tourism: www.marionkentucky.us

EDITORIAL

Frankfort to blame for inequity of school tax

Most everyone at last week's school tax forum is in agreement, building a new high school on the backs of only the county's property owners is not fair. Both people for the proposed 5.8-cent tax increase on real property and those vehemently against spoke to the inequity of the tax.

We've said it here before, and could not agree more: It is not fair, particularly when a community project enjoyed by all is not paid for by all. Motor vehicles aren't even subject to the "recallable nickel." And should the tax go to the ballot box, those same people who benefit but do not pay a dime for a new school can have a vote that weighs as heavily as the property owner footing the bill.

That is what is particularly skewed. Perhaps this is why our forefathers, for the first half-century of our country's history, allowed only property owners to vote. We realize there is a certain unfairness in that when it comes to selecting candidates who dictate every aspect of our lives, but not when it comes to ballot questions like a tax.

The deck is stacked, for sure, but upping the property tax collected for schools is the only mechanism our board of education has to raise enough revenue to carry out the \$8 million overall project anytime before 2025. In reality, it's just about the only way for most boards of education, cities and counties in Kentucky to generate the money for multi-million-dollar capital projects.

For property owners frustrated at that notion, look to your Kentucky General Assembly for blame. More specifically, point the finger at Republicans.

Kentucky is one of 12 states that does not allow for a local option sales tax, which was proposed in the legislature in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 as a means for communities to raise revenue dedicated to specific capital projects. Each year, a measure to add up to a 1-percent local sales tax paid by everyone who spends money in the territory made it a bit further in the lawmaking process. Each time, the bill died. In 2015 and 2016, it cleared the House largely along partisan lines with a no vote both years by Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, and most of his fellow Republicans. Both times, leadership in the GOP-controlled Senate let the bill sit idle until time expired on the session.

We cannot speak as to why each lawmaker opposed the local option sales tax, but the votes suggest party politics.

With the first Republican majority House in 95 years, the bill was not even proposed this session.

While it is easiest to point the finger at local policymakers, only a higher power can broaden local taxation.

Charter schools bad for Ky.

In this weekly column, I try to emphasize positive legislation that I believe will move our state forward. Unfortunately, in the final days of the 2017 legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed some very far-reaching legislation that I believe is wrong for our state and wrong for our children.

Late on the 28th day of this 30-day session, the Senate and House passed legislation to allow charter schools to operate in Kentucky, funded by local school district tax dollars. Charter schools are exempt from state regulations and do not charge students tuition. Instead, they are funded using money that would otherwise go to the local public school district. House Bill 520 allows local school boards and the mayors of Louisville and Lexington to authorize these "public" charter schools, beginning with the 2017-18 school year. The companion legislation, HB 471, requires the local school districts to send their per-pupil state funding (SEEK), as well as any federal funding, for each student that goes to a charter school.

I am a pro public schools



Sen. Dorsey
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& Local Government;
Transportation
Service
House: 1987-94
Senate: 2004-present

Senator! I vehemently opposed both measures and defended public education and our public school teachers with my "No" votes. Our public school systems may not be perfect, but they certainly are not a "disaster," as some proponents of charter schools have said. Since 1990, we have gone from 47th in the nation to 26th. Yes, we have more work to do, but draining our local schools of funding is not the answer. Furthermore, HB 520 opens the door for the privatization of our schools by allowing for-profit entities to establish charter schools in our districts. These schools will essentially compete for our best and brightest students and for the money that follows them.

While the legislation requires only certified teachers to be hired at charter schools, there are no protections for teachers in the public school system who might be laid off due to declining enrollments. The legislation also permits charter school students who cannot participate in state-sanctioned school athletics at their charter school to participate in sports at the public school in their district.

This measure will affect real people – and those real

people, our Kentucky families, are going to feel the pain of charter schools.

I lost the vote on this issue, but as long as I am in Frankfort, I will stand up for public education, for our public school students and for our public school teachers. It is our job to protect them and to fix any parts of the system that are broken. Charter schools do nothing to help local school districts, and, in fact, will harm them by drawing off already limited funding.

In my opinion, the passage of this legislation is the worst thing to happen to public education in Kentucky in my lifetime.

I helped lead the passage of legislation to create a "voluntary travel ID" card to meet federal REAL ID requirements. HB 410 creates an enhanced driver's license that could be used to board domestic airline flights and enter certain federal facilities, including Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. As of Jan. 1, 2019, federal law requires a specialized ID or driver's license for access to these facilities. The bill would also permit issuance of a stan-

dard driver's license or state ID card, but both cards will be issued for eight years rather than the current four years.

Several other bills that were sent to the Governor this week ranged from enhanced animal cruelty legislation to authorization for a veterans' center to legislation fighting prescription drug abuse.

The next step is for the Governor to consider the legislation, which will either get his stamp of approval – his signature – or his veto. Unfortunately, the Governor has already said that he will not veto the charter schools bill. We will return to Frankfort for two final days on March 29 and 30 to consider additional legislation and override any gubernatorial vetoes.

To share your opinion on a bill or proposal, call the Legislative Message Line at (800) 372-7181. Feel free to e-mail me directly at dorsey.ridley@lrcky.gov.


(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.)

Charter schools: No heartburn in House

In the last two days of the 2017 Regular Session before the period where the Governor decides whether or not to veto or accept legislation that has been sent to him, a number of bills from each chamber were agreed to (con-curred) by the other chamber and sent to Gov. Matt Bevin. Several of these were tied to Kentucky's educational system.

Several weeks ago I devoted almost an entire column to HB 520, the public charter school bill. At that time, the House had passed the bill and sent it to the Senate for review. The Senate made a few technical changes and sent the bill back to the House for concurrence. There were no major changes that gave the House heartburn and I voted yes, the House concurred, and the bill was sent to the Governor.

HB 471 was originally passed out of the House in early March and sent to the Senate, and would require the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) to pay dependent subsidies for teachers who retired prior to 2010 and are under 65 years of age. Currently, those retired teachers are stuck with paying the subsidy themselves because the previous budget did not address the issue. The bill also added an additional \$10.3 million for pupil transportation to local traditional schools. The Senate added language to include the funding mechanism for public charter schools and changed the language regarding pupil transportation and the KTRS funding problem. The



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House: 2013-present

House wouldn't go along with those changes, so the Senate reverted to the dependent and transportation language in the House bill while keeping the public charter school funding language.

Basically, HB 471 says Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding stays with the child, but capital outlay funds stay with the local traditional public school, local voter approved funds stay with the local traditional public school, 3 percent of the traditional public school's funding stay with the local traditional public school, and transportation funds stay with the local traditional public school (unless the local traditional public school decides not to transport a public charter school student in which case transportation funds would go with the student). I voted yes, the House concurred, and the bill was sent to the Governor.

It is important to note that the children who will benefit from public charter schools are those in poor urban areas and there is little chance that a public charter school would be located in our area. It is equally important to note that the public charter schools will have to produce or parents will not choose to send their children to these schools, and without students, the schools would cease to exist.

Senate Bill 153 is a higher education bill that is a sweeping overhaul to the funding model for our public universities and community colleges.

Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, SB 153 would appropriate funding based on the success of schools in areas such as graduation rates, numbers of degrees and credit hours earned and student operation support. The formula allocates a percentage of funding based on student success as measured by course competition, with another percentage for student support operations. Our state's community colleges will have a similar, but separate, funding formula, which positions individual community colleges to compete against one another. In the past, funding higher education was typically based on what was provided in the year and did not consider matters like enrollment growth or shrinkage. This measure was supported by a majority of our state's public university and community college presidents and is an attempt to help ensure tax dollars are appropriately utilized for higher education. I voted yes, the measure passed the House, and the bill was sent to the Governor.

SB 159 would require all public high school students to pass a civics test in order to graduate with a regular diploma unless they have taken and passed a similar test in the last five years. The test would be 100 questions drawn from the civics test administered by

the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens. Students may take the test as many times as needed in order to achieve a passing score of 60 percent. I voted yes, the measure passed the House, and the bill was sent to the Governor.

SB 11 would allow the construction of nuclear power plants in Kentucky after plans are thoroughly studied and approved by both the federal government and the state of Kentucky. It would end Kentucky's decades-old moratorium on construction of the facilities once there is a federally-ap-

proved means of high-level nuclear waste disposal that has been approved for nuclear waste storage. This is a long process and a nuclear plant will not be built in Kentucky anytime in the near future. I voted yes, the measure passed the House, and the bill was sent to the Governor.

As always, thank you for reading my updates, and thank you for contacting me with your concerns and thoughtful suggestions. 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.)

LETTERS

Writer thankful for volunteers who put out fire

To the editor

My humble thanks to all the many men of the fire departments and two neighboring ladies who came to my home Sunday afternoon to put out a fire. It had been started in my woods by a bucket of ashes that had been removed from my fireplace several hours earlier, and the lady had no idea there were any live coals in it.

I am so embarrassed and grieved it happened. We always had put them in the garden, and I wasn't aware they had been put at the edge of my yard until a visiting friend happened to go out to her car and see the fire, as I was holed up in the other side of the house studying the Bible and had no idea.

How I praise God she had to go to her car at that moment, as it would have been a full-blown heartbreak had it not been seen when it was, and what it did do was bad enough.

So again, I am so sorry it caused so many so much trouble, and especially on a Sunday. May God particularly bless each one who came to help, and please accept my truly heartfelt apologies. I always so hate to put anyone out or bother anyone.

Lucy Tedrick
Marion, Ky.

4th-grade N.C. student needs Ky. research help

To the editor

Dear people of the great State of Kentucky, I am a fourth-grade student in North Carolina. In fourth

Letters policy

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday the week before publication and include author's name only, address, phone number and signature. Contact information is required, but will not be published.

Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases not exceed 300 words or be submitted within 30 days of your last submission. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters at our discretion. Original submissions will not be returned.

Letters may be brought into our office, sent to: Letters, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064 or emailed to the editor at thepress@the-press.com.

grade, we do state reports, and I have chosen your state. I am very excited to learn more about Kentucky as I work on my report.

Most of the information we get for our reports will come from books and websites. We also like to get information from people who live in the state, too. This is why I am writing to you. I was hoping that you would be willing to send me some items to help me learn more about the best things in your state. It could be things like postcards, maps, pictures, souvenirs, general information, this newspaper article or any other items that would be useful.


You can mail items to: Bryan Jerry, Mrs. Hughey's class, Charlotte Latin School, 9502 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277.

I really appreciate your help!

Bryan Jerry
Charlotte, N.C.


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.

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Board sets last day of school, summer longer than recently

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

Crittenden County students will have a longer summer break than those in recent years, but will go deeper into May in the 2017-18 school year. Last week, the board of education reset the closing dates for both the current and subsequent academic years.

The final day for classroom instruction this year will be Tuesday, May 16, a full 10 days earlier than in 2016. Last summer was delayed due to numerous make-up days necessitated by wintry weather. But this year, students have only two days to recover at the end of the calendar, which was initially planned for Friday, May 12.

There is also a teacher planning day April 9 that could be used for classes if more make-up days become necessary.

The 2017-18 start for students will be Wednesday, Aug. 16, a bit later than in the last few years. The current school

year started on Aug. 10, giving children only 77 days of play following May 26 dismissal. Summer 2017 is slated to last 93 days.

The last day for students in the next academic year was moved to May 22, 2018, to

School year comparison

2016-17	Aug. 10 to May 16
2017-18	Aug. 16 to May 22

allow for additional teacher planning time throughout the year.

Superintendent Vince Clark said the later start to next year's calendar was not a result of legislation

passed in this year's Kentucky General Assembly encouraging schools to give kids a longer summer. Opening date had been set prior to a measure approved by lawmakers urging classes to begin no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26.

The board last week also set the dates and times for the Class of 2017 graduation ceremonies. Commencement will be Friday, May 19 with class night the evening prior. Baccalaureate will be Wednesday, May 17. All ceremonies begin at 6 p.m.

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS
Shannon Hodge was recognized last week as Crittenden County School District's ROCKET Way Employee of the Month. In presenting the award during the March 14 school board meeting, Superintendent Vince Clark lauded not only her skill as coach of the girls basketball team, but also her passion and concern for students and players. Hodge was named 2nd Region Coach of the Year and guided the team to the most wins of any athletic program in the district's history.

Free lunch questioned, threatened

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

Crittenden County Schools are feeding more than 200 additional students a day through the federal government's free meal program, but not everyone is happy about that.

The school district qualified for the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP, last summer and began offering free breakfast and lunch to every student when the 2016-17 academic year began. Through the first 135 days of classes, the district's two cafeterias dished out about 90 more breakfasts each day and 215 additional lunches.

"We do have kids that come to school every day hungry," Superintendent Vince Clark said in response to a question at last week's public forum on the board of education's school tax increase consideration.

If the pace continues at the elementary school and joint middle-high school cafeterias, by May 16 when kids start their summer, food

services will have prepared 15,000 more breakfasts and 36,000 more lunches over last year. And that has been done with the same number of staff as last year, reports Clark.

The meals are absolutely free to any of the school system's 1,300 or so students as a result of the 2010 Hunger-Free Kids Act under President Barack Obama. CEP allows schools or districts where more than 40 percent of students are considered "food-vulnerable" to offer the free meals.

The county's three schools join more than 7,000 nationwide who use the program.

But there's no such thing as a free lunch, argue some opponents.

The local school district is responsible for about 20 percent of the cost for providing the free breakfasts and lunches. The federal government covers the rest. However, the local school district makes up much of its cost through a la carte sales in the cafeterias.

"Why are doctors' and lawyers' kids getting free lunches?" Steve Haire questioned at the forum, prompting Clark's response.

Haire, who has no children in the school system, objects along with other Conservatives because they believe it is an example of government waste, with taxpayers, in essence, subsidizing the meals of students' whose families can afford to pay the full rate. Prior to the current academic year when CEP began locally, students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals based on household income. That means no one had to go hungry even without the program, argue some Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Clark has said the average person might be surprised at how many students come to school hungry. Prior to this year, many of those children who could not afford to eat would go home hungry because their families had not completed the application process for adjusted meal prices.

Under President Donald Trump and the Republican-held Congress, it could soon be last call for CEP ... or at least a diet version of it may be instituted.

Legislation was proposed and debated in Congress under Obama's administration that would raise the qualification level for schools and districts. It would require 60 percent of students at a school or district to be food-vulnerable.

That would likely exclude Crittenden County School District from eligibility. The district qualified last year for CEP with about a 50-percent rate of food-vulnerable students.

The congressional bill died, but with a GOP President, Conservatives could feel empowered up another go at modifying or eliminating the program.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, only 441 of Kentucky's 804 schools currently eligible for the program would qualify under the 60 percent guideline.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Through a grant and donation of a bus from the board of education, Crittenden County agriculture education students can soon get to work on converting a school bus to a greenhouse.

Board gives OK to ag ed for turning bus into greenhouse

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

Bus 9614 once carried children to school, but will soon be teaching them once it is converted to a greenhouse.

By declaring the bus surplus property and donating it to Crittenden County High School's agriculture education department, the board of education gave the go-ahead last week to get the project rolling. The conversion is being funded through a grant and will be completed by high school students.

Ag education instructor Larry Duvall said the greenhouse is aimed at having teens teach the youngest students in the district applied science practices for horticulture and explain the benefits of producing their own fruits and vegetables. It will also give the high school students some experience at mentoring.

"Our goal is to teach them science and teach them to grow their own food," Duvall said of middle and high school students who will tend the mobile gardens once the bus is

ready.

The longtime ag ed teacher works part-time at the high school alongside Jessica Cummins, the full-time instructor. Both are FFA advisors, so the grant through the Kentucky FFA Foundation to fund the project was a natural fit. Duvall applied for the money last fall.

The bus is no longer operable. It has no engine and has been robbed of many parts to keep other buses in the school district's transportation fleet running. The metal top will be removed and replaced with a skylight. Seats will also be taken out in favor of raised beds for gardening. Duvall said a hitch will be fashioned to the bus, allowing it to be towed from school to school like a trailer.

All of the conversion work will be done by high school students. Duvall said that through the transformation, the teens will get to utilize many of the abilities they have learned in the classroom, including vocational skills like using plasma torches to remove the top.at 6 p.m.

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Wood Badge recognizes Combs for leadership

STAFF REPORT

Members of the Kentucky Boy Scouts leadership group were in Marion on March 12 to present local Scout leader and minister David Combs with the Wood Badge for Scouting leadership.

Combs, the pastor of Marion United Methodist Church where the local Scouting program is headquartered, received his Wood Badge for training on two weekends last summer then completing his five-goal project over the last year.

The Wood Badge is the highest level of training attainable by Scout leaders. Amanda Smith of Campbellsville was the course director for the training Combs earned and she came to his church and presented the pastor with the appropriate colored Scout scarf to signify his work and the Wood Badge beads that mark leaders who have achieved that status.

Combs said the training was beneficial for his work in Scouting where he has been a leader for a dozen years and also in his ministry.

The 48-year-old pastor was involved in Scouting as a youngster and his three boys have all been Scouts. His oldest has attained the

PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS
A team of District Scouting officials were in Marion March 12 to present local Scout leader David Combs with the highest achievement for Scout leadership training – the Wood Badge. Making the presentation were (from left) Denise Boaz, Amanda Smith, Combs and Dave Watson.

Eagle.

The Methodist church hosts Scouting programs for boys and girls and has more than 60 youngsters involved with three different troops.

Part of Combs' Wood


Badge project was to increase leadership training among the local Scout commanders. Now, 90 percent of the leaders in Marion are trained.

The Wood Badge experi-

ence also includes training in leadership concepts utilized in the corporate world and government organizations that are relevant to Scouting's values, Smith said.

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THANK YOU

The family of Kenneth “Kenny” Drury would like to thank everyone for the food, prayers, visits, cards and all acts of kindness after the passing of our loved one.

Thank you to the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home and Pastor Heath Martin for your comforting words.

The Kenneth Drury family

Deaths Jennings

Mary June Jennings, 77, of Burna died Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at Livingston Hospital in Salem. She was a member of North Livingston Baptist Church.

Surviving are daughters, Carla Holeman of Burna and Denise (Ronnie) Bebout of Salem; a son, Ron (Marta) Nall of Lone Oak; five grandchildren; and a great-grand child.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Jennings; son, David Richard Nall; and parents, Henry and Alberta Clark Dickerson.

Services were Thursday, March 16 at the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremations Services with Bro. Jim Wring officiating. Burial was at Hampton Cemetery.

Vaughn

Rosa Davidson Vaughn, 86, of Henderson, N.C., died Saturday, March 18, 2017 at a nursing facility there.

She was born on Aug. 5, 1930 in Marion, the daughter of the late Ernest Lee Davidson and Isabelle Loftis Koon.

She was a retired manager of Breckenridge Job Corps in Morganfield.

Surviving are two daughters, Cheryl Vaughn Watkins of Henderson, N.C., and Alissa Vaughn Terrasa of Lake Jackson, Texas; a son, Thomas Glenn Vaughn of Raleigh, N.C.; five grandchildren, Jason Christopher Vaughn, John Michael Vaughn, Michael Terrasa, III, Joshua Terrasa and Tara Terrasa Sanchez; and two great-grandchildren, Esme Vaughn and Hannah Vaughn.

Services will be held in Lake Jackson, Texas. J.M. White Funeral Home of Henderson, N.C., was in charge of arrangements.

Endsley

Dorothy Hughes Endsley, 65, of Eddyville, formerly of Marion, died Sunday, March 19, 2017 at her home.

She was formerly assistant administrator at Crittenden County Convalescent Center in Marion and was of the Christian faith.

Surviving are her husband, Ken Endsley of Eddyville; eight daughters, Rachelle McNeely of Marion, Renee Hurley of Salem, Carrie Burnett of Mayfield, Amy Hutchison of Marion, Teresa Williams of Marion, Lisa Beavers of Marion, Kimberly Buckler of Crestwood, Ky., and Joni Blake of Shepardsville, Ky.; a sister, Donna McDaniel of Benton; 17 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a niece.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank L. and Relma Lee Wood Lawson.

Friends may visit the family on Thursday, March 23, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Lindsey Funeral Home in Paducah. Funeral services will be on at 1 p.m., Friday, March 24 at the funeral home with Rev. Ed Clement officiating. Burial will follow at Clarks River Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Lourdes Hospice or St. Jude Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

County seeks fitness grant for park's trail

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court is applying for a grant that would add fitness equipment to the walking trail at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

A public hearing was held last Thursday prior to the regular monthly fiscal court meeting and more than two dozen signed a petition supporting the idea.

The exact amount of funding for the grant has yet to be determined. A committee made up of local fitness professionals and enthusiasts will select the equipment styles that would be placed around the 1.25-mile track. Already the park has installed a set of pull-up bars on the back side of the track and a number of fitness buffs use the seating around the trail for box jumps and other types of exercises. Similar fitness stations would be added as part of the grant.

If secured, the Recreational Trails Grant would pay for half of the costs. The county would provide the balance of the cost through in-kind services such as labor to install the equipment. The county does not anticipate putting any cash into the project. Inmate labor would likely be used as part of the county's share.

Park board officials say that any new addition to the park would be for low or no maintenance type equipment.

Job Opportunity with Benefits Bus driver shortage creates havoc

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

A shortage of bus drivers is becoming critical for Crittenden County School District. The school system has already been forced to consolidate a second route.

"The driver shortage continues to be a daily challenge," Superintendent Vince Clark said at last week's board of education meeting.

The district has had to consolidate to 18 routes because it does not have enough drivers, and has virtually no margin for overcoming absences and covering extra-curricular trips, some of which may be overnight.

"We have no room for error right now. We face running a route or taking a trip sometimes," said Wayne Winters, lead vehicle mechanic. "Of course, the route comes first."

Two drivers called in sick Monday, forcing athletic teams to scramble for a driver for after-school games.

Increased regulations over the years and the nature of the job had already created difficulty in finding interested and qualified candidates. But the November



2016 Chattanooga, Tenn., bus crash that killed six children and injured several more has made it even harder. The driver in the deadly crash was speeding and driving recklessly. Winters said increased scrutiny in the media since the wreck has turned up the heat on transportation officials who make the call on hiring drivers.

"You could not sit down to watch mainstream news for two to four weeks without seeing something about that crash," Winters explained. "If I pull your MVR (motor vehicle record) and find a ticket, I have to think twice. It could put us in a bad situation."

Winters said despite repeatedly advertising openings and coverage of the driver shortage in The Crittenden Press, he has received only a handful of applicants over the last few months. He's constantly recruiting and keeping an eye out for potential drivers.

"I'm just not getting the

applications," Winters said.


Due to looming retirements and the return of at least one route, there is a need for three full-time drivers and three more subs for the next school year. Subs start out at an hourly rate of \$10.19, while full-time drivers begin at \$11.80. Incremental raises are added after that.

He admits driving a bus is not for everyone, but for those with the right stuff, it can be rewarding.

"Within three years, they can be making \$13," Winters said.

Plus, there's insurance and retirement.

"The cool thing about it, it's one of the few jobs you've got where you can be off on



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Former bishop, McRaith, dies at 82

Most Reverend John Jeremiah McRaith, 82, Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro from 1982 to 2009, died Sunday, March 19, 2017.

He was born in Hutchinson, Minn., Dec. 6, 1934.

McRaith graduated from St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minn., on Feb. 21, 1960. In 1982, he was ordained as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. In addition to shepherding the Catholic Church of western Kentucky, Bishop McRaith served as board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Center, McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

He is survived by his sister, Margaret Mary Madden and several nieces and nephews. Bishop McRaith was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Marie McRaith; his brother, James "Jim" McRaith; his sister, Jane Moening; niece, Shannon Ekeren-Moening; and nephew, Barry McRaith.

On Thursday, March 23, a tractor-pulled wagon will process with the body of Bishop McRaith from Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory in Owensboro to St. Stephen Cathedral. Mass at



McRaith

the Cathedral will take place at 12:05 p.m., with public visitation following until 8 p.m. A Wake Service is scheduled for 6 p.m., at the Cathedral. On Friday, March 24, public visitation will take place at the Cathedral from 8-10:45 a.m., with a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m.



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PHOTO BY EMILY COMBS, THE PRESS

Saturday storytime

Betty Brantley and Alexa Black led a special story time for about 15 children Saturday at Crittenden County Public Library. Brantley (center), of Salem, was sharing her children's book "Rhyans Rainbow" which Black (left), also of Livingston County, fully illustrated. The pair stuck around for a book signing afterward and the library hosted about four dozen people for the reception. Book signings of locally-connected authors at the library have become regular events. Next month, Library Director Regina Merrick's first book, Christian fiction novel "Carolina Dream" will be featured. In May, Crittenden County native John M.L. "Mike" Brown will return home to visit and sign his book, "The Kentucky Way," a murder mystery set in Crittenden County in the 1930s and 40s. All books can be ordered on Amazon.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

through each day, as it was built to handle typical traffic inside an industrial park.

The council has discussed the issue many times in the past, reaching no solution. Placing a weight limit on Country Club Drive has been considered, yet not seriously pursued. Now, however, resolution may perhaps be within reach following Monday's council meeting.

City Administrator Adam Ledford said he has spoken with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials about the problem created by heavy traffic using the street to bypass the hairy intersection. He said Monday they appear open to the idea of taking over maintenance of the street. The state, perhaps, appears more eager to repair and keep up Country Club Drive than to rework a problem intersection of two federal highways.

"They seem to be genuinely concerned about the turning of trucks at 641 and 60," Ledford said, adding that the tight turns by tractor-trailers that have taken out signs and utility poles and created traffic issues at time is a top worry of the Cabinet.

For the state to take over Country Club Drive, though, requires a trade-off. Ledford said officials told him they might consider a swap of Old Salem Road (Ky. 981), where the state highway department facility for the county is located.

If the swap does not occur soon, the council may finally pursue the weight restriction.

"I think that's the only way we can force their hand on it," Councilman Donnie Arflack said.

Ledford said he will check into what is required of the city to place a weight limit and relay his findings to the council at next month's meeting.

Some on the council worry about the issues that may arise if all heavy traffic is funneled to the spotlight.

"That's going to be a major problem if we start sending more trucks to that intersection," said Councilman Dwight Sherer, adding that he recently saw a tractor-trailer hit road signs at the corner twice before finally negotiating the turn.

Fire Chief Ronald "Red" Howton, who drives a heavy truck for his employer, said a weight limit will essentially be a paper tiger for most fellow operators.

"You won't stop it unless you put gates on each end," he warned.

Country Club pool

As the days get longer, time grows shorter for the pool at Marion Country Club to open.

Ledford updated the council on a request by country club manager Nathan King to help keep the pool open. The city has credited the club for about \$2,600 in overbilled water and offered, among other things, to help detect a leak that kept the children's pool closed last year.

However, Ledford said King has not responded to multiple requests to revisit the issue after a meeting in January with Ledford and elected representatives of the city.

"Attempts to follow up have fallen on deaf ears," the city administrator said.

Ledford said King wants the city to subsidize operation of the pool, which consistently loses thousands of dollars.

"He was looking at some type of potential trade-off where the city would subsidize his loss in exchange for expanding (public) days," Ledford explained.

That is something the city is not willing to do.

King recently told The Crittenden Press that the pool would not open without help from the city. If that happens, it would likely spell an end for the Marion Stingrays, the local swim team of more than five-dozen children.

Byford and Sykes were part of the January meeting, and both believe the proposal to King was sufficient. Sherer spoke in agreement Monday, too.

"There are going to be some kids who suffer who were on swim team," added the mayor, who has a child on the competitive swimming squad.

There is still time to strike a deal before the traditional opening of Memorial Day weekend, Ledford said, adding that the city would still like to work with King, "but that gap is closing quickly."

At press time, King had not responded to phone calls from the newspaper.

Nuisance properties

The council moved forward on a request last month by Code Enforcement Officer Terri Hart to rid the city of vacant, delapidated manufactured homes.

An ordinance was introduced that would place a fine on owners of mobile homes

that are vacant or used as storage and pose a health and safety hazard or source of filth. Of 58 vacant manufactured homes, Hart estimates about half fit that description.

A vote on the ordinance is expected next month.

Fire truck purchase

The council approved the purchase of a pumper fire truck for Marion Fire Department that will replace a 55-year-old truck.

The cost of the truck from the Village of Aroma Park in northern Illinois will be \$28,000. The council had approved spending up to \$25,000, so the cost was subsidized by \$2,000 in state aid money from the fire department and a \$1,000 private contribution from Gary Cruce, a volunteer firefighter. Howton said the fire department will pay for the pumper with the state aid money it receives each year. The city's general fund will not be tapped.

"It shows a real need if a firefighter puts in his own money," the mayor said.

Cruce also donated \$100 for a radio, and fellow fireman Jim Johnson voluntarily flew Howton and Cruce to Aroma Park to look at the truck.

Budget

The city has now begun to put money into a fund intended to be established last year under former City Administrator Mark Bryant. When the council agreed to pay off fire department construction debt with savings and eliminate accruing interest, an equivalent of the monthly payment was to be put into an account. But that was never established. Under Ledford, the fund now has \$10,000 and \$5,000 will be added each month, said Treasurer Melinda Gipson.

Further work on the new budget has been delayed as Ledford awaits health insurance quotes from the Kentucky League of Cities. He hopes to have a revised preliminary budget to the council in April.

LMI survey

Progress on the low- to moderate-income (LMI) survey has been twice the expected pace, Ledford said.

Completion of the survey could make the city eligible for a federal Community Development Block Grant of \$1 million to go toward the cost of a new sewer plant, estimated to be about \$11 million. Results of the survey must show that a

healthy portion of those polled rate as low- or moderate-income residents.

Households were selected randomly by Pennyryle Area Development District, but the survey has been carried out by city employees going door to door. As of Monday, 138 of 350 in the survey sample group had been approached. One hundred sixty-three households must fit the income requirements for the city to qualify for a grant. Hart estimates about three-quarters of that number have been obtained.

Blood Drive at Crittenden Health Systems
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KINDERGARTEN
Registration


Students who will turn 5 years old on or before August 1, 2017, are eligible to start kindergarten in the fall of 2017.

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SIGNS

Continued from Page 1

ing on a case where a road sign was stolen and later appeared in a wedding photograph on social media.

Newcom has asked the county's fiscal court to approve additional funding for road signs in order to make them tougher to steal. He figures with time and materials, it costs about \$100 to install a typical green road marker. For about \$26 more, the county could get what's considered anti-theft signs with heavy poles, stur-

dier material and riveted joints.

"People don't realize the safety issues that creates for ambulances and fire departments," said Magistrate Dan Wood, who is also a member of the Shady Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

The county attorney said anyone caught with signs will be prosecuted, and depending on the number of signs stolen or damaged, the crime could be considered a felony punishable for a year or more in prison.

The county decided it will soon begin using the sturdier material for road signs.

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Crucifixion - Resurrection - Heaven

All come to life at Forgiveness House

First Baptist Church of Fredonia will present its 11th Annual Forgiveness House on two weekends this month and next, starting with this weekend.

During March, the walk-through drama will be held from 6-8 p.m., this Friday and Saturday and from 2:30-8 p.m., on Sunday.

During April, the dates are Friday, April and Saturday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m., each night.

The drama will be held at the church's Family Life Center located next to the church at 208 Cassidy Avenue in Fredonia.

The production will portray the last days of Jesus Christ on earth.

Event goers will begin their journey through Forgiveness House by viewing the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The next scene will take them to the garden where Jesus prayed. Then comes the scene of Jesus' crucifixion. Next is a stop at the tomb where the viewer will experience the resurrection of Jesus Christ. From there, a newly



These are scenes from last year's Forgiveness House production in Fredonia.

added scene for this year is the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. The final segment will be a visit to Heaven. This scene has also been newly revised.

The entire production includes script changes from previous productions, and new scenery and music.

This event is free and everyone is not only invited, but encouraged to attend, say organizers.

Child care will be available for children under the age of nine.

New tours will begin approximately every 30 minutes.

Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended, especially for larger groups.

For more information, call Rena Hilliard at (270) 625-3837 to make reservations.

Be vigilant in fight against spiritual darkness

BY FELTY YODER

We have a word of exhortation in 1 Pet. 5:8 that reads, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." We will notice it does not say he will seek to devour whoever he chooses, but seeking whom he may devour. Those who pay heed to his roaring are the ones in great danger of being devoured. He can come roaring into our thought life with what a certain brother did, and what a certain sister said, and how it is going in that family, or in the church in this or that location. With this roar he paralyzes those who do not resist him steadfast in the faith until he can inject them with the poison of accusation.

By the way, all accusations come from one and the same source, and that is of the wicked one. The accuser is to kill, steal and destroy. It succeeds for him when he gets someone to turn his attention away from the sin in his own flesh. Such a person no longer lives in the spirit of self-acknowledgement but is consumed with other people's matters and mistakes, and neglects his own sanctification. By not having a love for the truth, the devil finds him in a condition in which he may devour him. "But if



ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." (Gal. 5:15)

The evil days come in everybody's life, and it seems that flesh and blood are the cause of it. However, that is not necessarily the case. It is the spiritual hosts of wickedness that make use of flesh and blood. It is their will to rule over all men. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph. 6:12-13)

In order to withstand we need to understand the nature of the battle. When a spirit of stubbornness enters a person and he behaves stubbornly toward his neighbor, his neighbor does not realize that spirit powers are at work. He only thinks of

the person as flesh and blood, and repays evil with evil. He does not realize he has thereby opened his heart to the same spirit that drove the first person to be stubborn. Consequently, he is not any better than he. Now Satan has laid hold of both of them. He has come to steal, to kill and to destroy. By his spirit he drives both these people to destroy each other. Neither of them realizes Satan is driving both of them. That is how Satan plays games with people and destroys them. This destruction would come to an end as soon as they would close their hearts to him. Man can behave badly and destroy one another, but that does not overcome the evil spirit that drove them. When the evil day comes, many people

resort to lying, hypocrisy, guile and strife to save their life as much as possible. Instead of relying on God, withstanding, and holding fast to the good, they are devoured by the evil, losing both their boldness and joy.

We who believe, are called to overcome evil with good. Therefore, count it all joy, brothers when you come into various trials. They are a sign from God that He trusts you. When we hold fast to the good, the evil spirit powers will be trodden under our feet.

(Editor's note: Felty Yoder, of the Salem area, shares his views periodically in this newspaper. His opinions are his own and are not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH

- A cemetery meeting will be held at Sugar Grove Presbyterian Church on April 2 after the worship service.

- Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 6 p.m., April 13 at Marion United Methodist Church.

- Good Friday Service will be held at 6 p.m., Friday April 14 at Cumberland Presbyterian Church and there will be a 6 a.m., Sunrise Service on

Easter, April 16 at the church on West Bellville Street.

- Sugar Grove Church will have Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 16.

- Sturgis General Baptist Church is having revival this week through Friday. The services are at 7, nightly with evangelist Rev. Chris Brantley of Piggott, Ark., formerly of Marion.

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Dr. Mike Jones, pastor
Early worship service 8:15 pm
Life groups/Sunday school 9:30 pm
Late worship service 10:45 pm
AWANA 5:45 pm
Limitless worship 6:00 pm
Discipleship class 6:30 pm
Wednesday nursery, preschool, Centershot and youth 5:45 pm
Wednesday prayer service 8:15 pm

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Captured by a vision...
108 Hillcrest Drive, Marion | 270.965.4623
Sunday School: 9:30 am | Sunday Worship: 10:45 am, 6 pm
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 pm
Curtis Preuitt, pastor

Mexico Baptist Church
175 Mexico Road, (270) 965-4059
MexicoBaptist.org
Minister of Youth Robert Kirby | Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor Tim Burdon
Sunday worship services: 10 am, 7 pm
Sunday Bible study: 9 am
Sunday discipleship training: 6 pm
Wednesday worship service: 7 pm

Marion General Baptist Church
341 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.
Bro. Wesley Lynn, pastor
Sunday School/10 am
Sunday Morning Worship/11 am
Sunday Evening Worship/6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study/7 pm

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist
Barnett Chapel Road, Marion, Ky.
Mike Jacobs, pastor
Sunday school: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday evening: 6 p.m.
Wednesday night Bible study: 6 p.m.
Barnett Chapel...where everyone is welcome.

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

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship
...it might just be the best time you've spent this week
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
— Matthew 18:20

Piney Fork
Pastor Junior Martin
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
School 10 am
Worship 11 am
Bible study 6 pm
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 306 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove
cumberland presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Road, Marion, Ky. | 270.704.2455
Sunday School - 10 am | Sunday Worship - 11 am and 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7 pm

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

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

Marion United Methodist Church
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of the United Methodist Church
WEDNESDAY Bible study 5:30 pm
SUNDAY Sunday school 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am
South College Street | the-press.com/MARIONunitedmethodist.html

Tyner's Chapel Church
Located on Ky. 855 North
Sunday: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Pastor Charles Tabor

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

Marion Church of Christ
546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
— The end of your search for a friendly church —

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

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

Frances Community Church
Bro. Butch Gray • Bro. A.C. Hodge
Wednesday night prayer meeting and youth service - 7 pm
Sunday school - 10 am - Worship service - 11 am

Crayne Community Church
Crayne Cemetery Road
Crayne, Ky.
Bro. Tommy Hodge, pastor
Sunday school 10 am | Sunday worship 11 am

Charter schools, nuclear plants OK'd

STAFF REPORT

Amid the various signs that spring is coming, lawmakers continued last week to send a growing number of bills to the governor's office this week. The fevered pace rivals the extraordinarily quick and historic start to the 2017 legislative session.

One high-profile measure that's expected to soon be signed into law would allow charter schools to operate in Kentucky.

House Bill 520 would allow local school boards to authorize public charter schools in their school districts beginning with the 2017-18 school year. The schools would be established by contract and governed by independent boards to provide Kentucky residents with educational programs aimed at meeting or exceeding student performance standards adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education.

Kentucky is one of seven states that do not already allow public charter schools, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Meantime, HB 471, the mechanism to fund charter schools, requires local school districts to give up the per-pupil state and federal funding for each child that goes to charter school. They are also responsible for busing students to charter schools or face elimination of state subsidies for transportation.

In other business, lawmakers gave final approval to legislation that would lift a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants in the state. Senate Bill 11 would amend statutes to change the requirement that facilities have a way to permanently dispose of nuclear waste. Instead, they would only be required to have a plan for its safe storage, and that the plans be approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

There are currently about 100 nuclear reactors across

30 U.S. states.

SB 11 has been delivered to the governor's office to be signed into law.

The General Assembly's 2017 session is now in its veto recess, the period of time in which lawmakers return to their home districts and give time to see if the governor vetoes any bills. Lawmakers are scheduled to return to the Capitol next Wednesday and Thursday for the final days of the 2017 legislative session.

Much is left uncertain at press time. Other significant bills sent to the Gov. Matt Bevin's office this session but still awaiting his signature are:

- HB 38 would ban registered sex offenders from public playgrounds unless they have written permission from the local governing body.

- HB 410, known as the REAL ID Bill, would create a voluntary travel ID – an enhanced driver's license – that could be used to board airplanes and enter certain federal facilities, including certain military facilities, as of Jan. 1, 2019. The legislation is aimed at creating a form of state-issued identification that meets federal anti-terrorism standards. The bill also spells out rules for the issuance of a "standard" driver's license, permit or state personal ID card.

- SB 50, which would give school districts more leeway in setting school calendars while maintaining the current requirement to provide at least 1,062 hours of instruction per year. The bill is designed to provide more flexibility for individual districts to operate on a "variable student instructional year," choosing to provide the required number of hours without necessarily fitting them into the current mandate of 170 instructional days. It also encourages pushing the start of the school year to late August or later.

- SB 75 would increase the

amount donors can contribute to election campaigns. Under the legislation, individuals and political action committees could donate \$2,000 in the primary and general elections in Kentucky – up from the \$1,000 limit.

Awaiting Senate approval

- HB 13 would authorize \$10.5 million in state bond funds for construction of a state veterans' nursing home in Bowling Green. Kentucky's four state veterans' nursing homes are currently in Hazard, Wilmore, Hanson and Radcliff.

- HB 58 would authorize participation in public school interscholastic extracurricular activities by a home school student.

- HB 241 would require that a student-athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion not return to a practice or competition until cleared by a physician to do so.

- SB 1 is a sweeping education reform measure that sets the course to change educational standards and accountability for public schools. The more than 100-page-long bill is an omnibus measure aimed at empowering state education officials, locally-elected school board members and teachers to decide the best teaching methods for their communities. The bill would change how students are tested, and it would also set up a new way for intervening in low-performing schools by placing more power in the local school district during those interventions. This bill has cleared the Senate and House, but awaits a final Senate vote after the House approved a revised measure.

Awaiting House approval

- SB 78 would require public schools across Kentucky would to go smoke-free by next school year. The bill would outlaw the use of all tobacco products, including

electronic cigarettes, on elementary, middle and high school campuses in addition to buses.

Signed into law

- HB 1 makes Kentucky a right-to-work state. Under this measure, membership in a labor union is optional instead of mandatory for workers at unionized workplaces.

- HB 2 requires a woman seeking an abortion to first undergo an obstetric ultrasound and receive a medical explanation of what that ultrasound shows. Women can decline to see the ultrasound images if they choose.

- HB 3 repeals the state's prevailing wage law. It removes a guaranteed base wage to construction workers on certain public works projects.

- HB 14 makes it a hate crime to attack a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical professional, adding them to the categories of individuals protected by law because of race, religion, sexual orientation or national origin.

- HB 112 protects landlords from liability if a tenant's dog bites someone.

- SB 5 prohibits a woman from having an abortion if she is 20 weeks or more into a pregnancy.

- HB 174 helps farmers transport their goods by extending a 10 percent weight tolerance for vehicles carrying poultry, livestock, meats, crop products or feed for livestock and poultry on state roads other than interstate highways.

- SB 6 prevents employees from being enrolled in labor organizations or having money withheld from their earnings for union dues unless they give permission in writing.

- SB 17 specifies that students are permitted to voluntarily express religious or political viewpoints in school assignments free from discrimination.

How they voted



Rep. Lynn BECHLER
R-Marion



Sen. Dorsey RIDLEY
D-Henderson

EDUCATION

House Bill 520

Charter schools creation



House Bill 471

Charter schools funding



Senate Bill 17*

Religious expression



Senate Bill 50

School calendar



Senate Bill 1

School accountability



Senate Bill 78

Smoke-free schools



House Bill 58

Home-school athletes



HEALTH & SAFETY

House Bill 410

REAL ID



House Bill 38

Sex offenders at playgrounds



House Bill 14*

Blue Lives Matter



House Bill 112*

Dog bite responsibility



House Bill 13

Veterans nursing home



House Bill 241

Athlete concussion



House Bill 2*

Ultrasound explanation



Senate Bill 5*

Abortion threshold



LABOR

House Bill 1*

Right to Work



House Bill 3*

Prevailing wage



Senate Bill 6*

Union membership



OTHER

Senate Bill 75

Campaign contributions



House Bill 174*

Farm goods transport



Senate Bill 11*

Nuclear power plants



**Signed into law by governor*

Utility pole relocation plan on hold for now

STAFF REPORT

A proposal to relocate unsightly utility lines along the 100 and 200 blocks of South Main Street is on ice for now.

Both Crittenden Fiscal Court and Marion City Council have rejected pitching in on a \$75,000 plan to place AT&T and Mediacom lines behind city hall, the courthouse and Farmers Bank & Trust Co. Last Thursday, the county voted down a request to subsidize the effort, and Monday, the city council opted to forgo its portion. Marion Tourism Commission had approved paying a share of the cost during a special meeting last Wednesday; however, the commission's approval was contingent on the county and city both participating.

The downtown beautification project is spearheaded, largely, by the incentive from the bank. The bank, which just completed outside renovations of more \$500,000 and plans to do even more inside, had agreed to pay one-third, or about \$25,000 of the total cost quoted by the telecommunications providers. The bank had agreed to finance the contributions of the city, county and the tourism commission for a period of five

years.

Magistrates Dan Wood and Donnetta Travis last week were in favor of participating in the project, which would have cost the county about \$17,000. The other four magistrates and Judge-Executive Perry Newcom voted against it. Bank officials Wade Berry and Andy Hunt were at the county's meeting and indicated that Farmers would be open to helping with the project at a later date, if money becomes available.

The issue was not voted on by the city council. Instead, on the advice of Mayor Jared Byford, a loan officer at the bank, action was tabled until a quote on relocating the lines for the 200 block only could be returned. This plan would leave the county out of inclusion.

Fiscal court OKs asphalt for Ky. 365, Ky. 723

STAFF REPORT

Two state highway improvement projects were approved last week by the Crittenden Fiscal Court during its regular monthly meeting at the courthouse, triggering state funds to pay for about 7.5 miles of resurfacing.

Jonathan Guess, an engineer with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, told magistrates that new funding for the coming construction season and carryover from last year equals about \$1.3 million that is appropriated for Crittenden County highway work. He recommended that resurfacing projects on Ky. 356 and Ky. 723 be made the top priorities, and the fiscal court approved his suggestion.

Work will be done late

this summer or fall, or perhaps next spring, depending on the approved contractor's schedule. The jobs will be let early this summer.

Additionally, Guess reported that an unrelated state project to resurface and repair existing U.S. 641 between Marion and the Crittenden-Caldwell line near Fredonia is expected to start before too long. The project deadline is June 30, he said. Rogers Group has the contract.

The resurfacing on Ky. 365 and Ky. 723 will complete projects that started last year. On Ky. 365, new asphalt will be laid from its intersection with U.S. 60 to just north of Chandler Farm Road, a length of 2.44 miles. On Ky. 723, improvements will be made from its inter-

section with Ky. 297 at Irma to just north of Cecil Croft Road, a length of 5.129 miles.

In other business last Thursday:

- Newcom reported that \$199,000 in FEMA funds were recently made available to the county to cover costs incurred during the July 2016 flooding that damaged a number of tiles and roads in the county. Newcom said the county has applied for even more FEMA help and anticipates further assistance will be made available.

- The county government will contract with a company to maintain the generator at the emergency operations center on Industrial Drive. Newcom said that during a recent lightning storm when

power was out, the generator did not automatically start as it should. Upon investigation, it was determined that the starting battery was dead, the air filters were dry rotted and the oil hadn't been changed as prescribed by the owner's manual.

Newcom recommended the county pay \$900 a year for a maintenance contract, half of which would be reimbursed by Homeland Security.

- County Clerk Carolyn Byford said her maintenance agreement with Harp Enterprises to keep the county's voting machines in order has been reduced by a few hundreds dollars. She said the cost-savings came from eliminating a couple of machines and other unnecessary services.

TABOR

Continued from Page 1

councilwoman Phyllis Sykes, most recently served on the body from March 2013 to December 2016. In 2013, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Greg West, who resigned to become county trial

commissioner. He earned the right to keep the seat in the 2014 election, but last fall, he did not seek re-election to the council seated in January of this year. He cited family matters as the reason for not running last year, but earlier this month said he was now ready to serve if called upon.

He had previously served

on the non-partisan council after winning two-year terms in 2006, 2008 and 2010. He did not seek re-election in 2012, but accepted West's open seat just four months after that general election.

Tabor brings a working knowledge of all the key matters facing the city – mandated wastewater treatment

system upgrades that include a new \$11 million sewer plant, the poor condition of city streets, nuisance properties and budgetary concerns.

Monday was the first meeting presided over by the new mayor. Jared Byford is only the second mayor in 29 years after being appointed March 1 by his fellow council members

to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor Mickey Alexander, who resigned in February, citing increased responsibilities as a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Marion. Byford is the sixth consecutive mayor to first take the seat by appointment.

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207 Sturgis Rd.
Marion, KY
270-965-4514

4860 Old Mayfield Rd.
Paducah, KY
270-534-9713



Birth

Henry

John and Susana Henry of Marion announce the birth of a daughter, Louisa Marie, Feb. 10, 2017 at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

Louisa Marie weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Mills of Benton, formerly of Marion, and the late Gerald Mills. Maternal great-grandparents are the late Jim Fed and Martha Mills of Marion and the late Carl and Sarah Hopson of Marion.

Paternal grandparents are Robert Henry of Creswell, Ore. and the late Mary Cook Conrad of Marion. Paternal great-grandparents are Mary Chick Cook of Marion and the late Robert B. Cook and the late Cecil and Glendine Henry of Ringwood, Okla.

Calendar

- **The Burna American Legion** and Auxiliary encourages everyone to wear red each Friday to honor our overseas military personnel. The continued use of yellow ribbons in honor of our military is also encouraged to express patriotism.
- **Crittenden County Middle School SBDM** will meet at 3:15 p.m., Monday in the principal's office.
- **Woman's Club of Marion** will meet at 5:30 p.m., March 30. Program will be Gary and Marie Dawson, missionaries in Venezuela for the past 37 years. Update on city government will be given by Adam Ledford, Marion City Administrator. Prospective members are invited.
- **Book signings** at the Crittenden County Public Library will be held April 15 and May 27. At 10 a.m. April 15, Library Director Regina Merrick will be presenting her first book, a Christian fiction novel. Then, at 10 a.m. May 27, Crittenden County native John M.L. "Mike" Brown will return home to visit and sign his book, "The Kentucky Way," a murder mystery set in Crittenden County in the 1930s and 40s.
- The third annual **Lace Up for a Cure 5k** will be held April 1. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the race at 9 a.m. at Marion City-County Park. Entry is \$20 dollars. Contact Chad Bell for more information at (270) 969-0385.

Extension events

- **Extension Homemakers International Day** will be held at 3:30 p.m., Thursday (today) at the Ed-Tech Center. Mimi Byrnes will be our guest speaker. Please check the monthly newsletter for more information on this event.
- **Private Applicator Pesticide Training** will be held at the Extension Office-Annex at 6 p.m., Thursday (today). Call (270) 965-5236 to register.
- **Quilt Club** will meet at 9:30 a.m., Monday at the Extension Office. Contact the Extension Office at (270) 965-5236 for more information and what the project for the month will be.
- **Beekeepers** meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday at the Extension Office Annex. The meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about bees and beekeeping. Call (270) 965-5236 for more information.
- Learn "**Unique Uses of Canning Jars**" at 10 a.m., March 30 at the Extension Office. Call (270) 965-5236 to reserve your spot.
- **4-H Sew Much Fun** will meet after school March 30 at the Extension Office.

New resource offers clothes, accessories at CCMS

If you are thinking of cleaning out your closets this spring, Crittenden County Middle School might be the ideal benefactor.

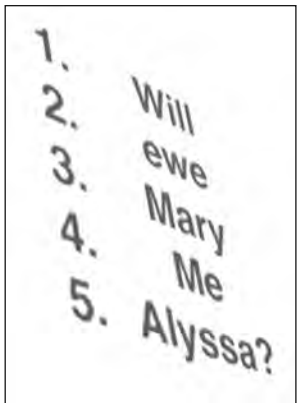
The school is accepting gently used items for a new project called "The Closet!"

"Think of it as a free consignment shop for our students," explained instructional coach Tiffany



He popped the question

With a little help from library staff, Hayden McConnell chose a unique method to propose to his girlfriend, Alyssa Leet. During Trivia Night Friday at Crittenden County Public Library, McConnell popped the question to Leet following the final round of questions. With a little planning and help from Library Director Regina Merrick, McConnell was able to arrange a bogus 11th round of queries where the answers added up to, "Will Ewe Mary Me, Alyssa?" The entire room of about 40 players was in on the scheme, keeping quiet until the answers to the round that served as McConnell's proposal were displayed on the screen. Leet accepted, by the way.



Trivia Night ended in a tie Friday. Two-time reigning champs "The Smiths," tweaked to "The O'Smiths" in honor of St. Patrick's Day, had to share Friday's title with "The Blarney Stones." More than three dozen people crammed the library meeting room for trivia night, which carried a "green" theme. Pictured are members of the winning teams (seated, from left) Jeff Leet, John Ridge, Ellen Merrick, Alyssa Leet and Hayden McConnell of The Blarney Stones and (standing) Brian and Michele Hodge, Glen Leslie and Todd Merrick.

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 Pork roast, baked sweet potato, black-eyed peas, carrot raisin salad, cornbread.
- Friday: Menu is chicken and rice casserole, buttered spinach, banana pudding, whole wheat roll and margarine. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Monday: Menu is frankfurts and sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, cornbread and vanilla pudding. Ladies' exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.
- Tuesday: Menu is sloppy joe on whole wheat bun, hashbrown casserole, baked pork 'n beans, baked apples and raisins.
- March 29: Menu is Italian

Post 217 celebrates 98 years of service

SUBMITTED BY FAYE GIBSON
AMERICAN LEGION POST 217

The American Legion is celebrating 98 years of service this month.

On March 15, 1919, the first Legion caucus was held by members of the American Expeditionary Force in Paris. This group of war-weary veterans was looking to organize a veterans organization. Over the next few months, the constitution, preamble and emblem were adopted.

On Sept. 16, 1919 Congress chartered the American Legion as a patriotic Veterans organization. The Legion's membership today stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 Posts worldwide.

The legion has lobbied over the years in gaining benefits for our veterans. Since that time, the American Legion has influenced many changes in America.



Veterans of Post 217 in attendance are (from left) Bruce Von Dwingelo, Teddy Thompson, Thomas Gibson, Harold Marshall, Randy Gray, Don Belt, Stanley Brown, David Brown, Bill Dameron, Rell Peck, Deon Williams and Larry Porter.

It has achieved hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced important programs for our children and youth.

American Legion Post 217 met March 10 at the post in Burna. Veterans were honored for their service and presented with three wood carvings pertaining to their country and service by the American Legion Auxiliary. President Terry Black, presented these gifts to David

chicken breasst, stewed potatoes, broccoli soup, pears, whole wheat roll 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.

The center is a service of Pennyrite Allied Community Services. Aging Coordinator Jenny Sosh is director of the center.

Bruns presents at WKU conference

Brody Bruns of Marion is one of 400 students who will make presentations at Western Kentucky University's 47th Annual Student Research Conference on Saturday at Downing Student Union.

Bruns is a 2012 graduate of Crittenden County High School.

The WKU Student Research Conference will showcase scholarly activities graduate and undergraduate students of diverse disciplines from 43 schools, departments, programs and colleges at WKU.

Students will present original research and creative projects that include posters and exhibits, oral papers and presentations, performances and videos. All projects are mentored by WKU faculty and staff.

Bruns, along with co-pre-

senter Caleb Ogbonnaya of Bowling Green, will showcase a presentation on "Expanding the Accessibility of Conventional Smart Home Systems." Their project will seek to explore the interaction between users and systems of smart devices and how the interface for this interaction can be improved.

"Our project aims to consider alternatives and supplements to the traditional smart system interface in order to improve its usefulness," reads a summary of the students' presentation. "These alternatives include technology such as voice recognition and motion control."

All student presentations, which begin at 8:10 a.m., are free and open to the public. Parking instructions and maps are available on the conference website.



4-H members Mckenzi Zharte, Shelby Brown and Trinity Hayes delivered crocheted Christmas ornaments to residents of Crittenden County Health and Rehab during the holiday season.

Crochet Corner creates comradery, craft time

Why Crochet? I get this question a lot. First and foremost I like to crochet. I like the satisfaction of making something from a ball of yarn. Whether it is a coaster, an afghan, scarf or one of the countless other items I have made over the years, I like the feeling of accomplishment I receive when I am done. Secondly, there are numerous health benefits from crocheting. Some of these benefits are: reducing anxiety, building self-esteem, relieving depression, relaxation and building a community.

Crochet Corner has been a staple in our community for nearly three years. This group of crafters and creators meet two times a month, and enjoy fellowship, laughter and learning. We not only help others learn the art of crocheting but we give back too. We have made over 40 pocketed scarves that have been given to the Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center. We have made dozens of water filter socks used to cover and pad water filters that are being used in third



Rebecca ZAHRTRE
Guest columnist
A Simple Perspective

world countries. This last holiday season our crafters made and donated more than 140 Christmas ornaments that were handed out by our local 4-H kids to the nursing home and Crittenden Hospital. Our next community project will be making octopi that are used in neonatal units that help calm premature babies.

If you would like to learn how to crochet, or perhaps you already know how but would love to help in any of our community projects, please join us! We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month from noon-1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office, located at 1534 US Hwy 60 E, in Marion. For more information or to get a supply list for a beginner, please call me at (270) 965-5236.

Becky Zahrtre, a resident of Crittenden County, is a wife and mother of two. Her goal is to enrich other's lives as much as they have enriched her own. Her column appears periodically in this newspaper.

CAPITOL
Cinemas

Starts Friday, March 24

Record Breaking Box Office Performance!

Beauty and the Beast

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

PG

Power Rangers

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

PG-13

Nation's Box Office #2

Kong: Skull Island

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

PG-13

Ghost in the Shell

PG-13 • Coming Friday, March 31

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&
Kenny Ford
May 6, 2017

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Abbie Belt
&
David Adamson
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True Value.

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Marion, Kentucky
(270) 965-5425



Crittenden residents head to Washington State

How would it feel to leave your home and farm, friends and neighbors and to sell everything but what you could pack and take on a train and head for a new state all the way across the nation?

This is what many Crittenden County families did in 1904-05. They were mostly from the Lone Star and Piney Creek neighborhoods and they were headed for Washington State. They were promised plenty of profitable cropland, good schools and churches. Thunderstorms were rare and cyclones unknown. The climate, which is mild, was extremely beneficial to raising crops and fruit and was also good for one's health.

In April 1904 a big crowd of local friends and neighbors gathered at Crayneville (Crayne today) to see the crowd off for Washington State.

In March of 1905 another car of 70 local people boarded the train and headed west. Included in this group were: Monroe Andrews, wife and children; W. J. Riley, Harve Vinson, wife and child; J. M. McDowell, Laura Cole, Sam Stovall, wife and child; John Hill and wife and children; J. H. Shinall, wife and children; Ed Hill, wife and children; J. W. Maxwell; James Johnson; Ned Cruce and wife; Press Cruce; Ben Belt; wife and son; Jim McCaslin, wife and children; R. F. Scott and children; John Alexander, wife and children; Prince Pickens, colored, wife and daughters; W. S. Hamby and two sons; Sam Turley and son; Mrs. Emma C. Crayne; R. P. McCaslin; and Bulger Hill. This makes the car load for which Bulger Hill is mostly responsible.

Here is the history behind this migration to Washington.

The Crittenden Press, Oct. 9, 1909: "Crittenden County Natives in Washington"

This article appeared in the Bathell, Wash. News. A Toppenish doctor was once heard to say, "How come so many people around here are Baptists from Crittenden County, Ky.?"

A bit of Valley history reveals the answer for the doctor and for a younger generation beginning to ask the same question about the Crittenden County folk and their descendants. If your name is or was Woodall, Hill, Jacobs, Crayne, Donelson, McAllister, Rushing, Cruce, Stovall, Farmer of McCaslin – to name a few – you could be one of these people. How come so many people came from Crittenden County, Ky., not all Baptist, and how did they get here?

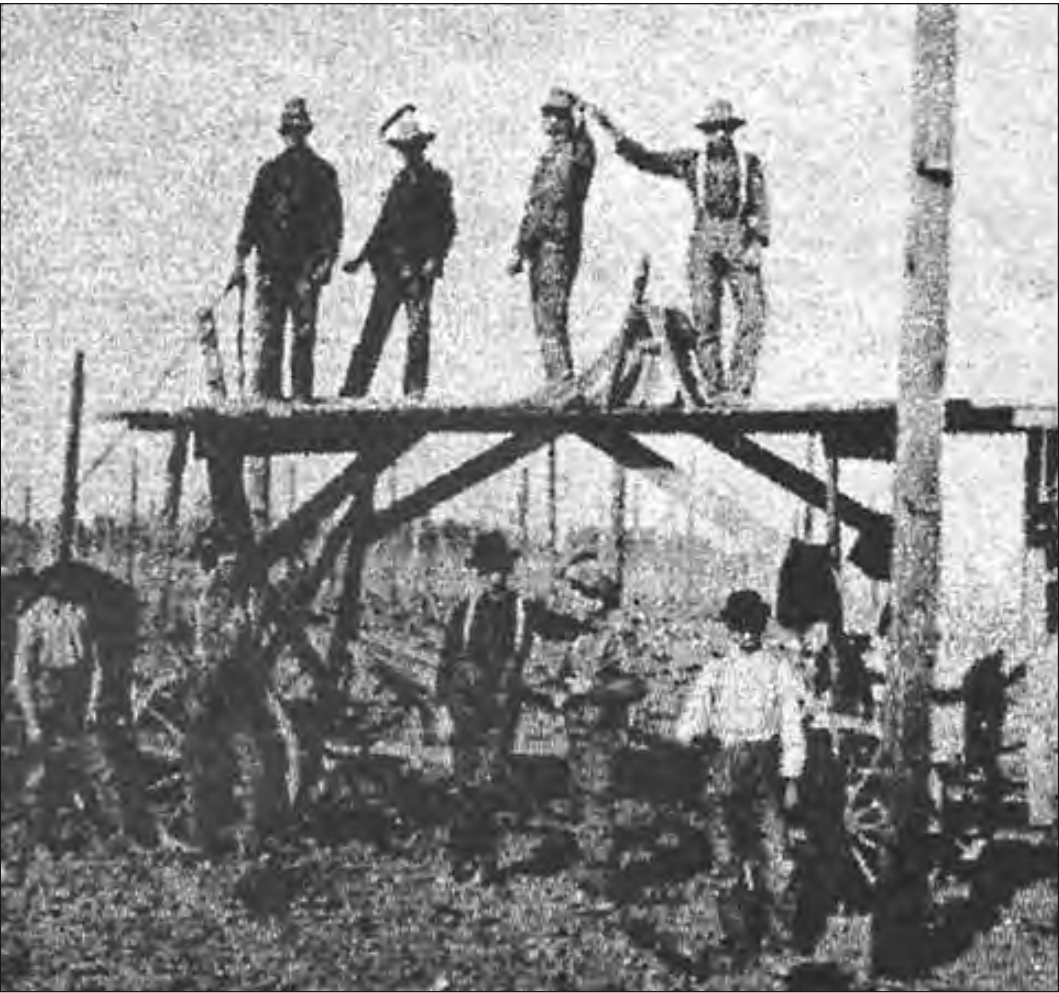
It began with Hasdon Hill (also called Bulger), whose Grand Army of the Republic grave for Union soldiers, is in the Zillah Cemetery with numerous others of Crittenden County origin. He arrived at Old Town, now called Union Gap, in 1888, landing first at Tacoma with a sister and husband named Sam Farmer and a family named McAllister. Hill had six sons and a mind-ailing wife, resulting from childbirth, who died in 1897.

The railroad came and with it the means of recruiting new and needed settlers. These Kentucky people were descendants of pioneer Kentuckians who had followed Daniel Boone down into the Kentucky wilderness after the Revolutionary War to establish roots.

When the Civil War came it brought economic disaster to these growers of tobacco and livestock. Recovery had not come at the turn of the century.

A peculiar kind of agony was produced when opinion was so divided over the war that Kentucky was declared neutral for a time.

A succession of three migrations brought them about 1904; all from near Marion, county seat of Crittenden. They sold their farms, some to pay the fare, loaded their possessions, often only clothes, feather beds and homemade



Above, a group of Kentucky "migrants" twin hops in 1904 at the Mead Ranch west of Yakima, Wash. It was through the efforts of Hasdon Hill (inset) that so many families of the Crayne and Piney Creek communities migrated to Washington State. Hill was paid by the railroad to persuade settlers to come to Yakima Valley, as many people were needed to work on the farms that were so prosperous in the state.

quilts, on the cars. A letter from Mrs. Ida Carpenter, when she was Miss McCallister, records their departure thus: "I shall never forget our last night in Kentucky. A lot of people gathered at Aunt

Bell's home. We sang, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds," "God Be With You," "Til We Meet Again" and "Abide With Me."

The next day we boarded the train at Crayne, our nearest railway station. Just everybody around was there and we felt sad as our train

pulled out. When the train got to Marion, it pulled in slowly and the band was playing "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Home Sweet Home." We think Washington is a wonderful

state now, but at that moment we were not very confident.

A relative met the train at Toppenish, Miss McCallister relates, and told them he had ridden his Cayuse all the way on the run and met their query of "what ever is a Cayuse?" with a teasing answer in which he gave a description of a weird animal. Continuing to jest with them, he said the hay derricks, which stood like sentinels everywhere, were western milking machines. The same cousin wasn't kidding when he told the girls that they were to treat strangers as strangers and not greet everyone as a friend as was their custom back home.

Memories of hickory forests, land measured by "Pole" – from such and such a clump or stump, sorghum molasses, coon hunts and hounds, and brush arbor camp meetings held by traveling revivalists, were replaced

by long hours in hop yards. Sage and sand called for a whole new concept of living and broke their long-standing clannish ways.

Piney Creek and Lone Star Schools were forgotten as Satus, Alfalfa, Toppenish and Old Town developed and replaced them.

The grandparents of immigrants to the Valley freed their slaves; the sons joined units fighting for the union, but as a state they were not loved by either side and suffered horrors from radicals on both sides.

Hasdon Hill, known to his clannish Dutch, Irish, English kin as "Uncle Bulger" returned to Kentucky and was paid by the railroad to persuade settlers to come to the Yakima Valley. He was feted with glad hands and big Sunday dinners to extol the virtues of this "land of plenty."

Three of his sons, Will, Howe and Frank Hill had established homes near Zillah,

which still stand today. New farms of hops, fruit and potatoes were in need of agricultural workers, so these folks, as do migrants today, began as farm laborers.

They debarked at Toppenish from the immigrant cars, provided by the railroad to hold the people and their possessions. The long train ride was a big adventure for them. Many had never been more than a few miles from home.

Today these people have been absorbed into the economy of the Valley, state and nation. Political leaders, writers and artists were produced from their ranks. One was Sunnyside Chief of police for many years (O.E. Hill), one descendant is now a state senator (Perry B. Woodall), and even a National College Queen (Judy Hill) evolved from this migration from Kentucky.

Although these Crittenden County families moved far away and made new homes and lives for themselves in the state of Washington, they never forgot their home state and community. Letters appeared in The Press for many years later writing the editor and wanting to tell everyone about their lives in Washington and to keep in touch with their friends and neighbors they left behind.

There were so many Crittenden County people living in Yakima Valley and Toppenish, Wash., that for many, many years, every summer there was an event called the Kentucky Reunion. People from that area and many people from Crittenden County would travel to Yakima and attend this annual event. I do not know if they still have this every year, but I know they did as late as in the 1990s.

Several miles from Crayne, located off of the Lone Star Road on the Rushing farm, lies the little family cemetery known as the Hill Cemetery. In this cemetery are buried Hill and Woodall ancestors of many families that made the migration journey from Crayneville to Yakima and Zillah in the early 1900s.

(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.)

USDA Ledbetter weigh-out sale | March 21, 2017

LIVESTOCK REPORT

Receipts: 705
Last Week: 357
Last Year: 503

Compared to last week: Feeder steers traded 3.00-6.00 higher. Feeder heifers under 600 pounds 5.00-7.00 higher, over 600 pounds steady. Slaughter cows and bulls traded mostly steady.

Sale consisted of 19 stock cattle, 68 slaughter, and 618 feeders. Feeders consisted of 23% feeder steers, 43% feeder heifers, 23% feeders bulls and 20% of feeders were over 600 pounds.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large I-2					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	200-250	240	185.00-198.00	195.01	
7	250-300	277	178.00-192.50	186.78	
3	300-350	318	179.00-190.00	184.17	
3	350-400	357	170.00-176.00	173.68	
10	400-450	420	158.00-168.00	162.51	
18	450-500	479	147.00-155.00	148.92	
10	500-550	512	148.00-153.00	151.19	
10	550-600	582	134.00-140.00	135.60	
6	600-650	620	128.00-134.00	130.65	
8	650-700	652	128.00-132.00	130.50	
3	700-750	723	123.00	123.00	
7	800-850	805	115.00	115.00	
1	900-950	930	100.00	100.00	
2	1050-1100	1052	106.00	106.00	
1	1300-1350	1315	107.00	107.00	

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2-3					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	150-200	180	192.50	192.50	
3	250-300	270	162.00-170.00	166.64	
4	300-350	316	165.00-177.00	172.23	
6	350-400	383	153.00-169.00	163.68	
9	400-450	436	145.00-156.00	150.81	
5	450-500	464	145.00	145.00	
6	500-550	542	137.00	137.00	
2	550-600	575	132.00	132.00	
1	600-650	640	123.00	123.00	
1	800-850	825	107.00	107.00	

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large I-2					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	200-250	230	172.50-177.50	173.81	
7	250-300	271	163.00-170.00	166.97	
13	300-350	317	156.00-166.00	159.02	
2	300-350	310	170.00	170.00	
20	350-400	377	144.00-151.00	148.17	
37	400-450	432	138.00-148.00	142.24	
34	450-500	472	135.00-141.00	138.16	



22	500-550	516	132.00-139.00	136.35
12	550-600	562	120.00-128.00	125.01
28	600-650	630	115.00-123.00	118.68
5	650-700	675	110.00-112.00	111.23
1	700-750	725	108.00	108.00
2	750-800	752	102.00	102.00

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2-3					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	200-250	235	161.00	161.00	
4	250-300	285	152.00-160.00	157.49	
5	300-350	332	140.00-150.00	144.33	
6	350-400	393	128.00-138.00	133.03	
8	400-450	436	131.00-136.00	133.65	
4	450-500	485	129.00-131.00	129.74	
12	500-550	524	124.00-129.00	126.92	
4	550-600	561	117.00-118.00	117.74	
11	600-650	609	110.00-114.00	112.37	
2	650-700	682	104.00	104.00	
1	750-800	775	98.00	98.00	

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7	600-650	624	123.00-128.00	125.43
7	650-700	660	118.00-121.00	119.27
5	700-750	706	110.00-115.00	111.40
2	750-800	770	100.00-105.00	102.50
2	800-850	805	95.00-101.00	98.02
1	900-950	935	82.00	82.00

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 2-3					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
7	350-400	368	153.00-160.00	156.71	
5	400-450	431	145.00-148.00	147.41	
5	450-500	471	136.00-144.00	140.41	
2	500-550	545	138.00	138.00	
1	550-600	595	124.00	124.00	
2	650-700	678	108.00-116.00	111.93	
1	700-750	725	109.00	109.00	

Slaughter Cows Breaker 75-80%					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
6	1200-1600	1393	55.00-65.00	56.93	
1	1600-2000	1620	58.00	58.00	

Slaughter Cows Boner 80-85%					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	800-1200	1058	57.00-65.00	60.26	
5	1200-1600	1313	55.00-65.00	58.87	
2	1200-1600	1318	70.00	70.00	
1	1200-1600	1360	56.00	56.00	

Slaughter Cows Lean 85-90%					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	700-800	775	50.00	50.00	
23	800-1200	1033	50.00-62.00	54.88	
1	800-1200	910	65.00	65.00	
4	800-1200	968	45.00-50.00	48.61	

Slaughter Bulls Y.G. I-2					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	1000-1500	1372	80.00-88.00	84.00	
2	1500-3000	1758	83.00-84.00	83.53	
1	1500-3000	1525	90.00	90.00	

3	1500-3000	1565	68.00-75.00	72.09	LD
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Bred Cows Medium and Large I-2 Middle-Aged					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	1200-1600	1485	885.00	885.00	
I-3 Mos Bred					

3	1200-1600	1397	930.00-1210.00	1050.21
4-6 Mos Bred				
Bred Cows Medium and Large I-2 Aged				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	800-1200	1040	725.00	725.00
7-9 Mos Bred				
1	1200-1600	1450	890.00	890.00

7-9 Mos Bred					
Bred Cows Medium 2 Young					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	700-800	745	710.00	710.00	
7-9 Mos Bred					

Stock Cows and Calves: Not an accurate test.
Stock Bulls: 18 month old black bulls 855-1200 lbs 900.00-100.00 per head. Bulls 36 to 48 months old 1595-1695 lbs 1300.00-1600.00 per head.
Baby Calves: Beef 60.00-130.00 per head.

Legend: VA=Value Added. Low Dressing-LD. HD-High dressing. BX-Brahman X.

Chip Stewart, market reporter: (502) 782-4139
24-hour Market News Report: (800) 327-6568

Source: Kentucky Department of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News. Frankfort, Ky
ams.usda.gov/mnrreports/SVLS150.txt [_L\\$150.txt](https://ams.usda.gov/mnrreports/SVLS150.txt)

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.

SCHEDULES

Spring Sports Events
THURSDAY

Track & Field hosts quad meet
Freshman Softball at Webster Co.
FRIDAY

Fresh. Baseball hosts Christian Co.
Baseball at Lyon County
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Softball at Trigg County Tournament
MONDAY

Track & Field hosts quad meet
Softball hosts Webster County
TUESDAY

Baseball at Trigg County
Freshman Baseball hosts Trigg Co.
Softball at Union County

Spring sports passes

Season passes for local high school softball and baseball are on sale now at Crittenden County High School. A season pass for adults is \$30 and \$10 for students. The pass is good for all home baseball and softball games.

Baseball chickens

Crittenden County High School has presold hundreds of barbecue chickens, but there will likely be a few available for walk-up purchases Saturday morning at Riley Tool and Machine. Cost is \$6 for a half or \$10 for a whole chicken.

FITNESS

Area running series

Pennyrile District Health Department is sponsoring the inaugural Pennyrile Spring Cross Country Challenge Season with the first race to be held at Marion-Crittenden County Park on April 29. Registration deadline is April 15. For more information, contact your local health department or the district office at (270) 388-9747 ext. 403. This monthly-race series will include 2.5K and 5K. As part of the series, races will also be held in Eddyville May 5, Cadiz June 1, Princeton July 7 and Smithland Aug. 19. Each race will cost \$20, or pay only \$75 to enter them all.

OUTDOORS

Hunting seasons

Coyote Night	Feb. 1 - May 31
Goose Conservation	Feb. 16 - March 31
Youth Wild Turkey	April 1-2
Spring Wild Turkey	April 15 - May 7
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round

Wild Game Saturday

Mexico Baptist Church will be hosting its annual Wild Game Supper at 5 p.m., Saturday. Keynote speaker will be Steve Chapman of Clarksville, Tenn., whose more than one dozen books are big sellers among outdoorsmen. His titles include A Look at Life from a Deer Stand, A Hunter Sets His Sights, A Good Husband's Guide to Balancing Hobbies and Marriage and 365 Things Every Hunter Should Know. Chapman is a musician, storyteller and humorist. This event is free and will include prizes and a calling contest for kids.

RECREATION

Park pavilion reservations

The Marion-Crittenden County Park has two pavilions available for residents planning special events. Each pavilion has water available nearby. With special arrangements, electricity can be made available, too. For more information or to reserve a pavilion, contact the Tourism Department at (270) 965-5015. For those who have reservations, the park encourages you to post a sign at the pavilion the morning of your event.

Charter Students and Homeschooler Legislation Poses Questions for Public School Officials

Put ‘em in coach! State says they can play

BY DEREK MCCREE
PRESS REPORTER

It may not have gained enough traction for passage this session, but the Kentucky General Assembly is almost certainly going to continue looking at legislative policy that could one day allow home schooled children and charter school students to play sports at public schools.

Legislation known as the "Tim Tebow Bill" made it out of the House of Representatives as HB58, but with time running out the Senate never took up the measure. If its support in the House is any indication, there is a good possibility that in the longer session next year, something like it could pass.

The bill is named after former University of Florida and former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, who was homeschooled and benefited from a similar state law passed in 1996 in Florida, allowing him to play sports at his local high school.

The legislation that made it halfway through the General Assembly before stalling at the 11th hour two weeks ago would allow homeschoolers to join sports teams or participate in other interscholastic extracurricular activities in public schools. Sponsored by Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, the bill would allow students to participate in extracurricular activity in the school zone they are assigned to or one based upon the district's open enrollment provisions.

Another piece of legislation that did pass and was signed by the gov-

ernor Tuesday is House Bill 520, creating charter schools in Kentucky. The legislation also includes a provision that will allow charter school students who cannot participate in state-sanctioned school athletics at their charter school to participate in sports at the public school in their district.

Nontraditional students playing public school sports would likely have to pay any participation or activity fee in equal amounts charged to public school students. They would be held accountable to the same academic standards as other participants and provide appropriate documentation to the public school for which they play.

The student would have to comply with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age and semester eligibility requirements as other students participating in the activity. Transportation to and from events would be the responsibility of the parent, guardian or student.

Rep. Lee, whose daughter is homeschooled, said the bill would create opportunities for homeschoolers who love sports, but the bill would not affect his own daughter because she doesn't play sports. Lee had tried to pass similar legislation in the past but was not approved.



Starnes

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association, which oversees all athletics for public and private schools in Kentucky, opposes the homeschool bill. Commissioner Julian Tackett said. The KHSAA and local school officials have questioned the credibility of documentation the students' parents would be providing.

Crittenden County High School Athletic Director Angela Starnes said she has concerns about how the bill would affect athletics in the district.

"Our students have academic requirements set by the KHSAA," Starnes said. "I do not know how we would be able to check academic eligibility weekly with home schooled students."

Academic qualifications are not the only issues that may arise from the bill for local educators and schools. Disciplinary actions would ultimately come into play if a homeschooler were involved in an incident during a sporting event.

"My greatest concern would be how do we hold these students accountable for their actions," Starnes said. "Whether it be academically or behaviorally, how could (CCHS Principal Curtis Brown) or a coach discipline a homeschooled student athlete?"

Many unresolved issues pose questions for Crittenden County School Superintendent Vince Clark. What if a charter student or homeschooled student lives in a district where a particular sport is not offered, such as football at nearby

Livingston or Lyon counties?

"What if someone in Salem wants to play different sports in different counties," Clark said. "There are a lot of questions."

Marion resident and mother Becky Combs has three children that she homeschools and participates in community based sports programs. Her sons Paul, 12 and Caleb, 8, both have played youth football and soccer in the local recreational leagues. Predictably, she likes the idea of homeschoolers being able to participate in extracurricular activities through the public school, not just sports.

"I would love for my kids to be able to do the academic team or chess teams," said Combs.

She has her own concerns about how the bill would affect her children and allow for more intrusion into their private education.

"What I don't want and don't see how to make happen for sports, especially, is for the school to have the need to look over my academic record," Combs said. "It's not because I feel that we are not doing what we need to do, but we have great freedom in what is required for us to report to the state."

Combs raised the issue of metrics and how parents would be able to show that a student is making the equivalent grade required by a school to participate in sports. She said that even if the bill passes one day in the future, she is unsure if her children would participate in public-school sports.



Photo by Derek McCree

Senior Cassidy Moss struggled a bit early against Ballard Memorial Tuesday, but turned it around later in the game.

Book's walk-off triple completes comeback

STAFF REPORT

What goes around comes around. Crittenden County proved the validity of that age-old axiom Tuesday during a dramatic comeback victory over the visiting Ballard Memorial Lady Bomber softball team.

Senior ace Cassidy Moss struggled to find the strike zone early, allowing Ballard to post a five-run first inning. Crittenden then went to No. 2 pitcher Kaitlyn Hicks over the next three innings and she kept the Bombers in check until Moss returned later in the game to close it out.

And, just like Ballard's early outburst, Crittenden had some of offense of its own to display. The girls plated four in the second and three in the fifth, but found themselves in an 8-all tie in the last of the seventh.

That's when designated hitter Brandy Book hit a walk-off bases-loaded triple to win the game for the Lady Rockets, who improve to 3-1 on the season. Book had five RBIs on two hits in contest. Moss had three hits and senior Courtney Beverly had two hits and an RBI.

Illinois weekend tournament

What the coach called a "perfect storm" cost the Lady Rockets last weekend in a one-day tournament at Harrisburg, Ill.

Crittenden County's fast-pitch girls' softball team suffered its first loss of the season on Saturday, losing to Galatia, Ill., in a game coach Stephen Smith said simply got away from his team in the closing innings due to errors.

"Things just started going bad and

they just spiraled out of control," he said.

Crittenden had beaten a much better Harrisburg team earlier in the day before being tripped up by Galatia.

Six errors all but one in the final two frames allowed Galatia to upset the Lady Rockets 11-10.

Crittenden was ahead 9-2 in the bottom of the sixth inning when things went haywire. Miscues in the field carried over to the offense and when Galatia got ahead, the Lady Rocket bats went cold.

Despite the loss, CCHS racked up 11 hits in the game. Senior Cassidy Moss led the way with three hits, including a pair of doubles and scored three runs. Sophomore Brandy Book had three RBIs on a triple. Junior Kaitlyn Hicks and eighth-grader Matthia Long had two hits apiece. Long put on an impressive performance with the bat, hitting two doubles with two RBIs.

Starting the game pitching for the Lady Rockets was eighth-grader Chandler Moss. In 5.2 innings, she allowed nine hits, seven runs (two earned) with four strikeouts.

Crittenden's Cassidy Moss struck out 14 batters en-route to the Lady Rockets 5-1 victory over Harrisburg, in Saturday's tournament opener. Moss pitched a complete game, allowing one run and one hit.

Five Lady Rockets had multiple hits in the win. Junior Chaylee Wolf was 3-for-4 with two runs scored. Hicks, Cassidy Moss, Book and senior Courtney Beverly collected two hits each. Hicks drove in two of Crittenden's five runs.

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Dugout Club

Youth Recreational Team Assignments

Following are team assignments for the youth recreational softball and baseball leagues for this spring and summer at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Team names will be determined later. Team assignments for 10-under softball, rookie league and kickball league will be made later. Practices will begin in April, if not earlier for some teams. If your child is not listed and has registered, contact Tanner Tabor at (859) 333-9751.

8-under baseball

Team-1
Coach Jason Nesbitt
Cameron Nesbitt
Charlie Ledford
Ethan Gonzales
Eli Herrin
Brody Samuel
Hudson Stokes
Parker Wood
Lane Curry
Hayden Jones
Adam Dean Jr.

Team-2
Coach Brad McDowell
Lucas McDowell
Tucker Boudro
Roane Topp
Gunner Topp
Kayden Farmer
Levi Quertermous
Gabe Hewitt
Colt Belt
Davis Perryman
Noah Byford

Team-3
Coach Sonny Duncan
Landon Lanham
Jaxton Duncan
Avery Thompson
Drake Young
Colt Bailey
Dalton Murray
Glenn Starkey
Landon Starkey
Emmitt Ellington
Conner Poindexter
Lyle Thompson

Team-4

Coach Joey Rich
Jake Rich
Brady Dayberry
Isaac James
Logan Martin
Logan Shaffer
Brayden Walton
Logan Brothers
Alexander Hewitt
Braden Patton
Hunter Jackson

8-under softball

Team-1
Coach Jared Champion
Morgan Piper
Emerye Pollard
Braelyn Merrill
Olivia Hinchee
Abigail Champion
Shelbi Belt
Gracie Orr
Alexis Lester
Emma Grace King

Team-2
Coach Richard Martin
Layken Gilchrist



Volunteers make improvements to the batter's box at the baseball field at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

Allison Martin
Alexis Mattingley
Taryn McCann
Maeson Martin
Erin Roberts
Becca James
Morgan Stewart
Daylee Shelton

10-under baseball

Team-1
Coach Aaron Summers
Quinn Summers
Andrew Candelario
Bennett McDaniel
Caleb Riley
Tucker Riley
Bryson Walker
Logan King
Asa McCord
Jayden Cotton
Braden Sunderland
Dorian King

Team-2
Coach Chad Brothers
Landon Curry
Travis Bull
Ethan Thomas
Caeden Brothers
Caleb Whobrey
Garner Stallins

Ethan Rhodes
Seth Henry
Klayton Murray
Landon Woodall
Seth Lynn
Jerry Bates III

Team-3

Coach Davy Travis
Kaiden Travis
Zac Purvis
Jonah Reddick
Jett Reddick
Levi Suddoth
Brayden Poindexter
Braeden Copeland
Breylen Clifford
Brennan Clifford
Tyler Smith
Tyler Goodwin
Camron Belcher

12-under baseball

Team-1
Coach Jared Champion
Gattin Travis
Levi Piper
Teague Millikan
Nicholas Pendley
Brian Berry
Travis Champion
Chase Conyer

Gabe Keller
Jeremiah Foster
Trey Swaggirt
Damyon Toy

Team-2

Coach Trent Guess
Seth Guess
Evan Belt
Seth Blackburn
Tyler Belt
Turner Sharp
Jaxon Hatfield
Rowen Perkins
Case Gobin
Ayden Boone
Hunter Crabtree
Kaleb Nesbitt

12-under softball

Coach Sammie Jo
Quisenberry
Alex Jones
Addison Mundy
Hailey McCann
Alyssa Woodall
Callie Dempsey
Callie Brown
Jaylee Champion
Karsen Shouse
Brylee Conyer

Track & Field Results

Middle schoolers collect most points in dual meet at Union

Crittenden County middle schoolers participated last week in a track and field event at Union County strictly for younger athletes. Track coach Angela Starnes said the future is very bright based on performances and potential for those in middle school. Following are Crittenden County results from the meet:

GIRLS RESULTS

Team Totals: Crittenden 85, Union 18.
100 meter hurdles 1. Jessie Potter (20:39); 2. Ryleigh Tabor (27.43)
100 meters 2. Ally Newman (16.25); 4. Briana McDonald (18.62)
200 meters 2. Hailey Mathieu (37.41); 4. Audrey Croft (39.96)
400 meters 1. Southern Pate (1:32.98); 2. Audrey Croft (1:34.95); 3. Hailey Mathieu (1:40)
800 meters 1. Jaelyn Duncan (3:14.44); 3. Lili Newcom (3:56.93)
1600 meters 1. Kate Keller (6:32.86); 3. Cameron Howard (8:25.48)
3200 meters 1. Kate Keller (14:06.64); 2. Jaelyn Duncan (17:18.25)
400 relay 1. Crittenden County (1:05.49)
800 relay 1. Crittenden County (2:21.41)
1600 relay 1. Crittenden County (6:15.21)
3200 relay 1. Crittenden County (13:45.53)
Long Jump 1. Jessie Potter 12-05.50; 2. Ryleigh Tabor 10-01; 3. Audrey Croft 6-05
High Jump 1. Ally Newman 3-06
Shot Put 1. Abby Kirk 13-07.00; 2. Hailey Mathieu 10-09.00

BOYS RESULTS

Team Totals: Crittenden 65, Union 36.
100 hurdles 2. Gabe Keller (24.22)
100 meters 1. Eli Moss (12.32); 3. Jordan Long (13.77)
200 meters 2. Xander Tabor (29.66); 3. Dalton Wood (30.85)
400 meters 1. Eli Moss (1:11.83); 2. Lance Kayce (1:23.87); 3. Caleb McDonald (1:26.55)
800 meters 1. Jordan Long (3:31.96); 2. Gabe Keller (3:39.86)
1600 meters 3. Gabe Keller (7:56.57)
400 relay 1. Crittenden County (55.80)
800 relay 1. Crittenden County (2:08.33)
1600 relay 1. Crittenden County (5:09.39)
3200 relay 1. Crittenden County (13:39.90)
Long Jump 2. Noah Perkins 13-04; 3. Dalton Wood 11-03; 4. Lance Kayce 9-09
High Jump 1. Tristan Davidson 4-08
Shot Put 1. Dalton Wood 15-01



Freshman Softball Team

Members of the Lady Rocket freshman softball team are (front from left) Ashlyn Hicks, Jaylin Blackburn, Autumn Derby, Jada Hayes, Hadley Rich, Callie Brown, Chandler Moss, Kali Champion, Matthia Long; (back) assistant coach Torey Baker, Shelby Brown, Lilly Hayes, Raylee Belt, Belle Minton, Josey Tapp, Destiny Knight, Ellie Smith, Emmie Smith, Jenna Potter, coach Stephen Smith and assistant coach Ronnie Moss.

Summer hoops action set for boys

The Rocket basketball team will be traveling to two locations in June for summer action. Crittenden will have its annual team camp at Bethel University in

McKenzie, Tenn., June 6-7 and then go to Cape Girardeau, Mo., June 16-17 to play in the Rib City Shootout at the newly opened Sports Plex.


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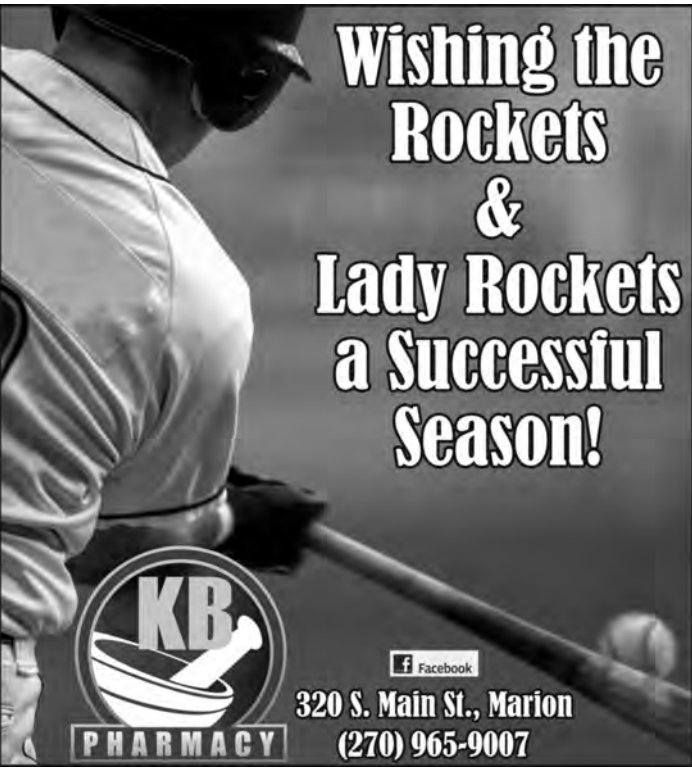
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LB Daniel ‘keeps it real’; ‘Cats survive Shockers

His first season at Kentucky was even more of a learning experience than linebacker Kash Daniel anticipated.

“It was like a rollercoaster,” said Daniel. “This was my first year to really learn about playing football. Pulling guards, check calls, all that stuff. Back in high school you would just see the ball and tackle the guy. Now you can’t do it. “In high school you were trying to do everybody’s job. Now you do your job and once you secure your job then you can help somebody else. But if you don’t do your job first, you screw the whole play up.”

Daniel is now in his second spring practice getting set for his sophomore season where he figures to get a lot more playing time at middle linebacker.

“I have had a fun experience with these guys and that is what I like the most about football. I love the game itself, but just the friendships and bond you build with the guys is just something amazing,” the Paintsville product said. “I spend 12 hours a day with these dudes and clowns. You think I go home mad? Absolutely not.

“I have had a great time learning from the coaches and everybody around me. Courtney Love, Jordan Jones. Being on special teams and making plays for myself, my school. I just love it and all that goes with it.”

Daniel was an in-state star and one of the gems in Kentucky’s 2016 recruiting class. He set high expectations for himself. He wanted to start on the punt, kickoff and kickoff return teams. He wanted to be a playmaker when he did get in games. He also wanted to be a “great” teammate no matter what his role turned out to be.

“I keep it real. I knew coming in I would not be a starter. Courtney (Love) had a lot of experience ahead of me. It has been really great to learn from him and see what he does,” Daniel said. “He is a technician and really a sound, fundamental linebacker. He doesn’t miss his gap, miss his keys. To sit back and take a mental rep and watch him has been great.”

Daniel could be Love’s primary backup this year as part of a linebacking group that has a lot more experience — and much higher expectations — from the UK coaching staff.

“What makes it so great is that nothing is ever given to you and you have to work your butt off to get time on the field,” Daniel said. “That is what makes football such a great sport. In sports and life in general, there is always somebody that is out there just as good if not better than you.

“When they come in, it is your job to say, ‘OK you are just getting here, so let’s have a competition. If you win, you win and I will support you. But if I win, I am going out there to make plays.”

Daniel learned there are no plays off, even in practice, or it shows.

“When your number is called and you get out there, you damn well better be prepared because if you are not, things go downhill. You will have your coach coming to jump on you and you will get frustrated. I have had to have Courtney to come over and calm me down and that’s not that much fun,” Daniel said.

Junior linebacker Josh

Allen says Daniel can “get in that moment” in a hurry.

“When he is in that moment, I say, ‘Kash, calm down.’ He just has to get his head right. He is thinking too much out there. We just have to help him get his focus down and settle him down because he can get a little emotional,” Allen said.

Daniel said he knows others make mistakes, but he has high standards for himself.

“I have always been really hard on myself. Even if it is something small, I

think it is something huge. I think that is a good thing about me because I don’t like to mess up but I am not afraid. If I mess up, I am going 100 miles per hour. It’s not a mistake where I am lackadaisical or not paying attention. I am going full speed even when I am wrong,” he said. “That’s just me.”

UK survives Wichita State

After Kentucky survived against Wichita State Sunday, a lot of attention was given to the way De’Aaron Fox, Malik Monk and Bam Adebayo played, especially late in the game. However, not nearly enough attention was given to Derek Willis

Remember he’s the senior who has been blasted by coach John Calipari for three years and often criticized both by fans and the media for his lack of defense. However, he’s a big reason UK not only won Sunday, but also has won 13 straight games.

Willis hit two second-half 3-pointers against Wichita State. He had nine points, eight rebounds, three steals and one blocked shot. It’s the kind of numbers he’s been putting up a lot recently and his rebounding has helped make UK a much better team. Same with his shot blocking ability (he has 17 blocked shots in the last seven games).

For Kentucky to make the Final Four, Kentucky will need more of that from Willis. But not only is he playing his best, Calipari also has the most confidence in Willis right now that he’s had in his four years at UK.

Makayla Epps

It was no surprise that when Makayla Epps left the Memorial Coliseum court for the final time that she cried. I can’t remember any player — male or female — who has loved playing basketball at Kentucky as much as the former Marion County stand-out.

Kentucky’s loss to Ohio State in the NCAA Tournament second round ended UK’s season and Epps’ remarkable collegiate career. She had 21 points in her final game — her 33rd game with 20 or more points — and played all 40 minutes. She finished her career with 1,790 points, fifth best in school history, and 408 assists, seventh on the all-time lists.

“We made Memorial Coliseum rock today and I will never forget the players in the locker room,” Epps said after her final game. “Maci (Morris) came up to me a minute ago and hugged me telling me that I’m the best teammate she ever had and one of the best people she’s ever been around. It really means a lot to me.

“It’s a lot more than just basketball for me, basketball isn’t forever for me but just to know that I have made a huge impact on so many peo-



ple’s lives during my four years here means the world to me.”

NBA potential

Which Kentucky freshman might have the biggest upside in the NBA?

That’s a question I posed to Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook editor Chris Dortch, who also writes for nba.com, during the Southeastern Conference Tournament after he watched the Cats win three games.

“I think if Malik Monk can add bulk and strength, he’s got the ability to score at a high rate at the next level. So he might have the best chance to be a No. 1 option scoring option for his team,” Dortch said.

“Having said that, good point guards are always a rare commodity, so De’Aaron Fox is unique in that respect. And after researching a story for Bam Adebayo during the NCAA tournament, a lot of people in the program think he’s barely scratched the surface of what he’s capable of doing.”

Bottom line? Dortch thinks all three are going to be really good at the next level.

Morehead football

Alabama senior Corban Collins spent three years at Morehead before transferring to Alabama for his final season. During his last two seasons, Preston Spradlin was an assistant on coach Sean

Woods’ staff.

When Woods lost his job early last season, Spradlin was named interim coach. He did a superb job and last week finally was named the new head coach.

“Coach Spradlin, we bonded and he was a guy who always worked me out. We still talk as well. We have a really nice bond and friendship. I look up to him as a big brother and mentor as well. I had a great relationship with him,” Collins said.

“It was no surprise what he did. I had confidence in him and I know how passionate he is about basketball. He was with a great basketball mind under coach Cal (John Calipari). He was able to soak up all that knowledge. Sometimes all a man needs is a chance. His chance came in an unfortunate situation but he made the most of it.”

He did and former teammates told Collins that Spradlin was their choice to be the new coach.

“I talked to guys after the OVC Tournament and they all wanted him as head coach. Everybody in the community is behind him and trying to fight for him to get that job. I hope he gets it,” Collins said a week before Spradlin finally got the job.

Spradlin was on Calipari’s staff five years — two as a graduate assistant and three as the assistant director of operations — before coming to Morehead. The Pikeville



PHOTOS BY JEFF HOUCHIN (LEFT) AND VICKY GRAFF (ABOVE)
At left, Derek Willis’ rebounding and shot blocking has been a big factor in UK’s 13-game win streak. Above, Kash Daniel (right) sets high standards for himself and has had to learn to control his emotions when he makes a mistake.

native was in charge of film breakdown, creating playbooks and assisting with scouting at Kentucky.

Coach Cal on Backtalk

Have you ever noticed the way that players sometimes talk back to John Calipari during games? It has happened during his entire time at Kentucky, and likely will continue.

“Many times I’m getting on a kid because I don’t think he’s shown enough emotion or energy, like you’ve got more than this. I’ve got – OK, now play that way. Just trying to get them to show they’re alive. Are you alive? Like you look like you’re going – so many times, I’m doing that,” Calipari said.

“If there’s a time that I don’t need it to come back, I’ll say stop and they’ll stop. Short of that, I’m Italian. I’m emotional. And I expect them not to be and they’re in this game flying up and down and I’m sweating and losing my mind and I get on a kid, but you can’t say anything? Don’t you say one – what?”

“I’ve had guys come back at me. I can remember back in the UMass days, we could be more physical then. You can’t be physical now. Back then, I was stronger and

more agile than I am right now.”

Quote of the Week

“It’s a remarkable group, and it’s an absolute zero-drama group. It’s an unselfish group. They don’t care about anything other than winning for each other and Kentucky coming out on top. That’s been a lot of fun,” Kentucky women’s coach Matthew Mitchell on this year’s team.

Quote of the Week 2

“Will I do it again next year? I don’t know. I’m hoping 20 other coaches do them so I can stop doing it. Then I don’t have to do it,” Kentucky coach John Calipari on the podcast he started this year.

Quote of the Week 3

“He still brings clothes over to wash to his mom. I know he does that. It’s probably against the NCAA rules, but he does it,” John Calipari on having his son, Brad, on the team this year.

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

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MARION / CRITTENDEN COUNTY

GUM ST...3 BR, 1 BA brick ranch. This property has been updated...km
INVESTMENT PROPERTY...2 BR. 1 BA home in Marion. Nice size lot is 100 x 300. ob
COTTAGE...3 BR, 2 BA home in the country. Wood floors, spacious kitchen, storage space in the basement as well. All on 1.41 acres. ct
RENTAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT...3 BR, 2 BA 14x70 mobile home located on quiet street w/all city utilities. Agent Owned. rb **SOLD**
BRICK HOME...3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, LG den w/fireplace, kitchen w/breakfast area, all appliances stay, Master BR w/LG master BA & walk in closet. Study w/a 1/2 bath. Large attached 2 car garage, covered back porch overlooking yard & remaining acreage. Included w/the sale of this home is a shop building w/3 bays, large work area, front of building could be used for commercial/Retail use, building according to PVA is over 3500 SF. Remaining acreage is wooded & is abundant w/whitetail deer & wild turkey rh
RUSTIC LOG HOME...4 BR, 2 BA log home. The inside walls are logs & the outside is vinyl with metal roof on 2.38 acres. **SOLD**
GREAT CORNER LOCATION...in Crittenden County, US 60 W and SR 855 N, this 5 acre tract per deed description, has several options available for potential commercial or residential uses. Hk

ACREAGE

JIM MINE RD...1 BR, 1 BA metal building home. Features: 720 SF of living space, gas space heaters, window air, washer/dryer hookup, county water. This property has 17 acres & is away from everyone. Would make a great hunting cabin. Call for more information. cs
40 ACRES...Nice hunting tract. Great trails to crop area. Ridges, hollows w/creek bottom. Several places for good stand location. Frontage on Hwy 60, great place to build your home. **PRICE REDUCED.**
78 +/- ACRES...approx. 18 acres of marketable hardwood timber, approx. 44 acres of tillable crop land, w/balance in draws, pond area. Located just outside the city limits of Marion... 9 acres of road frontage that could be developed into future home sites, or the entire farm could be divided in to mini farm home sites.

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City of Marion			
The following tax bills for the year 2016, being unpaid, I will offer for sale on March 31, 2017, at 1 p.m. to the highest bidder, for cash. The following delinquent tax claims upon which a real assessment appears (the amount includes penalty, interest and advertising cost). Tax bills are subject to 10 percent per annum.			
Tax Year Range 2016 to 2016			
Bill	Number	Account Name	Unpaid Tax
2016	44	ASBRIDGE VICKI & JEFFERAY	\$71.14
2016	55	BAKER JACK & VICKEY	\$13.20
2016	57	BAKERS GARAGE	\$1.91
2016	67	BARNES LEONARD	\$6.61
2016	71	BATES ROBERT EARL	\$76.75
2016	104	BELT CLIFFORD	\$99.20
2016	144	BLUEGRASS VINYL PRODUCTS LLC	\$107.17
2016	145	BLUEGRASS VINYL PRODUCTS LLC	\$4.10
2016	154	BOYD JAMES A	\$12.22
2016	155	BRADFORD CHARLES	\$16.43
2016	176	BRYANT CAROLINE & HAROLD	\$99.20
2016	191	CALE PHILLIP	\$48.70
2016	192	CAMP AARON & STEPHANIE	\$219.84
2016	202	CARDWELL AMY SUZANNE	\$51.50
2016	283	CORNERSTONE CHALDEES LLC	\$62.72
2016	286	COSBY TIM	\$96.39
2016	287	COSBY TIM & JASON	\$118.84
2016	294	COZART ANGIE D	\$57.11
2016	328	CROCKETT JAMES C & FRANCES LOU TRUSTEES	\$52.90
2016	341	CRUCE HERBERT EST	\$4.37
2016	392	DIEHL BOBBY	\$8.01
2016	410	DRESSNER REBECCA	
		CHRISSEY HARDIN DANNY FEW	\$275.95
2016	426	DYKES ALTON	\$102.27
2016	572	GERHARDT CRAIG	\$12.22
2016	574	GETZ SERRINA & SCOTT	\$26.25
2016	592	GIPSON SHELBY	\$3.81
2016	631	HACKNEY EDDIE	\$17.83
2016	635	HACKNEY JOHNNY D & KARLA	\$83.77
2016	689	HAZZARD PATRICIA	\$325.89
2016	690	HAZZARD PATRICIA & DWAYNE WILSON	\$29.06
2016	692	HEAD HELEN R	\$166.53
2016	724	HERRIN JODY & JULIE	\$175.92
2016	736	HILL HENRY LEE	\$157.83
2016	771	HOLLOWAY WENDELL	\$57.11
2016	782	HUGHES DOUG & MILLER KELSEY	\$29.06
2016	788	HUNT CAROL & BERNIE	\$100.60
2016	815	HUNTER JOHN & MARILYN	\$85.42
2016	816	HUNTER MARY F	\$65.81
2016	839	JAMES MELODY	\$156.01
2016	852	JOE DAVIS ENTERPRISES INC	\$15.03
2016	853	JOE DAVIS ENTERPRISES INC	\$12.22
2016	854	JOE DAVIS ENTERPRISES INC	\$17.83
2016	855	JOE DAVIS ENTERPRISES INC	\$9.42
2016	856	JOE DAVIS ENTERPRISES INC	\$9.42
2016	892	JONES NORRIS & HELEN	\$37.75
2016	893	JONES ROBERT & CAROLYN	\$44.22
2016	902	JOURDEN DOUGLAS GENE	\$12.22
2016	921	KIMBLE JASON & TINA	\$113.22
2016	959	LARUE JAMES D & SHARON	\$232.46
2016	964	LEWIS JERRY & SHERRI	\$42.81
2016	975	LOCKE KENNETH R JR	\$113.22
2016	976	LOEWEN AMANDA &	\$34.67
2016	981	LONG SHAUN A	\$123.04
2016	982	LONG SHAUN A	\$3.81
2016	986	LOVE TODD B & CAMERON G	\$71.14
2016	990	LYNCH DAVID RAY & MELISSA & DAKOTA LYNCH	\$15.87
2016	1007	MANESS MICHAEL OR STEPHANIE	\$85.17
2016	1046	MARKET DWAYNE E	\$9.42
2016	1059	MASON LISA M	\$9.42
2016	1063	MAXFIELD KEVIN	\$137.07
2016	1073	MCCLURE TROY EST	\$12.22
2016	1074	MCCORD CARRIE	\$9.42
2016	1090	MCDOWELL SHANE ET AL	\$85.17
2016	1113	MILLS CLAUD & SUE	\$2.40
2016	1117	MINK SARA ANN	\$99.20
2016	1124	MORANZ KELLY	\$51.50
2016	1125	MORRIES TIMOTHY EARL & ASHLEY	\$17.83
2016	1158	NEW HAVEN ASSISTED LIVING	\$89.50
2016	1159	NEW HAVEN ASSISTED LIVING	\$12.22
2016	1254	PERRYMAN MICHAEL	\$161.46
2016	1255	PERRYMAN MICHAEL	\$8.01
2016	1256	PERRYMAN MICHAEL	\$29.06
2016	1257	PERRYMAN MICHAEL & KATHERINE M	\$48.70
2016	1258	PERRYMAN MICHAEL & KATHERINE M	\$92.18
2016	1268	PHILLIPS TRACY CROWELL	\$10.82
2016	1282	PLUNKETT WILLIE R EST 1/4 INTEREST	\$12.92
2016	1291	POTTER WENDY & JOHN P	\$128.65
2016	1292	PRATER RICHARD	\$11.66
2016	1301	PRYOR KENNETH R JR	\$51.50
2016	1315	RAILEY CATHERINE M	\$18.11
2016	1339	RILEY ROY E % JODY HERRIN	\$51.77
2016	1348	ROBERTS DARLENE	\$17.83
2016	1355	ROBINSON BETTY J	\$3.81
2016	1413	SHIELDS HAZEL OR	\$6.05
2016	1421	SHUECRAFT JANET	\$6.61
2016	1440	SISCO CHRISTOPHER	\$79.56
2016	1441	SISCO CHRISTOPHER L & TABITHA	\$40.28
2016	1443	SISCO WILBER & PATRICIA	\$57.11
2016	1456	SMITH WILLIAM C	\$15.03
2016	1459	SMOCK MARVIN & REBA	\$100.60
2016	1460	SMOCK MARVIN DAVID	\$57.11
2016	1493	STONE BETTY L	\$36.34
2016	1611	TUCKER DAVID D	\$104.81
2016	1615	TURNER JOE D	\$71.14
2016	1645	WALKER ROCKY	\$9.42
2016	1655	WATSON DONNY & MICHELLE	\$83.75
2016	1657	WATSON MARY ELIZABETH	\$57.11
2016	1681	WHEELER JEREMY	\$43.08
2016	1682	WHEELER JEREMY	\$155.31
2016	1683	WHEELER JEREMY & JODY HERRIN	\$34.67
2016	1684	WHEELER JEREMY & JODY HERRIN	\$51.50
2016	1726	WHEELERS JEFFERY TRENT	\$23.44
2016	1729	WILSON DWAYNE & PATRICIA HAZZARD	\$29.06
2016	1730	WILSON DWAYNE & PATRICIA HAZZARD	\$174.95
2016	1731	WILSON DWAYNE & PATRICIA HAZZARD	\$9.42
2016	1779	WYNN WALTER L JR & CATHERINE R	\$11.10
Melinda Gipson, City of Marion Treasurer			

SCHOOL TAX

Continued from Page 1

spokesperson for district's "Give 5 for Kids" campaign, said the board and administrators will use some time after taking the pulse of the community to digest concerns and comments from the meeting and likely offer another forum in April.

"We are very much in the information-collecting phase," said board Chairman Chris Cook. "We have not made up our minds."

The board has a meeting Tuesday, but that is simply for routine matters and discuss findings from the forum, he said. A decision on the proposed levy will take place only after a meeting for such is made public.

"If any tax was to be proposed, it would be on the public agenda of a school board meeting," Cook said. "We're not trying to hide when we'll vote on it, and we're certainly not trying to rush a vote."

While the need for replacing the 68-year-old middle school was brought into question last week, most of the half-dozen people who spoke out against the tax said they do not begrudge the idea of giving both middle- and high-schoolers a new home; they would just like to see a more equitable way of raising the money necessary for the estimated \$8 million project.

"I like to see my tax penny or dollar put to good use, but I'd like to see everybody contribute, not just property owners," said J.T. Travis, a farmer. "It's an unfair tax burden to me."

The recallable nickel would be levied on annual property tax bills.

"I don't argue that the kids would benefit," said another local farmer, Anthony Easley, who owns of hundreds of acres of land. "(But) we're being taxed to death. The property owners are tired of it. Let's make everybody pay this tax."

Why a property tax?

Clark and board members agree, a property tax taps only a small portion of the population. Meantime, everyone in the county could benefit from shifting the district's upper four grades to a new 20-classroom high school and moving junior high students from an antiquated building to the current high school. It's unfair, but it's all they have to work with.

"If there was a way to put it on everyone, we would do it; but this is the only way," Cook explained in response to Easley's and others' comments. "This is not our preference either. We agree with exactly the arguments you said."

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not allow school districts any other means to raise enough revenue for capital projects. While 38 states allow some form of local option sales tax that hits everyone's pockets to help fund public works, the state's 1891 constitution does not allow it. And lawmakers in Frankfort in recent years have been unwilling to move on legislation brought forward to change that. (See editorial on Page 2.)

"If it's not needed enough that everybody can pay for it, let's not do it," said Easley, complaining that the tax places a burden on landowners and rewards those "who screw away every dollar they've ever made."

"I don't think anybody in this room wouldn't agree we need a new school," said school bus driver Tony Alexander, arguing the pressure it will put on him. "I farm, but I can't pass along my tax increase to anyone (like landlords). Cattle prices are down half of what they were a year ago. Hogs are down."

Only the school board can levy taxes to benefit the district, neither the city nor county can lend a hand, as

Nickel knowledge

To give the community the knowledge it needs on Crittenden County Board of Education's consideration of a 5.8-cent tax increase, or recallable nickel, the school district is offering a variety of ways to share information and collect input from those who would be paying the tax. The campaign is called "Give 5 for Kids."

Survey, FAQ, Facilities Need Summary
<https://goo.gl/KHm78p>

YouTube video
<https://goo.gl/vOYXHH>

Public forum
Another public forum on the proposed tax likely will be held in April

some suggested. And until the constitution is changed, taxing real property remains the only avenue to increase revenue.

Farmers last year were hit with increased property assessments that raised their tax burden as much as 30-50 percent. Easley wondered what happened to that extra income.

"What did you do with that money?" he asked. "Or did we just create another job or get another frill?"

Clark explained that last year, the board actually lowered the school tax to take the compensating rate, a levy that would generate roughly the same revenue as the year before.

Another farmer at the forum, Steve Haire, said there are other avenues to get money for a new school.

"We've got money to build this school, but (you're) too afraid to go to our congressmen," he said. "The federal government throws away money and you're asking property owners here to pay for it because (you're) too afraid to speak up."

Clark said he has spoken to the county's two state legislators and emailed Congressman James Comer and Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul.

"I have tried to reach out to Washington and Frankfort," Clark said. "The response is a lot better locally," meaning state Sen. Dorsey Ridley and state Rep. Lynn Bechler.

When is 5.8 cents a nickel?

A recallable nickel is allowed by the state for school districts to raise capital project-restricted revenue. It is often called a "second nickel" because 5 cents is already built in to the local 46.3-cent per \$100 of assessed property levy specifically for construction.

But the board is eyeing a 5.8-cent increase based on the nickel recommendation of a quadrennial facilities planning committee. That committee, comprised of 13 members of the community and school district, is charged with assessing construction needs every four years. Last fall, they identified \$31.2 million in needs, with moving children out of the current middle school the top priority.

To generate the recommended nickel as allowed by the state, it would take a 5.8-cent levy when factoring in the rate of non-collection and the fact that motor vehicles are not subject to the tax. That seems a bit deceiving to some.

"When I was in school, we rounded up," argued Easley, who offered the bulk of public comments during the 90-minute forum, often becoming confrontational with Clark and the board. "Just call it 6 cents. Some of us who watch our pennies; we watch the 5.8."

Clark, who was invited by Marion Mayor Jared Byford to explain some of the ins and outs of the tax proposal to the city council Monday, explains that the school district is simply using the terminology offered by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

"Anytime you talk about

taxes in our community, it's not a popular topic," Clark told the council.

Is there a sundown clause?

Travis and Easley asked if the tax would come off when the bond for a new school is paid off.

"Will the tax come off after 20 years?," questioned Travis. "I have never seen taxes come down once they've gone up."

Clark gave an answer many in the crowd of 50 or so people – about half were district personnel – packed into the Rocket Arena conference room did not like. The tax can come off when the bond is paid, but there is no sundown clause. Removal after payoff is not guaranteed, and the current board cannot legally bind a future board to that promise.

"The nickel can be removed. Those are choice words," Easley argued, referring to the word "can."

"I don't think there'd be any objections to it," Clark said about mandating the tax come off 20 years from being put in place, "but we can't dictate what another board does."

Why a new high school?

At Monday's city council meeting, Councilman Dwight Sherer said one question he's been hearing is why a new

sands back into a building that's knocking on 70 years old?"

The superintendent said the board feels like the high school is where money is best spent getting students ready for careers and college while providing more space for middle school. Expanded career pathways at a new high school is the primary attraction to the idea.

"Those are opportunities you grow at the high school level, not the middle school," he explained Monday. "You're talking about kids making some of the biggest decisions of their lives."

The middle school is among the oldest in Kentucky. According to the 2010 Kentucky Facilities Inventory & Classification System, 65 of 484 schools ranked were older than CCMS. Forty-nine of those, however, were elementary schools, where facility needs are generally less expensive. In overall scoring, only 70 total schools ranked worse than CCMS.

"This plan gives high-schoolers the best opportunity to compete," Clark said.

"I understand the needs that are here," agreed Ryan McDaniel, a local property and business owner, father of three children in the school system and one of three candidates being considered by KDE to fill an open slot on the five-member board of education. "If it comes to a vote (at the ballot box), I would vote for it."

"I know it's not an easy decision for you to look at," he directed toward the board. "I think the right decision will be made."

Why now?

"This is a can that's been kicked down the road," said middle school teacher Todd Merrick, advocating replacement of CCMS.

Unless the additional tax is levied now, the school district would most likely have to wait until 2025 when two of three current bonds are paid off. And after those bonds for Rocket Arena and a new roof at the high school are paid, the district would have only

School district debt

All current bonds of Crittenden County School District would be paid off in 2033. In 2009 and 2010, with lower interest rates following the Great Recession, the school district refinanced debt to save money.

	CCHS roofing \$240,522	Rocket Arena \$2,446,975	CCES Renovation \$1,908,285	Total \$4,595,781
2017.....	\$122,711	\$237,753	\$47,807	\$408,270
2018.....	\$117,811	\$242,011	\$49,583	\$409,405
2019.....	\$334,687	\$51,076	\$385,764	
2020.....	\$330,677	\$56,823	\$387,500	
2021.....	\$331,195	\$57,158	\$388,354	
2022.....	\$329,492	\$57,060	\$386,552	
2023.....	\$322,065	\$66,644	\$388,709	
2024.....	\$319,095	\$70,854	\$389,949	
2025.....		\$159,060	\$159,060	
2026.....		\$159,215	\$159,215	
2027.....		\$158,954	\$158,954	
2028.....		\$163,338	\$163,338	
2029.....		\$162,103	\$162,103	
2030.....		\$160,718	\$160,718	
2031.....		\$163,108	\$163,108	
2032.....		\$164,207	\$164,207	
2033.....		\$160,577	\$160,577	

high school when we need to move middle-schoolers out of the 1949 building.

That building suffers from leaks, a need for new \$250,000 climate control system to replace one that takes three days to switch from heat to air conditioning, undersized classrooms and poor air quality that has led to increased respiratory problems for students and staff, said Clark. But the smaller number of CCMS students – about 300 currently – can benefit just as much by moving to the two-story high school built in 1975, and freshmen through senior classes – 360 or so students – can benefit the most from a modern, more expansive facility.

"Our maintenance team has taken good care of our building," Clark said, but "at what point do we say it's not wise to invest tens of thou-

\$7-8 million in bonding potential with a bond for renovations at the elementary school remaining until 2033. Even if construction costs did not rise in the next eight years, there would not be enough money when factoring in potential overages in construction costs.

"We're all in this situation together," Easley said. "The money's short at our house just like it is y'all."

The district is currently carrying \$4.6 million in bonding debt for capital projects, with \$4.75 in bonding potential. The 5.8-cent levy would generate \$3.1 million more from local funds and offers a state match.

"What makes this most appealing, though, is that the state will match \$3.1 million," Clark said.

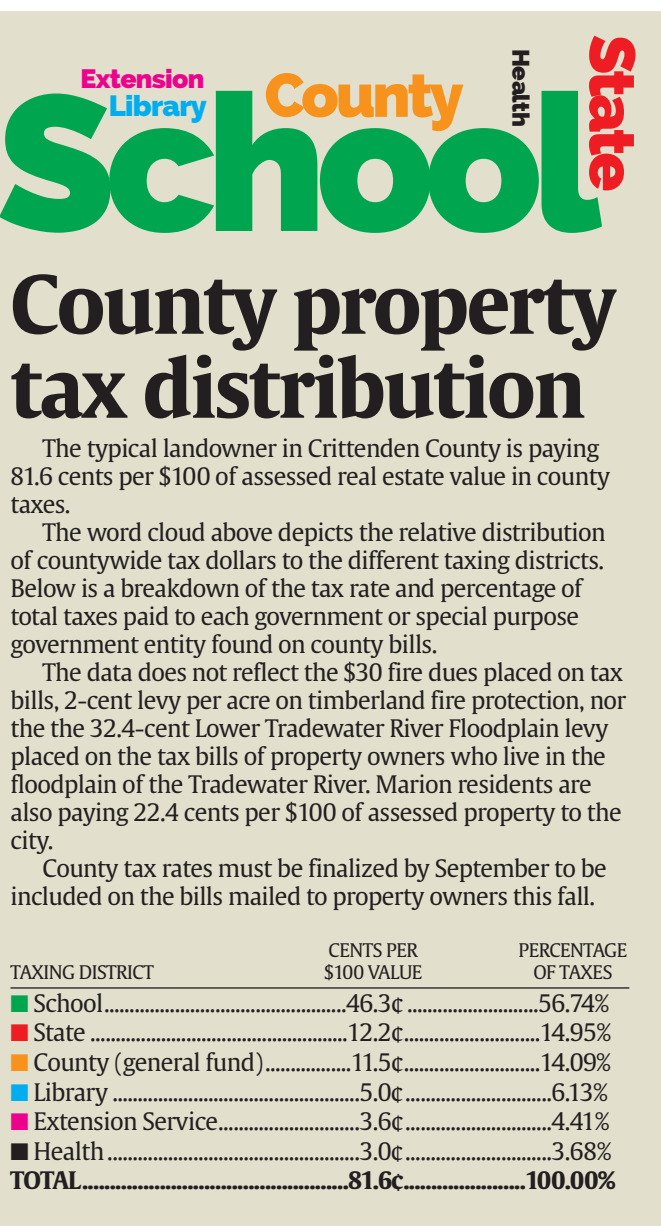
Altogether, there would be more than enough to build a

Cannon said.

Summer break for students is currently scheduled to last 93 days.

The remodel will cost just under \$100,000 and will also include enclosing the entire library with glass to the ceiling above the concrete half-walls and doors installed at the two entrances from the hallway.

Cannon said the middle school library will essentially be ready as a classroom once the library is relocated.



\$6.7 million high school and for another \$1.3 million, move the middle schoolers, raze the 1949 portion of CCMS and relocate the central office to the eighth-grade wing. Any leftover funds would be restricted to projects in the remaining \$23.2 million of needs identified by the facilities planning committee.

"We're looking at an investment in our future," added Merrick, who has seen upgrade after upgrade at CCMS in his 26 years in the district. "With state matching funds, I do believe now is the time."

Without the recallable nickel, that \$3.1 million in state funds – backed by taxpayers from every corner of the state, including Crittenden County – will simply go elsewhere, Clark explains.

"Those are funds that can be funneled back to Crittenden County," said Marion attorney Wes Hunt. "With (delays building the new) U.S. 641, people have said Frankfort has forgotten about Crittenden County, forgotten about Crittenden County, forgotten about Crittenden County. Well, here it is."

The state match has gone places like Murray and Henderson, Marshall, McCracken and Ballard counties, all of which have enacted a recallable nickel. Fifty-two of Kentucky's 173 school districts are taking advantage of that state match, the superintendent said.

"The state's willing to help those who are willing to help themselves out," Clark added.

What's in it for football?

As spokesman for the board who ultimately employs him, Clark wants to be clear that any plans for relocating the football field have been put on hold. Initially, the new high school was conceived to connect to Rocket Arena and jut out to where the gridiron is currently located.

"That is not a good option," Clark said.

Cost coupled with an uncertain timeline for the proposed relocation of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Crittenden County headquarters adjacent to the football field makes relocating the football field unlikely, at least immediately. For now, plans are aimed at constructing the new high school in the parking lot of Rocket Stadium.

That plan would not affect the location of Friday night football, and the school could be connected to Rocket Arena and the existing cafeteria by some sort of walkway. Costs could be affected, but until contracted architect RBS Design Group in Owensboro revises plans, any change is just speculation.

"A new football field is not included in the plan," Clark

emphasized.

Another option would be to build the high school onto the back of Rocket Arena, but that creates access problems, the superintendent points out.

"If we build something, we want to get it out of that depression down there where the water collects," Clark said, referring to the location of both the middle and high schools along lower elevations fronting U.S. 60.

Clark did say the long range goal is to bring a competition track and soccer field to the high school campus, but that is many years down the road if the state cedes its highway garage property in a land swap.

Why not just make cuts?

Easley believes the school district should have to make cuts to meet its needs just like taxpayers.

"Y'all just want another credit card," he said, suggesting the district has not done everything it can to pay for a new school. "We can't get a loan if we owe too much. You say we don't have enough equity, 'so let's go get another credit card.' It don't work that way in our world."

Clark said the school district is down from 90 to 70 teachers; the maintenance staff is at two, half of what it used to be; and energy consumption is down over seven years ago despite added square footage.

"We have cut staff to the point we can't cut staff anymore," Clark said. "This board does pay attention to the dollar."

What next?

Clark said the board will take time to weigh comments made at last Tuesday's forum and discuss many of the point at its meeting Tuesday.

If the board decides to move forward at some point in the near future, a vote to levy the tax could be taken to the ballot box through petitioning. Four-hundred eight qualified signatures would be needed to send the measure to the ballot either in a special election this year or in one of next year's scheduled elections.

"You'll get 408," assured Easley.

All voters in the county would get to vote on the tax proposal.

Hunt, a CCHS graduate, said he who would vote yes.

"I see great potential in this community, great potential in this county," he said, citing high level manufacturing and health jobs in the community that draw workers from all around and bemoaning comments by some at the forum that the community's children have to move off to find decent jobs. "I see this as a chance to move kids forward."

Library move makes room for baby boom

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

Plans continue to move forward on a stopgap plan to accommodate at the middle school one of the largest classes to ever make its way through the school system.

Today's fifth-grade class is about 135 students, which is one-third larger than the average number of children in each grade. They will enter CCMS next year, a school already undersized for the stu-

dents it houses.

To make room for the local baby boomers from 10-11 years ago, the board of education has approved a plan to relocate the middle school library to the high school. It will share the same floor space as the current high school library, but middle schoolers will be separated from their older counterparts in area near the front of the building.

To keep the proposal on

track for completion over summer break, the board on March 13 approved a contract with RBS Design Group and a schematic of the project from the Owensboro architectural firm. RBS project coordinator Jeanie Cannon said approval was needed so the plans can be approved by the Kentucky Department of Education in time to let construction begin immediately following the end of the school year.

"It's a short time frame,"

Crittenden County Animal Clinic

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