

Lack of progress could bring lawmakers back to Frankfort

This week is the last full week of the 2013 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly, but because of the lack of progress on either pension reform or tax reform, I'm afraid that the governor will call us back to Frankfort for an extraordinary (special) session later this year.

As I reported in one of my earlier updates, a pension reform bill, Senate Bill (SB) 2, passed out of the Senate and was sent to the House. The bill took the results of the governor's Pension Reform Task Force as is and put them into language required for law. After getting to the House, however, the bill languished in the State Government Committee for more than two weeks until finally being scheduled for a hearing.

During the committee meeting, a committee substitute was presented. The committee substitute for this important issue, 53 pages long, was presented to committee members a half-hour before the start of the committee meeting. The substitute was so new that when questioned by committee members, the legislator presenting the substitute had problems finding some of the data in the bill.

It is important to note that the governor's task force was comprised of both Democrats and Republicans



and the findings were approved by a vote of 11-1. This task force spent nearly all of last year hearing testimony and reviewing thousands of pages of information and data to draft a plan to deal with what one national publication said is the worst public pension system in the nation. Unbelievably, the committee substitute, which drastically changed the intent of the bill and gutted most of the Task Force's recommendations, was approved along party lines by the full House on a vote of 55-45 the day after the substitute was presented in committee. I voted no.

More troubling to some was a plan, House Bill (HB) 416, offered by the speaker of the House to expand gambling through the Kentucky Lottery Commission in order to make up the pension shortfall. The speaker explained that the plan would not begin providing any funds to offset the shortfall until 2014, and even then, the plan would generate less

than one third of what is needed to fund the public employee pension plan. The bill passed the House by a 52-47 margin, far shy of the 60 votes required for a revenue bill in a non-budget session. Since the required 60 votes weren't attained, the Senate will not consider the bill. I, along with all the other Republicans and several Democrats, voted no to this expanded gambling initiative.

A similar situation took place with SB 50, a bill dealing with industrial hemp; a bill that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate. Seven days before he planned on taking up the bill, however, the chairman of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee told the press that he planned on filing a committee substitute to the bill. For some unknown reason, though, he waited until the night before the committee meeting to submit copies of his substitute to members of the committee, of which I am one. The thrust of his substitute was to require yet another study. I was looking forward to hearing testimony—both pro and con—and then casting a vote. The committee chairman did allow testimony and refused to allow a vote to be taken. It was obvious to all who took part in or watched the proceedings that the bill had

broad support among the committee members and would have easily passed. The chairman's actions, unfortunately, are quite possibly the death knell for legislation on industrial hemp this session.

On a more positive note, HB 279, the Religious Freedom Act, passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 82-7. I proudly cast a yes vote for this piece of legislation.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you; your input is most welcome. I can be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at (800) 372-7181, directly at (502) 564-8100, extension 665 or by visiting the Kentucky Legislature's website at www.lrc.ky.gov and clicking on the "E-mail Your Legislator" link. You can also keep track of legislation for the 2013 session through the Kentucky Legislature's website and clicking on the "2013RS Record" link.

Be sure to visit my website at LynnBechler.com and 'Like' my Facebook page to receive my updates.

Rep. Bechler is a first-term Republican representative from Marion. He represents Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and a portion of McCracken County in Frankfort. He can be reached there by e-mail at lynne.bechler@lrc.ky.gov.

Firearms rights bill flies out of Senate

With more than two-thirds of the 2013 regular session of the General Assembly behind us at the time this was written on Friday, lawmakers scrambled this week to move bills closer to the finish line before the Constitutionally-imposed 30-working-day limit.

An important priority of the Senate, the Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act, designated as Senate Bill (SB) 1, earned our unanimous approval last week. The bill would simplify the absentee voting process for Kentuckians serving overseas. It is imperative that the men and women sacrificing so much to protect our rights be given every opportunity to express their most precious civic right—the right to vote.

Even with the best efforts of county clerks and military election officials, completing an absentee ballot while deployed abroad is a long, laborious process. According to our secretary of state, a sadly significant number of these ballots are lost, late or invalid for various reasons.

SB 1 would allow members of the armed forces, their spouses and others serving overseas to register to vote and request and receive an absentee ballot electronically. This would dramatically modernize and streamline the process.

The bill would still require completed written ballots be returned via



traditional postal mail or another delivery service. I supported this bill even though the option for electronic voting was removed before it got to the Senate floor. I hope when this bill goes to the House, that chamber includes the provision to allow our military members overseas to return their ballots electronically. Twenty-four states already permit military and overseas voters to return ballots via e-mail or other electronic transmission system. I think Kentucky needs to be the 25th. This is the least that we can do for our men and women in uniform.

Last Wednesday, the Senate approved SB 15, the Bryan Durman Act, named in honor of a Lexington police officer who was killed by a hit-and-run driver in April 2010. The measure would make those convicted of second-degree manslaughter for the death of on-duty law enforcement officers or firefighters ineligible for parole until 85 percent of their sentence is served. Currently, such offenders are required to serve only 20 percent of their sentence before seeking parole. The bill is simply a matter of justice and just recognition for those who sacrifice their own lives protecting ours.

A couple of weeks ago, I told you about a bill that would allow high school students to use money earned through the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program for dual-credit college courses prior to graduation. Last week, we passed another measure to help students take full advantage of their KEES money. SB 64 would allow a special, more appropriate calculation of the total KEES award for students who complete their high school curriculum in three years. Our brightest, most motivated students should not be penalized, but rewarded for excelling in school. That is what this bill does.

SB 129, a firearms bill, passed the Senate on a 34-3 vote. I voted yes. The bill would allow the Commonwealth to ignore any new federal restrictions on the purchase or ownership of semi-automatic firearms, their magazines or other accessories. It also would allow any future federal requirement for gun registration to be ignored. The legislation would not affect enforcement of federal gun laws in place prior to 2013.

The recent shooting on the campus of Hazard Community Technical College made us acutely aware of the danger that can arise in a volatile custody exchange. SB 141 authorizes court orders to require exchanges take place in a safe child drop-off location. That location is defined as any public building with limited access and with security measures such as metal detectors in place.

These, and many other bills approved by the Senate last week, moved to the House of Representatives for consideration.

As of Friday, only eight days remained in the legislative session. This is the time when the rubber really meets the road, and final details are worked out on some of the most important bills of the year. It is late in the session, but not too late for significant bills to pass and never too late to have your voice heard on the issues important to you.

To leave a message for me, or any legislator, call the General Assembly's toll-free Message Line at (800) 372-7181. To check the status of a bill, you may call the toll-free Bill Status Line at (866) 840-2835.

Sen. Dorsey Ridley, a Henderson Democrat, has served in the senate since 2004 after an eight-year tenure in the House. He represents Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Henderson, Webster and Union counties in Frankfort. He can be reached by e-mail at dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Going green has its rewards for people

To the editor
Don't miss the boat, do your part and be environmentally conscious. I have found myself trying to be a better person. Perhaps it's the "mom" status that has changed things for me. During a recent episode of Mickey Mouse Clubhouse where the characters learn to recycle and help the environment, I found myself trying to be a better person and to help raise a conscious environmentalist in my 3-year-old daughter. In the episode, Mickey and his fellow friends want to spend a day on the water; but before they can enjoy their boat trip, they find a mess scattered along the beach. Mickey and crew used teamwork to clean up the rubbish.

Having grown up in a family where time on the lake is precious, I couldn't help but think about how little I had done to

Letters policy

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author's name, address, phone number and signature. Phone numbers and addresses are required, but will not be published. Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words or be submitted within 30 days of your last submission. The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Original submissions will not be returned. Your letters to the editor may be brought into our office, sent to: Letters, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064-0191 or e-mailed to thePress@the-press.com.

preserve the pastime that I so love.

With that being said, my husband and I began collecting our own recyclables. Marion Recycling Center will accept anything metal. It can be tin

cans, aluminum cans, or even an old cake pan that has seen better days. You can receive 10 cents for every pound of tin and 51 cents per pound of aluminum. The Marion Convenience Center, aka the county dump, will take everything else—glass, paper, plastics, etc.

Not only can you help the environment by recycling, but you can also help the environment by monitoring your water and energy usage. There are appliances that give you the opportunity to do just that. I, personally, jumped on the Energy Star appliance boat in 2009 and have never looked back.

Products such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers and electric water heaters allow you the opportunity to conserve electricity and water usage. The benefits of this are two-fold. You can help do your part with the environment and save a little money in the process. Not only will you notice significant changes in your

electric and water bills, but also you can be eligible for rebates with your electric company and manufacturers.

Currently, Kenergy Corp. is offering \$100 rebates for anyone purchasing an Energy Star refrigerator or washer. Kentucky Utilities Co. is offering \$100 for an Energy Star refrigerator, \$75 for an Energy Star washer and \$50 for an Energy Star dishwasher. Some manufacturers are offering rebates up to \$200 rebates on select Energy Star high-efficiency laundry pairs from March 14 through April 1.

My thoughts are simple: do your part and feel good about doing it.

I love the benefits of teaching my 3-year-old—and someday my 2-month-old—that Mommy cares about the environment just like Mickey Mouse and his friends. You, too, can jump on that environmental consciousness boat and reap all the benefits.

Patti Merrill
Marion, Ky.

SPECIAL GUEST COMMENTARY

Misinformaton about Big Rivers spread through ads, commentary

By MARK BAILEY
BIG RIVERS ELECTRICT CORP. PRESIDENT, CEO
It's unfortunate that confusing misinformation is being spread through paid advertisements and "letters to the editor" from state legislators pushing unnecessary legislation.

Big Rivers Electric Corp. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative generating power for 112,000 homes, farms and businesses throughout western Kentucky, including Crittenden and Livingston counties. We are customer-owned. Our mission is to safely deliver reliable, low-cost electricity. We have no reason to misrepresent the situation because we have no motivation to earn extra profits.

Our sole motive is to assure the public knows the facts and to protect our customer-owners from extra costs. Two aluminum plants that use electricity generated by Big Rivers—Century Aluminum in Hawesville and Rio Tinto Alcan in Sebree—have announced plans to close. The smelters account for 70 percent of Big Rivers' electricity transmission.

Big Rivers has some of the lowest electric rates in the country. For years, we have worked diligently to help these aluminum smelters combat depressed worldwide aluminum prices so the plants could stay operational. While Century has provided a termination notice, we continue to negotiate with them in hopes of finding a reasonable solution to keep the plant open.

Less than four years ago, Big Rivers and Century entered into a long-term contract to give Century reliable, predictable rates for more than 14 years—an agreement Century touted at the time.

In an effort to remain operational, Century would like to buy power on the open market. Big Rivers supports this position and, in fact, proposed it in May of 2012. Big Rivers' only stipulations are that Century assumes all the extra risks and additional costs associated with their buying on the market and agree not to later demand Big Rivers supply them with power should they change their mind again.

We have negotiated long, hard and in good faith on these issues. But to date, Century has only countered with proposals that would force our other customer-owners to subsidize them. It's a case of privatizing profits and socializing losses.

Legislation is being considered in the Kentucky General Assembly—House Bill 211 and Senate Bill 71—that would allow the Century and Alcan smelters to buy power on the open market, but not assume all the risks and costs associated with it. This legislation is not needed because Big Rivers agrees in concept with Century buying their power on the open market. These bills do not fully protect our customer-owners from the additional expenses that would be created by this legislation.

It is also discriminatory legislation that opens the door to further electric deregulation. While the current legislation applies only to Century and Alcan, other large industrial companies are already clamoring to be included. Allowing large companies to abandon their power contract as proposed by this hastily-crafted legislation would create electric service anarchy in Kentucky, just as it has done in other states where this has occurred, leaving residents and smaller businesses to pay the higher bills.

Buying power on the open market is a complicated issue. That is why legislation of this nature should receive careful study and evaluation to assure there are no unintended consequences. Century is connected to Big Rivers' transmission system, so our company cannot physically separate itself from the situation. The current proposed legislation calls for some of the extra expenses incurred by Big Rivers to be covered by Century, but not all.

Many misstatements have been made about this legislation and about Big Rivers. Century has run full-page ads and a Rep. Ben Waide (R-Madisonville) "letter to the editor" filled with inaccuracies was published in several newspapers. We identify the misstatements and provide accurate responses on our website, www.bigrivers.com.

There is no doubt the closing of the aluminum smelters is terrible news for western Kentucky. That's why we have tried to work with Century to permit them to buy power on the market.

But, please understand electric rates will need to rise whether the plants close or whether they buy power elsewhere. However, the electric rate increase will be even higher if the smelters remain open based on current legislative proposals.

Big Rivers wants the smelters to remain in business, but we must also protect our other customer-owners.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Rebonding saves county \$800,000

Crittenden Fiscal Court on Friday gave final approval to a measure that will save the county almost \$800,000 over the remaining course of the 30-year bond payments due on Crittenden County Detention Center.

By consolidating Series 2007 and 2008 bonds into a single, lower interest rate jail bond, the savings will amount to about \$32,000 annually through 2038, when the facility will be paid off. The Series 2013 bond allows for a 2.9-percent interest rate reduction from the previous 6.28-percent rate.

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said the annual savings amounts to more than the salary of an average county employee.

Including interest, the projected financed cost of the \$7.6 million jail is now just under \$13 million.

Detention center prisoner census

The following is an inmate census of the 133-bed Crittenden County Detention Center as of Monday:

CLASSIFICATION	MALE	FEMALE
Federal	0	1
State	67	16
Crittenden	16	7
Other	2	1
Gender total	85	25
Total population: 110		

Last week, 28 detention center work release inmates put in 1,336 hours of community service, saving taxpayers approximately \$9,686.

Health seminar set for Ed-Tech Center

What's really going on inside of your body?

Find out Tuesday at a health seminar held at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion from 6 to 8 p.m. Dr. Rex C. Manayan, M.D.; Tracey Newcom, R.D., L.D.; and Dr. Johnny Newcom, D.C., will host the presentation on preventative health.

The goal is to provide those in attendance with a knowledge of the inner workings of the human body and the changes a person can make to accomplish personal health goals. Participants should leave with a deeper understanding of the science behind a healthier mind and body.

Sunday fire guts Marion residence

Firefighters spent a good portion of Sunday night battling a blaze at a Marion home. Ronald "Red" Howton, Marion Fire Department chief, said

the blaze at 331 First St. started just before 8 p.m. Sunday and caused extensive damage to the house owned and occupied by Donald Ed Hunt.

Hunt, who lives alone, was at church at the time of the fire. No one was injured.

Howton said the blaze was triggered by an electrical malfunction in the attic.

Despite what he believes could be a total loss as far as the home is concerned, the fire chief said many items inside the structure are salvageable. In fact, firefighters were able to remove numerous items from the house.

Members of Crittenden Volunteer Fire Department assisted city firefighters.

School districts weigh KSBIT dues

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several school districts in western Kentucky have agreed to seek legal advice as they weigh whether to help pay off a \$60 million deficit incurred by the Kentucky School Board Insurance Trust.

The Kentucky New Era reports that the West Kentucky Education Cooperative and the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative agreed to split the \$7,000 cost to have Bowling Green attorney Michael Owsley investigate the original contract between the districts and the trust.

Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Lyon, Union and Webster County school districts are members of the West Kentucky Education Cooperative.

The Kentucky School Board Insurance Trust provided districts with low-cost insurance for more than two decades, covering items such as workers' compensation and property.

The trust announced in January that it would disband due to financial woes and informed school districts across the state that they would have to pay outstanding insurance claims. Crittenden County Board of Education was asked to pay more than \$100,000.

CCMS grade cards mailed out Friday

Crittenden County Middle School grade cards will be mailed home Friday. They will include a survey the school is asking parents to complete and mail or send back to school with their child. School officials are seeking parental input in an effort to provide the best learning environment possible at CCMS.

Next Thursday, parents of eighth-graders are invited to attend Parent Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Parents are asked to come and get information on

their child's assessment scores as well as their individual learning plan, or ILP.

For students, spring Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, testing begins Monday.

State jobless rate improved in 2012

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky is reporting significant improvement in the state's jobless rate for 2012.

The Office of Employment and Training reported Friday that unemployment improved from 9.5 percent in 2011 to 8.2 percent in 2012. That's a 1.3-percent drop in the jobless rate, which reflects the addition of 28,800 jobs for the year.

Kentucky had the 19th highest annual unemployment rate among all states in 2012. Annual unemployment rates declined in 46 states, rose in two states and were unchanged in two.

Among neighboring states, Indiana and Illinois had unemployment rates higher than Kentucky. Virginia, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia and Tennessee had rates lower than Kentucky.

Expansion of Ideal under way, hidden

Work on expansion of Ideal gas station on Sturgis Road into a full convenience store has begun, though most of the work being done is behind the scenes, said the owner of Madisonville-based Rocket Oil Co., which operates Ideal stores in the region.

"We're working hard on the project, but nothing that you can see yet," owner Barry Eveland said Tuesday.

A home on the construction site will soon be razed.

School district to get new truck, van

Crittenden County Board of Education last week approved the purchase of two replacement vehicles for the school district: a 2013 Ford Econoline eight-passenger van and a 2012 Dodge 3500 crew cab diesel truck.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Rachel Yarbrough said funds for the purchase of both vehicles—\$43,000 for the van and \$21,500 for the truck—will come from capital outlay funds. In the past, those dollars could only be used on facilities, but now the state has allowed more flexibility for school districts to use the funding for the purchase of buses and district vehicles.

The new van will replace a 1998 Dodge van used to transport students for such events as golf matches and cheerleading competitions. Board members said the new vehicle will be outfitted with the latest in safety equipment.

KyTC closing Ky. 723 today for installation of cross-drain

STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet plans to close Ky. 723/Pinckneyville Road in Livingston County today (Thursday).

This closure at mile-point 4.5 is for the replacement of a cross drain. This is on Ky. 723 about a mile south of the U.S. 60 intersection in Salem.

The roadway at this site is expected to close about 8 a.m. after the morning school bus run and is expected to reopen to traffic about 2 p.m.

There will be no marked detour. However, motorists may self-detour via Ky. 1423/Cedar Grove Road.

Marion Police Department activity

The following is a monthly activity report for Marion Police Department, reflecting information from February 2013 as compared to the previous month, January 2013. The information is provided by Police Chief Ray O'Neal.

CATEGORY	JAN. 2013	FEB. 2013
Miles driven/patrolled	1,964	2,947
Criminal investigations	28	14
Domestics.....	12	9
Felony Arrests	15	4
Misdemeanor arrests	4	5
Non-criminal arrests	0	13
DUI arrests	2	1
Criminal summons served.....	0	1
Traffic citations.....	18	30
Traffic warnings	10	8
Parking tickets.....	0	3
Other citations	37	26
Traffic accidents	12	5
Security checks/alerts.....	56	100
Calls for service.....	274	268

The new Dodge will be used as a maintenance truck and will replace a 1992 truck currently in use. It will be equipped with a winch to help in the event of a bus getting stuck at a turnaround in rural areas. The truck is expected to help save both time and money since the district would not have to rely on calling a wrecker in such an event.

Board of ed OKs jail's use of buses

Crittenden County Board of Education has approved a mutual aid agreement with the county that would allow use of the school district's buses by Crittenden County Detention Center in the event of an emergency.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Rachel Yarbrough said this is the same agreement the school district has entered into previously with the county. The district has designated buses that are parked by the maintenance shop that could be used by the detention center.

The measure was approved at last week's board meeting.

Fire dues opt-out contract finalized

Property owners have until July 15 to opt out of voluntary fire dues that will be placed on tax bills this fall. Magistrates gave final approval to the opt-out agreement at Friday's special meeting of Crittenden Fiscal Court.

If property owners do not complete the agreement form by the prescribed date, they will be charged \$30 for fire dues that will be reflected on tax bills and made payable at the sheriff's office along with property taxes. The dues will prevent property owners from incurring a charge from a fire department should they be called to a blaze.

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said those owning properties in more than one of the

county's seven fire districts will be assessed the dues on only one property—their residence or other primary site. The fee will go to the fire department responsible for the fire district in which that property lies but will be applicable to all properties owned by an individual.

Those who opt out will be assessed at least \$500, plus any additional expenses, should volunteer firefighters respond to a fire at the property for which fire dues were not paid.

The opt-out agreements can be picked up at Newcom's courthouse office.

CHS layoffs not as dire as reported

Charlie Hunt, chairman of Crittenden Health Systems' board of trustees, said much of a WPSD report on layoffs at the hospital was taken out of context. He said the nine employees reported to have lost their jobs were let go over the course of several weeks, with the latest occurring in mid-February.

"We think we are 'right-sizing' the hospital," Hunt said.

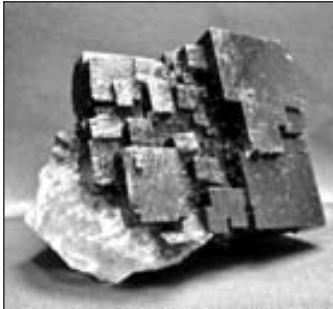
Additional layoffs are neither planned nor scheduled at this moment, the chairman said, adding that he is optimistic about the facility's future.

CHS' annual meeting will be at noon on March 26 at the education building on the hospital campus.

GOP hosts meet, update on gun bill

Crittenden County Republicans will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the courthouse. Richard Nelson, executive director of the Commonwealth Policy Center, will speak at the meeting. There will be an update on Kentucky Senate Bill 129, which aims to protect Kentuckians from any federal legislation that might infringe upon Constitutional firearms rights.

Everyone, regardless of party affiliation, is invited to attend.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Last week, the Kentucky General Assembly recognized the importance of fluarspar, "A Gem of Legacy," and its importance to Crittenden County.

Legislature recognizes fluarspar, Clement

When Sen. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson) took his seat on the Senate floor Tuesday, his computer screen displayed "A Gem of a Legacy" from his district.

Daily during the legislative session, the 138 members of the Kentucky General Assembly are treated to a history lesson on the Commonwealth of Kentucky via their computer screensavers. This session is "Pass the Word" and is provided by the Kentucky Historical Society. Last week, on the 19th day of 2013 legislative session, the focus was on Benjamin E. Clement and fluarspar.

"The General Assembly understands the legacy of fluarspar as a mineral," said Sen. Ridley, "and I believe it also can be part of the future of Crittenden County. I am so proud that we, as state legislators, used the legacy of fluarspar as a historic moment on our screensaver. It is especially appropriate with fluarspar industry poised for resurgence."

"A Gem of a Legacy" explains that Clement, a high school science teacher and entrepreneur, was drawn to western Kentucky by an interest in fluarspar. The article offers a sketch of Clement's involvement in mining fluarspar and the impact of the mineral—used primarily in steel making. Clement went on to serve as a member of the War Production Board during World War II and the President's Tariff Commission. The mineral museum in Marion—the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum—is named for him.

"I am pleased that my fellow legislators were able to share in an important moment from Crittenden County's history," said Sen. Ridley. "This may just be a prelude to the future of the mineral and its impending impact on the economic development of our region."

For more information, go to <http://passttheword.ky.gov>.

Red Cross storm preparedness

The American Red Cross' list of the basic supplies to have in an emergency kit includes:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day.
- Food: nonperishable, easy-to-prepare items.
- Flashlight.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Medications: seven-day supply.
- Multipurpose tool.

■ Sanitation and personal hygiene items.

■ Copies of personal documents: medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.

- Cell phone with chargers.
- Family and emergency contact information.
- Extra cash.
- Emergency blanket.
- Map(s) of the area.

STORM

Continued from Page 1

fury. If no basement is available, head to the lowest floor and find an interior room or closet with no windows.

"We've been lucky," Arflack said of the twisters that have hit the county in recent memory.

In the last 20 years in Crittenden County, tornadoes have hit Tolu, Mattoon and Crayne with no loss of life despite significant damage to structures in each area.

Kentucky Emergency Management officials warn people in vehicles or mobile homes to get out immediately when severe weather threatens. Neither provide adequate protection from the winds of a tornado. If outside, find a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head.

Arflack said the basement at Crittenden County Courthouse will always be open during threatening weather. Anyone is encouraged to use the building as shelter if no other option exists.

Of course, surviving a storm also takes preparation

for when it has passed.

"It'd be nice if everybody had a couple of days worth of water and canned food," Arflack said of post-storm readiness.

He added that help may be slow to arrive if devastation is widespread. "We could be on our own for as long as 72 hours," Arflack said.

John Heltzel, director of Kentucky Emergency Management, said every household should be prepared to face the challenges of disaster at any given time. In the event of a power outage, something as simple as a flashlight, radio and extra batteries can make a difference in safety.

Kentucky Emergency Management encourages Kentuckians to have an emergency kit, an emergency plan and weather alert radios and to take immediate action if a tornado warning is issued.

A survey is available online that allows Emergency Management to measure and improve preparedness for severe weather. The survey and important links are available at <http://kyem.ky.gov/StatewideTornadoSafetyDrill/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Sun. 1:30, 4, 6:30 • Mon.-Thur. 6:30

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Mama

Fri. 6:30 • Sat./Sun. 1:30 & 6:30
Mon. & Wed. 6:30

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COMPLETELY REMODELED HOME...3 BR home has been completely remodeled, including roof, HVAC, windows, siding, carpet, paint, kitchen cabinets & flooring, electrical, lighting though out, new deck. ks

SHADY GROVE...Great starter home w/lot's of possibilities, 2 BR, 1 BA home sits on a corner lot in Shady Grove KY. Home has been remodeled downstairs, has upstairs that has room for 2 more BR. Home has hardwood floors. m/w

QUIET COUNTRY SETTING...3 BR, 2.5 BA brick home, features: 2273 SF. LG eat-in kitchen w/appl. Great room, DR, gas fireplace. Screened back deck, above ground pool & deck, 500 gal propane gas tank, crystal clear well w/optional County water connection. Stocked fishing pond, woods. dg

GREAT STARTER HOME...located on quiet street in Marion. Features: 2 BR, Living room, Dining Room, basement. jr

CORNER LOT LOCATION...2 BR home on corner lot in Marion. New roof, gazebo. gf

LARGE FAMILY is what this home needs. 4 BR, 2 BA home, central heat & A/C on large lot. Located in town, garden spot. Includes appliances. hh

LIVINGSTON CO. HOMES

SALEM BRICK RANCH...3 BR home, located in a very established neighborhood. Features: central HVAC, hardwood floors, carport, blacktop drive, small office or apartment in the rear. eb

MANTEL ROCK AREA...3 BR, 1 BA home with dining room, den w/fireplace, garage all on 3 acres.

MAIN ST...3 BR, 2 BA w/basement & has 2 BR, rental apt gh

RENTAL INVESTMENT...2 BR, 1 BA on large lot. Salem. gh

HOME w/GUEST APT...3 BR, 2 BA brick. Liv./Din. Comb w/ fireplace, laundry Rm., Den, kit w/appl, plus 2 BR, quest apt.

SALEM RANCH...3 BR, 2 BA brick home in Salem. Partial fenced in yard. **SOLD**

CALDWELL CO HOMES

15 ACRES...with 3 BR, 2 BA modular home. 1612 sq ft of living space, 30 x 50 shop bldg. w/concrete floors., trees Includes appliances. Bb **PRICE REDUCED**

DEER MAGNET...approx 187 acres of cut over timber, some fields and creek bottoms. Tons of bedding area to hold several deer, one small pond. Several great area to build several homes ja

UNION CO. HOMES

40 ACRES...serenity is what owners call this home. 5 BR, 5 BA brick with views of countryside. Amenities include: in ground pool, work out room, fireplace, built-in cabinets, plus too many others to mention. Call for more details. jh

SMALL TRACTS & FARMS

1 ACRES LOT...located in country. **SOLD**

3 BUILDING LOTS...located in Crittenden Co. jp

2 LOTS...located in Marshall Co. jd

CORNER LOT...empty lot ready to build your home. Located on W. Depot in Marion. ks

LOT...located N. Weldon St. Call for more details...bh

LOT...located on Main St. in Marion. jw

LARGE CORNER LOT...located in Marion. gb

2 LOTS...near the golf course on Country Club Dr...df

3.24 ACRE LOT...N. Yandell St. in Marion. bh

28.96 ACRES...located off of Lily Dale Rd in Crittenden County. Land only with a pond. jt

61 ACRES...small horse farm just north of Salem. Features 3 BR, 2 BA Cedar sided home, large deck, 3 acre lake, pasture & woods. Also a 42 x 100 shop/stable building. Pm

120 ACRES...This small farm has it all for the outdoorsman and small livestock farmer, 3 Bedroom 2 bath home w/ attached 2 car garage, storage bldg, large 1200 sq ft shop, & large barn, pond, some fencing, open field, lots of standing timber. ew

235 ACRES...w/large home w/approx 160 acres open pasture, with the balance in marketable timber jg

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FSA using new check-cashing tool

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)/Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) sign-up has started. Those of you who normally participate in DCP and would like us to start processing your contracts, please contact the office so we can prepare your contracts for you.

General CRP

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up will be conducted from May 20, to June 14. This sign-up will give anyone who has an expiring general CRP contract an option to offer the contract back in, as well as to anyone interested in offering new ground.

Last week, the national Farm Service Agency mailed out letters to all producers with contracts expiring Sept. 30. If you believe that your contract is expiring this year



and you do not receive a letter, please call the Salem office, and we will verify for you when your contract does expire.

If you are intending on making an offer or re-offering current ground, please let us know so we can make sure that you get an offer submitted. We just don't want anyone to miss the sign-up period since the letters are being sent out almost two months in advance.

Please remember this process for general CRP con-

tracts is a competitive process, so there are no guarantees that your contract will be accepted. If you have new ground that you are interested in putting into CRP, you can offer that as well. Once the sign-up period is over for the general CRP offers, they will be ranked nationwide and you will be notified if your offer was accepted.

There are several fact sheets available on the new sign up located at <http://tinyurl.com/2q9cch>. If you are interested in offering your ground, we would recommend that you check out these fact sheets. If you do not have Internet access, these fact sheets are also available in the local office.

OTC Channel Application

Our office recently went to OTC Channel Application (OTCnet), which is an elec-

tronic method for processing checks. When checks are submitted for payment either in-person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an electronic funds transfer. The funds will be debited from your account as early as the same day.

If you would like more information about this process, see the following website: <http://tinyurl.com/ahdu948>.

We just want to make everyone aware that we now use this system, and any payments made to the office can possibly be drawn out as early as the same day the check is received.

(Laura Kessler is the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency county executive director at the Salem service center, which serves both Crittenden and Livingston counties.)

Conservation District names 2012 art, writing contest winners for Crittenden

STAFF REPORT

The Crittenden County Conservation District has named the winners of the 2012 Conservation art and writing contests.

Brenden Phillips, son of Donnie and Kara Phillips, a junior at Crittenden County High School, is the county writing contest winner. He received a \$100 cash award and his writing entry has been forwarded for area competition.

Lane Wallace, a freshman at CCHS, placed second and received a \$50 cash award and Coleman Foster, a sophomore, placed third and earned a \$25 cash award.

Jenna Potter, daughter of Wendy Potter and John Potter, a fifth-grader at Crittenden County Elementary School, is the county art contest winner. Her entry was chosen best among more than 500 locally created

posters. Jenna received a \$100 cash award and her poster has been forwarded for area competition. CCES art teacher Suzanne Brown assisted students with the art contest.

Maegan Potter, a third-grader at Arise and Declare Christian Academy, placed second and received a \$50 cash award and Teague Milikan, a first-grader at CCES, placed third and received a \$25 cash award.

The Crittenden County Conservation District awarded approximately \$600 in prize money to local students for the 2012 art and writing contests combined. In addition to the county prizes, the district also gave cash awards to grade winners.

The art contest was for students in first through fifth grades. Art contest grade winners received \$10 for first place, \$8 for second and \$5

for third. Below is a list of winners:

■ First grade: Teague Milikan, first; Ava Henry, second; and and Mason Crider, third.

■ Second grade: Carly Towery, first; Callie Dempsey, second; and Emily Henderson, third.

■ Third grade: Maegan Potter, first; Samantha Tinsley, second; and Alyssa Bozeman, third.

■ Fourth grade: Ian Ellington, first; Elijah Moss, second; and Gage Campbell, third.

■ Fifth grade: Jenna Potter, first; Dougie Conger, second; and Secalie Lopez, third.

The writing contest was for students in sixth grade through high school senior. Writing contest winners received \$15 for first place, \$10 for second and \$5 for third. Below is a list of winners:

■ Freshman: Lane Wallace, first; Logan Shuecraft, second; and Layken Belt, third.

■ Sophomore: Coleman Foster, first, Nicolas Greenwell, second; and Danielle Byarley, third.

■ Junior: Brenden Phillips, first, Haylee Young, second; and Kevin Chandler, third.

■ Senior: Corey Shuecraft, first; and Jacob Hunt, second.

The contest theme was "Kentucky's Forests Branching Out." Local district chairman Beverly Herrin congratulates each of the winners and thanks the teachers who promoted the contests and helped students prepare their entries.

The first place county winners were honored Saturday at the conservation district's annual awards banquet.

Whitfield honored with Farm Bureau award

STAFF REPORT

Congressman Ed Whitfield, (R-Hopkinsville), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, last week was presented with the Kentucky Farm Bureau "Friend of Farm Bureau" Award at a breakfast with nearly 200 Kentuckians. In expressing gratitude for receiving the "Friend of Farm Bureau" award, Whitfield noted his ongoing push for a long-term farm bill.

"I am honored to receive the 'Friend of Farm Bureau' award today from the Kentucky Farm Bureau," Whitfield said. "Agriculture is an important part of our local economy, and I will continue working every single day to make sure our ag community thrives. Kentucky farmers deserve the stability and certainty of a long term farm bill extension, and I will continue fighting to ensure that happens."

The "Friend of Farm Bureau" award is based upon voting records on the Farm Bureau's priority issues established by the Board of Directors, number of bills that a member has sponsored and co-sponsored, specific leadership role for Farm Bureau on priority issues, and how accessible and responsive that member is to Farm Bureau members and leaders.



Danny Wilkinson (left), a Kentucky Farm Bureau director from Columbia, Ky., presents Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-Hopkinsville) with American Farm Bureau Federation's "Friend of Farm Bureau" Award last week

U.S. Senators file bill to keep Cumberland tailwaters open

FROM STAFF AND AP REPORTS

All four U.S. Senators from Kentucky and Tennessee have signed on to introduced legislation on Capitol Hill to preserve tailwater fishing in the dams of the Cumberland River.

The legislation, called the Freedom to Fish Act, would prevent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from installing barriers along portions of the river that would block fishing access to tailwaters.

Dams are popular fishing spots because small fish get trapped and attract larger ones like catfish and bass. Corp officials say boating too close to the spillways at the dams is a safety risk and that barriers will go up this year.

Anglers in both states have been voicing outrage over the plan.

The legislation was filed last Thursday by Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and his fellow Republican from the state, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, along with Republican U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Just two days earlier, Con-

gressman Ed Whitfield (R-Hopkinsville) filed similar legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said the Corps' plans would negatively affect commercial and recreational fishermen from Crittenden and surrounding counties. He has shared his concerns with officials of the federal waterway management agency. Chris Lasher and Wade White, judge-executives of Livingston and Lyon counties, respectively, have traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss their concerns with Whitfield and officials from the Corps.



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Grand Rivers gets \$1 million for wastewater treatment plant

STAFF REPORT

The City of Grand Rivers has been awarded a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant for the Grand Rivers Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

In conjunction with funds from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the city will use these funds to

construct a new wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 500,000 gallons per day to replace the 300,000 gallon capacity plant built in 1970.

The construction of the new plant will allow the city to increase its daily flow through the system, as well as provide room for growth in the future.

the bill oversteps government's bounds with parents.

"Whether we like it or not, almost everything comes back to the amount of money we have. And we just don't have it," he said. "And if we had all the money in the world, I still don't think it's a good idea. It infringes on parents' rights."

Brookings Institution research shows the 15 states that have raised the dropout age to 18 have not seen graduation rates improve any more than the states with ages at 16 or 17.

Dr. Yarbrough said keeping students from dropping out should focus not just on the back-end, but also the front-end, when children are starting their education.

AGE

Continued from Page 1

vide alternatives for those students who simply cannot make it in the traditional classroom setting.

"Allowing kids to drop out at 16 or 17, it's not good. Nobody wins when a kid drops out of high school, period," he said, adding there needs to be another layer to legislation to help fund alternatives.

Sen. Dorsey Ridely (D-Henderson), voted for Senate Bill 97 to raise the dropout age. Meantime, Rep. Lynn Bechler (R-Marion) opposed the House bill that would do the same. Besides opposing unfunded mandates, Bechler believes

LIVESTOCK REPORT

LEDBETTER AUCTION RESULTS

FROM USDA MARKET NEWS

March 5, 2013

KDA-USDA Market News, Louisville, Ky.
Cattle weighed at time of sale

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2-3

11	500-600	590	120.00-130.00	128.05
1	600-700	695	108.00	108.00
3	700-800	758	109.00-110.00	109.67

Receipts: 536 head.

Compared to last week: Feeder steers 5.00-7.00 higher.

Feeder heifers under 400 lbs 10.00 higher, over 400 lbs steady to 2.00 higher. Supply included 30% of feeders over 600 lbs and 44% feeder heifers. Slaughter cows and bulls traded mostly steady.

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
6	300-400	367	175.00-189.00	181.32
13	400-500	455	155.00-168.00	160.36
13	500-600	548	137.00-146.00	143.49
16	600-700	643	127.00-133.00	131.09
6	700-800	769	115.00-116.00	115.16
2	800-900	892	111.00	111.00

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 2-3

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	300-400	330	160.00-170.00	163.38
12	400-500	459	140.00-150.00	146.68
8	500-600	548	130.00-138.00	133.93
14	600-700	680	104.00-124.00	118.93
1	700-800	710	100.00	100.00

Slaughter Cows:

	%Lean	Weight	AD	LD
Breaker	75-80	1210-1885	69.00-75.50	
Boner	80-85	1110-1600	71.00-77.00	64.00-71.00
Lean	85-90	1150-1260	63.00-69.50	
Lite	85-90			

Slaughter Bulls:

YG:	Weight	Avg-Dress	High-Dress	LD
#1-2	1270-2085	92.00-97.50	101.50-102.00	87.00

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1-2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	200-300	248	185.00-194.00	189.82
12	300-400	324	170.00-186.00	178.41
34	400-500	433	146.00-160.00	149.70
34	500-600	543	133.00-144.00	137.87
25	600-700	644	120.00-129.00	123.56
17	700-800	758	114.00-122.00	117.69
1	900-1000	920	104.00	104.00

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2-3

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	200-300	210	174.00	174.00
10	300-400	359	150.00-168.00	160.98
23	400-500	470	130.00-144.00	140.88

Stock Cows: Cows 2 to 7 years old and 6 to 8 months bred 880.00-1230.00 per head.

Stock Cow/Calf Pairs: Cows 3 to 9 years old with calves at side 1000.00-1310.00 per pair.

Baby Calves: 110.00-240.00 per head.

Chip Stewart, market specialist
www.ams.usda.gov/mmrreports/sv_lst150.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.

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CALDWELL CO, KY - 118 ACRES - \$195,000 - Outstanding habitat that is built for deer hunting! A great mixture of open timber, dense cover, water, and food.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 90 ACRES - \$143,550 - This is a diverse property with the right mix of timber, hidden fields for food plots, cover, and water.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 99 ACRES - \$199,000 - Surrounded by hundreds of acres of forested land this tract serves as a magnet for Whitetails, pulling deer from neighboring properties.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 24 ACRES - \$46,000 - Great hunting with building potential. A road access to electric and county water

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 523 ACRES - Price Reduced to \$834,185 - This super hunting tract combines the best of multiple habitats for excellent deer and turkey hunting. A small cabin also resides on the property.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 63 ACRES w/ HOUSE - \$159,000 - Excellent opportunity for someone looking for a small hunting property with a house for lodging on it.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 350 ACRES - Price Reduced. \$1,750/ACRE - 3 ponds, hardwood timber, overgrown fields and pasture.



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Read Across America Week



CCES celebrates literary characters



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

First place winners of a costume contest representing book characters were kindergarten through second grade students (front row, from left) Austin Whitt, Levi Piper, Hanna Long, Sierra Patrick, Ali Whited, Kaylee Hewitt, Elijah Shewcraft, Carson Yates and Avery White, (back row) Kaiden Travis, Karsen Shouse, Hailey McCann, Ben Paris and Jacob Suggs.



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

First place winners from third through fifth grade are (front row, from left) Ryleigh Tabor, Emma Sosh, Mallory Lynn, Chloe James, Lily Gardner, Emilee Whited, Mary Holeman, Ellie McGowan, Hannah Bell, (back row) Sammy Greenwell, Trace Adams, Justin Phillips and Jessica Duncan.

Middle school celebrates Read Across America week

BY JASON TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

Crittenden County schools celebrated Read Across America Day last week by hosting a variety of activities and events that focused on motivating students to pick up a book and experience the joy of reading. A national event, Read Across America is the signature program of the National Education Association (NEA).

Middle school teacher Katrina Meyers said the week-long event was geared toward getting children excited about reading. It culminated with Read Across America Day on Friday, which celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the author of many famous children's books.

"Ms. Myers has done an excellent job at Crittenden County Middle School making sure the kids had activities each day. They loved them. The prizes were wonderful. It really has enhanced the whole week for reading," said Teresa Marshall, principal of the school.

Among the prizes for middle school students were McDonald's gift cards, school supplies and tickets to Holiday World in Indiana.

A certificate of appreciation was also given to Marion



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

Crittenden County Middle School teacher Katrina Meyers presents a certificate of appreciation to Marion Mayor Mickey Alexander for his support of the Read Across America program.

Mayor Mickey Alexander for his ongoing support of the Read Across America program.

"I believe reading is important for the rest of your life. Once you read, nobody can hold you back. You can learn all you want, and you can go as far as you like," said Mayor Alexander, who participated in Friday's Read Across America Day at CCMS. "I really appreciated the opportunity to come out and see the kids and to see

their enthusiasm. That was fun."

Elsewhere last Friday, fifth graders at Crittenden County Elementary School read to preschoolers, as did leaders from within the community.

The literacy program isn't just for students. NEA officials say it's important for parents to read to young children and refer to Dr. Seuss' famous quote about reading: "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

Cat in the Hat visits CCES

BY JASON TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

Famous literary characters came to life last week and roamed the hallways during Character Dress-up Day at Crittenden County Elementary School as students and teachers celebrated Read Across America Week. CCES reading teacher Marty Hill said the goal was to get students excited about reading while honoring Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2.

"We've had crazy sock day, crazy hat day and then we culminate with our Character Dress-up Day," Hill said. "The students chose a character from a book and then came in costume and were asked to be able to tell their teacher about that character. The teachers chose a classroom winner and then we chose the top three in grades kindergarten through second-grade and the top three in grades three through five."



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

It wasn't just students who dressed as their favorite literary characters. Kindergarten teacher Jade Townsend dressed as the Cat in the Hat. Townsend and student Mathew Conger celebrated Read Across America Day on Friday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jeremy Wheeler, Crittenden County Economic Development Executive Director, reads to pre-schoolers Friday for Read Across America Day.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dressing as their favorite literary characters are (from left) are Ethan Thomas, Braeden Copeland and Gaige Markham.

Tracking Sludgefoot proves to be an adventurous journey

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of seven stories by Crittenden County native David Drennan about the tracking of a porphy deer in the northeast portion of the county dubbed "Sludgefoot." The semi-fictional series, "Sludgefoot: King of the White-tails," is his light-hearted account of the adventure with actual journal entries describing the scene.)

■ Aug. 8: "From my vantage point at the top of the hill, I saw the big bucks come into the beans from the direction of the clover field. The No. 1 buck is a nine-point, five on the left and four on the right. The No. 2 buck is a perfect 10-point and what I thought was a big six turns out to be an eight. I watched this trio for approximately 45 minutes browsing and slowly making



their way to the back of the field. The three bucks then proceeded to the line fence and went onto Troy's." While the humans were beginning to notice more and more, they had no idea what was really happening in Sludgefoot's kingdom. As they walked that day, Odo and Coileus were trying to see what the king was going to do about Spike. Spike had been gone for three days now. None of the herd had seen him. It was

rumored that he had crossed over into the Forbidden Lands. But it was all rumored and none of the herd dared to even mention the name of Spike in the king's presence.

The council had done nothing on Spike's behalf. No search party was sent out. The king's stance on the Forbidden Lands was as staunch as ever. No deer from the herd would ever be allowed to journey there for any reason. It was dangerous enough here in the land where they belonged. It was unsafe to even attempt to get there. If Spike had really gone there, then he was on his own.

But Coileus did not think that the king liked that outcome. So as they walked that day, he slyly pressed the matter with Sludgefoot as Odo listened on.

Only one deer could go and bring Spike back home. Only one deer in the herd knew the Forbidden Lands. That was Sludgefoot himself. As the heir to the throne, Spike had to be found, to be rescued. It mattered to the security of the herd.

As Sludgefoot mused on these sayings of his rival, he contemplated going back to the Forbidden Lands. If Spike ever saw it, he would never understand why the land was off limits to the others. He would never understand until it was too late.

Sludgefoot then considered leaving his herd. He had never done that before. It would be a risky chance. But they would still have his brother. They would still have Coileus, too, if needed.

■ Aug. 9: "Went back through the beans to a different tree atop hill. Kirk

Bentley drove old truck to top of hill and walks down road. I wonder if he's seen the big boys or if he's just looking. At 7 p.m., he's not going to see much unless it's running."

Sludgefoot was nervous, and he was trying to beat the falling night. He had learned many years ago to never enter the Forbidden Lands at night.

It had been forever since he had to run this fast. It hurt the king to know he was breaking his own rules. He was leaving his herd too, which worried him greatly. Still, Spike was his only son—Spike, the heir to the throne.

Why had he chosen to disobey the command?

That's why Sludgefoot had decided to take Coileus' advice and go. He had to know what Spike sought.

Perhaps it was what he was longing for too.

Twilight fell over the king. Darkness soon overtook the shadow of the great deer.

Meanwhile, Spike wandered to the edge of the field and stopped. He had come to a different place. In his attempt to find the Forbidden Lands, he had stumbled across something unknown to him. This feeling of fright came over him as he slowly walked toward the line of trees.

Suddenly there was the brightest light he had ever seen.

Spike froze.

(David Drennan, 23, is a native of Crittenden County. He is a student teacher at Caldwell County Elementary School and works as a volunteer with local children's organizations.)

Judgment of others belongs to God alone

This is a lesson on what judging is and, in a recent case, who is doing it. God judges who will win and lose at the end of this world. His Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us, which is Jesus, John 1:1-14 tells us. His Word says, "Judgment belongs to God."

That Word also says, "You shall know a tree by the fruit it bears," speaking of people's lives. When one reports on a person's deeds and measures them according to God's Word, they are only doing what God's Word commanded them to do in Ezekiel chapters 3, 18 and 33.

These chapters tell us if we see people living in sin, or one who is righteous and turns from his righteousness and sins, we are to warn them. If they will not turn, they will die in their sins, and their blood will be upon us.

Now many are taught that once you are righteous in God's sight you can never be lost. Not only do these scriptures refute that, but many, many more. One is Jesus



talking to the Church at Sardis, telling the Christians if they be overcomers He will not blot out their name from the Book of Life, Revelation 3:5 tells us.

"If any man shall take away from the words of the Book of this Prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book," reads Revelation 22:19. We all know we would have to be in something before God—who means what He says—could take us out.

A real important proof is when Jesus called His disciples to Him, ordained them, sent them to preach, gave

them power to heal the sick and cast out devils and named them all 12. One of them was Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. (See Mark 3:7-19.)

We know Satan entered Judas after he was ordained by Jesus to preach. He let Satan enter him when he was made treasurer of the group, and as greed overtook him, he sold his Savior for 30 pieces of silver. This is not limited to Judas. I see the majority of Americans doing the same, and the example set in Washington.

"Jesus can be in anyone's heart when they confess he is Lord and was raised from the dead by God." Anyone can confess Jesus is Lord and was raised from the dead by God, but we first have to be born again before Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit can come in. Jesus said in John 14:17, "The world cannot receive Him because it neither sees him nor knows him."

Afterward, we have to live a Christian life according to

Jesus' instructions or die lost, says John 12:48.

As for everyone being sinners, then who are Christians? Both those words are adjectives and neither are dichotomous.

The falsity of this causes many to die lost. I heard an atheist once say he did all he was told to do to become a Christian, and after his experience, his pastor told him he was "still a sinner as we all are sinners." He said doing what they tell you to do makes you no better, so I just gave it all up.

He became a high profile leader of the Atheist movement in Evansville. I'd hate to be in that preacher's shoes.

As for using 1st Corinthians 14:34, since this writer knows the Greek word *Laleo* means babble—which Paul used when he said the women were not to babble in the church if they wanted to learn anything. The babble must have been women disturbing the service, as the women were illiterate and were asking questions or whispering.

The writer also should have known that Paul did not use the Greek word *Lego*, which means to speak in the sense of declaring an intelligible message.

If people who want to truly know what is biblical on the subject of God's call upon all our lives, we need to remember Paul also talked in that same book in Chapter 11, Verse 5 about women prophesying. In Chapter 14 quoted by the writer, he surely read Verse 3, which said, "He that prophesies speaks unto men to edification, exhortation and comfort." Paul also said we are neither male nor female in Christ Jesus. Also, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy," reads Revelation 19:10.

Phillip had four daughters who prophesied. Many of the 120 on the day of Pentecost were women, and they, with the men, fulfilled the prophecy of Joel according to Peter. "And it shall come to pass in the last days said God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons

and your daughters shall prophesy...on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my spirit, and they shall prophesy," Acts 2:16-18 tells us.

When Jesus arose from the tomb, why did He use a woman to preach His resurrection sermon? Because all His cowardly male disciples were hiding in Jerusalem for fear of the Jews. But Mary went there to serve her Lord, even though He was dead, not fearing the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb. That kind of dedication always sees their Lord alive and well.

It is strange to have one say a woman is judging and then judge whether she is a woman of God and in closing their diatribe say, "These are just thoughts of a Christian man, without judgment."

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

Cothran to speak on the Gower House Hotel

STAFF REPORT

Doris Cothran, well-known speaker and historian, will talk about "Ghosts and Guests" concerning the Gower House Hotel in Smithland.

The event will be held at 5:30 p.m., Monday at the Log Cabin (Livingston County Historical and Genealogical Society) across the street from the new Livingston Office Building on Court Street. The historical event is sponsored by the preservation committee of the Livingston County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The Gower House is on the National Register of Historic Places, governed by



Cothran

the National Parks Service.

Individuals are invited to attend a brief business meeting which will follow Cothran's

presentation.

The Historical Society recently succeeded in nominating the historic (1845) Livingston County Courthouse to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

For information or to join the Historical Society call 928-4656, weekdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Fredonia Valley Heritage Society to meet March 7

STAFF REPORT

The Fredonia Valley Heritage Society will meet on Thursday (today) at 7 p.m., at the Fellowship Room of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Cassidy Avenue in Fredonia. Following the business meeting, the program will be presented by Larry Walston about Cobb's Battery, a highly decorated Confederate artillery unit which was formed in the spring of 1861 by Captain H.B. Lyon in Lyon County at Mint Springs (now Kuttawa). Refreshments will be served.

Prior to the meeting time, everyone is invited to attend an Open House from 6 to 6:45 p.m., at the newly established Fredonia Valley

Heritage Room at Fredonia City Hall. The City of Fredonia has provided the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society with a room in City Hall to use as a museum/library/research room for Fredonia historical memorabilia, documents and genealogical research books. The room will eventually be open to the public for a day or two per month.

The Fredonia Valley Heritage Society invites anyone interested in learning more about the heritage and history of the Fredonia Valley and those who want to see the history of the community preserved for future generations.

The society is embarking

upon a new project to publish a book of the artwork of John F. Rice. John Rice was born in the Fredonia Valley in 1882 and lived there until his death in 1960. As a young man, he served as a correspondent for the

Chicago Tribune in France prior to World War I. His family owned the Rice Brothers Tobacco Factory. Rice served as president of the Fredonia Valley Bank from 1928 to 1937.

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FORGIVENESS HOUSE
March 22 & 23 • 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.
March 24 • 2:00 - 8:30 P.M.
Ages 9 & Up
Childcare Provided
Contact Kathy at 625-5166 for reservations.

Happy 7th Birthday
Emma Grace
Wright
On March 7th

We love you,
Grandma Gina & Pappy Asher

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

Harvest House Pentecostal Church
1147 St. Rt. 1077, Marion
Pastor Daniel Orten and family invite everyone to come and worship with them at...
Sunday morning service | 10 a.m.
Children's church provided
Sunday night | 6 p.m.
Thursday night | 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church
State Route 506 - Marion, Kentucky
Sunday School 10 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.
Pastor Daniel Hopkins
A New Beginning, Going Forward and Looking to the Future

MARION CHURCH OF CHRIST
546 WEST ELM STREET • MARION, KY
965-9450
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
— The End Of Your Search For A Friendly Church —

Frances Presbyterian Church
Bro. Blanch Gray • Bro. A.C. Hodge
Wednesday night prayer meeting and youth service - 7^{PM}
Sunday school - 10^{AM} • Worship service - 11^{AM}
Every third Sunday evening service - 5:30^{PM}

Emmanuel Baptist Church
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108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion, Ky. • 965-4623
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Evening 7 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study • Children and Youth Activities
www.abccritendon.org

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

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

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.

Marion Baptist Church
College and Depot, Marion • 965-5232
• Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
• Awana, 5:45 p.m., beginning Oct. 9
Pastor Mike Jones

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Marty Brown, Pastor
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
E-mail: deercreek@quickmail.biz — Phone 965-2220

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

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Bro. Selby Coomer, Pastor
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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.

GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH
ENON 1660 Ky 132 • MARION
SERVICES
Sunday morning 10 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday night, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

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

Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church
State Route 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Herbert Alexander, Pastor

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.

Caldwell Springs Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Bill McMican
2212 SR 8555 • MARION, KY
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
"We invite you to worship Jesus with us."

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HURRICANE CHURCH ROAD OFF HWY. 135 W.
BRO. WAYNE WINTERS, PASTOR
Sunday school, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday and Wednesday evening services, 6:30 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Belt

Sunnie Jim Belt, 76, of Burna went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Feb. 26, 2013, at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah.

Belt was a graduate of Salem High School where he was a four-year member of the baseball team, which went to the state tournament four years in a row.

He was a 50-year member of Carrsville Masonic Lodge.

Belt owned, co-owned with his son Jim, and operated several businesses in the Lola and Burna areas. A few of these were Lola Gulf, Burna Gulf, Burna BP, Belt's Trucking, Burna Propane and Belt's Auto Sales, just to name a few. Sunnie Jim Belt worked side by side with his wife Doris in all of these businesses over a 50-year period.

Belt was also an avid fan of both University of Kentucky basketball and St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

He attended Hampton United Methodist Church.

Belt is survived by his wife of 55 years, Doris (Croft) Belt; two children, Janet and husband Larry McGregor and Jim and wife Lisa Belt, all of Burna; one brother, Harold and wife Bernice Belt of Paducah; his mother-in-law, Casadeen Croft of Burna; his brother-in-law, Dwayne and wife Nancy Croft of Marion; a special sister-in-law, Jill Fay of Burna; one grandson, Chad and wife Jennifer McGregor of Burna; three granddaughters, Danielle and husband James Lane of Nashville, Tenn., Erica and husband Brandon Fondaw of Burna and Sunni McGregor and Cody Ogg of Burna; four great-grandchildren, Reyann McGregor, Raven McGregor, Chloe McGregor, Victoria Joiner; special nieces, Teresa and husband Ronnie Beavers of Marion and Kelsey Pierce of Burna; Miranda and husband Drew Williams of Central City; one nephew, Anthony Wilson; and several other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his nephew, Mark Croft; a father-in-law, John L. Croft; and his parents, Barney C. "Wort" Belt and Muriel Curnel Belt.

A celebration of Sunnie's life was held Saturday in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors in Salem, with the Revs. Chuck Ladd and Mike Atkins officiating. Burial followed in Salem Cemetery.

Masonic services were held Friday evening at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: LHHS Auxillary, 131 Hospital Dr., Salem, KY 42078.

Condolences may also be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

(Note: Non-standard obituaries require a nominal fee. Ask your funeral director about fee-based obituaries.)

Ruschmeyer

Shari Porter Ruschmeyer, 54, of Salem died Feb. 28, 2013, at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services in Salem.

She is survived by her husband, John Fredrick Ruschmeyer; one son, Jared Franklin; one sister, Mitzi Porter Vaughn; her mother, Mel. B. Porter; two brothers, Larry and wife Sandra Porter of Salem and Tim Porter of Grand Rivers; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one son, John Patrick Ruschmeyer; and her father, Thomas Jesse Porter.

Memorial services were Sunday at Salem Baptist Church, with Revs. Jim Wring and Chuck Ellis officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Livingston County Helping Hands or Livingston County Family First, c/o Boyd Funeral Directors, P.O. Box 26, Salem, KY 42078.

Arrangements are under the direction of Boyd Funeral Directors in Salem.

Belt

Eulene J. Belt, 89, of Marion died Feb. 26, 2013, at Crittenden Hospital in Marion.

She is survived by her children, Lemma Plumber of Herrin, Ill., Harold Belt and Freda Malone, both of Marion, Jimmy Belt of Donnelson, Ill., and David Belt of Leitchfield, Ill.; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Harley Belt; two sons; four brothers; four sisters; and her parents, Monroe and Sarah Stewart Jackson.

Graveside services were Friday at Carrsville Cemetery, with Rev. Marty Brown officiating.

Boyd Funeral Directors in Salem was in charge of arrangements.

Wardlaw

Katharine Buckalew Wardlaw, 94, of Marion died March 1, 2013, at Salem Springlake Care Center.

She was a member of Marion United Methodist Church, Marion Woman's Club and the American Legion Auxillary.

She is survived by two sons, Edward J. and wife Jean Buckalew of Orlando, Fla., and Robert and wife Elizabeth Buckalew of Virginia Beach, Va.; three grandchildren, John Buckalew of Sacramento, Calif., Anne Bradford of Charlotte, N.C., and Brett Buckalew of Virginia Beach; and five great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her first husband, Lonnie W. Buckalew; her second husband, Brady Wardlaw; her parents, Joe and Mabel Clark; and one brother, William D. Clark.

Services were Monday at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, with interment in Maplevue Cemetery.

Maze

Katessa Lee Maze, infant child of Thomas and Crystal Maze of Hampton, died Feb. 26, 2013, at Norton Hospital in Louisville.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandparents, Harold "Tom" and Garnet Maze of Hampton, Steve and Pattie Hackney of Marion and Jay Schneider of St. Anthony, Ind.; and one brother, Jeremy Maze of Hampton.

Services were held Sunday at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion with interment in Good Hope Cemetery.

Nunn

Edna Nunn, 91, of Marion died March 2, 2013, at Crittenden County Health and Rehab in Marion.

Surviving are one daughter, Shirley and husband Darrell Jent of Marion; one son, Mike Nunn of Olney, Ill.; grandchildren, Serena and husband Eddie Dickerson of Marion, Derrick Jent of Murray and Josh, Matt and Heather Nunn, all of Evansville, Ind.; three great-grandchildren, Brittany and husband Trinity Tabor of Nashville, Tenn., and Noah and Gavin Dickerson, both of Marion; two great-great-grandchildren, Marley and Asher of Nashville; and one sister, Betty Jean Edwards of Elkins, W.Va.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Nunn; her parents, Rube and Carrie Northcutt; and one sister, Mina Cowan.

Visitation was Wednesday at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, with interment in Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Hodges

Verna Hodges, 87, of Marion died March 5, 2013, at Crittenden Hospital.

She is survived by three sons, Ronnie Myers, Eddie Myers and Tony Myers, all of Marion; one daughter, Carolyn Rose of Marion; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister, Iva Brown of Marion.

Hodges was preceded in

death by her parents, Edith and Vernon Hunt; two late husbands, Louis Myers and Dolphy Hodges; one son, Jerry Myers; and one grandson, Jerry Lynn Myers.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. today (Thursday) at Gilbert Funeral Home. Burial will be in Freedom Cemetery.

Friends may call Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Thank You

Special thanks to Dr. Yazigi and the staff of Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Service. We would also like to say thanks for the food, flowers and cards.

The family of Harold Bryant

Thank You

The family of Eulene Belt would like to thank Dr. Greg Maddux and the staffs of Family Practice Clinic and Crittenden Health Systems. We would also like to thank the women in the deli of Conrads, all the employees of Farmers Bank and friends and family.

Freda Malone

FISH FRY

St. William Catholic Church

860 S. Main Street, Marion, KY

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Jessica, Kristin, JoEllen, & Jonna

In Loving Memory of
Bruce Guess

February 28, 1942 – August 16, 2005

In Loving Memory of

Alberta Taylor *Neil Taylor*
1937 - 2012 1934 - 2007

We are so lost without you guys.
Love Your Family

How Can I Say Goodbye

In Memory of Helen Catilla

Mom, it's been two years now since God and his Angels called you away. Oh how the Angels rejoiced as you walked through those Pearly Gates that day.

Mom, when they said you were going to die, I refused to believe it could be true. How could I allow myself to even imagine saying goodbye to you?

Mom, you were an Angel here on Earth, I learned so very much from you. You were so gentle and so kind, your smile would always see you through.

You taught me how to love unconditionally, and how to be my very best in all I do. You gave your love all to God and your family, and never once stopped to think about you.

You were more than a Mother, you were my best friend and a great listener too. Oh how I miss our special talks, and all the fun things we used to do.

Mom, I can never say goodbye to you, because I could never bear the pain. Instead, I say I Love You Mom, until we meet again.

We miss you,
Sharon, Diane & Your Loving Husband Frank

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At Gilbert Funeral Home, you can expect to see a familiar face when your family is facing what can be difficult times. The Gilbert family has been serving its community for many years. Whether it be as youth sports coaches, their church or through their involvement in community organizations, Brad Gilbert and his family have always been there. And, they will be there when you need the comfort of a friend and a professional.

As part of its commitment to the community, Gilbert Funeral Home is holding firm on rising costs. A traditional funeral service starts at \$5,000, which includes one night visitation, next-day funeral service, use of a hearse and flower car, a made-in-America 20-gauge steel casket, vault, memorial folders, register book, thank you cards and a copy of our memorial DVD.

If you are interested in prearranging a funeral or if you experience the loss of a loved one, please feel free to call us at any time about our services.

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24-Hour Obituary Line (270) 965-9835
www.GilbertFunerals.com

Freedom Cemetery

Will Have its Annual Financial Meeting

Monday, March 18 • 6 p.m.

In The Church Fellowship Hall

If you are unable to attend you may mail donations to:
Denver L. Robertson, 1076 S.R. 120, Marion, Ky 42064

You may also contact me at 704-1412
or see Iva Brown or Ruth Robertson

Thank you

Thinking you might be missing out on the better deal?

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Something new can be exciting. But it also can be risky. There are some things that shouldn't be left to chance.

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Prepare adhead for severe weather season

While you can't control severe weather, you do have control over how prepared you are to face the challenges severe weather often presents. Preparing ahead of time for severe weather will relieve the stress of uncertainty in an emergency situation.

Gov. Steve Beshear has declared March Severe Weather Awareness Month, and one of the most important things you can do to prepare for severe weather is to own an National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio with specific area message encoding capabilities. An NOAA weather radio with SAME technology can be programmed to give weather alerts specific to where you live. This radio is particularly important to the grow-



Nancy Hunt
UK Extension
Family & Consumer
Sciences Agent

Homenotes

ing population of people who only watch cable television or spend their time on the Internet as these services often do not cover local weather alerts.

In addition to owning a weather radio with extra batteries, you need to create an emergency supply kit with enough necessities to last a minimum of three days. It is often a good idea to put two kits together, one to remain in your home and a smaller

version to take with you in case of evacuation.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security suggests your emergency kit supplies include: 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation, a three-day supply of non-perishable food, a battery-powered or hand crank radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, a whistle to signal for help, dust masks to help filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place, moist towelettes, garbage bags with plastic ties for personal sanitation, a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, a can opener and local maps.

These items will provide you with the basics. But if you want to take it a step

further, you can add one sleeping bag per person, a change of clothing for each person, mess kits, paper and pens, and books, games or puzzles to pass the time.

You should also take into consideration the unique needs of your household when putting together your emergency supply kit. Don't forget to pack medications, and consider the needs of your pets, children and older family members. It is important to consider every possibility when you are putting your supply kit together.

It is a good idea to place your insurance policies, some cash, identifications and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.

In addition to an emergency supply kit, you will need to make a comprehensive

family communication plan. Specifically, everyone should know what to do in the event you are not together when an emergency occurs. It is suggested that each family member calls, or emails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency. It is also important for everyone to have an out-of-town contact designated as it is often easier to call out-of-town during storm events. Each person should know these contacts and phone numbers.

An evacuation plan that involves everyone in a household is important. Advanced planning will save precious time in the event of a storm emergency. For example, if you live in a trailer, you need to establish a safe place to go during a tornado watch. Do not wait for a tor-

nado warning to evacuate as there might not be enough time to get out.

In the event of evacuation for other reasons, it is important for all family members to know the destination location. You should map several routes to get to this location in case one route is blocked.

Make sure you know the emergency plans and protocols at your school and work. It is imperative that all emergency contact information is kept up to date.

It is also helpful to be aware of the typical storm issues you have in your area. Does it flood every time it rains? Is it common to have tornados? Do you live on a fault line? Awareness allows for advanced preparation specific to your potential needs.



McGregor-Ogg

Larry and Janet McGregor of Burna announce the engagement of their daughter, Sunni Nicole McGregor, to Cody Wayne Ogg, son of David and Tonya Loxley of Smithland and Kenneth Barnett of Grand Rivers. McGregor is the granddaughter of Sunnie Jim and Doris Belt of Burna, and Jean and the late Fields McGregor, of Benton. She is a 2004 graduate of Livingston Central High School. She graduated from Murray State University in 2009 with a bachelor of science degree. She is employed by South Livingston Elementary and is a member

of Potters House Baptist worship center.

Ogg is the grandson of Glenda Stenbridge and the late Larkie Driskell Jr., of Grand Rivers as well as the late Grundy and Nellie Pendergrast, also of Grand Rivers. He is a 2004 graduate of Livingston Central High School. Ogg served in the United States Army and is a combat veteran of the Iraq war. He is employed by Three Rivers Boat and Barge in Ledbetter. The wedding will take place at 6 p.m., on March 16, at the Kentucky Dam Village Convention Center. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Former Marion resident honored for Rosenwald school research

COURTESY OF THE MCKENZIE BANNER

The city of McKenzie, Tenn., honored Mary Frances Crawford on Jan. 14 by naming the day as Mary Frances Crawford Day in the city. Mayor Jill Holland presented the resolution.

Crawford, a resident of McKenzie HealthCare Center, provided valuable information about the Rosenwald Schools to Marion author and retired U.S. Marine Col. Tom McKinney, who also wrote "Jack Hinson's One-Man's War."

The Rosenwald School Building Program has been called the "most influential philanthropic force that came to the aid of Negroes at that time." It began in 1912 and eventually provided seed grants for the construction of more than 5,300 buildings in 15 states, including schools, shops, and teachers' houses which were built by and for African Americans. The Rosenwald System was a fulfillment of the dream of the great American educator, Booker T. Washington, himself a former slave, to build schools



SUBMITTED PHOTO
McKenzie, Tenn., Mayor Jill Holland presents a resolution naming Jan. 14 as Mary Frances Crawford Day to the former Marion resident.

for black children across the South.

Crawford attended a Rosenwald school as a child. She is an alumna of the Marion Rosenwald school. She also provided significant contributions to the research and history of the

burial place near Marion of the late Matilda Lewis Threlkeld, the granddaughter of Lucy Jefferson Lewis who was a sister of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence.

Crawford said she attended a two-room school that also had a library attached. It also had the famed "cloak room," a staple of the times. Her daughter, Mary Nolen, is a teacher at Huntingdon High School in Huntingdon, Tenn.

Extension Homemakers place in Cultural Arts display held Feb. 19 in Princeton

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Extension Homemakers had 45 of the 195 entries in the nine-county Pennyrile Area Extension Homemaker Cultural Arts Display Feb. 19 in Princeton.

All first place winners are eligible for state competition. Twelve items from Crittenden will be part of the 54 from the area going to state.

Results of the competition:

■ Judith Ann Manley: Novelty Basket, first place; Mixed Media Jewelry, first place; Original Design Jewelry, first place; Basic Embroidery, second place; Crochet with beads, second place; and Beading, third place.

■ Nancy Lanham: Basic Sewing/Purse, first place; Doll Making, first place; Recycled Household Item, first

place; and Mixed Media Jewelry, second place.

■ Sarah Ford.: Color Photography, first place; Scrapbooking/Heritage, second place; and Miscellaneous/Tool Caddy, second place.

■ Barbara Gillihan: Scrapbooking/Miscellaneous, first place; Original Design Jewelry, second place; and Apparel Accessory, second place.

■ Pat Connor: Natural Art/Wood, first place; Crochet, third place; and Basic Embroidery, third place.

■ Helen Springs: Embroidery, first place.

■ Nancy Lapp: Hand Weaving, first place.

■ Evening Belles Club: Scrapbooking, first place.

■ Kristi Harris: Black and White Photography, second place.

■ Tabby Tinsley: Scrap-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
These Crittenden County Extension Homemakers are displaying six of the first place items selected at the Pennyrile Area Cultural Arts Display. Twelve local items were selected for the state competition to be held in Lexington in May. Pictured are (from left) Pat Connor, Nancy Lapp, Barbara Gillihan, Sarah Ford, Nancy Lanham and Judith Ann Manley. Others earning first place ribbons included Helen Springs and the Evening Belles Homemaker Club.

booking/Family, second place.

■ Kim Vince: Color Photography, second place.

Community CALENDAR

Thursday, March 7

■ Bro. Tim Burdon will be at the Crittenden County Senior Center at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 9

■ The Crittenden County Genealogy Society will meet at 10 a.m., in the meeting room at the Library. A history of the Frances community will be given by Brenda Underdown and Doyle Polk.

Monday, March 11

■ Crittenden County Coalition for a Drug-Free Community will meet at 6:30 p.m., at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion.

Tuesday, March 12

■ The CCHS SBDM will meet at 3:30 p.m., in the CCHS conference room.

Wednesday, March 13

■ The Bookmobile will be at the Crittenden County Senior Center at 9 a.m.

■ An AARP tax preparation professional will be on hand at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., each Wednesday during tax season to help seniors with filing their taxes. The center is located on North Walker Street.

■ A book signing will be held from 3 to 4 p.m., at the Critten-

den County High School Library.

Author Tom White will sign copies of his book "Adventures Past," a compilation of hunting and fishing stories and a life spent in the woods. Free refreshments will be provided. A free autographed book goes to the first 10 students in attendance. Register by March 12. Call Crosswalk coordinator Cheryl Burks at 965-9833.

Saturday, March 16

■ The Crayne Cemetery Association will have its Crayne Cemetery Clean-up day at 9 a.m. Rain date will be the same time, March 23.

Tuesday, March 19

■ Public forum for the qualifications desired in the future County Agriculture Natural Resources Extension Agent in Crittenden County will be held from 10-11 a.m., at the Ed-Tech Center. For further information contact Crittenden County Extension Office at 965-5236.

Thursday, March 21

■ The Woman's Club of Marion will host a screening of the film Miss Representation at 6:30 p.m., at the Woman's Club Building on East Carlisle Street next to the post office.

Popcorn and drinks are free. Everyone is welcome. Call 965-9200 for movie titles or more information.

■ A St. Patrick's Day fellowship and game time for children and youth-grades one through college will be held March 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Emmanuel Baptist Church. A pizza supper will be served followed by various group games and a Bible story time by David Drennan. For transportation or information call 965-4623 or Interim Pastor Jerrell White at 625-8904.

Church notes

■ Marion Baptist Church will have a bake sale at 9 a.m., on Friday to benefit Relay for Life. It will be held in front of Farmers Bank.

■ A fish fry will be held Friday at 5 to 7 p.m., at St. Williams Catholic Church.

■ Life in Christ Church will host movie night at 7 p.m., on Saturday.

Local student awarded presidential scholarship

STAFF REPORT

Tucker Frazer, the son of Bart and Sharie Frazer of Marion, has been awarded a presidential scholarship to the University of Kentucky. The award covers the cost of tuition for up to four years of undergraduate study and is valued at \$40,000.

The commonwealth's flagship university called this year's group of applicants "the most competitive pool in university history with over 1,300 applications."

"We are extending this offer because our university recognizes and values incredible talent, and we want you to be a part of the UK



Frazer

family," wrote university president Eli Capilouto in notifying Frazer of the award.

The scholarship was awarded

based on Frazer's academic achievements and scholarly work, as well as his commitment to outreach and service to his fellow students, school and community.

The award replaces a previous offer to Frazer of the university's provost scholarship.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Frazer serves as page

Regan Frazer, daughter of Bart and Sharie Frazer of Marion, served as a page last month during the 2013 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly to Sens. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson) and Stan Humphries (R-Cadiz). Above, Frazer is pictured with Sen. Humphries.

BASKETBALL

Regional and State

Second Region Boys at Hopkinsville

Friday's Semifinal Round

Hopkinsville 63, Madisonville 62
Henderson Co. 70, Trigg Co. 60

Championship Game

Hopkinsville 59, Henderson 46

Sweet 16 State Championships Boys at Rupp Arena

Opening Rounds - Wed. & Thurs.

Wayne County vs. Madison Central
Holmes vs. Pleasure Ridge Park
Graves County vs. Ohio County
Hopkinsville vs. South Oldham
Warren Central vs. Montgomery Co.
Fleming County vs. John Hardin
Johnson Central vs. Lou. Ballard
Knott Central vs. Clay County
Championship 1 p.m., Sunday

Second Region Girls at Caldwell County

Opening Round Results

Madisonville 63, Livingston 35
Henderson 66, Christian Co. 37
University Heights 57, Lyon Co. 42
Webster Co. 48, Caldwell Co. 44

Monday's Semifinal Results

Henderson Co. 62, Madisonville 41
UHA 60, Webster County 44

Tuesday's Championship Game

Henderson Co. 49, UHA 47

Newton coach of year

Webster County boys' basketball coach Jon Newton was selected the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches Coach of the Year for the Second Region. Trigg County guard Deonquez Nance player was Player of the Year. In the First Region, Chris Guhy of Mayfield and Brian O'Neill of Carlisle were Coaches of the Year and Marshall County's Chase Clark was Player of the Year.

SOFTBALL

Clinic for girls March 9

The Lady Rocket softball team will be hosting a youth softball clinic for grades 1-7 from 9 a.m., until noon Saturday, March 9 at the middle school gym. Pre-regis-ter for \$25, which includes a snack, shirt, instruction and ad-mission to the first CCHS home game. Same-day registration is \$35.

BASEBALL

Youth baseball clinic

There will be a free youth base-ball clinic from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 16 at Marion-Crittenden County Park's Gordon Blue Guess Field. It is for young-sters in grades K-8. Crittenden County High School's Rocket baseball program is hosting the clinic. Those who pre-register by March 8 will receive a free Rocket baseball. For more information, call Donnie Phillips at 625-1875 or Misty Champion at 704-3311.

Summer little league

Registration is under way for summer youth baseball and soft-ball leagues at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Forms are available at The Crittenden Press, and they have been distributed at Critten-den County Elementary School. You may also find a form in PDF format on the Dugout Club's Facebook page or at The Press Online under the sports tab. Reg-istration deadline is March 16. For information, call 704-0435.

CCHS has spring passes

If you're planning on attending several high school baseball or softball games this spring, a good value is the season pass offered at Crittenden County High School. One season pass will get the owner into all home baseball and softball games. The tickets are available at the high school office. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for students. Regular admission to one game is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

SOCCER

Youth league sign-ups

Crittenden County Youth Soccer registration will be from 9 a.m., until noon on Saturday at Dairy Queen.

HUNTING

Current seasons

Snow Goose	Feb. 1 - March 31
Youth Turkey	Apr. 6-7
Spring Turkey	Apr. 13 - May 5
LBL Non-Quota hunting	April 15-28
Groundhog	Year Round
Coyote	Year Round

Rocket Honorees

Crittenden County High School held its annual bas-ketball awards banquet Sunday. Among those hon-ored were (front from left) Bobby Knox, Most Efficient Player, Most Rebounds, Most Blocked Shots and Defensive MVP; Devin Clark, Best Field Goal Per-centage and Hustle Award; Ethan Hill, Offensive MVP, Most Improved, Team Cap-tain and Varsity MVP; Stephon Cozart, Sixth Man Award; Tucker Frazer, Teammate Award; (back) Noah Dickerson, JV co-MVP; Aaron Owen, Hustle Award; Travis Gilbert, Best Free Throw Percentage; and Landon Young, Chal-lenge Award and JV co-MVP. The Rocket basketball team also hon-ored two parents for their hard work and dedication. They were Dennis Knox and Laura Tinsley.



Foster sets new state archery record



Crittenden Countian Jeremiah Foster will be shoot-ing in the sectional archery championships this week-end at Shepherdsville, Ky.

Two weeks ago, the young archer set a new record for youth indoor archery in Kentucky at the state bow shooting tournament at the Chickasaw Archery Range in Shepherdsville.

Foster, a seven-year-old, first-grade student at Crit-tenden County Elementary School, has been bow shooting since he was able to hold one. He won a state title as a five year old and two state titles last year. Now, he has two more with hopes of a berth in the national indoor championships in two weeks at Louisville.

Late last month, at the indoor championship in cen-tral Kentucky, Foster scored a 296 out of a possible 300 points in the Bantam Division. He scored 25 bull's eyes on the round. The previous state record for that age group was 284 and it had stood for about 20 years. Of course, Foster won first place in that cat-egory.

He also won first place in the Cub Male Freestyle with 35 bulls and a total score of 294.

Foster's father, Tony, also won two state champi-onships last month in Shepherdsville.



Crittenden Youth Soccer Association players re-cently participated in a five-week fundamentals camp held across five Saturdays this winter. Those participating were (from left) Paris Foster, Breanna Walker, Ella Geary, Lizzie Campbell, Coach Nick Sallee, Kiley Croft, Madison Walker, Bryson Walker and Sofie Watson. Not pictured were Matthew Edwards and Kailyn Stokes.

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State eyes earlier opening for west Kentucky rabbits

The Kentucky Depart-ment of Fish and Wildlife Resources is seeking input from the public on a pro-posal to lengthen the next rabbit hunting season.

The proposal would mean an early opening date for rabbit hunting in west-ern Kentucky, which could put deer hunters and rab-bit hunters afiel at the same time.

Department officials have received a request to create one statewide rabbit sea-son starting Nov. 1 and closing Feb. 10. Currently, rabbit season in the east-ern rabbit hunting zone of the state is slated to open Nov. 1, 2013 and close Jan. 31, 2014. In the western

rabbit hunting zone, the season is scheduled to open Nov. 11, 2013 and continue until Feb. 10, 2014.

The department is gath-ering public input using an online questionnaire to help determine whether hunters support or oppose this proposal. The ques-tionnaire can be completed on the department's web-site at fw.ky.gov.

The questionnaire con-tains basic facts about long-term rabbit popula-tions in Kentucky so par-ticipants can make informed choices. The questionnaire takes only a few minutes to complete.

Results from the public input will be presented for consideration at this week-end's meeting of the Ken-tucky Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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LBL re-opens refuges

LBL is re-opening wildlife refuges for pubic use. Rush-ing Bay, Duncan Bay, Duncan Lake, Smith Bay, Fulton/Honker Bay, Honker Lake Refuge, Long Creek Waterfowl Refuge and por-tions of Energy Lake re-open March 16. Hematite Lake will open the same day for bank fishing only.

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Crittenden County Rocket baseball

Eli Bebout
Senior - Inf./P/OF

Matt Berry
Senior - Manager

Zack Knight
Senior - Infield/P

Brenden Phillips
Junior - Catcher

Travis Gilbert
Junior - P/Infield

Devin Belt
Junior - P/Infield

Taylor Champion
Junior - Infield/P

Aaron Owen
Junior - Outfielder/P

Adam Driver
Sophomore - Pitcher

Colby Watson
Sophomore - Outfield

Nick Castiller
Sophomore - Infield

Dylan Hollis
Freshman - C/OF

Alex Cosby
Freshman - Outfield

Ryan James
Freshman - OF/Inf.

Jesse Belt
Freshman - OF/Inf.

Reid Baker
Freshman - OF/Inf.

Shelby Robinson
8th - Infield


Ethan Hunt
8th - Infield


Nathan McDowell
Head Coach

Donnie Phillips
Assistant Coach

Brad Gilbert
Assistant Coach

NOT PICTURED
Jeff Porter, Assistant Coach
Logan Belt, 7th grader
Clay Croft, 7th grader
Will Tolley, 8th grader
Bobby Glen Stephens, 8th grader
Paxton Riley, 8th grader





TITLETOWN

2012 - District Champion
2011 - District Runnerup
2010 - District Champion
2009 - District Champion
2008 - District Champion
2007 - District Runnerup

With 7 starters back, Rockets start at 5th District pole position

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County has always prided itself on baseball. After all, Gordon Guess Field where the high school team plays is also home to a summer collegiate league, the Marion Bobcats, and many years ago Marion had a team in the professional Kitty League.

One might even make an argument for Marion being known as the Fifth District's titletown – at least over the last few years.

Since 2007, the Rocket baseball team has been in every district championship game, winning the crown four out of the last five years. Crittenden is making its case for being the 21st Century's best baseball program and there's plenty of reason to think that moniker might stick for at least the near future.

Crittenden returns the nucleus of last year's district championship club. Missing are two graduates, but their cleats will be tough fill. Replacing center fielder Wes Evers – at the plate and on defense – and Bryce Willis' glove at shortstop will be difficult.

“There's no way one person can step right in and fill the production that Wes gave us last year,” third-year head

coach Nathan McDowell said.

Evers is now playing at Rend Lake College in southern Illinois and may be on the Marion Bobcats' roster this summer.

Evers was Mr. Reliable at the plate last year for the Rockets. Junior Aaron Owen shouldn't have much trouble making up ground for the loss in center field, but McDowell says it will take several players hitting well to offset the offense Evers provided last spring.

Between Owen, Travis Gilbert, Brenden Phillips, Eli Bebout and Zach Knight, there are plenty of veteran bats in the order to produce runs. All of them have been regulars in the Crittenden dugout for at least four years and McDowell expects them to hit like it. He was a bit displeased with last year's punch from top to bottom of the order, and hopes a year of maturity will make a difference.

Gilbert is the star of the pitching corps. He's been in the rotation since he was a middle schooler. The

Rocket Records

2012	13	22
2011	6	22
2010	18	14
2009	17	13
2008	15	19

righthander's record wasn't too good last year as the Rockets finished 13-22, but he pitched well. That's why the coach wants more runs this season. He thinks the pitching staff has plenty of solid arms to hold opposing teams at bay, if his own boys can club out a few runs.

Junior Devin Belt also established himself as one of the district's top pitchers last season.

Other pitchers are Adam Driver, Taylor Champion, Nick Castiller, Colby Watson, Bebout and Owen. McDowell says the Rockets have been developing a strong reputation for quality pitching and this year's stable of hurlers should keep that going.

Knight, Bebout, Castiller, Champion, Gilbert, Belt and eighth-grader Shelby Robinson will share playing time on the infield. Phillips is the catcher and freshman Dylan Hollis is his backup.

Champion, Owen, Bebout, Watson and some of the younger players will play the outfield.

With seven returning starters, Crittenden certainly has the pole position in the district race but Trigg County and Livingston Central will field good teams, too.

CCHS 2013 SPRING BASEBALL				
Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Division
3/2/13	Ohio County	Union	10:00	Scrimmage
3/8/13	Reidland	Home	5:30	Varsity
3/12/13	Webster	Away	5:30	V/JV
3/14/13	UHA	Home	6:00	Varsity
3/22/13	Ballard	Home	5:30	V/JV
3/25/20013	Lyon	Home	5:00	V/JV
3/26/13	Livingston	Home	5:30	Varsity
3/28/13	Union	Home	5:30	V/JV
3/29/13	Lyon	Away	5:00	V/JV
4/1/13	Henderson	Home	2:00	V/JV
4/2/13	Ballard	Away	12:00	V/JV
4/4/13	Murray	Home	5:00	V/JV
4/5/13	Trigg	Away	1:00	Varsity
4/6/13	Mayfield	Home	1:00	V/JV
4/8/13	Marshall	Home	5:30	V/JV
4/9/13	Hopkinsville	Home	5:30	V/JV
4/11/13	Mayfield	Away	5:30	V/JV
4/12/13	Marshall	Graves	6:00	Varsity
4/13/13	Grandview Mo.	Graves	11:00	Varsity
4/13/13	St. Mary	Mid Continent	3:00	Varsity
4/15/13	Dawson	Home	6:00	Varsity
4/16/13	All A Semifinals at Dawson Springs			Varsity
4/18/13	All A finals at Dawson Springs			Varsity
4/18/13	Graves	Home	5:00	Varsity
4/19/13	Trigg	Home	5:30	V/JV
4/22/13	Union	Away	5:30	V/JV
4/25/13	Webster	Home	5:30	V/JV
4/26/13	Murray	Away	6:00	V/JV
4/29/13	Reidland	Away	5:30	V/JV
4/30/13	Hopkinsville	Away	5:30	V/JV
5/2/13	Livingston	Away	5:45	Varsity
5/3/13	UHA	Away	6:00	Varsity
5/4/13	Tilghman	Home	1:00	V/JV
5/6/13	Caldwell	Home	5:30	V/JV
5/7/13	Henderson	Away	6:00	V/JV
5/11/13	TBA	Marshall	TBA	Varsity
5/16/13	Daviess	Away	6:30	Varsity
5/17/13	Caldwell	Away	5:30	V/JV
5/18/13	Hancock	Away	1:00	V/JV

5th District Tournament May 20-25
2nd Region Tournament May 27 - June 1


Best Of Luck To All Of Our Crittenden County Rocket & Lady Rocket Spring Sports Teams!



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Mattoon, Repton once a thriving part of county

The newly-installed highway marker that now stands at the Mattoon crossroads is a nice addition to help preserve the history of this area. Mattoon was once an important settlement to the area, as it was the only settlement between Centerville and the Ohio River where the pioneers in wagons could stop and rest, water their stock, visit with other families and buy supplies to continue their journey north. Here is some interesting history about the very early days of Mattoon, gathered by Bob Wheeler in 1970:

"Mattoon sits in a small plain through which flows the northern fork of the bushy fork of Crooked Creek; therefore, its well-watered and easily-defended position on the way to the Ohio River crossing would have no doubt made the spot an excellent campsite for hunters and trappers on the Saline big-game trail, and as a campground rendezvous for packhorse traveling pre-1803 pioneers and local settlers.

"According to local tradition, the campsite was known as 'Lick-Skillet,' and this designation was probably a true one, for the trail was the natural pathway of the bison, deer, elk and other grazing animals on their necessary periodic journeys from the barren plains of southwestern Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee to the Saline Salt Licks, just across the Ohio in what is now Hardin County, Ill.

"The trail began at French Licks (now Nashville) on the Cumberland River in Tennessee; and since in the popular pioneer slang of that day a small plain or level area used as a campsite or cooking place within a larger rolling valley was often called a 'skillet' and the trace that led to its use as a campsite ran between two salt 'licks,' deviation of the local's early name from these two names seems quite reasonable.

"When George Flynn opened his Ohio River Ferry in 1803 and caused the widening of the trace or trail into a wagon road, the Jefferson Purchase opened the plains of western Illinois and the trans-Mississippi to the continuation of the flow of the great Scotch-Irish migration, which was now filling

Brenda Underdown
Crittenden County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Livingston County—which then included the present counties of Crittenden, Caldwell, Livingston, Lyon and Trigg—on its fish-hook shaped course from Pennsylvania, south through Virginia and into and through North and South Carolina, thence north outwardly through Tennessee and into western Kentucky.

"The Flynn's Ferry became the main highway for the overland-traveling pioneers to Illinois and the trans-Mississippi region to its west and northwest, and it is said that a covered wagon was rarely out of sight on this road.

"The campsite of Lick-Skillet lay about a day's journey, by the pioneer's slow-moving ox-drawn wagons, north of the pioneer towns of Donaldson and Centerville, the last two towns and supply points for the northward traveler before reaching the Ohio that existed in those days. The area thus became a camp or overnight park for covered wagons and would have been the field where the Mattoon school building is located today and across the highway where the stores used to be located.

"The field was probably lined from day to day with the high wheeled wooden wagons and the oxen which drew them along the dusty roads from Tennessee and the South. And the few cattle and other livestock, which had been drawn along by a rope or buckskin strap attached to their owner's wagon, would drink from the nearby streams or graze peacefully in the tall grass of the branch bottoms.

"It is thought that it was in these days that Mattoon first received its name. It was first called Matt's-town after an early peddler or trader who operated at the covered wagon towns usually always present in the area, and the

two words soon became phonetically joined to form the present name."

Repton
Another busy and growing community in the early 1900s was the nearby town of Repton. An important railroad stop during these early days.

The town of Repton is located a couple miles off U.S. 60. East on Fishtrap Road. Before U.S. 60 was built, it was a thriving community. There were three grocery stores, a post office, a grist mill, stock pens, a ticket and freight depot, two churches—Repton Baptist and Union Cumberland Presbyterian—and Repton Cemetery.

Two schools nearby were Post Oak and Oakland. The little town served the needs of a large farming area.

The railroad was built through Crittenden County in 1887. Repton boasted a switch yard, or siding, where farmers could load their livestock onto cars for shipment. Farmers drove their livestock from as far away as Weston to be loaded onto the train at Repton and taken to the large stockyards at Evansville.

The railroad hauled coal, oil, logs, machinery, lumber, chemicals, fertilizer, grain and also took the farmers cream to the creamery at Evansville. There were six passenger trains each day, three going south to Princeton and three going north to Evansville. Families from the surrounding area would come to Repton to ride the train to Marion, and then return home later in the day on another train.

The Crittenden Press representative, out visiting the local communities for new subscribers to the newspaper, visited Repton in December 1919. He shares with the paper some information about the stores and families that he visited:

"The firm of W.T. Perry and Son does a thriving business in general merchandise. They have been in business 10 years and do a tremendous business for a town of this size.

"J.A. Nation and Son are live wire grocers and their business is growing by leaps and bounds. Their soft drink and ice cream business dur-

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I have samples of these machines on exhibition at Repton and every farmer should come and see them, whether he wishes to buy or not. I keep a full line of repairs on hand, and twine and Dorring Hay Bales. I have sold a car load of machines in the Repton vicinity, this season and would be pleased to place them where needed in the county.

ROBERT I. NUNN

REPTON, KENTUCKY.

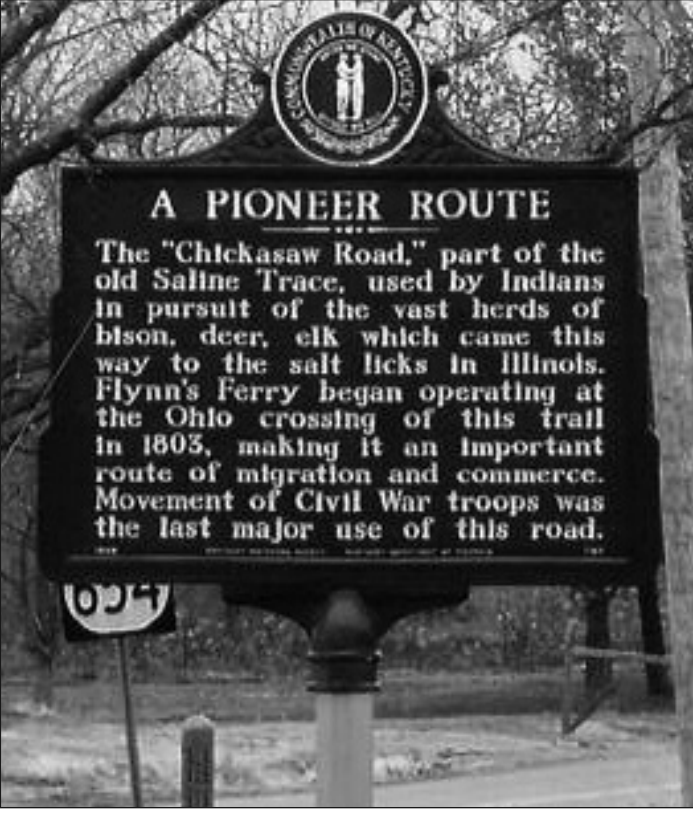
ing the summer is an important branch of their business.

"B.M. Duvall does a good business in milling corn meal, crushing corn, etc. He is also one of the county's famous baseball experts and is quite fond of the game.

"O.G. Threlkeld, farmer and dairyman, owns 360 acres of some of the finest farming land in the county and knows how to improve it. He is completing one of the largest, if not the largest, dairy barns in the county. It will stall 60 cows and has a large silo at one end with a tramway on which to run the silage to the mangers. He has a power plant and light system which lights his dwelling, barns and milk house, milks four cows at a time, runs the cream separator, etc. This is the first patent milker this pencil driver ever saw and it is a success. And the beauty of it is that the milk flows down instead of up as it always did when I milked. This is an ideal farm home. Modern improvements and conveniences will tell you of young life.

"J.R. Moore is the obliging postmaster at Repton. Two rural routes go out from this point. F.A. Richardson is on No. 1 and C.E. Clark on No. 2.

"I dined in the home of Rev. R.S. Richardson, the live pastor of Marion circuit. You see, he is a preacher-farmer; and the eats, they were plentiful and well-pre-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

An early 1900s ad from The Crittenden Press for one of the businesses in the town of Repton (top photo); and a newly installed highway marker (above) helps preserve the rich history of the Mattoon area.

pared.
"J.J. Burton, A.R. Nunn, H.H. Traylor and many others were in Repton shopping. Mr. Lexie Harmon is our local newspaperman; he is the one to whom any and all happenings in this community can be reported."

It's always fun to take a

visit back in time to our many beloved little communities. May they never be forgotten for the colorful part they played in the history of our county. Although many of the familiar community names are now gone, someone will still have fond memories of their hometowns.

Livingston's former courthouse to be used by historical society

STAFF REPORT

Livingston Fiscal Court voted on Feb. 26 to sign a lease agreement for use of the county's historic courthouse in Smithland with the Livingston County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Judge-Executive Chris Lasher will sign the lease for the fiscal court and as president, while Judith Waskco will sign as the representative of the historical society.

A recognized "significant national historic treasure," the 168-year-old former courthouse will be available by lease by the Livingston County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The courthouse, nominated by the historic society, was placed in 2012 on the National Register of Historic Places. The register is governed by the National Parks Service.

It is the hope of the preservation committee of the historical society that



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Livingston County's former courthouse, built in 1845, and office building are on the National Register of Historic Places. The county's fiscal court has reached a lease agreement with Livingston County Historical Society for the building to be used to preserve and display history for the general public.

the building built in 1845 will serve to preserve and display history for the general public.

The committee envisions living history events and displays. The goals include preserving history, art, sci-

ence and culture.

The lease is to use the upper part of the historic courthouse, which is comprised of the renovated courtroom, the smaller jury room and library rooms upstairs.

The courtroom contains the original handmade benches and the more recent elaborate historic paintings.

In 2009, the courtroom was the oldest still in use in the Commonwealth of Ken-

tucky.

The preservation committee and the historical society sponsored a Civil War celebration in December.

There were 79 people who toured the historic courthouse in just one hour. More than 130 people from five counties attended the fundraiser and dinner.

The preservation committee is delighted in the interest the public has in this facility," said Dr. Dianne O'Brien, cochair of the

preservation committee.

"Again we thank the public, the fiscal court, supporters and members of the historical society. We would like to thank the members of the press and the Heritage Foundation who have helped to carry our message to the public."

Anyone interested in joining the historical society may call 928-4656 for more information.



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Bridal Guide

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
The Crittenden Press
MARCH 7, 2013

Finding right banquet hall requires research

METRO SERVICES

Planning a wedding is no small feat, as couples are faced with many decisions seemingly from the moment they get engaged right up until they walk down the aisle as man and wife. One of the biggest decisions a couple will make is where to host the reception.

Couples must consider a variety of factors when looking for the right banquet hall to host their reception. The wedding is a celebration, and the banquet hall is where the couple and their guests will let their hair down and hopefully enjoy a festive and memorable night. Because the reception is typically the most lengthy portion of a couple's wedding day, it's important to find a place where everyone can be comfortable and enjoy themselves. The following are a few tips for couples looking to find the ideal banquet hall to host their wedding reception.

■ Ask around. Word-of-mouth is a great way to find the right banquet hall. Ask friends or family members who got hitched in the same town where your ceremony will be if they can recommend a reception site. These friends or family members can provide

a behind-the-scenes look at a reception hall, from how accommodating the staff was to how flexible the banquet hall was with regard to pricing to how open the staff was to suggestions. Wedding planning isn't easy, so if friends, family members or co-workers recommend a hassle-free banquet hall, that recommendation can remove a lot of the stress from planning a wedding.

■ Consider the size of the facility. Some couples prefer an intimate affair with relatively few guests, while others will desire a large wedding party with lots of guests. Couples can find a banquet hall that's capable of catering to small or large wedding parties, but find one that fits your party specifically. If your wedding party is small, then avoid a larger facility that will appear empty. If the party is large, make sure there's adequate room so guests won't feel like they're sitting on top of one another during dinner and dessert.

■ Don't downplay decor. A banquet hall with an attractive decor is not only aesthetically appealing but can

See CHOOSING/page 16

Romantic proposal one of a kind

String of notes, directions lead to 'yes' answer

As I was leaving work, my boss brought me a rose and a note from Jason. The note told me to humor him and follow the directions exactly, and I would find the next note.

The first one told me to go home and more instructions would be waiting there. It also said not to stop to change clothes, eat lunch or even brush my hair. Each of the notes explained a quality I had that was important to Jason.

After getting the note from my parents, I was instructed to go to Dairy Queen because we eat there...a lot. This one was a little harder though. I had to go inside and ask someone behind the counter for the note and rose. This one had another quality he admired about me and instructions to go to Jason's apartment...but he wouldn't be there.

I got to his apartment and found a rose and the next note. This one told me to go to the church and there would be a certain door unlocked. I drove to the church and found the next note.

Now, I was instructed to go into the basement, sit on the couch and hit play on the remote. When I got into the basement, I found a table set up with candles, rose petals and a Bible with what



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jason Dunbar, music director at Marion Baptist Church, offered a most unique proposal to his future wife, Caitlin, sending her on a quest to gather roses and notes telling her the next step en route to his big question. Of course, the romantic script ended with Dunbar proposing on one knee.

was soon to be my new last name on it.

I sat on the couch and hit play on the DVD player. Jason had used pictures of us growing up to tell a story on the DVD. At the

very end, it said there was just one more thing that needed to happen.

At that point, he walked out into the open, got down on one knee and asked me to marry him.

(Apparently, he had been hiding the whole time I was there!)

Of course, I said yes, and we got married a year later.

— Caitlin A. Dunbar

Wardrobe options for 2nd-time brides just as plentiful

METRO SERVICES

Remarriage rates continue to increase, and many vendors are now catering specifically to couples entering second marriages. A bride getting married for the second or third time has just as many attire options as she did for her first wedding.

Remarry rates up

Fifty percent of divorced women remarry within five years, and 75 percent remarry within 10 years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Research indicates that more than half of all marriages end in divorce. The silver lining to that cloud is that 54 percent of divorced women remarry within five years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Furthermore, 75 percent of divorced women remarry within 10 years. These statistics show that the need for bridal gowns for women entering a new marriage remains strong.

When choosing a gown for a second wedding, brides-to-be can use their discretion. Gone is the stigma of wearing white. However, brides still may want to choose an alternative color to bright white to be more complementary to their skin tones. Off-white, pale yellow and pale pink can be flattering shades. If second brides do choose to wear white, they may want to avoid a flat white color. Instead, they can opt to wear a shimmery shade of white and a gown with a little more pizzazz.

The gown—just as with first-time weddings—should be as formal or as casual as the wedding itself. At afternoon weddings, it may be acceptable to wear a tea-length gown or even a cocktail dress. Enhance beachside or casual affairs with less elaborate gowns. Formal second weddings should still feature a gown that is formal in nature.

A more mature bride may feel more comfortable wearing a well-tailored pantsuit rather than a gown. Again, the choice is up to the bride regarding what she wants to wear.

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Bridal Guide

Cinderalla, something blue honor late father

To better understand my wedding story, I think you need a little background. All of the older folks or long-time residents will remember my father, but none of the new ones will.

James Tinsley served as a member of the volunteer fire department and the rescue squad, worked at Moore Business Forms and then found a new career at the coal mines. Working at Pyro Mining Co. would ultimately be worst thing for our family, but who could know that at the time.

Dad was killed Sept. 13, 1989, along with nine of his co-workers doing the job they all enjoyed. It can be considered one of the dumbest things or an honorable thing, but my dad was the type that would give you the shirt of his back even if it was the last one he owned.

So on that horrific day, my dad decided since one of his buddies who was climbing with him didn't make it out, he would go back in to try to save him. That would end up being the mistake that changed our lives, because Dad never came back out on his own. My father died later that morning at the hospital.

At only 9, it was a hard thing for me to accept, but I believe it was one of the most honorable and heroic things my father could have done. Learning of this act and receiving an award in his name from the state has helped shape me into the person I am today. I believe that his death was for a reason and made me who I am now.

Now that you know a little about my dad, you will understand a little more about the way my wedding ideas came about and played out. I was a daddy's girl from the beginning, and that is something that has never changed. What girl doesn't idolize their father?

So, of course, our favorite color is blue—growing up in Kentucky and Crittenden County might have something to do with that, but I doubt it. Always walking a few steps behind my father, there wasn't much that we didn't both like.

After my future husband, Barry Tuck, asked me to marry him, I began the long and hard task of planning my wedding. I have always known I wanted to honor my father—who should be walking his daughter down the aisle—in some way. After countless episodes and hours of “A Wedding Story,” I came up with some ideas but never any that I really, really loved.

Barry was great through the whole process and never complained once that we weren't honoring all our family members who had passed on before us. He thought my father should be the one honored at the wedding, besides, he knew how much it meant to me.

Even though I was stuck on ideas to honor my father and make it feel like he was at the ceremony with me, I had other tasks that had to be done—like getting a wedding dress and picking out a theme, invitations, flowers and so much more.

Barry and I decided on a Cinderella theme because it would be something a little different and fun to play with. It ended up being just perfect!

Finding a dress was not so easy, and I am very thankful for Tina at Ziobro's for all the time she put into to helping me. To go along with our Cinderella theme, I had picked a dress out of a magazine that had a blue insert in the back that went all the way down to the train. I thought it was the perfect dress; however Ziobro's didn't sell that brand. Great!

So after trying on several white dresses and getting frustrated, Tina appeared out of the back room with the perfect wedding dress—a completely blue wedding gown. It was love at first sight! It was the perfect dress and the one I decided to order—not too bright and not too dark, just perfect.

At that moment, it was like everything started to click, and I knew how I would honor my father. The blue dress would be a great way to honor his memory and make it feel like he was there with me. All brides want to keep their dress a secret from the fiancé, but this was more than that I didn't want him to know what

it looked like or what color it was.

Let me say, it was very hard since some of my dress fittings ran into his tux shopping and measurements. Since my dress was a navy blue color, I chose that for one of our wedding colors and Barry chose burnt orange. They actually went great together and also signified our love for U.K. and U.T. sports since each was a variation of their school colors.

To help honor my dad, I came up with the idea to place a white rose in a seat beside my mother, which would be reserved for him. It would be left empty until I walked down the aisle.

As difficult as it was for my mother to sit beside the empty seat, she made it through.

When I walked down the aisle, Barry would meet me and we would each place a white rose in the empty chair to show that my father was there with us. Then we would go to the unity table and light a navy blue candle inside an etched memory vase to signify that as long as the candle was burning, my father was at the ceremony with us.

Also, we would be getting married on Sept. 8, 2007, so that I could turn the month of September into a good memory instead of sad, dreary month. Barry picked the date as a way to remember his grandmother, as it was her birthday, and make it so that when we celebrated our anniversary, it would help me to forget the 13th all together.

Fohs Hall was chosen as the place for the wedding ceremony and reception with the goal of the wedding being outside. However, God had other plans, and we were forced to move it inside due to rain.

Moving it inside turned out to be wonderful. The reception was already set up inside, and everyone seemed to enjoy being able to sit at the round tables for the ceremony.

Keeping the wedding dress design and color a secret turned out to be easier than I thought. The only people who knew were the hair dresser, maid of honor, bridesmaids and a couple other people who played roles in our wedding. Somehow, Barry and his family remained in the dark the entire time and expected to see me walk out in white.

Another special surprise for all in attendance would be that my mom had tracked down a Cinderella carriage with the help of some great friends. Cinderella had to have her carriage, right? The carriage was booked and would take Barry and me around town after the ceremony in place of a limo. The horse-drawn carriage was much better and even looked almost exactly like Cinderella's pumpkin carriage.

The wedding day came and went so fast! I surprised everyone



Barry and Jennifer Tinsley were married at Fohs Hall in 2007 with a Cinderella theme that honored the bride's late father through a number of efforts, including something blue.

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Bridal Guide

Couple proves naysayers wrong



Sharon and Darren LaRue of Marion celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last year by renewing their vows despite naysayers at the wedding who said the couple wouldn't last. Pictured above is the LaRue family (from left), Zachary, Sharon, Coby, Darren, Tate, Sawyer and Jared.

Darren and I met when I was 11 and he was 13. He chose me to be on his whiffle ball team over a few other girls because I was "cute." I fell head over heels in love at that moment. We were boyfriend and girlfriend off and on throughout our teen years. The proposal was, "Hey, if I bought you a ring, would you get married?" Of course, who could say no to that? We were the definition of opposites attracting. I was the quiet, shy school girl and he was the cool wild child. Everybody said we wouldn't make it. He was 18 and I was 16. At the wedding there were bets made that it wouldn't last a year. We celebrated our 25-year anniversary on July 3, 2012, and are the proud parents of five boys...still as much in love as ever and going strong.

— Sharon LaRue

Keep flower girls, ring bearer on track

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
It's a few minutes to showtime. The guests are all seated, the musicians are warming up. Behind the scenes is a frenzy. The groom is nervous, his face as white as his new shirt. A bridesmaid searches for her misplaced camera. Ties are straightened, makeup checked. Suddenly, it's time to line up. The grownups are busy doing the things grownups do right before a wedding. Young children, though, are more than likely doing the things they do pretty much all the time: playing, coloring, being anywhere besides where they're supposed to be right now. So how do you get those pretty little flower girls with ringlets and puffy dresses and the handsome tuxedoed ring-bearing chaps to take that matrimonial walk at the appointed minute, when you can't even get them to eat over the table or remember to say please and thank you? Preparation, practice and a plan (better throw in a backup plan, too) will go a long way to getting young attendants down the aisle with smiles on their faces and heads held high. Weddings, it should be remembered, are adult affairs that roll right through naptime or beyond bedtime. All those big people. All those flashing cameras. All those hours away from a kid's routine. "This is so unlike anything they would have ever been asked to do," says New York child psychologist Laurie Zelinger. "They're playing in our ballpark now." To get them to play ball, she says, expectations must be explained in kid-friendly terms. "The preparation might make or break a child's ability to go with a new situation," says Zelinger. She recommends explaining to these youngest members of the bridal party, typically between ages 3 and 7, that they have an important job. That way, when everybody oohs and aahs, they are less likely to feel self-conscious and more likely to focus on what

they're doing. To help avoid the flower girl who walks down the aisle sucking her thumb or crying, or the ring bearer who dances or practices his karate moves, teach them exactly what they're supposed to do, Zelinger says. Read books together about weddings. Let them watch a wedding video to see a ceremony. Look at family wedding photos. Get them familiar with the clothes they'll be wearing. Practice at home with a flower basket and silk petals or a mock ring pillow. "As they practice and get better at their duty, they will build pride in their role as flower girl or ring bearer and want to show off" on the big day, says Nicole D'Ambra, a wedding consultant in Los Gatos, Calif. It's generally a parent's job to prep a child—not the busy bride's. Kimberley Guidice, however, spent a lot of time talking with her flower girl, who just happened to be her 3 1/2-year-old daughter, Mackenzie. They practiced the walk in their long galley kitchen with the silk pomander (flower ball) that Guidice made for her April wedding in Los Gatos. Mackenzie also tried on her long ivory dress several times to "get into princess mode," her mother says. "She was so excited," says Guidice, adding that Mackenzie's outgoing personality made her well suited for the task. Consultants say children in the wedding party should attend the rehearsal, as Mackenzie did with her 4 1/2-year-old cousin, Aidan Natusch, the ring bearer. "It makes them much more comfortable the day of the wedding," D'Ambra says. When that day arrives, make sure children are rested, fed, and taken to the bathroom whether they say they have to go or not. As you scramble to get ready, keep them in comfy clothes until the last possible minute. "If they're wearing scratchy lace or some-

thing terribly uncomfortable, or fancy-schmancy shoes, then they're going to be irritable and not going to perform as well," says wedding consultant Jean Picard, of Ventura, Calif. If they don't like their outfits, Zelinger suggests letting them wear favorite underwear so they have something on that's familiar. As for the procession, decide beforehand with whom your child will walk, and be prepared for last-minute changes. A child can walk alone or with other young attendants. If they won't go it alone and have a parent in the wedding, they can walk with mom or dad. Children also can walk with the maid of honor, or with a parent who is not in the bridal party. Kids should be seated up front with a parent or relative, who may be holding a favorite toy or stuffed animal. Bribes, like a Slinky, Play-Doh or even \$5, can help apprehensive kids take the first step, says D'Ambra, who was Guidice's consultant. "We show it to them beforehand, and say, 'Look what I have for you. I'll give it to you right after,'" D'Ambra says. "It really works well and they love it and they have something to play with." Her trick worked with Mackenzie and Aidan. "Everybody told me they did a good job," says Guidice, 34. Children who are too nervous, ill or disruptive should be taken out of the procession, and if that happens, the kids should know it's OK. Picard says she reminds people "not to scold or be negative." Despite all the preparation, the best thing a parent can hope for is a happy couple who accepts that children are unpredictable. "Weddings are real lifetime moments. They aren't perfect. If they were, they'd be boring," D'Ambra says. "When a little one decides to eat the rose petals instead of tossing them, or run down the aisle instead of walking, or join you at the altar for your vows, it's pretty cute, not disruptive."

Interfaith weddings require compromise

METRO SERVICES
Faith plays an important role in many people's lives, perhaps even more so when it comes time to celebrate a wedding. However, couples who do not share the same faith may have to make some compromises. Although romantic feelings may transcend faith, heritage and other factors that make people so different, individuals who are quite religious often find that there are some challenges to getting married to someone outside their own faith. Depending on the faith, some religions will not honor a wedding that does not conform to their strict guidelines for a wedding within the faith. Oftentimes, this means that both participants need to have been raised according to the faith, including meeting certain religious milestones throughout their lives. For example, Catholics must have been baptised, received communion and been confirmed under the auspices of the Catholic church before being allowed to marry. They must present official certificates of these sacraments in order to receive a religious

Catholic wedding. To handle the intricacies of an interfaith marriage, it is wise to speak to clergy in your respective religions to see what will be required of you as a couple. There could be workarounds, depending on what the couple decide. Some couples feel it is in their best interest if either one of them converts to the other's religion so that the ceremony is easier. Others choose to hold two distinct religious ceremonies if the officiants are lenient in their rules to allow it to happen. In other cases, couples feel it is better to have a non-denominational wedding to avoid any obstacles. Even though this ceremony will not be sanctioned by either church, the couple can still choose to include prayers and customs specific to their faiths in the ceremony. Many couples decide that their mutual love and happiness is reason enough for an interfaith wedding, even if that means sacrificing acceptance by their clergy and church. Interfaith couples should begin wedding planning early to discover what will be expected of them to have the wedding they desire.

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Bridal Guide

Pre-marriage money talks wise

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Missy Gillen met her future husband, Mike, she hadn't given much thought to a rainy day fund or investing money. But as the Westlake, Ohio, couple got serious, she started paying attention to their finances, something Mike Gillen encouraged.

"We're both very aware of our goals," said Missy, but not before creating a budget and starting to save for a house.

Talking about money before marriage is essential for wedded bliss, according to financial experts, since it can eliminate surprises and arguments. Talking can help a couple understand each other's financial standing, spending habits and savings goals.

Financial stress is one of the main causes of divorce, said Gail Cunningham with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, in Silver Spring, Md.

"People bring financial baggage into a relationship and often don't deal with it until problems

arise," she said.

Many newlyweds do not foresee money can be an issue, added Julie Baumgardner, executive director of First Things First, which offers financial education classes to couples in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"It's not a topic that people tend to put a lot of weight on," she said. "Learning how to manage your money together is a big deal."

These experts and Denver-based financial counselor Taffy Wagner offered some tips for addressing finances before exchanging wedding vows:

1. Sit down with your partner and discuss your finances. Bring copies of your credit score; pay stubs; credit card bills; details about loans, child support payments or debt; and any other relevant financial information. This will help both parties develop a picture of their financial responsibilities after marriage.
2. Examine one another's credit scores. If one person's score is below 700, consider keeping

your finances separate. Work as a couple to help the person with the low credit score improve it by paying off debt and taking care of overdue bills. Do not apply for any joint credit cards. Instead, put the cards in the name of the person with good credit and make the other person an authorized user.

3. Decide which of you will be in charge of managing the money and paying bills. It's important to develop a system so the bills are paid on time. Make sure the other partner has a basic understanding of the system and is aware of all bank accounts and investments.
4. Develop a budget the two of you can live on. Make sure allocations for groceries, clothing, etc., are reasonable. No more than one-third of your gross income should go toward a mortgage. Don't spend more than 25 percent of your gross income on rent.
5. Set limits on spending. Determine how much money you are comfortable spending without consulting your spouse. For ex-

ample, agree to discuss any purchase over \$100, \$500 or \$1,000.

6. Find out how your partner handles unexpected expenses, and decide whether you agree with the approach. After you're married, you may decide that turning to mom and dad or using a credit card to cover emergencies is unacceptable.
7. Agree to create an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend setting aside money to cover living expenses for three to six months. Start by setting aside 10 percent of your paycheck.
8. Develop a policy about lending money. Decide whether you would be willing to give a loan to a friend or relative. If you're comfortable doing that, discuss whether you would charge interest and how much you could afford to lend. Always put the details of a loan in writing.
9. Discuss whether one of you will stay home after the birth of a child. If that is a goal, plan on how you could live on one income.

Engagement photos not limited to posed portraits, should be fun

METRO SERVICES

Newly engaged couples choose to capture the occasion in photos that they can cherish. Often, one of these photos is used as an announcement to family and friends and might even be published in the newspaper.

Engagement photos may be part of a package negotiated with the photographer who will be covering the wedding day. Some couples enlist the help of a friend or a budding photographer to capture an engagement shot. The average cost of engagement photos can range from \$200 to \$500. Some couples opt to use a photographer who might specialize in other areas (i.e. fashion models) but may want to break into the wedding biz because of how lucrative it can be. Costs may be negotiated as a result.



METRO SERVICES

Engagement photos don't have to be posed portraits. Experiment with looks that fit your personalities for memorable photos.

When shopping around for a photographer, there are certain things couples should keep in mind. The first and most important is selecting a photographer you can relate to. If you don't feel a connection with the photographer, he or she will have trouble coaxing the shots that will produce the best results. He or she should also be a professional and have some experience working with posing couples. This way the photos don't look stiff or contrived. Here are some other tips that can lead to great photos.

■ Find a photographer who fits your style. If you're a quirky couple, go with a quirky photographer. If you're reserved and a follow-the-book type of couple, then select a more traditional photographer. Some photographers out there forget that this is your moment and want to impart their idea of what you want. Make sure he or she takes your ideas into consideration.

■ Select one who is open to different shoot locations and brainstorming. Some of the best photos occur in natural settings, where things aren't entirely planned. If a photographer simply works out of a studio, you may want to select one who has more free reign with different locales.

■ Choose your location wisely. Certain locations will stand out in your minds because they are visually stunning or are special places where you have spent moments as a couple. By choosing a place that offers a personal connection, there's a good chance you'll appreciate the photos in the long run. Also, be open

to the fact that unplanned stops may offer a great background for the image. Be open to the unexpected.

■ Try random poses and some candid shots. Although you might have a vision of the perfect photo in your mind, experimenting with different ideas can sometimes lead to a great photo you really love. Expect to take your share of kissing, nose-touching and portrait shots. But some fun poses, such as running or jumping (or rolling around on a beach full of waves) can produce candid shots that are truly masterpieces. Remember, sometimes photographers will pose you in positions that seem a bit awkward, but this is to get the best lines of the body and flattering images.

■ Choose clothing that fits the mood. If time and budget allows, have several different wardrobe changes so that you can see which outfits work and which ones don't. A formal outfit, comfortable street clothes, something beachy or clothing that fits with your interests (such as polo or baseball) can make for interesting engagement photos. Avoid clothing that is too trendy or busy, which may take away from the actual images in the long run. Plus, you don't want to look back at these photos in the future and say, "What was I thinking?" Avoid matchy-matchy, though. If you are dressed alike, you may appear to be trying too hard. It's the individual personalities you want to shine through.

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Bridal Guide

Avoid Hollywood honeymoon

METRO SERVICES

After the thrill of wedding festivities dies down, couples often jet off to a honeymoon retreat and begin an entirely different adventure. The honeymoon may create mixed feelings, some concerning the chance to spend time alone after months of planning and a few feelings of anxiety over spending the first night together as a married couple.

For many couples, the honeymoon wedding night is the first time they are intimate together or it holds a special meaning of being intimate for the first time after being married. Such significance can put pressure on a happy and natural experience.

Wedding jitters are normal, as are honeymoon and wedding night jitters. But just as wedding trends have changed through the years, so, too, have beliefs about the wedding night. Knowing about shifting trends can alleviate some of the nervousness.

According to a recent survey from Brides magazine, one in three brides plan to get into bed on the wedding night and ... sleep. After all of the hoopla of planning and enjoying the wedding, most people are exhausted. Others say they plan to stay up and relive moments of the day. Only about half of all couples think they will consummate the marriage on their wedding night.

Taking the pressure off of the wedding night means that the rest of the honeymoon may be filled with opportunities to be

amorous. But couples may still be filled with expectations for the perfect romantic retreat. Here are some things to think about.

■ Accept the fact that some wedding nights and honeymoons aren't exactly what's pictured in the movies. Don't try to live up to a Hollywood-inspired ideal or you may be let down when things don't go your way. In other words, it may rain on your beach-side liaison.

■ A wedding requires a lot of work. Many people find themselves to be physically exhausted afterward. Others find they are so wound up that they cannot relax. When the mind or body is on adrenaline overload or completely wiped out, it's not the ideal situation for romantic endeavors.

■ Try to make the honeymoon stand apart from other nights by packing nice lingerie or nighttime attire so that the memories will be special. There will be plenty of other times down the road when you're an old, married couple to hop between the sheets in a ratty college T-shirt.

■ Pack some candles and mood music, or ask the resort to handle these details for you. These items can help set the scene.

■ Make sure your packing list includes special toiletries and birth control methods if you're not ready to start a family so soon after being married. The brands you prefer may be hard to acquire while at some honeymoon locations.



METRO SERVICES

Not all wedding nights and honeymoons are what's pictured in the movies. Keep things simple and don't try to live up to a Hollywood honeymoon and the wedding will be off to a good start.

Finding gown they all love not easy

METRO SERVICES

Close friends and family members are an important component of a couple's wedding day. Individuals who are especially close to the bride and groom are often asked to become members of the wedding party, which means a bride-to-be will be asking one or more women to play an integral role in the celebration. To set these ladies apart from other guests at the wedding, they are often asked to wear coordinating bridesmaid gowns. Selecting a style and color that is fitting to the unique people of the bridal party can be challenging, but it's not impossible.

As if choosing your maid of honor wasn't tricky enough, you now must make a host of other decisions as well, all while playing stylist to the wedding party. Fashion sense is as unique as a fingerprint, and it is unlikely the bridesmaids will be able to agree on every aspect of the gowns they will be asked to wear. However, there are ways to narrow down the choices and be as accommodating as possible to their needs.

Size matters

The body shapes and sizes of the women in your bridal party will be different, and this should be kept in mind when selecting a gown style and cut. There are certain dress shapes that are universally flattering, such as A-line. Try to avoid gowns that are extremely form-fitting, as only a few of the bridesmaids may be able to pull off this look success-



METRO SERVICES

A little patience can help a bride-to-be select bridesmaid gowns that are flattering to all the members of her bridal party.

fully. The remainder could be left feeling self-conscious and uncomfortable. Plus, form-fitting clothing will be restrictive and can be difficult to move around in—particularly considering the gown will be worn for an entire day.

Flattering Color

As a bride you may have a colorscape in your mind for the wedding. But what looks good in table linens and flowers is not always the right choice for clothing. Take the skin tones and hair colors of your bridesmaids into consideration before choosing a dress. Green- and yellow-hued dresses may not look nice on women with olive skin tones, while very pale colors may wash out women with fair skin. Those with dark skin may need a brighter-colored dress.

Price Tag

It is an honor to be asked to be part of a bridal party, but that honor can be very expensive. The bridesmaids are expected to pay for their wardrobe, hair styling, and makeup, as well as parties and gifts for the happy couple. As a courtesy to the women who already will be investing a considerable amount to be a part of your wedding, make every effort to select a gown that is affordable. There are plenty of retailers offering stylish options that may not be as expensive as some specialty stores.

Other Tips

Once you've decided on the basic elements, consider the following suggestions to find a gown that the bridal party will enjoy.

■ Take one or two brides-

maids shopping with you. Try to select ones with opposite body types so you can see how the gown looks on a woman who is thin and one who may be more full-figured.

■ Think about choosing separates. The bridesmaids can mix and match tops and bottoms to find a fit that works. This may enable a woman with a larger bust size to select a top with supportive straps while another bridesmaid can opt for strapless. Many stores have increased their inventory of separates because of their growing popularity.

■ Choose one color and then let the bridesmaids choose the style they like the best for themselves. The look will still be cohesive, but it won't be boring with one type of gown. Also, each bridesmaid will be comfortable with a gown that flatters her shape.

■ Go with a tea-length gown. These gowns have become quite trendy and are less formal and cumbersome than full-length gowns. Plus, there is a greater likelihood that the gown can be used again at a later date.

■ Purchase the bridesmaid gowns at the same store where you will be purchasing your wedding gown. Most shops will offer a courtesy discount if the bridesmaid gowns are purchased at the same store.

Ensuring bridesmaids are happy in their gowns takes a little work but will be well worth the effort.

Wedding day folklore: good, bad legends

METRO SERVICES

Brides and grooms believe in many old wives' tales, folklore and good luck charms to ensure a happy marriage. Here are just some of the wedding day superstitions.

■ The English believe a spider found in a wedding dress is good luck.

■ A sugar cube in a bride's glove is believed to sweeten the union, according to Greeks.

■ The groom carries the bride over the threshold to protect her from evil spirits below.

■ Saturday is considered the unluckiest day to marry, according to English tradition.

Wedding floral terms to know

METRO SERVICES

Before discussing table settings for their weddings, many couples find it helpful to brush up on some floral terminology before visiting florists.

It can make you appear more knowledgeable and prepared if you understand what will be discussed and are able to choose what you want. It also helps to ensure your money is being spent in the best way possible.

Here are some common and some lesser known florist terms that can be advantageous to know.

■ Biedermeier: A nosegay arranged tightly with concen-

tric circles of differently colored flowers. The flowers are wired into a holder with only one type of flower in each ring.

■ Bouquet: A dense bunch of blooms that are kept together in a bouquet holder, wired or tied with ribbon.

■ Crescent: One full flower and a flowering stem wired together to form a slender handle that is held in one hand.

■ Garden: A centerpiece featuring wildflowers.

■ Nosegay: Small, round bouquets composed of densely packed round flowers and fill.

■ Oasis: Specialized foam that is used in bouquet holders and centerpieces to retain

water and keep blooms fresh.

■ Pomander: A flower-covered ball that is suspended from a ribbon. It is often carried by child attendants.

■ Posies: Smaller than nosegays but similar in design.

■ Presentation: A bunch of long-stemmed flowers cradled in the bride's arms. It's sometimes known as a pageant bouquet.

■ Topiary: Flowers trimmed into geometric shapes.

■ Tossing: A smaller copy of the bride's bouquet to use in the bouquet toss.

■ Tussy mussy: A small, metallic holder to carry a posy.

CHOOSING

Continued from Page 12

appeal to a couple's finances as well. Such a hall likely won't need any additional decorations, while a banquet hall that's unadorned and lacks embellishments will, and those decorations can dip into a couple's overall wedding budget. Compare the costs of the

more decorated banquet hall with the one that's more plain in appearance, factoring in the cost to decorate the latter, and you might just realize the one with more aesthetic appeal is more affordable in the long run.

■ Prioritize privacy. Few couples would be open to strangers having easy access to their wedding reception. When shopping for a banquet hall, look for one

that gives you and your guests all the privacy you need. Many couples have taken to hosting the entire ceremony at a hotel, which may handle the bulk of the planning and remove the hassle of transportation for out-of-town guests. However, couples considering a hotel should look for one that can promise privacy from other guests at the hotel who aren't there for the wedding. The

reception room should be secluded from the rest of the hotel so other guests walking by aren't tempted to walk in on the festivities.

The banquet hall is where couples can expect to spend most of their time on their wedding day, so couples should exercise their due diligence to ensure they find an inviting and festive facility.

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real estate

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Doc Casper house for sale in Hampton community. 2 acres plus house, 3 BR, 1 bath. 508-0572. (4t-37-c)kh

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notices

Legal Notice

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-CI-00145

TAX EASE LIEN

SERVICING, LLC

PLAINTIFF V.

KENNETH RAY HOLLOWAN;

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF

KENNETH RAY HOLLOWAN;

CITIFINANCIAL SERVICES,

INC.; KY LIEN HOLDINGS, LLC;

PRINCETON FEDERAL

SAVINGS AND LOAN

ASSOCIATION

N/K/A INTEGRA BANK

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION;

CITY OF MARION,

KENTUCKY; and

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

KENTUCKY DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Crittenden Circuit Court on February 1, 2013 I will on Friday, March 8, 2013, beginning at the hour of 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, at the Courthouse door in the City of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder, the real estate (hereinafter described and all the right, title, and interest of the parties hereto, to-wit:)

A certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Marion, Kentucky, on U.S. Highway No. 60 and Blackburn Street and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stake or stone at the intersection of U.S. Highway No. 60 and Blackburn Street and running North along said Blackburn Street 70 feet to a stake corner to L.E. Waddell; thence west 50 feet to a stake or stone an agreed corner to Adams; thence south 70 feet to a stake or stone on the bank of the highway; thence Ease 50 feet to the beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to Ann Holloman, a married person, and Kenneth Ray Holloman, by deed dated August 17, 2004, of record in Deed Book 199, page 682, in the Crittenden County Clerk's Office. Ann Holloman a/k/a Olga Ann Holloman died March 30, 2006, according to the Social Security Death Index, and title to the above-described property

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passed to Kenneth Ray Holloman, in accordance with the survivorship clause in said Deed.

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The description provided herein was provided by the parties and is contained in the Judgment and Order of Sale.

Pursuant to the afore mentioned Judgment and Order of Sale the real property herein described shall be sold upon the following terms and conditions:

This Master Commissioner shall offer for sale at public auction held at the Crittenden County Courthouse the real property as described herein.

Said real property shall be sold as a whole to the highest and best bidder on terms of cash in full or payment of 10% of the purchase price a the time of the sale with the balance owed within sixty (60) days, and any purchaser shall be required to execute bond with surety thereon to be approved by this Master Commissioner to secure the unpaid portion of the purchase price, with the bond to bear interest at a rate of 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and the bond shall have the same force and effect as a judgment and shall remain and be a lien on the real property until fully paid.

Purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all of the purchase price in cash at time of sale or paying said bond before maturity by paying the principal amount thereof together with all interest accrued thereon until date of said payment.

In the event the Plaintiff, Tax Ease Lien Servicing, LLC, bids on the real property it shall be entitled to take credit, for bidding purposes only, against the total amount of its judgment herein granted to the extent of the purchase price bid by Plaintiff, and in such event, subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this paragraph shall not be applicable. In the event that the Plaintiff places the highest bid and becomes the purchaser of the property and the bid amount is not sufficient to pay the costs and all tax lien holders of equal priority, the Plaintiff's credit for disbursement purposes is limited to its pro rata share of the proceeds after payment of all costs including court costs, publication costs, and costs otherwise associated with the action and sale. This Master Commissioner shall not issue a deed to the property until after payment of the pro rata amount due to each taxing entity is made.

This Master Commissioner shall withdraw the subject property from sale if requested to do so by written request from the Attorney for Plaintiff, provided, however, that the Plaintiff is the party who instituted the foreclosure proceedings. The Plaintiff shall pay all costs associated with the cancellation of the sale.

In the event the purchaser of the real property fails to comply with the above terms of sale, then in such event, this Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the real property upon the same terms and conditions as hereinabove set forth, excepting only any necessary changes in the time and date of sale.

Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser upon confirmation of the Report of Sale by the Crittenden Circuit Court and payment of the purchase price as described herein.

The risk of loss on improvements on the real property passes to the purchaser at time of delivery of the Master Commissioner's deed to said purchaser.

The liens herein adjusted shall attach to the proceeds of said sale in order of priority.

The subject property herein cannot be divided and shall be sold "as-is"

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free and clear of all liens of the parties herein.

The proceeds of the sale, after payment of court costs, expenses of sale and any delinquent ad valorem taxes, shall be held by the Master Commissioner subject to further Orders of this Court.

Said property shall be sold subject to such right of redemption as may exist in favor of Defendants.

The purchaser of the real property shall be required to pay the ad valorem taxes for the 2012 tax year and all subsequent years and shall take said real property subject to all restrictive covenants and easements of record in the Crittenden County Clerk's Office.

Dated this the 1st day of February, 2013.

Brandi D. Rogers

MASTER COMMISSIONER,

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT

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Marion, KY 42064

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Legal Notice

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-CI-00137

FARMERS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,

OF MARION, KENTUCKY

PLAINTIFF V.

BOBBIE JOANN PERKINS;

QUENTIN SEPTIMUS JACKSON;

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BOBBIE JOANN PERKINS;

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF QUENTIN SEPTIMUS JACKSON;

UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS AND/OR TENANTS OF 620 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MARION, KENTUCKY; and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Crittenden Circuit Court on January 11, 2013 I will on Friday, March 8, 2013, beginning at the hour of 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, at the Courthouse door in the City of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder, the real estate (hereinafter described and all the right, title, and interest of the parties hereto, to-wit:)

A certain piece of parcel of land lying and being in Crittenden County, Kentucky, and described as follows:

A house and lot lying and being on the east side of S. Main Street and bounded on the south by the land of M. L. Lamb, on the west by S. Main Street, on the north by the land of Elva Burke, on the east by the land of Samuel Gugenheim, said lot fronting 80 feet on South Main Street and running back between parallel lines 180 feet and is part of parcel No. 2 as set out in a deed by W. O. Moore, Trustee, to M. C. McConnell and wife dated August 19, 1932 and now of record in Crittenden Court Clerk's Office.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Being the same property conveyed to Bobbie Joann Perkins, a single person, and Quentin Septimus Jackson, a single person, by Carolyn Brown et vir., by Deed dated May 12, 2007 and recorded in Deed Book 208, at page 211, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

Property Address: 620 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064

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The description provided herein was provided by the parties and is contained in the Judgment and Order of Sale.

1. The Master Commissioner will sell same at public auction to the highest and best bidder at the Courthouse door for cash or a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. The successful bidder shall be required to give a bond with good surety for the unpaid purchase price with said bond bearing interest at 12% per annum from the date of the sale. In the event Plaintiff is the successful purchaser, Plaintiff shall be entitled to take a credit for, and apply towards the purchase bid, the full amount of the judgment granted for all amounts due, including interest accrued to the date of the sale. In the event Plaintiff is the purchaser of the Real Property for an amount equal to, or less than, the amount of its judgment, no bond shall be required of Plaintiff and the settlement obligations of Plaintiff shall be deemed satisfied upon payment of the costs of the sale in accordance with the statement of costs to be presented by this Master Commissioner.

2. The Purchaser shall be required to assume and pay any ad valorem taxes and all taxes assessed against said property by any City, State, County or any school district which are due and payable at any time during the year 2013 or thereafter. Said property shall be sold with the improvements thereon "as is" and cannot be divided.

3. The mortgage lien and title lien of Plaintiff shall attach to the proceeds of the sale in the amount of the monetary judgment granted.

4. The proceeds of the sale of the real property shall be applied first to the costs of this action, then to the payment of any unpaid ad valorem property taxes, then to the payment of the monetary judgment granted to Plaintiff herein, with any remaining proceeds being distributed pursuant to further Orders of the Court.

5. Any party to this action in possession of the real property is directed to vacate said property within ten (10) days of the date of the Judgment and Order of Sale,

Open House
Thur., March 7
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

INNOVATIVE
Staff Solutions

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375 Park Avenue
Princeton, KY 42445
Thursday, March 7
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

HYDRO-GEAR

entered in this action on January 11, 2013. Any personal property remaining upon or within the real property after the expiration of said ten (10) days shall be deemed to have been abandoned and mybe disposed of as the purchaser of the real property deems appropriate.

6. All persons claiming under or against any of the Defendants to this action or the real property who have not intervened or otherwise asserted their claim prior to the entry of the Default Judgment, Summary Judgment and Order of Sale, entered on January 11, 2013, are thereafter forever barred therefrom.

Dated this the 30th day of January, 2013.

Brandi D. Rogers

MASTER COMMISSIONER,

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT

P.O. Box 361

Marion, KY 42064

(270) 965-2261

Fax: (270) 965-2262 (3t-35-c)

Bid Notice

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids on a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe with a VIN # 3GNEK18RXG2086044. The vehicle is available for inspection at the Crittenden County Road Department, located at 1901 US 60 East in Marion, Ky. Bids will be accepted at the County Judge's office until 8:30 a.m., March 19, 2013, at which time the bids will be opened during the regular Fiscal Court meeting. The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids. If you have any questions regarding this notice, call the County Judge's office at (270) 965-5251. (2t-36-c)

HIRING:

FOR FULL-TIME PRODUCTION ASSEMBLY OPERATOR POSITIONS. THESE ARE DIRECT HIRE OPENINGS THAT START AT OVER \$10/HR.

Assembly Operator will use component parts to build product after training. Assembly operator must be able to follow instructions and read assembly prints. Must be available 1st and 2nd shift. Must be willing to work Monday through Fridays and some Saturdays.

Candidates must have attention to detail, stand and/or sit for long periods of time, lift up to 50 lbs, and have good communication skills. MUST have a clean criminal background check. Pre-employment drug screening required. High School diploma or GED required. Must have reliable transportation.

Please call us at (270) 365-2300 to set up your appointment or attend the Job Fair at the Ed-Tech Bldg in Marion, KY on March 2nd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

PEOPLE PLUS INC.

Equal Opportunity employer.

LEVEE RESTAURANT FOR SALE

208 W. Adair Street, Smithland, Kentucky

Owners retiring forcing the sale of the successful and profitable restaurant. Located on busy US Hwy 60 with plenty of parking and seating for 100.

Restaurant is fully operational and will continue to operate under current ownership until sale is final.

Comes with license permitting alcohol sales and rental space for office, beauty/barber shop or tanning salon.

No realtor involved. Save thousands. Call for private showing and pricing (270) 928-3469 or (270) 508-1947

LHHS Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services, Inc.

in Salem is hiring for the following position:

PT or Scrub Tech - Surgical technology diploma required. Certification preferred. Requires rotating call with other techs. Includes benefits.

If interested, please contact Carla Wiggins, HR Director, at (270) 988-7280 or cwiggins@lhhs.org

Part-Time CNA - Emergency room CNA. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Previous ER experience preferred.

If interested, please contact JoAnna Stone, CNO, at (270) 988-7245 or jstone@lhhs.org

Visit our website at www.lhhs.org

EOE

World War II battle influences Baker’s career

By JASON TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

It’s one of the biggest graveyards of ships in the world.

Before 1944, Chuuk Lagoon was Imperial Japan’s primary base in the South Pacific Ocean for operations against the Allies during World War II. That all changed in February 1944 when a two-day American assault on what was then known as Truk Lagoon sank around 200,000 tons of Japanese shipping (almost 50 merchant and warships), destroyed approximately 270 aircraft and killed more than 3,000 Japanese. It was one of the most important American naval air operations of the entire war.

It is also one of the more impressive sights outgoing Crittenden County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development Bonnie Baker has seen as a scuba diver. Holding a master’s degree in agriculture from Murray State University as well as a teaching certificate in agriculture, the Meade County, Ky., native has decided to trade in her expertise in terra firma for a world of water.

Baker recently accepted a position at the Mermet Springs dive facility in southern Illinois. Already a dive control specialist, her goal is to become a scuba diving instructor. After seven years in Marion, she will be leaving her position as the local 4-H agent at the end of the month.

Playing a part in that decision was Operation Hailstone, that decisive American naval victory 69 years ago in the expansive South Pacific.

The overwhelming American victory at Chuuk Lagoon has been considered by some historians to be Japan’s Pearl Harbor. At the least, it was as devastating to the Axis power as its own surprise attack was on the Hawaiian military installation that brought the war to the United States more than two years earlier.

But Chuuk is not just a footnote to history. Today, in fact, the coral reef is best known for its popularity with oceanographers and scuba divers who want to explore the



wreckage and war graves that lie below the waters of the atoll. Nearly 70 years after the attack, Baker, who has been scuba diving since 2007, was one of those underwater enthusiasts as part of a team of divers from Mermet Springs who explored the wreckage of the Japanese fleet.

“We were actually diving on the wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon,” she said. “It was unbelievable. It was absolutely amazing when you come down onto these ships and see the kind of damage that was done. Then you come across the remains of somebody that was on the ship. It really brings it home to you.”

Markers on some of the ships have been placed to remind divers that they are exploring underwater burial grounds. The assault made it virtually impossible to recover all the remains of the Japanese soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Baker said many of the ships were at the very limits of recreational diving, which is 130 feet. Most of the wreckage was around 100 feet. A shallower dive of 60 feet allowed for the exploration of a Japanese aircraft.

“Some of the remains are still down there, and you do come across them,” she said. “These were our enemies during that time, but they were also somebody’s loved one and this was a real person.”

Baker was marveled by the scene and used an underwater camera to capture many photos.

“You come down onto the ship and you see all of this destruction and damage and then sitting there is a china pot in perfect condition,” she explained. “It is unbelievable. It was a really amazing trip, and one that I will always treasure.”

Baker said she has enjoyed her time in Crittenden County, which will make leaving the community to pursue her passion somewhat difficult.

“It really is a bittersweet time for me,” she said. “4-H meant a lot to me growing up. It truly has been an honor to be able to serve as a 4-H



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above, Bonnie Baker is photographed underwater at the engine of a Japanese "Betty" bomber that was separated from the plane when it went down in the battle of Truk Lagoon during World War II. At right, a Japanese two-man tank rests on the deck of a ship at 115 feet below the surface of what is now known as Chuuk Lagoon in the South Pacific. Inset, two Japanese gas masks lie just as they were following the naval battle in 1944.

agent here in Crittenden County. The kids have been wonderful. I've gotten to watch several of them graduate and go on to college.

"I've been very proud of our kids. We've got kids who have really shown a lot of character, and I've been able to watch them grow and mature."

Baker is also grateful to the many people who volunteer their time to the various 4-H clubs and activities in Crittenden County.

"We've got volunteers here that I would say are the top-notch volun-



teers in the country. They're just amazing," she said.

Baker said Mermet Springs offers many educational opportunities for youth and hopes to continue working with youth organizations.

"That's one of the things I'm looking forward to at Mermet Springs," she said. "They do have opportuni-

ties for kids up there. Kids can certify as young as 10, and we can do scubas with them. I've actually taken 4-Hers up there, and we did lessons in water quality and careers within the diving industry. I'm hoping to work with the 4-H agents and open up opportunities for them to do some of those types of programming."

Chamber seeks nominations for annual community awards

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting nominations for various awards it presents each spring during its annual meeting, including Person of the Year.

The Chamber's annual dinner meeting is May 30.

Nominations or suggestions for awards may be made by e-mailing Chamber Executive Director Susan Alexander at susan@crittendenchamber.org. Individuals or the businesses for whom they work or are associated need to be Chamber members in order to be considered. Memberships are available by contact the Chamber office at Marion Commons.

Following are the awards that will be presented in May and a short description of the criteria for each:

- **Chamber Person of the Year:** This is the Chamber's most coveted award and recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership through community service, usually over a period of time.

Quarterly luncheon set for March 20

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce's quarterly luncheon will be at noon on March 20 at Rocket Arena and is hosted by the school district.

There is no cost to Chamber members. RSVP to the Chamber by calling 965-5015 or e-mailing Chamber Executive Director Susan Alexander at susan@crittendenchamber.org.

The individual selected always puts the community first and offers to do the often thankless jobs.

- **Community Pride:** This award is given to a business or organization demonstrating pride in their community by either improvements made to their own establishment or improvements to a public facility or property.
- **Unsung Hero:** This award is presented to an individual who has made a difference in our community but has not received public recognition for their contributions. Often this will be a behind-the-scenes person who gets the project completed or makes sure everything is done. Often they help others gain recognition.

Sometimes this will be an individual whose accomplishments are known only to a small group.

- **Volunteer of the Year:** This award recognizes an individual for outstanding volunteer service in Crittenden County. The individual performs their volunteer service on their own time and is not compensated financially.
- **Customer Service:** This is to recognize an individual who goes beyond the normal demands of their job to give customer service that is believed to be extraordinary.

The Chamber has a membership of over 130 members who live and operate a business locally as well members from the surrounding communities.

Henry & Henry Monuments

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