



Daylight saving time starts 2 a.m. Sunday

Daylight saving starts Sunday, shifting an hour of sunlight onto the end of the day. At 2 a.m. Sunday, clocks will spring forward an hour to 3 a.m., making church services seem a bit earlier than the usual. When the work week starts Monday, the sun will rise in Marion at 7:07 a.m. and won't set until almost 12 hours later at 6:57 p.m.

As the days get longer, St. Patrick's Day will offer an even 12 hours of both light and dark. Daylight will continue to grow longer until June 16, which offers 14 hours, 44 minutes of daylight. Daylight saving ends Nov. 4.

County Democrats set to meet tonight

Crittenden County's Democratic Party has scheduled a meeting for 5 p.m. today (Thursday) in the fiscal court room at the courthouse. All Democrats are invited to the meeting.

Free tree seedlings given away Friday

Spring is time for planting, and one item to plant is

Investigation heating up Marion Murder Mystery to be solved by local sleuths

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce and Community Arts Foundation players will present a day-long murder mystery program in downtown Marion from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday. A number of local merchants will be participating with clues offered inside their businesses. The event will culminate in a 6 p.m. dinner theater at Fohs Halls where it will be revealed who killed Mr. Baseball. Register to participate in the Clue-like game at the Marion Welcome Center. See a special supplement in this week's newspaper that has lots of possible clues to the mystery. Pictured are local actors (from left) Keith Stout, Phyllis Sykes and B.J. Tinsley portraying some of the characters involved in the plot.



Schools move to lower safety risks



Report: 17 percent of western Ky. roads 2nd-rate

By DARYL K. TABOR PRESS EDITOR

Kentucky has a lot of work ahead, but little money to throw at the crumbling transportation infrastructure tied to its communities' quality of life and economic viability. Aging and neglected roads are also costing vehicle owners almost \$200 in otherwise unnecessary annual repairs, and they even threaten the safety of motorists.

A February study by a national transportation research group

a tree. It is said that a tree is not planted for you, but for your grandchildren. The past decade has seen many trees lost because of ice damage, development and disease. Crittenden County Conservation District's tree giveaway is just one way to offset those losses and help keep the county one of the state's forested treasures.

Free seedlings will be given away by the District to the residents of Crittenden County from 10 a.m. until noon Friday in front of the office at 118 E. Bellville St. in Marion. This year's offerings are paw-paw, eastern redbud, hazelnut, post oak, overcup oak, cherry bark oak, willow oak and persimmon. Please note that quantities per person will be limited to 10 trees.

These seedlings were purchased by the District. Kentucky Division of Forestry has matched this purchase with 2-year-old white pines. The Conservation District welcomes persons throughout Crittenden County to take advantage of this opportunity.

Public meetings

- Crittenden County Board of Education will convene at 5:30 p.m. next Thursday in the Rocket Arena conference room for its regular monthly meeting.



Facebook.com/TheCrittendenPress Twitter.com/CrittendenPress thepress@the-press.com 270.965.3191 Open weekdays 9 am to 5 pm



PHOTO BY ALLISON EVANS. THE PRESS

Eighth-grader Talissa Jenkins is one of two dozen student, parent and teacher volunteers who wrote uplifting messages on student lockers Friday afternoon at Crittenden County Middle School. Spearheaded by the Lighthouse Program with assistance from AmeriCorps employees, the project was designed to promote positivity and inspire students at the school. Crittenden County School District is taking a multi-pronged approach to help ensure positive school culture and safety through measures like this, and beginning Tuesday, randomlyscheduled searches of all students and their belonging as they enter both the middle and high schools.

Security measures include searches

STAFF REPORT

Fewer than 10 days after Kentucky State Police investigated an alleged threat by a student to kill everyone at the middle school, Crittenden County Schools have added another layer of security to keep students and staff safe.

On Tuesday, every student at both the middle and high school was searched before entering the buildings. The searches included belongings like backpacks and a sweep with hand-held metal-de-

tecting wands. This and future inspections will be unannounced, and will include all students at the two upper schools.

"These random security checks are a preventative measure that the district feels will add another laver of security for our students and staff," said Superintendent of Schools Vince Clark. "Crittenden County School District is committed to their well-being and safety and takes those initiatives seriously. School leaders will critique

this morning's event as they plan additional upcoming random screenings in the future.'

He said the administrative decision last week to begin conducting searches was not in response to any new threat or single past incident. He believes if the new security offers comfort to students, parents and staff regardless of finding, then it will be worthwhile.

"What more can we do?" he

See **SEARCHES**/Page 4

16 county bridges structurally deficient functionally obsolete Page 3

found that 17 percent of county-maintained roads in the 12-county Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway District 1, which includes Crittenden County, are in poor shape. The Road Information Program (TRIP). weighed road conditions based on information from the respective

county's magistrates or commissioners, as well as state and federal transportation agencies.

TRIP reports rutting, cracks and potholes are common signs of deterioration among the county roads serving the 237,000residents of the highway district. Often, not only do the roads need resurfacing, but many are deteriorated to the point of needing reconstruction.

The Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association that supplied TRIP the data claims 39 percent of District 1 roads need resurfacing with enough money to pay for only 3 percent of those in 2017. Another 11 percent require rebuilding.

"It is critical that roads are

See STUDY/Page 5

Fresh fruits and vegetables will no longer be grown or given away on city property formerly known as the Victory Gardens. Fishing at what's become a public pond will likely be eliminated next.

City of Marion leaders notified Crittenden County Jailer Robbie Kirk over winter of plans to put the property up for sale. Kirk said fencing and other improve-

Victory Gardens wilt; city plans to sell acreage ments that facilitated the sense of worth as part of for \$102,500. Fruit trees Ledford said a decision was

> process of being removed and sold. Most of the improvements accumulated by a non-profit group that managed the Victory Gardens will be sold at public auction, Kirk said.

The gardens were a source of pride for the jail, Kirk explains, 42.25 acres of property purwhere inmates found a

Victory Gardens are in the the team that planted, nur-

tured and distributed free fruits and vegetables each summer. The gardens also helped supplement the jail's food

The gardens were in production for seven growing seasons on a portion of and blackberries were planted three years ago and some of those were ex-

Kirk is disappointed that the city will be selling the property, which puts an end to the garden concept.

"There are very few things we have that benefit this community so greatly," Kirk said, "and these gardens were one of them.

City Administrator Adam

made to sell the property in order to generate immediate funds for buying new equipment and making capital improvements to streets and other city infrastructure. A longterm benefit, he added, could be growth in the tax base. He said the large, mostly open tract could be sold as is or subdivided. He said it's one

See **GARDENS**/Page 4

Kirk

chased in 2004 by the city

pantry.

pected to bear this season.

already overtaxed citizens.

The income tax credit

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News&Views The Crittenden Press

Letters to the Editor

P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064

House budget seeks \$500M in new taxes

Before getting into my weekly update regarding what has transpired in the Kentucky General Assembly, I want to put to rest a rumor that I've been told is being floated around the 4th District. The rumor is that I have decided to retire from the House of Representatives at the end of my current term. This is definitely not true - I am running once more. I believe that I have done what the voters have asked me to do and hope that I am reelected. Now on to my weekly review of the activ-

eral Assembly. Unlike the federal government, Kentucky is required to balance its budget, and that process takes place every two years. This is done by passing a revenue bill which defines the amount of money the state is expected to receive, and then passing budget bills which define how the revenue will be

ities of the Gen-

spent. There are actually four budgets, one for the executive branch, one for the judicial branch, one for the legislative branch, and a separate budget for the Transportation Cabinet. House Bill 366 is the revenue bill, HB 200 is the executive branch budget bill, HB 203 is the judicial branch budget bill, and HB 204 is the legislative branch budget bill. These bills address how to spend the money that is included in HB 366. The transportation budget will come

The executive

izens. It is by far

the largest of the

budget proposals

and is the one that

defines what areas

(Department of Ed-

ucation, Economic

Development, Fi-

nance and Admin-

istration. etc.) are

much each of those

areas receives. This

House of Represen-

budget proposals

funded and how

past week the

tatives passed

for fiscal years

BECHLER this week - possibly even by the Kentucky House time this article Legislative Review has been read.

R-Marion branch budget is **House District 4** generally the one Crittenden • Livingston receiving the most Caldwell • Christian (part) attention of our cit-

Contact

Rep. Lynn

702 Capitol Ave. Annex Room 316C Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-8100, ext. 665 lynn.bechler@lrc.ky.gov

Committees **Economic Development** & Workforce Investment; Transportation; Elections, Constitutional Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs Service

House: 2013-present

2019 and 2020 for the executive, judicial and legislative branches and sent them to the Senate for its consideration.

HB 200 is a \$22.6 billion pot of money estimated to be raised in Kentucky over the next two fiscal years based on the projections in HB 366. Over the biennium, funding in this budget proposal includes full, and higher-than-ever funding for the state's ailing public

pension plans, which have widely become known asamong the country's worst funded systems. HB 200 would increase funding for the Kentucky Retirement System by \$774.5 million and \$89.1 million for the Teachers Retirement System. This is a level never before seen in Kentucky.

HB 200 would create historic funding levels for the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) formula, which is responsible for allocating for local school districts. It would boost base per-pupil funding for K-12 education, or SEEK funds, to a record level of \$4,055 in the first year of the biennium and \$4,056 in the second year. The bill would also provide \$7 million in surplus SEEK money to fund the emergency revolving loan fund for struggling school districts as directed by this session's HB 141 that I covered in an earlier update. It would also increase school transportation funding to \$127.8 million in each year of the budget cycle

Included in HB 200 is the funding for HB 1, the Adoption and Foster Care reform proposal. HB 1 includes among other things \$12.5 million for social workers, \$25 million for recruitment and \$86.2 million to hire an additional 354 positions to support caseloads. HB 1 is the culmination of work done by the Adoption and Foster Care Task Force that met multiple times over the interim last year to begin to address the problems of Kentucky's adoption and foster care system. I was a member of

the task force, and in my time as a Kentucky State Representative, I believe that HB-1 is

Stay informed portant piece of legislation that I have seen. I am pleased to re-

the most im-

partment of

Community

Based Serv-

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process of

Termination

of Parental

Rights (TPR)

for children

been in the

care of DCBS

for a total of

15 months is

included in

HB 1. HB 1

passed the

voted yes.

House and I

who have

ice (DCBS) to

Legislative Message Line (800) 372-7181

TTY Message Line (800) 896-0305

Bill Status Line (866) 840-2835

Legislative Calendar Line (800) 633-9650

General Assembly website LRC.ky.gov

Write any lawmaker Sen./Rep. First Last Legislative Offices 702 Capitol Ave. Frankfort, KY 40601

> mail-order pharmacy who fails to pay the opioid distributor tax. The way government has historically worked, I am doubtful that any timely penalties will be levied. There is a prescription drug addiction problem, but I see no reason to penalize those who are using opioids as prescribed to reduce serious long-lasting pain.

These additional taxes place an undue burden on most of our citizens, especially those least able to afford them, and I believe they are unwarranted. There is \$1.5 billion in the budget for higher education and I would prefer to see those dollars reduced rather than the above mentioned tax increases.

Once again these were bills with many good points as well as bad points and as always I gave serious consideration to the bills in their entirety before casting my votes. Ultimately I decided that raising taxes on the citizens of the Commonwealth was something that I could not support even with the positive aspects of this legislation. Therefore, although the revenue bill (HB 366) and the executive branch budget (HB 200) passed the House, I voted no on both. It is my hope that the Senate will remove the taxes during its deliberations and send the legislation back to the House where I can vote yes.

As always, thank you for reading my updates and thank you for contacting me with your concerns and thoughtful suggestions. It is a privilege to represent you in the Kentucky House of Representatives and your input helps me make decisions that best represent the views of the 4th District. I may be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at (800) 372-7181, directly at (502) 564-8100, by visiting the Kentucky Legislature Home page at LRC.ky.gov and clicking on the "Email Your Legislator" link, or by mail to the Capitol Annex -Frankfort, KY 40601.

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

Senate Republican pension bill not supportable

Last week, advocates lined the hallways, meeting rooms, tunnels and anywhere there were legislators. Unhappy Kentuckians specifically school and public employees, active and retired, and tax-



Sen. Dorsey

clear-cut answer. but I did suggest 48 hours to review the Senate substitute before voting in committee.

As to the committee substitute, it arrived late Thursday. I read the proposal. The modifications made were not signifi-

cant enough to

change my mind

about SB 1. The

changes will not

fulfil the obliga-

tions we have to all

those whose lives

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will ultimately af-

As it stands

now, I do not sup-

I cannot, in

good conscience,

bill that will be

detrimental to so

many school per-

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and all those asso-

ciated with the re-

tirement systems.

Further, it will do

great harm to our

education system

and our govern-

vote favorably on a

fect.

port SB 1.

its current form have a negative impact on Kentuckians, but it will also have an adverse effect on fundamental services. For instance, it will increase the financial hardship on school districts across Kentucky – putting many districts in a financial crisis. This legislation will endanger public services provided to our most vulnerable citizens and the regallons, which equals two kegs, while still limiting the number of cases sold to three. A second provi-

Party power sion would allow craft Of Kentucky's 138 state brewers to legislative seats, Republistart sending cans hold an 90-48 advantheir wholetage over Democrats, sale tax paymaintaining a super majority in each chamber. Two directly

tients, broadly known as telehealth. SB 112 states that a doctor would be able

to log in from anywhere in the world to treat a Kentucky resident. The physician, however.

would still

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Kentucky.

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have to be li-

Telemedicine

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ups and

discussions from discovery. a pre-trial procedure in a malpractice lawsuit to obtain evidence. Peer review is used to determine whether accepted standards of care have been met, and I do not support infringing on anyone's right to their day in court.

Having passed the twothirds mark of the 2018 session, our pace will con tinue to pick up. The House has passed its version of the two-year budget and tax reform. Those bills have just arrived in the Senate, and I will be reviewing those, along with any changes to the pension reform bill. Over the next few weeks, the number of bills voted out of committee and on the floor will increase significantly. It is more important than ever that you stay engaged and share your input. To follow bills or check a bills status, go to www.lrc.ky.gov. To leave a message for any legislator, call the General Assembly's Message Line at (800) 372-7181. You can also e-mail me at Dorsey.Ridley@ lrc.ky.gov. (Sen. Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, has represented Senate District 4 – Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Union, Webster and Henderson counties - in the Kentucky General Assembly since 2004.)

That is the good news. Now for the bad. As I mentioned earlier, the money for HB 200 comes from HB 366, the revenue bill. To spend the money included in HB 200,

taxes were raised in HB-366. The cigarette tax was raised 50 cents per pack (bringing the total tax on cigarettes to \$1.10 per pack), a 25 cents per dose (pill) was placed on opioid distributors, the tire disposal fee was doubled from \$1 per tire to \$2 per tire and the \$10 per person credit on the state income tax was removed. These taxes are estimated to raise about \$500 million from our

There are several ways to keep up with the 2018 legislative session and share your thoughts with lawmakers. port that my proposal to allow the De-

payers – were seeking support for their pensions. The event corresponded with the committee hearing on the Senate Republican's pension proposal, Senate Bill 1.

No action was taken on the bill in committee, as we were told the bill is being modified by a Senate committee substitute. We heard brief testimony, following a breakdown of SB 1 by the bill sponsor who is also committee chair. I serve on the committee that heard SB 1 and inquired about the committee substitute, when it would be

released and as to how long members would have to study the changes before a vote would be taken. I did not receive a

RIDLEY Kentucky Senate

Legislative Review **D-Henderson**

Senate District 4 Crittenden • Caldwell Henderson • Webster Livingston • Union

Contact 702 Capitol Ave. Annex Room 254 Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-2470 dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov

Committees Agriculture; Banking &

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

Service House: 1987-94 Senate: 2004-present

> ment agencies because recruitment and retention will be made much more difficult. Not only will the bill in

tirement situations of many of our elderly citizens.

Another factor to consider is that Kentucky's attorney general has said that large parts of the bill are illegal because they disregard the inviolable contract of current state, city and county retirees.

In my opinion, SB 1 is bad public policy. It will hurt school employees, public employees, taxpayers, local school districts and public education, and hamper government agencies and services. It is not good for individuals and is not good for Kentucky.

Unless an amended version overhauls the bill to create legislation that keeps our pension promise to teachers, public employees, and retirees - I will continue to fight the legislation.

Some bills that passed the Senate last week:

- House Bill 136 would increase the cap on onpremise package sales at Kentucky breweries to 31

the Kentucky Department of Revenue. Craft brewers currently

ments

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HB 136 is

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brews being sold in more

states and 25 countries.

than 6,700 retail locations

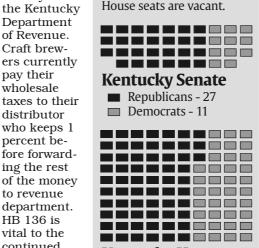
across Kentucky, and in 40

SB 112 will encourage

the practice of incorporating

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nologies when treating pa-



Kentucky House Republicans - 63 Democrats - 37

> specialists that may not have offices in the area and reduces the burden of long commutes to see doctors. - HB 4. a bill I did not

support, received final passage and was sent to the Governor's desk. The legislation would exempt physician peer-review

Pension politics

Senate Minority Caucus Chairman Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, asks a question last Wednesday during discussion of Senate Bill 1, the upper chamber's pension bill, in the Senate State and Local Government Committee. Ridley, wearing an "I love my public school" sticker, has said he will not support the pension legislation as presented. At press time, the measure had yet to be sent to the Senate floor. A House version of pension legislation, House Bill 539, is also being considered. Kentucky's public pension system is underfunded by some estimates as much as \$85 billion.



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Operations manager.....



...Alaina Barnes

Leaders return from **Frankfort optimistic**

By DARYL K. TABOR PRESS EDITOR

A group of community leaders took their concerns to Frankfort last week and returned with positive news on several local issues, including courthouse renovations and multiple transportation projects

Representing city, county, educational and economic development interests, a dozen Crittenden County officials made the 225-mile trip to the state capital on Feb. 27 for some face time with state officials. The schedule was anything but a leisurely day away from the office, with a hectic pace of meetings virtually from sun-up to sundown, back and

forth across the capital city. But it appears to have been worthwhile.

"Overall, it was encouraging on several fronts," said Judge-Executive Perry Newcom. "We've carried our message as high as we can, and we just have to count on our legislative representation.

Newcom

Byford

"It was a positive day," agreed Superintendent of Schools Vince Clark. "I've been up there before when the news was not so good." From time to time, a

delegation of local officials like the one last week will head east to

advocate for aid and share concerns with lawmakers, cabinet secretaries and various commissioners. The numbers and unification on a variety of interests represented last week seemed to impress state officials

"I believe it was worth your efforts," said state Sen. Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, in a follow-up email to his meeting with the participants.

With the General Assembly in session, the group also met briefly with state Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion. And Ridley, a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, accompanied the local contingent on a visit with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KyTC) officials, where all interests represented left with some welcomed news.

U.S. 641 relocation

The Crittenden County segment of a relocated U.S. 641 should finally open to traffic as early as late summer. As of today (Thursday), it's been 2,210 days since a ceremonial groundbreaking for the project on Feb. 17, 2012. But the wheels have been turning on this project for three decades. Continuation of the new road to the interstate near Eddyville is still in the developmental stages and is years from completion. But Newcom said it has the support of the state's top official. "U.S. 641 is one of the governor's priority projects," he said of Gov. Matt Bevin.

portation budget from committee that calls for \$1.85 million to build a new highway garage in the next fiscal year.

Along with \$75,000 from the City of Marion for 15 acres to build a new sewer plant, as well as a pending deal for 11 acres in the industrial park from a private industry, the \$60,000 would go a long in paying off CCEDC's debt to the state for money borrowed to purchase the park property off U.S. 60 East.

Cave In Rock Ferry

Newcom also said it appears Kentucky will continue its current level of funding with a match from Illinois to keep the Cave In Rock Ferry operating

at no cost to those crossing the Ohio River.

Country Club Drive

For the city, the highlight of the trip was renewed hope for yet another transportation project; one that could see improvements to a fast-deteriorating Country Club Drive by way of a roadway maintenance swap with KyTC. This exchange of assets could lead to the important city street being rebuilt and kept up by the state while the city takes over a stretch of state-maintained pavement of the same

length, about a half-mile.

"It's still on the table, milefor-mile," said Mayor Jared Byford

Newcom said it appears KvTC will first assess the condition of the street and gauge an estimated cost to rebuild it to state standards.

U.S. 60/U.S. 641 stoplight

Tied to the Country Club Drive project is the cumbersome U.S. 60/U.S. 641 intersection that could soon become more of a problem if Marion City Council approves an ordinance later this month to prohibit commercial traffic on the plagued street. The restriction will funnel more heavy traffic like tractor-trailers to the stoplight, which can be difficult to navigate by commercial operators

Byford said he and Marion City Administrator Adam Ledford left Frankfort with strong verbal support for the Country Club Drive project and consideration of reworking the intersection to alleviate turning

new HVAC system, improved handicap accessibility with an elevator and restroom updates and security upgrades by way of metal detectors and additional courtroom entries and

Other interests

Both Clark and CCEDC representatives brought home good news from meetings with the Department of Education and Workforce Development and the Cabinet for Economic Development. The state is working to expand the use of KEES money to offer more help to teens looking toward college or vocational education. It is also nurturing new apprenticeship programs to fill the void of plumbers, electricians and other specialty trades. Frankfort officials are also aware of the need to bolster vocational training to help industries struggling to find qualified employees.

Clark said there is also strong support in the capital for increased SEEK funding to school districts, and it looks like lawmakers may restore transportation funds to school systems, something Bevin's initial budget plan cut.

"There's some impact there for safe schools," Clark said of increased SEEK funding.

Concerns over the public pension crisis and crippling increases in contributions to the state's retirement system from local governments were underscored with state leaders, as were worries over proposed criminal justice reforms that would offer leniency to serious drug offenders and could increase jail costs to counties while decreasing revenues for housing lawbreakers.

"I think it was very beneficial for the city and county overall," Byford said of the trip, his first such collaboration with state officials since being appointed mayor a year ago. "Perry (Newcom) deserves a lot of credit for coordinating this."

Newcom said there is no replacement for a face-to-face visit to move the needle.

"It's definitely the way to go," he said. "You make a phone call, and they're on to the next project as soon as you hang up.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Youth serve as pages

Three local boys earned their legislative stripes recently while serving as pages for Sen. Dorsey Ridley on the floor of the Kentucky Senate in Frankfort. Pictured are (from left) Crittenden County Magistrate Dan Wood, Ridley, Micah Newcom, Gatten Travis and Jaxon Hatfield.



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Read Across America

Crittenden County Middle School Assistant Principal Sarah Riley greets students arriving to class Friday wearing a Cat in the Hat costume in recognition of Read Across America Day, which is celebrated annually for the birthday of "Cat in the Hat" children's author Dr. Seuss.

OUR LOAN PRODUCTION OFFICE IS NOW OPEN!

State highway garage

That bodes will for economic development, as does the relocation of the state highway garage to Industrial Park North. A three-way deal between Crittenden County Economic Development Corp. (CCEDC), KyTC and Crittenden County Schools will send \$60,000 to CCEDC from the school system in exchange for the vacated highway garage property adjacent to the middle and high school campus. That could be only months away.

"They talked like it would be built this summer," Newcom said.

In fact, on Tuesday, the House floor received a trans-

Work to improve safety

along a hazardous 7-mile

stretch of U.S. 60 through Crit-

tenden County began this

crew contracted by the Ken-

tucky Transportation Cabinet

(KyTC) started work along the

Rosebud Hill area of U.S. 60

East between the Ky. 654 in-

tersection at mile-point 15.65

in the Mattoon community ex-

tending eastward to the Crit-

tenden-Union County line near

the 25-mile marker. This work

is to prepare for a Highway

Safety Improvement Project

(HSIP) along a 7-mile section of

A tree and brush cutting

week.

Prep work started on

difficulties for large trucks.

"It felt very good that they know our problems and our concerns," said Ledford.

Courthouse upgrades

Newcom said the centerpiece of local government, Crittenden County Courthouse, is closer than ever to being brought up to current standards for the courts and county government. A visit to the Administrative Office of the Courts, or AOC, revealed just how close.

"If everything remains as is, it will actually get started in the next biennium as far as the planning," the judge-executive said of prospective funding in the next two-year budget for design work for upgrades to the archaic 57-year-old building.

The remainder of a \$6.3 million renovation would be for construction, hopefully in the next two-year budget approved in 2020. The scope of the work as presented would create an additional 20,000 square feet by building upward, creating an upper level to the north and south wings of the facility. The plan would include a new, sloped roof to alleviate leaks, a

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SANDY URBANOWSKI **Market President** NMLS# 505223

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270-704-6672 SURBANOWSKI@EFIRSTUNITEDBANK.COM



*This facility offers loan products only



-

-0

U.S. 60 in Crittenden County. Motorists should slow down and be alert for one-lane traffic

U.S. 60 East upgrades with alternating flow controlled by flaggers. The tree and brush cutting crew expects to be working along this section anytime weather allows for the next few weeks.

The coming safety project will include the addition of a gravel shoulder, some additional high-traction coating, pavement wedging adjustments, removal of cross drain header walls and extending some of the cross drains and culverts. It will also see slope improvements and tree removal at some locations along the right-of-way.

The project is aimed at reducing the number of wetweather crashes along this section of U.S. 60 East.

4-H, FFA benefit from \$10 Ag Tag donations

The Kentucky 4-H and FFA programs are again asking farmers to make the \$10 Ag Tag donation in the month of March as they renew their farm license plates at their county clerk's office. When Kentucky farmers make their donation, they are providing Kentucky youth in 4-H and FFA in every county opportunities to develop essential leadership, citizenship and life skills.

The donation is divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for promotional programs such as Kentucky Proud.

"4-H and FFA provide youth with numerous learning and leadership opportunities," said Leslea Barnes, Crittenden County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development. "Many of the officers and youth are involved in both clubs. By making your \$10 donation with your Ag Tag renewal, it's a great way to support and give back to



PHOTO BY VICKY GRAF

Crittenden County 4-H and FFA officers stand with County Clerk Carolyn Byford to help promote Kentucky's Ag Tag program that asks farmers for donations during the month of March as they pay for their farm vehicle license plates.

our youth in Crittenden County.'

Kentucky farmers donated a record \$630,000 to the Ag Tag fund in 2017 - \$210,000 to each of the three organizations – a 2.3 percent increase over 2015. These funds are split between the county

where the funds originated and the Kentucky 4-H Foundation and Kentucky FFA Foundation for state level programs.

In Crittenden County last year, 18 percent of the farmers renewing tags donated to the Ag Tag fund for a total of

\$1,460, down \$470 from 2016 but the second-highest amount since the program started. Altogether since 2011, \$7,640 has been donated locally, bringing about \$1,275 back to each of the Crittenden County 4-H and FFA programs.

Ky.'s 2017 unemployment rate lowest since 2000

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky's annual unemployment rate dropped to 4.9 percent in 2017 from 5.1 percent in 2016, while nonfarm employment gained 11,300 jobs, according to the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS). It was the lowest annual jobless rate for the state since 2000 when the rate was 4.2 percent.

The U.S. annual unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent in 2017 from 4.9 percent in 2016.

The number of unemployed Kentuckians for 2017 was 100,302, down 2,819 from the 103,121 unemployed in 2016. In 2017, the estimated number of Kentuckians in the civilian labor force was 2,052,368, up 40,089 from 2016.

"The increase in Kentucky's labor force is the largest since 1997," said University of Kentucky's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Chris Bollinger, Ph.D. "As the Commonwealth's economy has improved over the past couple of years, discouraged workers who stopped looking for work have returned to the labor market. The number of people unemployed has declined, even as these individuals return to labor market."

Kentucky's unemployment rate for 2017 was higher than 39 states. Nationally, Hawaii had the lowest jobless rate in 2017 at 2.4 percent, while Alaska had the highest rate at 7.2 percent. Among its surrounding states, Kentucky's unemployment rate was lower than Ohio, Illinois and West

Virginia but higher than Missouri, Virginia, Tennessee and Indiana.

unemployment Annual rates declined in 46 states from 2016 to 2017, while rates increased in Delaware, South Dakota and Alaska, but was unchanged in Ohio.

Kentucky manufacturing, which employees more people in Crittenden County than any other sector, saw an increase in workers in 2017, as did five other of the state's 11 job sectors - leisure and hospitality; construction; educational and health services; trade, transportation and utilities; and the "other services" sector that includes repair and maintenance and religious, civic and professional organizations.

"In the years prior to and during the recession, Ken-

tucky lost employment in its manufacturing sector" said Bolliner. "However, since the recession ended Kentucky's manufacturers have been able to make up some of these losses.

Job declines were seen in professional and business services, financial activities, information, government and mining and logging sectors.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count the number of people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks.













PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Joe Chmura helps five-year-old Tristen Harris learn the ropes of fishing at the pond on city property commonly called Goose Lake. The property off Old Morganfield Road is going to be put up for sale.

GARDENS

Continued from Page 1

of the few places in the city conducive to new home development.

"This was a matter of evaluating whether this asset was working for the city or not," Ledford said.

Perhaps, he said, the large, undeveloped parcel of land will better serve the city

on the tax rolls instead of in a program that generated no tax dollars for the city.

The land was originally provided to a Native American group which had big plans for the property. Those fell through and a group made up largely of local churches formed a nonprofit organization that started growing produce and giving it away free to the community. Crittenden

County Detention Center joined the effort, providing inmate labor.

"It was a beautiful thing for the inmates," the jailer said. "At first, they didn't want to go out there, but then they grew to love it. When those elderly people would come by and get free vegetables I've seen these grown men - inmates - crying. It meant so much to them."

SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

questioned. "I think we all agree this is one thing we can do right now to provide another level of safety."

Already, the school district contracts with K9 Resources to conduct random searches with specially-trained dogs for drugs and weapons. Clark made the announcement to parents last week in a One-Call message, a system that reaches guardians with a prerecorded phone call.

To conduct the morning searches, students are allowed into school through only two entrances – the middle school gym lobby and front entrance to the middle school. There is no direct access into the high school.

As students arrive, their

bags are checked, and the individual is wanded much like at an airport. Girls are searched by female staff and boys by males. Sixteen of the metal detectors will be used to conduct searches.

"This is just to let folks know that we're looking for weapons and other things that don't need to be there," Clark said.

With 700 students to check, he said there will undoubtedly be some kinks to work out with the searches in order to make them more efficient and effective.

"There are a lot of logistics to go along with that," he said. "It's going to take a while to iron out smoothly."

The superintendent said searches will continue to be conducted randomly throughout the remainder of the school year and indefinitely in future years.

"I think these are the times we live in," Clark said. "We continue to have conversations about what more we can do.

Already this year, there have been a dozen school shootings in the U.S. Two students were killed Jan. 23 at Marshall County High School in Benton and 17 died in a Florida high school shooting on Valentine's Day.

A 14-year-old boy at CCMS was charged Feb. 22 by state police with terroristic threatening related to comments he allegedly made earlier that day. The boy reportedly made a threat to all students. The conversation he was having with a student was anonymously reported to administrators by another student, leading to police involvement.

Downtown Marion, Ky. SATURDAY, MARCH 10 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MYSTERY

& Solution Sheet

Additional ticket to dinner & Live Reveal at Tobs Hall

Live Reveal Only at Fobs Hall

Doors Open 6:45 p.m. Only Sold at Door

Map, Paper,

TENTE ORINE SCENE • DO NOT ENTER • CRIME SCENE • DO NOT ENTER • CRIME SCENE • DO NOT ENTER • CRIME SCENE • DO NOT ENTER Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

CENTIF SCENE COONOT EN VISIT PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS AND FIND CLUES AROUND TOWN TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY WHO KILLED MR. BASEBALL, ROGER REDBONE

ENTER

STUDY

Continued from Page 1

fixed before they require major repairs, because reconstructing roads costs approximately four times more than resurfacing them," the sixpage TRIP report reads.

But current funding is not enough for counties to reconstruct roads and allows for only a few miles of resurfacing each year. In Crittenden County, where there are nearly 370 miles of countymaintained roads, aid from the state continues to dwindle. In 2011, the county received \$1.3 million in state aid provided for all operational needs of the road department, including payroll, equipment, fuels and lubricants, road construction and maintenance, equipment maintenance, signage and more. In the current fiscal year, the county will receive only \$930,000, and that figure is expected to shrink in coming years.

The American Society of Civil Engineers 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure claims the condition of Kentucky's highways and roads leads to \$543 million in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs due to driving on roads in ill repair. The \$185 per motorist, though, was at the low end among the 50 states, all of which face monumental hurdles in bringing transportation infrastructure up to par. The study also found that statewide, a third of the commonwealth's roads are in poor or mediocre condition

Bridges, too, are suffering from a lack of upkeep. In District 1, 123 of the 1,752 bridges are rated structurally deficient in the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) National Bridge Inventory. There four in Crittenden are County, including one on Ky. 91 North over Crooked Creek about 0.7 miles from the courthouse. With 910 vehicles per day crossing, that span rated 15th in the 12county district for traffic count over structurally deficient bridges. Two more on Ky. 120 over Tradewater River sloughs rated 23rd and 24th. The fourth is located on Ky. 654 North over Tribune Creek.

The western Kentucky district is not alone in its road woes. According to 2013 data from the FHA, 4,436 of Kentucky's 14,116 bridges are rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. That does not necessarily mean those bridges are unsafe, just that they have elements that need to be replaced, require "A lack of adequate transportation funding can result in deteriorated road and bridge conditions, diminished traffic safety and reduced access, all of which hamper business productivity, limit economic development opportunities, increase vehicle operating costs and reduce a region's overall quality of life," the TRIP report offers.

In this year's legislative session, House Bill 609 has been introduced to increase the state's 26-cent gas tax by a dime per gallon in order to address road woes. The measure would generate an estimated \$300 million in additional transportation revenue, half of which would come back to the counties.

The measure would also place an annual fee on operating electric cars and increase the vehicle registration cost in the county clerk's office from \$11.50 to \$22, a fee that has not been changed since 1968.

The bill, though, is not likely to be approved.

Meantime, the House budget committee on Tuesday approved a two-year state Road Plan that would authorize over \$2.4 billion for bridges, repaving and other road and highway projects statewide through 2020.

House Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation Chair Rep. Sal Santoro, R-Florence, told the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee that the plan found in House Bill 202 would undergird economic development, safety, and road and bridge maintenance, with bridges at the top of the list.

Over \$545 million would be authorized in the Road Plan to replace or repair structurally-deficient bridges in 103 of Kentucky's 120 counties, said Santoro, who is sponsoring HB 202 with House Appropriations and Revenue Chair Rep. Steven Rudy, R-Paducah.

"These bridges will be replaced or repaired," he told the committee.

The plan would also inject over \$365 million over the biennium into road resurfacing and paving projects that Santoro said are now underfunded.

"We have a \$1 billion resurfacing backlog," said Santoro.

Funding for the two-year Road Plan would come from the KyTC budget found in HB 201, sponsored by Rudy. That legislation, also approved by the committee Tuesday.

The last four years, or socalled "out years," of the state's larger six-year Road Plan – which includes the two-year Road Plan – were

Crittenden County bridge inventory

Four of Crittenden County's 56 state-maintained bridges are in ill repair and another 12 are deemed functionally obsolete, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's DataMart found online. The classifications and attached sufficiency ratings from the National Bridge Inventory are made by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Almost 10 percent of Kentucky's approximate 14,200 bridge are considered structurally deficient. But the commonwealth is not alone; almost 10 percentage of the nation's 614,400 bridges are considered the same. Below is a list of the county's statemaintained bridges considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, the waterway over which traffic is carried, its location, sufficiency rating out of a perfect 100, the last inspection date and next scheduled inspection. Inspections of bridges are made at least every two years. This list does not reflect city- or county-maintained bridges.

Structurally deficient

A bridge that is structurally deficient is not necessarily unsafe. This category indicates the bridge has elements that need to be repaired and/or monitored. A structurally deficient bridge should be maintained, inspected and monitored on a regular basis.

HIGHWAY	OVER	LOCATION	RATING	INSPCT	INSPCT
Ky. 91 North*	Crooked Creek	0.7 miles northwest of U.S. 60 junction	4.0	2017	May 2018
Ky. 654 North	Tribune Creek	0.1 miles north of Ky. 120 junction		2017	May 2018
Ky. 120	Slough of Tradewater River			2017	June 2019
Ку. 120	Slough of Tradewater River	0.2 miles west of Webster County line	39.6	2018	April 2018

*In the state's recommended road plan being considered in this year's legislative session, there is \$1.23 million appropriated to upgrade the Ky. 91 North bridge over Crooked Creek. The bridge was built in 1929.

Functionally obsolete

A bridge that is functionally obsolete is not necessarily unsafe. This category indicates the bridge has older design features not built to today's standards. A functionally obsolete bridge is likely not wide enough or tall enough to accommodate current vehicle sizes, weights and traffic volumes.

HIGHWAY	OVER	LOCATION	SUFFICIENCY RATING	LAST INSPCT	NEXT INSPCT
Ky. 1077	Piney Creek	15 miles south of Ky. 506 junction	80.4	2016	June 2018
Ку. 120	Piney Fork Creek	1.7 miles west of Ky. 139 junction	77.9	2016	June 2018
Ку. 120	Piney Fork Creek	1.5 miles west of Ky. 139 junction	77.9	2016	June 2018
Ку. 120	Unnamed stream	0.1 miles east of Ky. 654 junction	67.4	2016	May 2018
Ку. 70	Dry Fork of Livingston Creek	2.4 miles southwest of U.S. 641 junction	61.5	2016	June 2018
Ку. 70	Branch of Dry Fork	2.5 miles southwest of U.S. 641 junction	61.5	2016	June 2018
Ky 855 North	Clay Lick Creek	3.0 miles south of U.S. 60 junction	60.2	2016	June 2018
Ky. 91 North	Hurricane Creek	1.0 mile north of Ky. 135 junction	58.5	2016	May 2018
Ky. 91 North	Hurricane Creek	0.7 miles north of Ky. 135 junction	58.5	2016	May 2018
Ку. 387	Crooked Creek	0.6 miles northeast of Ky. 91 North junction	50.2	2017	July 2018
Ky. 902	Unnamed stream	2.2 miles east of Ky. 70 junction		2017	June 2018
Ку. 902	Caldwell Spring Creek		49.1	2016	June 2018

Sufficiency Rating:

The Sufficiency Rating is calculated from a complex formula using 18 data items from the Structural Inventory and Appraisal. A number is generated from 0 to 100 indicating the bridge's structural and functional condition. The 100 possible points are allocated as follows: 55 points for "Structural Adequacy and Safety," 30 points are for "Serviceability and Functional Obsolescence" and 15 points for "Essentiality for Public Use."

MPD activity report

Police activity was up almost across the board last month for Marion Police Department compared to February 2017. Below is an activity report for the city's police department, reflecting information from February 2018 compared with figures from February 2017 as well as year-to-date totals for 2018. The following data are provided by Police Chief Ray O'Neal.

CATEGORY	FEBRUARY 2017		
Miles driven/patrolled	2,341	3,813	6,756
Criminal investigations	10		
Domestics			
Felony Arrests			
Misdemeanor arrests			
Non-criminal arrests	2	10	20
DUI arrests	0	0	2
Traffic citations			
Traffic warnings		7	
Other citations	5	25	53
Parking tickets			
	Q		



close monitoring or are not up to standards for weight and width. also adopted with the committee's approval of House Joint Resolution 74.

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	J		IJ
Security checks/alarms	77	69	77
Calls for service	173		362

(270) 965-5393 or (270) 704-2777



Lifestyles The Crittenden Press

The Press Online www.the-press.com

Adults complete BS, MS degrees

The following local students have received their degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The university held its 64th commencement ceremony at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando on Feb. 10 to celebrate the graduation of about 15,000 graduates from across the country.

· Tammy Stinnett of Fredonia has received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

· Kelly Croft of Marion has received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

 Caylee Zimmer of Marion has received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

· Belinda Burnette of Sturgis has received her Master of Science in Nursing - Leadership and Management (RN to MSN) degree.

Church Notes - Salem Baptist Church

will host an Easter Egg-splosion, 2 p.m., Saturday, March 24 at the Salem Baptist Christian Life Center in Salem.

- Sturgis General Baptist Church, located at 903 N. Johnson St., will have Homecoming services March 4. A potluck will follow the morning worship, as well as a performance by the Liberty Boys from Benton at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar

American Legion Post 217 and American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 6:30 p.m., Friday at the Post in Burna. A meal will be served and meeting to follow.

Crittenden County High School SBDM will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday in the teacher workroom.

- Family Clue Game Night will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday (today) at the Crittenden County Public Library. The event is for the whole family and includes a Clue board game contest. Form your team and wear your favorite costumes from the Clue

Arflack begins position as U.S. Marshal STAFF REPORT

Gov. Matt Bevin has appointed Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams III as the new Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. He will replace retired Brig. Gen. Norman E. Arflack, a Crittenden County native, who has been confirmed to serve as a U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Former Commissioner Arflack who confirmed in mid-February by the U.S. Senate as a United States Marshal.

"I would like to congratulate retired Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack on his confirmation to serve as the

District of Kentucky," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) "His impressive record of service to the Commonwealth and the nation, both in the Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky State Police, have prepared him well for this important position. I would like to once again commend President Trump for this nomination, and I was proud to support General Arflack in the Senate."

"I am grateful for Com-missioner Arflack's unwavering dedication to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and I congratulate him

U.S. Marshal for the Eastern on his new appointment," said Bevin. "His exemplary leadership of the Department has benefitted Ken-

and

ans

tucky's veterans set the Commonwealth on a path to becoming the best state in the nation for veter-

and Arflack their fami-

lies. We will miss him, but are thankful for his continued willingness to serve our state and nation.

and lived in Crittenden County through fifth-grade, served 38 years in the Kentucky National Guard, retiring as a brigadier general, and was deputy adjutant general of the Kentucky National Guard under former Governors Paul Patton and Ernie Fletcher. He was also Justice and Public Safety Cabinet secretary for Gov. Fletcher and spent a year as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Concurrent with his National Guard service, Arflack spent 23 years with Kentucky State Police.

"I am honored to be nom-

Arflack, who was born inated and confirmed as the U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky," said Arflack. "It has been my privilege to serve our country and this state and I am happy to be afforded the opportunity to continue my service as a member of the federal law enforcement team.'

> Brig. Gen. Adams has been in the military nearly 40 years. He received his commission in 1978, and after completing flight school he spent 15 years on active duty. Adams then served as a defense contractor before joining the Kentucky National Guard in 1999.

KSP aid up for grabs

The Kentucky State Police is accepting applications from Kentucky high school seniors who are interested in qualifying for \$1,000 scholarships that can be used for education expenses beginning in the fall of 2018. To considered, students be must complete and submit all application materials, which are available on the website KSP at http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/island/pdf/ti scholarship_application_NE W.pdf by April 1, 2018.

'The Trooper Island Scholarship Fund is an outgrowth of our summer camp for underprivileged children, which has been in operation for 52 years," says Camp Commander Jonathan Biven. "Although it is aimed at those who attended Trooper Island Camp as a youngster, the program is open to all graduating seniors in Kentucky who plan to attend a college or technical/vocational school this fall."

This is the eighth year that KSP has offered this financial aid. Trooper Island is a free summer camp for underprivileged boys and girls age 10-12 operated by the Kentucky State Police on Dale Hollow Lake in Clinton County. It is financed entirely by donations, no public funds are used. Each year, the camp hosts approximately 700 children, providing good food, fresh air, recreation, guidance and structured, esteem-building activities designed to build good citizenship and positive relationships with law enforcement officers. For more information, call (502) 782-1780.



Senior Menu

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

- Thursday (today): Menu is pulled pork with pork gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, cornbread and pineapple delight.

Friday: Menu is beef stroganoff with noodles, cucumber salad, wheat roll and banana pudding. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m.

- Monday: Menu is baked potato soup, chicken drumstick seasoned peas, cornbread and pear crisp. Ladies exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.

- Tuesday: Menu is Southwest pork roast, baked sweet potato, peas and pearl onions, cornbread, apple crisp and margarine

- March 14: Menu is hamburger on whole wheat bun with lettuce, tomato and onion, baked pork 'n beans, baked potato with sour cream and Mandarin oranges. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m.

All menu items are subject to change based on availability. PACS provides milk, coffee, tea or water each day. Aging Coordinator Jenny Sosh is director of the center.



board game. Prizes and snacks will be provided.

- Marion Murder Mvstery Contest begins at 10 a.m., Saturday in downtown Marion. Check in at the Welcome Center in Marion and get your entry kit for \$10. Visit businesses including the library to pick up your clues. Sherlock Holmes will be at the library taking photos with inspectors so don't miss a great photo opportunity.

Potato Chip Appreciation Day for Teens in grades 6-12 will be celebrated between 3:30-5 p.m., March 14 at the Crittenden County Public Library. Stop by after school and enter the 'chip walk,' play games, learn about food science and taste test chips.

- Sue Parrent will present a nutrition lesson at 10:30 a.m., March 15 at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center.

Diabetes Support Group will meet at 10 a.m., March 16 at the Crittenden County Extension Office. The guest speaker will be Denise Adams, APRN.

Extension

Please consider participating in the Cultural Arts Contest Friday at the Christian County Extension Office. Call the local office at (270) 965-5236 for more information.

 The Crittenden County Extension Service will offer a class called Grow Your Own Bouquet at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday at the Extension annex on U.S. 60 East. Participants will learn the qualities to look for when making selections for a cut flower garden. For more information, call (270) 965-5236

Morning Glories Homemakers will meet at 10 a.m., Monday at the Extension Office.

Challengers Homemakers will meet at noon March 14 at the Extension Annex

Commitment to kindness

Retired police officer Greg Rushing and local author Betty Brantley (standing center) watch as guidance counselor Laura Poindexter assists students as they sign their names to kindness cards to be posted on a giant poster at Crittenden Elementary. "I will always choose to be a friend," was the message on the banner, which mirrors the anti-bullying discussion the two visitors had with first- and second-grade students.

Woman's Club plans membership drive

Woman's Club of Marion has been wrapping up the 2017 reports for GFWC Kentucky and making plans for local events. At the club's February meeting members learned the club has submitted reports for all of the state focus areas and completed over 4,000 hours of community service.

The club will hold its annual membership drive and installation of officers Saturday. Brunch will be served at 10 a.m., followed by remarks from Paula Robinson, First District GFWC Governor. Co-chairs for the brunch are Sandra Belt and Gladys Brown. Committee members include Susan Alexander, Rachel Holley, Margaret June Johnson, Rebecca Johnson and Nancy Lapp. Reservations for the brunch can be made with the calling committee or Nancy Hunt.

West Kentucky Association of General Baptist Ladies Conference Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:30 a.m.-noon at the Tabernacle 134 S.R. 1668, Marion, Ky.

Lunch will be provided

Speaker: Patti Thorton Director of Women's Ministries of General Baptist Denomination

Come and Enjoy Time with the ford

Please contact Shawna Sunderland (270) 965-9470 or (270) 704-5555

Hosted by the Marion, Sturgis and Glendale General Baptist Churches



On a bride's wedding day... Little things can mean a Ini

• ometimes it's the little things that mean the most to a bride on her Jbig day. The meaningful moments, cherished accessories and thoughtful elements incorporated into the service are some of the memories that stand out most when brides look back on their wedding day.

Following are two dozen brides' reflections on some of their most treasured bridal memories.



I had a special dance for my Poppa and I at our wedding because he was always the most special man in my life.

Caitlyn Chandler-Epley



tie pin in my bouquet with me, there was a rainbow during our entire service but it never once rained that day I also got married on my Grandaddy's birthday, Aug. 12.

- Davana Berry



The picture of my grandmother hold ing my grandfather's handkerchief. Rheanda DeBoe

I wanted my parents to still have a seat at my wedding, so we placed a photo of each and then laid flowers down before the start of the ceremony.

-Saundra Smith

My wedding cake topper was the same one my parents used in their wedding. My brother & my sister also used it on their wedding cakes. Jennifer Beverly

1. The blue ribbon that Ken's grandmother used on her bridal gown was used in my bridal bouquet. 2. I carried a "borrowed" six-pence from Helen Moore, my first grade teacher.

Rebecca Johnson

We had the pastor use my Grandma Mae's Bible for our ceremony, who had passed away several years before 1998.

- Brittany Piper

All of my biological family had long since been gone when Shannon and I got married, so I had no one on my side to help me. I couldn't afford my wedding dress so Shannon took me to a bridal boutique and we picked out my dress together and he paid for it..and his memaw gave me her borrowed blue handkerchief and it was the best day of my life marrying my best friend and my nemesis...22 years and still going like the energizer bunny.

- Marilyn Shannon Porter

David and I (mostly me I guess) wanted a fun laid back ceremony that still meant a lot to us. We even got married on Halloween. We didn't do the traditional wedding program. We printed funny programs titled "So You're Going to Sit Through a Wedding." I still giggle when I read it. Shanna Winn West

Continued to Page 9

Top wedding color schemes for 2018

Local wedding starts at \$4,400

If you are planning a wedding, choosing the right colors is a big part of the overall style and theme that you are trying to create. ElegantWeddingInvites.com offers insight on what's going to be the hot wedding color schemes for 2018. Below are the top color combinations as offered by the wedding planning website.



Choose wedding colors wisely

METRO SERVICES

Some brides may feel beholden to the color white on their wedding days, at least in regard to their gowns. Those who do often embrace the opportunity to showcase their personal styles and set the mood for their nuptials by embracing various colors throughout their ceremonies and receptions.

Color can be a critical component when establishing the ambiance for a wedding. Color can evoke certain moods and set the tone for the day. Some colors work better together than others, so while choosing a color scheme may seem like an easy undertaking, some couples may find it requires more careful consideration than they first imagined.

According to the bridal guide A Practical Wedding, wedding colors can give couples a starting-off point for all of the other details of their weddings. This enhesive look. Colors need not necessarily winter ceremonies. match, but borrowing on sim-

ilar hues can make it easier to plan wedding party wardrobes, flowers, table linens, and much more.

Colors can come from anywhere, but many couples try to coordinate their color schemes with the season in which the wedding takes place. In fact, couples who are finding it difficult to decide on a

palette can look to seasonal colors for inspiration. For example, pastels and blooming flowers can set the scene for spring weddings, while jewel tones and

sures the wedding ultimately has a co- rich reds and greens may be fitting for

Some couples opt for more loosely defined color palettes, such as neutral and natural colors. Country and garden weddings can borrow ideas from the landscape, with natural linens paired with wildflowers. Using whites, grays and beiges enables couples to add a pop of color without overwhelming the setting.

Brides magazine suggests that couples avoid choosing too many colors. A

See COLORS/Page 11

Planning a wedding is a big job, and one of the biggest headaches can be setting up a budget and sticking to it.

The wedding planning website CostofaWedding.com offers help with the financial aspects of the ceremony with an interactive and personalized Wedding Cost Estimator customized by ZIP code. It also offers tools to help stay within a budget.

According to Cost of a Wedding, the average wedding pricetag in the United States is \$25,764 ... not counting the honevmoon. But couples on average spend anywhere between \$19,323 and \$32,205 depending on what area of the country the ceremony is held.

Locally, couples spend \$9,890-\$16,483, with an average cost of per guest of \$94-115. A small wedding with 50 guests or less typically runs \$4,351-\$7,252.

"Understanding wedding cost now can help you with your wedding budget later," the website reads. "The best way to save money on your wedding is to limit the number of guests."

The estimator is based on the spending of other couples getting married, not actually wedding vendor prices.

"Investigate all options and choose products and services that best meet your needs," advises Cost of a Wedding.

Budget vs. real cost

"Many times couples have a specific wedding budget in mind and while some stick to their budget, the reality is that things add up quickly and often exceed the original budget," cautions the website. "Cost of Wedding was created to help couples understand

Average cost of wedding

Couples who live in the 42064 ZIP code spend between \$9,890 and \$16,483 on average for their wedding, according to CostofaWedding.com. A single guest could add between \$94 and \$115 to the overall cost of a wedding. The best way to save money on a wedding is to limit the number of guests.

	GUESTS	COST
10 %	<50	\$4,351-
		\$7,252
202	50-	\$6,626-
	100	\$11,043
0	100-	\$10,582-
\sim	200	\$17,636
	200-	\$13,648-
	300	\$22,746
0-0	>300	\$26,405-
a		\$44,008

Note: Average Wedding Cost in Marion, KY Zip Code 42064 is based on the spending of other couples getting married not wedding vendor prices. Spending and prices can vary widely. Investigate all options and choose products and services that best meet your needs.

real wedding costs. We provide several tools to help you map real wedding cost or spending to your wedding budget.

Numbers provided on the site are simply a guide to help couples better prepare for real wedding cost and budget expectations.

"You should expect to pay,

Preserve wedding memories

Couples' wedding days are momentous occasions, and couples want their memories of the day they tied the knot to endure long after the final guest has departed.

Weddings can be amazing, but they only last a few hours. Memories can be forever if they are effectively documented. The following are some ways for couples to permanently memorialize their wedding days.

- Dry the bouquet. Wedding bouquets can be freezedried and/or chemically preserved so that the colors. textures and the volume of the blooms can appear just as vibrant as they were on couples' wedding days. After preservation, the bouquet can be displayed in a vase or in a specially prepared shadow box with other mementos.

Create a custom locket. Brides can wear a piece of their wedding gown day after day with a custom necklace or locket. All they need to do is trim a small piece of the lace

or other embellishment from the gown and enclose it in the locket. Jewelry designers also may be able to convert a section of the gown pattern into metal through a casting process.

- Have guests sign the label. Purchase a special bottle of wine or champagne and ask guests to sign the label or the bottle itself. Store the bottle until a special occasion, such as a memorable anniversary, and then toast to a happy marriage.

- Make a cake replica. Ask an artist to make a miniature replica of the wedding cake out of pottery. Put the clay cake out for display or ask for it to be made small enough to serve as a Christmas tree ornament.

Teddy bear transformation: Have tuxedo fabric or wedding gown material turned into a keepsake teddy bear. Bowman Bears produces such bears, which can be passed down to future generations.

- Create bouquet jewelry.

Encapsulate favorite wedding flowers into a resin pendant, bracelet or earrings.

- Frame the invitation. Display the wedding invitation in a beautiful frame with custom matting.

- Revisit the site. On their anniversaries, couples can visit their ceremony site or have brunch or dinner at the venue where the reception took place. Take an "after" picture to display with the "before" shot from the wedding day.

- Make an invitation ornament. Cut the wedding invitation into strips and place it inside of a hollow glass ornament. Seal the top and hang with a ribbon.

Design a greeting card scrapbook. Turn all of those special handwritten messages and well-wishes into a scrapbook so that memories can be revisited time and again.

The planning may take months and the wedding mere hours, but well-documented wedding day memories can last forever.

10 tricks add ease, fun to planning METRO SERVICES tions and the other to address

Brides and grooms understandably feel a little stress when planning their weddings. Adding to the pressure is the fact that, according to a WeddingWire.com report, the average couple in their 30s spends \$32,000 on their wedding. That is a lot of money riding on one day.

But planning a wedding can be even more fun than it is stressful, especially for those couples who employ a few tricks of the wedding planning trade.

1. Fake the cake. Save some money by asking the bakery cake artist to decorate a foamtiered "mock" cake for pictures and display, and serve guests from an inexpensive sheet cake in the kitchen.

2. Use labels. Once the guest list is finalized, create a database of guests' addresses. Print out two sets of labels: One for addressing the invitathe thank-you cards.

3. RSVP tricks: Number the back of RSVP cards and correspond the numbers to the guest list. If one or more responses is illegible, refer to the number to figure it out.

4. Embrace inexpensive decor. Dollar stores and craft stores are great places to find inexpensive decorative items. Empty wine bottles can be painted or glazed to serve as vases. Candle lanterns can be picked up at low cost at many retailers.

5. Create an email address. To have all of the wedding-related details in one place, create a separate email address exclusively for wedding correspondence.

6. Use veil weights. These weights can be sewn into veils to prevent fly-aways during outdoor ceremonies or photoshoots.

7. Keep bugs at bay. Spray

chair and reception table legs with insect repellent. Dryer sheets also can be tucked into inconspicuous spots to keep bugs away.

8. Save money on favors. Unless the favor is something to eat or something especially practical, you may consider skipping the favors altogether, as many guests tend to forget to take them home anyway.

9. Use page markers for seating. Use multicolored, selfsticking page markers to create easy seating arrangements. Each color can represent a category: His, Hers, Friends, Work.

10. Stock up on string lights. Lights can be wrapped around trees outdoors, strung indoors around windows or draped along buffet tables to create a romantic ambiance.

Weddings can be expensive and stressful; therefore, couples can use all the tips they can to corral their expenses and tame their nerves.





attending others' weddings or that has a variety of styles that Brides-to-be may invest special events, pay attention to fit various body types.

thousands of dollars into their wedding day ensembles. Online wedding resource The Knot says that the average cost for a wedding dress is \$1,469. Grooms generally have a much easier and less expensive experience with their wedding day attire. In fact, grooms often rent their tuxedos for minimal cost.

Renting a wedding tuxedo has its advantages, namely in the cost savings. However, it's easy for a guy to fall into the trap of renting something that will not help him look his best if he isn't educated about the process. Looking sharp involves a little more than just showing up to the shop and picking a tux off the rack.

Choose your retailer wisely

Many stores sell or rent suits and tuxedos. As is the case with many aspects of wedding planning, getting a recommendation from friends or family members can help grooms identify the shops that offer exemplary service. When

the look of the groom and his groomsmen. Find out where they got their tuxes. Price alone should not dictate where to shop.

Once bridesmaid dresses been selected, the have groomsmen can begin to shop around for tuxedoes. This way ties and vests will coordinate. Initial tux selection should begin between four and six months before the wedding.

Get a proper fitting

The experts at Men's Wearhouse say that it is important to be fitted for a tux or suit properly. Their professionals can handle the measurements, or men shopping elsewhere can use a tailor of their choosing. Shoulders should be close to the body in the jacket but not restrictive. Sleeves should fall so that they show a quarter- to a half-inch of shirt sleeves when arms are at the sides. An ill-fitting suit or tux can make a gentleman look sloppy. It is key to pay attention to sizing and use a shop

Choose a classic style

No one wants to look outdated in their wedding pictures. By choosing a classic cut and color in a suit or tux, guys will look stylish no matter the year. Fun can be had with vest colors or bow ties.

Confirm the order

The entire wedding party can visit the tuxedo shop for selections and fittings. The groom should call the store at least a month prior to the wedding to ensure that everyone has been fitted. Tuxes should be picked up a few days in advance of the wedding and tried on to ensure that everything fits and all accessories are included. This way lastminute alterations or substitutions can be made.

Grooms and groomsmen can look dapper by selecting a classic suit or tuxedo, having it properly fitted and confirming that all wardrobe components are ready to go in time for the big day.



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The a bride's wedding day... Little things a lot for the second second

Continued from Page 7



In addition to my 3 bridesmaids and Maid Of Honor, my Gingee stood beside me as my Matron Of Honor!

- Lacey Ford



We took communion together for the first time as husband and wife. So special. — Ryan and Lisa Beavers

Since I can't wear a metal wedding band while at work, I bought several silicone safety rings. Tricia weaved them into the bouquet she carried. I like the fact that they were a part of the ceremony as well. — Brian Boyd

We had an outdoor wedding just so our black lab Jake could be the ring bearer! But the story behind it is great. Jake knew Kevin was the one before I did. Anytime a male would come to the house with me or to see me. Jake would turn away from us.... not even pay one bit of



i carried a broach bouquet made of broaches from my grandma and both great grandmothers. it was my "something old" — Chelsea Bonner



I had sweetest name sake flower girl who I love dearly to this day! I also wore my mother's wedding dress!

— Janet Kemper

The toasting glasses we used at our reception were the same glasses my parents toasted with at their wedding. We also had a photo of each of our 3 grandfathers who had passed away and had our grandmothers lay a rose at their husband's photo as they were seated. Also, we had a photo of Ryan's Mom, Norma, at the altar and he laid roses there for her at the start of the ceremony.

– JenniferTrowbridge McDaniel

I got married on my "gotcha" adoption day and my Daddy's birthday!



After our vows, my parents prayed with us with a prayer shawl, wrapping it around us as a representation that God has his hands wrapped around us. That not only would he protect us individually but protect our marriage and we would center our marriage around him. I will always cherish that moment we had together.

— Madison Hadfield Qualls





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attention (and he was a mama's boy) well the first time Kevin Carlson came over, he sat down on the couch and that dog jumped up there and got right in his lap (he was 90+ lbs) I was dumbfounded.... here we are 20+ years later!!!! ALWAYS trust a dog's instincts!!

– Viki Jorgensen-Carlson

My flower girl, Savannah Rose Oliver, wore a dress as my flower girl that I wore when I was a flower girl in a wedding when I was 3.

- Joy Myers

I had this glass with a candle in it at the sign in table. Well it somehow got broken. But broke into 3 pieces in the shape of a heart. The glass was fine just with a heart out in the center of it. There were 3 people that were not there that day. My grandma Gin papaw Charles and Jared's dad Roger. I think they were there the whole time.

Bridget Boone

I had a heart sewn together from pieces of my grandparent's clothing who watched from Heaven. The heart was sewn into my wedding dress, near my heart. — Emily Rickman — Cindy Drennan Thompson-Garrett

I wore my mom's garter.

— Kara Phillips





Steps involved in securing wedding venues, licenses

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Getting married is an exciting time in a couple's life together. Wedding planning is the next logical step after the engagement announcement, and while couples often get swept up in planning their dream parties, it's important to note that ultimately the ceremony is the star of the day.

Before booking a wedding reception venue or getting one's heart set on a particular date, couples need to secure their ceremony sites as well as apply for a marriage license. In some instances, ceremonies are held at the same site as the wedding reception, while some couples choose to tie the knot in their church or synagogue. Each of these types of ceremonies will be governed by the schedule of the house of worship or civil site.

Finding a venue

Once couples choose a wedding date, it is a good idea for them to visit their ceremony site of choice to check the calendar. It helps to have some flexibility in the wedding date in case the first choice is unavailable. Although

summer weddings used to be the most popular, today's couples are tying the knot more often in September and October than other times of year.

Even though a couple's wedding is special and unique to them, ceremony locations handle hundreds of weddings. Couples must recognize that competition for certain venues may be steep, so it helps to keep more than one venue in mind when planning a wedding.

Getting a marriage license

Laws for getting a marriage license vary from state to state. But getting a 30-day marriage license in Kentucky involves filling out the application and paying a \$35.50 fee at the county clerk's office.

You must be 18 years old to be married in Kentucky without parental consent. Applicants 16 and 17 years old must have parental consent and the license issued in the county of residence of the underage applicant.

Both applicants must present an acceptable form of ID, including a driver's license, government issued picture ID, passport, original birth certificate or Social Security card.

There is no waiting period, blood test or physical requirements, but there may be a lag between submitting the application and the license being issued. Couples can pick up the license or have it mailed to them.

Getting a marriage license with your new name on it does not mean your name has automatically changed. If you need to change your last name, you can use an online marriage name change kit.

A marriage license is not the same thing as a marriage certificate. The marriage certificate typically becomes available after the ceremony has taken place and the witnesses and officiant have signed off on the preceedings.

Getting married is a multistep process that begins with determining where the ceremony will take place and acquiring a marriage license. With these items in check, couples can focus on creating memorable wedding days.

(Editor's note: The Crittenden Press and Metro Services *contributed to this story.*)

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MARION-SALEM-HENDERSON-MADISONVILLE

What to consider when ring shopping

METRO SERVICES

Engagements precede wedding dresses, flower arrangements, limousines and even a couple's wedding vows. And no proposal is complete without a ring. Knowledge of rings and stones is essential for those who plan to propose.

A recent survey from the wedding resource The Knot in which 12,000 brides and 1,200 grooms in the United States were asked about their rings, found that people spend an average, of \$5,978 on engagement rings. Recognizing the potential cost of engagement rings can help ring shoppers prepare for their purchases.

In addition to considering costs, couples can employ the following tips:.

- Cut costs with style. Engagement rings can be costly, but many couples feel they are worthwhile investments. According to In Style magazine, a ring with a classic solitaire of

one carat weight can cost \$1,000, while a band covered in just under one carat of tiny pavé diamonds will offer plenty of sparkle for a lot less.

- Know your settings. How the diamond is framed can affect how big it looks and even how much it sparkles. Gems framed with a bezel can give the illusion of a larger stone.

Get the desired cut. A skilled jeweler knows how to properly cut a stone to bring out its best radiance. From round to princess to emerald to marquise cut, cut styles can affect how the stone looks as well as the price.

- Know ring metals. Platinum and gold are some of the most popular ring setting metals. Platinum costs considerably more than gold or silver, but is long-lasting. Couples should weigh the cost versus benefit of splurging on a more expensive metal, or speak with a jeweler about a substitute.

- Come in under carat. Buying just shy of the next carat weight can save between 20 and 30 percent, offers The Knot. Plus, the size discrepancy probably will not be visible to

- Think about trading up.

well as their budgets.





maximum of three with one

metallic can ensure that things look cohesive without being over-the-top. Also, brides and grooms needn't feel pressured by the "hot" colors of the moment. As with clothing and hairstyles, trends change. It is better to select colors that will stand the test of time and look

good for years to come.

Couples may have to incorporate colors already at their wedding venues into their style. Fortunately many reception sites are outfitted in neuto tones enable tral customization.

The wedding resource The Knot also says having a basic knowledge of the color wheel can help. Typically, colors that pair well together are those that are opposites on the color



on average, 50-100 percent more when choosing well-experienced professionals, de-

signer labels, popular event locations, unique or custom products and services," Cost of a Wedding offers. "Investigate all options and choose products and services that best meet your needs."



Planning tricks the pros use

METRO SERVICES

Wedding planning can be an exciting undertaking, but couples who have already walked down the aisle can attest that wedding planning also can be stressful. Ensuring all of the details come out right can prove overwhelming at times.

Hiring a wedding planner is one way to alleviate some of the stress associated with wedding planning. Couples who do not have the money to hire wedding planner can borrow some of the tips and tricks professionals rely on when planning weddings.

- Make guests the first priority: Even though it may seem like weddings should be geared around couples tying the knot, many wedding planners advise couples to focus on accommodating their guests. Having a handle on the number of people who will be attending, any of their specific needs (allergies, mobility issues, etc.), providing a comfortable environment (addressing bugs, weather, seating shortages), and knowing how much space guests will require can make choosing a venue that much easier.

- Rent what you don't have: Renting rather than purchasing items can save couples money. Wedding planners do not stockpile items such as tables, chairs and decorations. Instead, they rely on rental companies to provide what is necessary.

According to Minneapolisbased professionals The Wedding Guys, even couples working with small budgets can enhance or elevate their weddings by working with rental companies.

- Flush out foliage: Wedding planners know that flowers cost a great deal of money, especially flowers that are not native to the region where couples are getting married. The process of making arrangements can be time-consuming. Also, many flowers no longer produce strong scents because they're bred for longer stems and a lengthy vase life. Interspersing potted plants with arrangements that are lighter on blooms and heavier on filler can help cost-conscious couple stick to budget.

- Trust vendors' advice: Wedding vendors tend to know one another and can be good sources of information. A wedding photographer, for example, may be able to tell couples which reception venues photograph particularly well, and a reception manager may know which bands are best at getting guests on the dance floor.

- Negotiate before signing the contract: Wedding planners understand that vendors may be more willing to offer perks or extras rather than adding up a la carte pricing before the contract is signed. This way they secure the reservation on good will. Negotiating for more more. The app helps customers later on may be difficult.

- Get organized: Organization is key. Brides- and groomsto-be may want to enlist friends or relatives with a flair for organization to help with details.

Borrowing tricks from wedding planners can help couples save money and avoid stress.

Online wedding tools

Ensuring an event goes on with minimal hiccups takes patience and thorough planning. This is especially true for weddings, when many elements must merge together for a memorable day. Today's couples have a bevy of new resources at their disposal to facilitate wedding planning.

The internet makes vetting vendors and reading reviews that much easier, but weddingrelated apps also can simplify wedding planning. The following are some top picks as culled by Wedding Shoppe Inc., The Knot and Lifehacker.

- Wedding Spot: Couples can search for an ideal wedding venue based on location, budget, styles and capacity. The website enables users to plan ideal weddings and get cost estimates based on guest list and options. Users also can access discounts and exclusive deals.

- Wedding LookBook: This app enables couples to browse through thousands of dresses, accessories, jewelry, and much

find products in their area.

Appy Couple: This app and website helps couples manage their budgets, timelines, wedding parties, and seating charts, while also allowing them to share photos. There is a free version and basic packages that allow access to more features.

- iWedding Deluxe: In addition to managing timelines, todo lists and vendors, this app offers inspiration ideas for gowns, manages and tracks gifts, and offers first dance suggestions from iTunes. It is only available to iPhone users.

- AllSeated: This tool can help couples figure out seating arrangements by creating 3D floor plans of the event, and couples can pull contacts from email and social networks to establish a guest list. If floor plans are unavailable in their database, they can be drawn.

- The Knot's Marketplace: With the click of a button, couples can search for wedding vendors in all different categories, read reviews, and directly connect with those businesses.

- HitchSwitch: Brides or grooms who may be changing their names can do so in one convenient place. Three different packages cater to various name-changing needs.

Wedding websites, apps and more can streamline wedding planning.











Area Deaths Travis

Johnie Allen Travis, 87, of Marion died Friday, March 2, 2018 at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He was a retired employee of Kentucky Utilities and a member and elder at Sugar

Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was a veteran of the United States Army having served during the Korean War.

Surviving are sons, Randy (Diane) Travis of Grand Junction, Tenn.; Larry Travis of Marion; Micheal (Melinda) Travis of Marion; daughter, Kathy (Jack) Moore of Marion; five grandchildren, Justin Beard, Jason Beasley, Jay Michael Travis, Jacob Hunt and Kaylin Travis; three greatgrandchildren, Quentin and Greyson Beard and Jayden Duncan; a brother, Homer Ray Travis of Marion; and a sister, Peggy Easley of Marion.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bernice Craighead Travis; and parents, Homer and Ora Hillyard Travis.

Services were Monday, March 5 at Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church with burial at the church cemetery.

Black

Harry Richard Black, 49, of New Haven, Ill., died Saturday, March 3, 2018 at his father's home in Joy.

He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, walking the fields and hunting for arrowheads.

Surviving are his sons, Cory Miller of Kansas City, Mo., and Travis Lavarier of Mt. Carmel, Ill.; father, Doug Black of Joy; sister, Shannon Bowles (Charles) of New Haven, Ill.; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Charlotte Shelton Black.

Graveside services were Monday, March 5 at Bethel Cemetery with Bro. E.J.

Matheny

Geneva Marie Matheny, 89, of Madisonville died Thursday, March 1, 2018 at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion. She was a charter member

of Love United Baptist Church in Madisonville.

Surviving are three daughters, Pam Lawrence, Carla Dawson



and Valisa (Frank) Hodges, all of Madisonville; three sons, Don (Janet) Matheny of Marion, Dannie (Monica) Matheny of Madisonville and Mark (Rae Ann) Matheny of Madisonville; 13 grandchildren, Stefanie Harris, Matt (Katrina) Dawson. Eric (Chrisi) Matheny, Devon (Ross) Atwell, Kerri (Wes) Cates, Michael (Misty) Matheny, Jennifer (Josh) Scott, Steele Pierson, Kelsey Hodges, Hannah Hodges, Rollie Matheny, Kaleb Matheny, and Zach Miller; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Carl Matheny; and her parents, Albert Stewart and Hattie Noffsinger Stewart.

Services were Tuesday. March 6 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home in Madisonville with Bro. Mike Shocklee and Bro. Mike Neal officiating. Burial was at Love United Baptist Church Cemetery in Madisonville.

Memorials may be made to Love United Baptist Church or the Alzheimer's Association.

Millikan

Phyllis Kay Millikan, 71, of Marion died Friday, March 2, 2018 at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center.

She was a homemaker. Surviving are a daughter, Jennifer Edwards of Sturgis; sons, Jeff Millikan of Jeffersonville, Ind., and Jason Millikan of Morganfield; three grandsons; a granddaughter; five great-grandchildren; and sisters, Zelma Lindle of Orlando, Fla., and Emma Fuller of Sturgis.

She was preceeded in death by her parents, William and Allie Truman Roberts; and husband, William Elmer Milligan.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday at Old Bethel Cemetery in

Anderson

Patricia Gale Anderson, 74, of Madisonville, formerly of Marion, died Saturday,

Feb. 24, 2018 at NHC Healthcare of Madisonville. She was a re-

tried coal miner. Surviving are her sister, Betty

Grable of Madisonville; a brother, Donald Higgins of Henderson; grandson, Colt Hardin of Murray; and stepsons, Chris Anderson Florida, Jeffery Scott of Newburgh, Ind., and Kevin Anderson of Evansville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Allen Anderson; a son, John Scott Hardin; parents Walter and Amma Sullivan Higgins; and brothers, Walter and William Richard Higgins.

Services were Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Myers Funeral Home in Marion. Burial was at Rosebud Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Local Obituary Archives Searchable Database at **The-Press.com** Find electronic files from 2008-2018

The Crittenden Press **Obituary Information**

Most obituaries in The Crittenden Press are published at no charge. However, extended obituaries are available for a small fee. There is no charge for use of a photo. Please ask your funeral director about fee-based obituaries. Obituaries that appear in the paper are also accessible on our Web site.

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Wildfire Workout

State employees were conducting at "Pack Test" last week at the oval track at Marion-Crittenden County Park. The test is a physical fitness measure that is standardized to determine one's physical abilities relating to work associated with fighting wildfires. Administering the test were KDFWR technician Matt Young and private lands biologist Philip Sharp. Taking the test were Madeleine Pratt of the Christian County Natural Resources and Conservation Services office, Randy Gray a KDFWR seasonal employee and Wes McFaddin, a private lands biologist from McCracken County. Those taking the test were required to cover several miles with heavy packs on their backs, simulating conditions that can be encountered while fighting wildfires. Pratt completed the most challenging test which required her to carry a 45-pound pack for three miles in under 45 minutes. It's part of the process for attaining a Red Card that certifies a person to fight wildfires in western states.

Neighbor reports blaze

STAFF REPORT

A Crittenden County home was badly damaged by fire early Tuesday morning.

It was just before 6 a.m., when a neighbor noticed smoke coming from a home owned by Coty and Lenora Maxfield on Ky. 1668 (Crittenden Springs Road).

Volunteer firemen responded the scene and found that it had apparently started on the first floor.

No one was home at the



This home suffered serious damage from Tuesday's fire.

time.

Firemen from Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department, Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department and Marion Fire Department were on the scene for about two hours.

Dylan Crabtree, assistant chief of the county fire de-

partment, was one of the first on the scene. He and fireman Scott Hurley made entry into the home, which was ablaze.

Crabtree said the house suffered severe smoke damage as well as fire and water damage.



Saints officiating.

Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services in Salem was in charge of arrangements.

Union County. Arrangements have been under the direction of Myers Funeral Home in Marion.

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& dryer. This home has an extra stor- appointment. Won't last long. kc age room for a freezer or whatever you SISCO CHAPEL RD...3 BR, 1 BA brick REDUCED \$19,900 like. Nice back deck w/seating all ranch home. Located on the road to the south of Moore Hill. Features 2 car

STURGIS RD...2 BR, 1 BA house on 7 garage, large lot, partial fenced in, wa acres in Crittenden Co. 1252 SF of COUNTRY CLUB DR...3 BR, 2.5 bath split level brick home. Features: Central Heat & Air, eat-in kitchen & formal located in Marion on 9/10ths of acre. dining room, basement has 1023 SF Master BR is situated on one end & and upstairs has 1815 SF., 2 car at-

located. Patio opens to back yard to COUNTRY LIVING ... 2 BR, 1 BA home in Crittenden County. Features: wood floors, dining room, 1 car garage and a FORDS FERRY RD...3 BR, 2 BA brick storage building, large garden area and

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ALL REGION Belt, Champion chosen

Crittenden County seniors Logan Belt and Madison Champion were selected to the All Second Region Tournament Basketball Team announced over the last few days as part of the postseason tournaments. Belt led Crittenden County with 17 points in a first-round loss to Union County in the regional tournament. Champion led the Lady Rockets with 13 points in their first-round regional tournament loss to Hopkinsville. Champion was also selected to the Coach's All Region Team for her regularseason play.

YOUTH SPORTS

Assessments Saturday for LL ball players

Saturday is registration deadline for youth baseball, softball and kickball and it's also skills assessments day from 10 a.m., until noon at the middle school gym. Registration forms are available at YTG Insurance in Marion, The Crittenden Press, or online at http://www.thepress.com/2018YouthBallRegistration.pdf. Find a link to the form at The Press Online. Costs vary depending on division and number of children in your family who sign up. Play is available for boys and girls ages 4-15. For more information, call Tanner Tabor (859) 333-9751.

Last soccer sign up

Youth soccer assessments and the final registration opportunity will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday at Marion-Crittenden County Park's soccer complex. Cost is \$40 for 4u, 6u and 8u and \$50 for 10u, 12u and 14u. All players must attend assessments. For more information, contact Shana Geary at (270) 704-1069.

••••••

Gilbert soaking in final season at Capital

STAFF REPORT

It's a bittersweet period in the baseball career of Marion native Travis Gilbert.

After playing competitive baseball since he was little more than a toddler, the now 22-year-old college senior has entered into his final year of baseball.

A catcher at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, Gilbert is hitting around .250 after the first dozen or so games and platooning behind the plate. It's been a great career that rocketed to some level of stardom when he earned all region honors as an eighth grade pitcher at Crittenden County High School. Gilbert went on to become the winningest pitcher in CCHS history.

Recruited as a hurler, Gilbert converted to catcher after his freshman season at Capital. The move has worked out well for him. Heading into his last campaign, Gilbert has personal some and team goals in mind, but he's also committed to enjoying his fourth year as a collegiate player taking it all in and

feeling the texture of what's been a memorable ride. "I'd like to see our team make a

DM

Gilbert

tournament run," he said. In three previous years, Capital has been close only once to earning a trip to the Ohio Athletic Conference Tournament. As for personal goals, Gilbert usually centers attention on his defense. "I pride myself on my defensive play, being able to throw out runners and handling pitchers," he said.

At the plate, Gilbert is a contact hitter who bats in the lower third of the order.

"I focus on hitting fastballs early in the count," Gilbert said about his approach in the box. "Batting lower in the lineup, I tend to see a lot of fastballs."

Gilbert could provide a treasure trove of good advice for young baseball players, and he has often shared his experiences with little leaguers when he's returned to Marion for summer vacation and umpired games at the park. If he could stress one thing it would be personal work ethic, with an emphasis on the offseason.

"I'd say some good advice would

be to focus on your role and commit yourself to what you want to do," he said.

In the offseason, that means strengthening your core in order to improve explosiveness at the plate, and throwing harder.

"Abs... work the abs. That's what helps you fire your hips through the swing," he said.

Gilbert is soaking it all in this spring and when it's over, he'll graduate and marry a girl he met in college - all in the month of May. His fiancée is a collegiate lacrosse player at Capital and grew up in Ohio.

Then it's headfirst into a career in accounting, no doubt with the same determination and fortitude that has kept him on the collegiate baseball diamond the past four years.

Early Out Rockets low on magic against Braves in 2nd Region Tourney

STAFF REPORT

Another ounce of magic wasn't available for the Rocket basketball team last week in the opening round of the Second Region Basketball Tournament at Henderson.

After surprising the area basketball world with a Fifth District championship the previous week, Crittenden was without any mystical powers when it came to handling Union County's big inside force, led by Logan Thomas and Marqualio King. The Braves beat Crittenden 54-

The Braves beat Crittenden 54 42, but it wasn't without a stellar effort from the Rockets, especially in the early going.

Crittenden took advantage of Union's poor shooting and a 1-3-1 defense to build a lead out of the gate. Senior Logan Belt, who was selected to the All Second Region Team, had a 3-pointer to open the game and finished with nine in the first period. Crittenden led by five after the opening period, but Union began chipping away with a number of secondchance baskets and led 29-24 at



Coach Denis Hodge tries to find the right formula for another upset in the Second Region Tournament, but Union County's inside game proved too strong in the end.

the half.

Play was physical around the

said he and his boys knew that King and Thomas could dictate the rhythm of the game if allowed to be a force around the basket. 2Region BOYS' TOURNAMENT

At Henderson County QUARTERFINAL ROUND

Henderson Co. 63, Lyon County 51 Christian Co. 68, Madisonville 45 UHA 104, Hopkins Central 74 Union County 54, Crittenden 42 **SEMIFINAL ROUND** Christian Co. 78, Henderson Co. 61 UHA 59, Union County 38 **CHAMPIONSHIP** UHA 78, Christian County 70

HA 78, Christian County 70

GIRLS' TOURNAMENT At Webster County

QUARTERFINAL ROUND Webster Co. 65, Dawson Springs 21 Hopkinsville 75, Crittenden 40 Christian Co. 83, Livingston 45 Henderson Co. 74, Caldwell Co. 39 **SEMIFINAL ROUND** Webster Co. 60, Hopkinsville 43 Christian Co. 63, Henderson Co. 50 **CHAMPIONSHIP** Webster Co. 45, Christian Co. 32

son standings.

He said three teams have already dropped the Rockets for next season.

"Coaches that were always eager to schedule us are not answering the phone or returning my calls," Hodge said. "That speaks for itself with regard to where our program is headed."

Hunting Seasons

Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Coyote Nighttime	Feb. 1 - May 31
Youth Turkey	April 7-8
Spring Turkey	April 14 - May 6

Fishing clinic

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park is hosting a "Teacher's Tackle Box" workshop for teachers and youth group leaders on April 7. This free workshop, offered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is designed to help adults lead a fishing field trip for youths. No previous experience is necessary. This workshop is designed for educators, scout leaders and other youth leaders. Topics covered will include fish identification, safety, casting, bait selection, where to fish and more. The class will run from 9 a.m., to 5 p.m. Each participant must have a valid fishing license (these can be annual, one day or seven day). Licenses are available online at fw.ky.gov. Registration is required. Contact Andrew Wooldridge at 502-352-0794 or Andrew.wooldridge@ky.gov or register online at fw.ky.gov. Lunch will be included in the event.

Crappie limit down

A reduction in the statewide daily creel limit from 30 fish to 20 fish for crappie highlights the new fishing regulations for 2018. The regulations went into effect March 1. Concerns about fishing pressure on brown trout also prompted a reduction in the statewide daily creel limit and an increase in the minimum size limit for the coming fishing license year. For more information, see the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources website.





Senior Logan Belt scored nine in the first period to help the Rockets vault ahead, but Union came back to lead by halftime.

basket in the second half and scoring was scarce in the third period. Crittenden trailed 38-31 to begin the final period – well within striking distance of another surprising finish.

Junior Sawyer Towery drew the Rockets even closer with a threepointer to open the final stanza. But after getting to within 38-34, the Rockets (7-20) were outscored 16-8 down the stretch – largely from the foul line – as Union County (15-15) won for the first time in the regional tournament since 2011. The Rockets have not won a regional game since 1957.

Belt led the Rockets with 17 points while Union County's big guys Thomas (17) and King (7) combined for 24. Elex Dunford had 11 for the Braves. Rocket coach Denis Hodge "We knew we had to shoot the ball pretty well because there wouldn't be too many second chances," Hodge said. "I'm not sure what our percentage was, but if we could made a couple of those in the third quarter – and they were good looks at the basket – we win this game."

The coach said that although he's not a big fan of individual awards, he was very proud that the Second Region selected Belt to the all-tournament squad.

"I was extremely happy for him and the kids were equally happy for him," Hodge said.

With a stable of young players returning for next season, the skipper said his team projects much higher than its last-place finish in the region's regular seaCrittenden Co. 18 24 31 42 13 29 Union County 38 54 UNION - Cade Duncan 1 0-0 3: Logan Thomas 6 5-7 17; Elex Dunford 2 7-11 11; Josh Girten 2 2-2 8; Marqualio King 3 1-2 7; Eli Wilkes 0 0-0 0; Garren Duckworth 0 0-0 0; Tyler Cowan 0 0-0 0; Kaleb Kanipe 0 0-0 0; Daniel Steward 0 0-0 0; Lincoln Sisk 2 4-6 8; Keishon Martin 0 0-0 0; Dreyton Davis 0 0-0 0; Clem Johnson 0 0-0 0. Totals: 16 19-28 54. 3-point goals: 3 (Girten 2, Duncan 1). Rebounds: 35 (Thomas 8, Dunford 8). Turnovers: 9. Fouls: 13. Fouled out: None

CRITTENDEN – Sawyer Towery 4 0-0 11; Gabe Mott 1 1-2 3; Logan Belt 7 1-3 17; Preston Turley 3 2-3 8; Hunter Boone 1 0-0 3; Erik O'Leary 0 0-0 0; Sean O'Leary 0 0-0 0; Braxton Winders 0 0-0 0; Jayden Carlson 0 0-0 0; Tyler Boone 0 0-2 0. Totals: 16 4-10 42. 3-point goals: 6 (Towery 3, Belt 2, H. Boone 1). Rebounds: 24 (Turley 7). Turnovers: 16. Fouls: 20. Fouled out: H. Boone.

Opening day's buck ends season early, but Thompson scores prize

STAFF REPORT

For Larry Thompson, the outdoors are very much a part of his life.

Being a tow boat captain affords him some timely opportunities to enjoy the family farm near Mattoon.

He has a couple of stocked ponds, enjoys hunting deer and turkey and simply observing wildlife.

Last fall, he scored the best buck of his hunting career, a whopping 11pointer that might make the Boone and Crockett Record Book and one that earned him the top prize in the local big buck contest.

The contest is sponsored by Hodge's Sports and Apparel and Marion Tourism Commission. The winner earns a nice cash prize and bragging rights that can last a lifetime.

"This was definitely the best buck I'd ever gotten," said the 66-year-old hunter. "I have been entering this contest since its inception so this was great. There was some doubt whether I would ever get a big one like this even though I have eight of what I call wall-hangers."

His latest harvest will be on the wall soon, too, but he chuckles a bit in describing his wife's reaction to yet another mount.

"She says eight is enough. When a new one goes up, one must come down."

Local taxidermist Robert Kirby is preparing Thompson's buck for display. It has been scored at a fraction over 171 on the B&C Scoring System. It field dressed 201 pounds.

Thompson bagged the buck on opening morning of the 2017 rifle season. Large deer tracks around his ponds had hinted that a big buck might be working the area, but Thompson doesn't deploy any trail cameras so he wasn't sure.

"It was the first deer I saw that morning," he said. "I thought, dang there goes my season."

Of course the rewards were worth a short-lived hunt. He'd seen the same buck a year earlier and had missed his chance that season because his gun jammed.

He keeps a close watch on the herd, observing his food plots and spending a whole lot of time on the farm when he's not on the boat.

"It's nice living here on the farm because I can be out the door and in my stand or blind in five minutes," he said.

He has been cultivating habitat on the farm for 30 years, and it's starting to pay big dividends. His son,



Larry Thompson's potential B&C buck won the local Big Buck Contest.

Steve, took a big buck a few years ago.

"When we first got the farm the bucks were kind of scraggly," he said. "We've kind of built the heard up and it's getting better every year."

Infatuation of 'Blonde Bomber' has roots in Marion

He came to Kentucky known as the "Blonde Bomber" because of his bleach blonde hair and longrange shooting ability.

Jay Shidler laughs at the thought of the nickname now 40 years after he was part of Kentucky's 1978 national championship basketball team.

"That's how I came in and I had a decent freshman year and caught people's eyes. I don't back down from it. I did like all that

went with that nickname," he said. "Maybe I should have left it (his hair) like that. Maybe I would have played a little Larry better. I don't Vaught know.

"Might have Vaught's been my Sam-

son hair or something. I enjoyed that and that's what everybody remembers even though it was just that color for one season. But I am not going to back away from that. It's just a different shade of blonde now."

Karen Guess Eversole of Louisville was one of many fans glad to see the 1978 championship team recognized at UK last month and she still remembers the "Blonde Bomber" and the impression he made on her when she was 13 years old.

"He immediately caught my attention," she said. "I decided to keep a scrapbook that season and each page would have clippings of the games and I would have a special stat dedicated to Jay. I also logged his points."

She was so infatuated with Shidler — like a lot of other young female fans were — that she wrote him a letter. There was no Wildcat Lodge then and she addressed it to Haggin Hall, one of the UK freshman dorms. She never heard back and has no idea if he ever got her letter.

"During those years Kentucky had an annual game at Freedom Hall and my dad would take me and my best friend to the (open) practices. We would get as close to the court as we could and shout his name hoping he would acknowledge us," she said.

"Back then, a lot of the games would be shown on tape delay at 11:30 p.m. I would beg my parents to let me stay up and watch, even though I had already listened to Cawood (Ledford) call the game (on the radio) and knew the outcome. I couldn't stand the thought of not seeing them play. "That season was so special. I guess I knew it would be and that's why I chose to create the scrapbook. I remember being crushed that we lost two games (during the season) and being delirious when we won the title. Great memories. Can't believe it has been 40 years," she said. Shidler finished his fouryear UK career with 733 points (there was no 3-point shot then), 203 steals, 150 rebounds and 41 steals. He shot 45.5 percent from the



Louisville's Karen Guess Eversole was infatuated with Jay Shidler during his UK playing career. She's remained a UK fan and so are her husband and sons.

field and 83 percent at the foul line. He took just 648

shots in 122 career games. That's only about five shots per game and more than a third of those came his

in 1976-7 before Jay Shidler freshman year the arrival of guard Kyle

Macy Shidler had scored 2,193 points in his Illinois prep career, including 1,013 his senior year that still ranks as the 14th best single-season mark in Illinois history. He also played football, baseball and golf. At times he even found time to run track

"It kept me out of trouble staying busy," he laughed and said.

Eversole has remained a Kentucky fan. Her grandmother was from Marion, Ky., and was a 1931 UK graduate.

"She's the one that instilled in us the love of UK. She lived with us and would watch the games in a separate family room because she'd get too nervous, but we could hear her yelling at the TV," Eversole said. "During timeouts she would come into our family room to discuss game strategy."

Eversole attended UK from 1982-84, got married and has raised two "fanatical" UK fans in Louisville. Her oldest son is high functioning autistic and she says he knows "everything" about UK — he even wrote some columns for Kentucky Forward, an online publication. Her youngest son graduated from UK in 2016. She eventually did get a Shidler autograph at a Kentucky open practice. "Though when I was 13 that would've made my day," she said. Shidler admits there are a lot of fans who share similar type stories with him. He wishes now there would have been a way to interact with more fans but he enjoys being remembered. "I was not the best player at Kentucky but apparently I did enough to make people remember me and make me think I should have kept that blonde hair more than just

one year there," Shidler, who still lives in Lexington, said.

> Just when it looked like John Calipari's team had figured out what it took to be a consistent winner, the Cats reverted in the 80-67 loss at Florida. The Cats once trailed by 23 points and fell apart on defense.

Calipari has never been a fan of the SEC Tournament but he has to like UK's bracket that will have the Cats playing either Georgia, Vanderbilt or Missouri in the first game on Friday about 3:30 p.m. If the Cats get to the semifinals, they would have to play either Alabama, Texas A&M or Auburn. Auburn won the league but it seems to me A&M would difficult the most be matchup for UK.

However, Calipari made it clear after UK beat Ole Miss and certainly re-emphasized it after UK lost to Florida that the Cats had to do two things much better — pass and play defense.

"This could be a great tournament," said Chris Dortch, editor of Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook. "Kentucky had looked like it was peaking. Tennessee is a team I think is built to win this. I never thought Tennessee could sweep Kentucky this year, but it did. Some of it was luck. But they also beat Florida twice, beat Purdue and could have beat North Carolina. They have some depth and enough size. The play good good and they have fixed their offense, so they could definitely win it all.

and say it would not be a good game. It has been like that all year. It's been the strongest year top to bottom in the league I can remember other than maybe Ole Miss."

Former LSU coach Dale Brown remembers plenty about Kentucky's 1978 national championship team. LSU gave Kentucky one of its two SEC losses when all five LSU starters fouled out but the Tigers still won 95-94 in overtime over No. 1 Kentucky.

That's the year Brown also said after his team lost to UK in Lexington that Kentucky played a "karate defense" because of its physical style.

However, Brown grew to have a deep appreciation for that team and former UK coach Joe Hall.

"I am really fond of Joe. He is a true gentleman. Please give him a hug from me and tell him I love him.' Brown said when I told him the 1978 UK team was being honored. "Give them my best wishes and congratulations. Most knowledgeable fans in the USA, too. Also, some doggone good sports writers.

Well, not quite sure about that last comment but I'm proud to have counted Brown as a friend and that gave me a chance to understand how he used the UK program as the standard he wanted LSU to reach.

I also remembered that the 1978 team took the "karate defense" label as a compliment.

"We were very physical. The first time I had ever lifted weights was when I got to UK," Jack Givens said. "But we had guys who liked to make the other team hurt. I tell people we were nice about it. If we knocked a guy down on a screen, we would help him up. But the defense usually loosened up after that.

"Rick (Robey) and Mike (Phillips) would set screens on people. Lavon (Williams) and James (Lee), we had to try and stop them from setting screens because they hurt people. We played that way and enjoyed it. It was just how we played."

Look for some changes in Kentucky's non-conference schedule next year based on what Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell is saying. Kentucky had a brutal nonconference schedule this year and Mitchell says it



Cutline 2: Former LSU coach Dale Brown called Joe Hall (center) a "true gentleman." (Jeff Houchin Photo)

"I think just because of the success we've had and the formula we've had, we've always scheduled tough in the non-conference and we were able to handle it last year with a very short bench. But we had two veterans, future pros on the team that helped us navigate through that, and the placement of those games helped us out,' Mitchell said. "There's no doubt that as we are trying to get our roster back to full strength and trying to recruit and add players that I must learn some lessons from this season and how it was scheduled.

"We had the most difficult conference schedule in so many ways, so difficult I can't remember one more difficult. We would have been just fine if the non-conference had not been so tough and challenging. There's no one to blame for that but myself. I can promise you we will look at that closely and improve and learn.

Kentucky signee Blair Green made it to the state tournament at Northern Kentucky University after leading Harlan County to the 13th Region championship.

Green was the dominant player in the regional tourney. She had 23 points, five rebounds, five assists, three steals and one block in a 59-42 win over Pineville. In the regional semifinals. She was even better with 38 points on 11-for-21 shooting, eight rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocks in a 68-62 victory over South Laurel.

Harlan County rolled to a 78-51 win over North Laurel in the regional title game when Green had 32 points on 12-for-18 shooting, six

blocks and two rebounds.

That meant she averaged 31 points per game in regional play when it counted most for her team.

Harlan took a 28-2 record and 18-game win streak into the state tournament.

Green is also one of the leading contenders for Miss Basketball honors. The winner will be announced March 13 in Lexington.

Quote of the Week 1: "I never thought he could be the player who was hyped to be coming into Kentucky. I never saw him as a firstround pick. He had great measurables but his basketball savvy is not there yet. The idea he is a guy who can contribute 22 points and 35 minutes a game is just not reasonable," national college basketball writer Aaron Torres on UK freshman Hamidou Diallo.

Quote of the Week 2: "The weight of expectations on a guy playing on a stage like the one at Kentucky can be crushing. When you are 18 or so and not playing well for the first time in your life under the bright lights it can be hard to find yourself. A lot of these guys are more capable than they have played and you can see it coming together now," CatsPause recruiting writer Chris Fisher on UK's freshmen basketball players.

Quote of the Week 3: "I am done with the Bengals. Most of time it was fun. Last vear was not fun at all. I am a preparation person. I really disliked the prep last year immensely. I appreciated the opportunity, but I am done," retiring WLEX-TV sports director Alan Cutler on not being on the Bengals Radio

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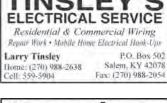
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WANTED: SOMEONE to sit with

regular meeting of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court on March 22, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. CDT. The Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or decline any bid that is received. (1t-35-c) legal notice COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY **CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT** COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-CI-00046 PERRY JONES PLAINTIFF VS. **RE-NOTICE OF SALE** BEX SUTTON: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF REX SUTTON; KENTUCKY TAX BILL SERVICING: COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY **DIVISION OF UNEMPLOY-**MENT INSURANCE; COUNTY OF CRITTENDEN, **KENTUCKY DEFENDANTS** The sale previously scheduled for February 23, 2018 has been reschedule to March 16, 2018. By virtue of a Judgment and

Order of Sale rendered by the

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bid notice

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The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, Ky., is accepting bids for a kitchen renovation and new appliance installation. Job will entail: demolition of existing cabinetry, removal of damaged drywall, insulation and ceiling tiles. Renovations will include installation of new cabinetry, new drywall and new ceiling tiles. Replacement of countertops, appliances, commercial sink, rerouting existing water lines in kitchen/pantry and painting newly installed drywall. Job can be seen/assessed onsite at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 E., Smithland, Ky., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties. Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in person or by mail (Livingston Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than Friday, March 9, 2018, by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please

Crittenden Circuit Court on the 5th day of December, 2017, I will on FRIDAY, March 16, 2018, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Crittenden County, Kentucky on the waters of Livingston Creek and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Property Address: 2287 SR 902, Marion Crittenden County, Kentucky 42064

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Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 23rd day of February, 2018.

STEPHEN M. ARNETT Special Master Commissioner (3t-36-c)

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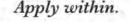


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PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR. THE PRESS

Waters receding

The Ohio River crested at 52.1 feet at Shawneetown, Ill., shortly after midnight Sunday after heavy rains late last month left the area under the threat of flooding. A good portion of Tolu remained under water as the river began to recede Sunday, and an aerial photo shows several structures either surrounded by or inundated with water, like the home of Helen Miller (center) on Water Street, as well as her garage and a outbuilding. On Sunday, the intersection of Weston and Baker Hollow roads (above) was submerged under several feet of water. At press time, those roads and several others in the county, including numerous state highways, remained under water, and ferry service had yet to resume. According to the National Weather Service forecast, the river gauge at Shawneetown could be low enough to resume Cave In Rock Ferry operations sometime Monday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BOYD

Seniors driving home ownership

STAFF REPORT

Recent data show that home ownership levels decreased between 2009 and 2015 across the United States and Kentucky. But according to a real estate analvtics service, more people owned their homes in Crittenden County in 2015 than they did six years earlier.

Locally, the upward trend was driven by those 60 and over who own their home. That age group was the only range to increase home ownership statewide and nationwide, but it was significant enough to produce a 4.6 percent increase in home ownership from 2009 to 2015.

The information was produced by Gavop which analyzed long-term housing prices and real estate trends

at the county level across the United States. In regards to this study, the numbers come from the United States Census Bureau.

In Crittenden County, the highest decrease in homeownership was from individuals below 35, where homeownership decreased by 21 percent. Furthermore, homeownership decreased by 8.3 percent for people 35-44 and by 5.1 percent for those 45-59. Home ownership for residents 60 and over, though, jumped by 26.7 percent.

The numbers illustrate how Crittenden County followed the general trend in the United States of a decline in homeownership among young adults. Categorically, Crittenden County had a greater increase in homeownership than state and national values for all age groups.

"Such a decrease in shows homeownership that Crittenden County experienced interesting market trends where younger individuals are not obtaining ownership of their home until later in life. The reduction indicates that adults are either choosing to not purchase their homes or are having trouble doing so when compared to the past," said gavop.com analyst Kevin Pryor.

The nationwide decline in homeownership is partially linked to the recession where the economic downturn forced young people to

move back home in order to save money, therefore adults under 35 years-old were the most impacted age group in the United States. Those impacted the second most were people aged 35-44 who are in the prime age group to purchase their first home. In contrast, older Americans aged 60 and up have seen a rise in homeownership.

Further research indicates that the drop in homeownership comes with financial costs to residents. By renting homes, people miss out on low mortgage rates and are faced with an increase in rent. Because of this trend, people who are able to invest in real estate are able to benefit from the situation.

Home ownership up locally

According to Gavop.com and the U.S. Census Bureau, home ownership is up in Crittenden County between 2009 and 2015 but down nationwide and statewide.

GROUP		NATION	STATE	COUNTY
Total	2009	75,320,422	1,175,984	2,798
	2015	74,712,091	1,148,752	2,927
	Change	0.8%	2.3%	4.6%
35-under	2009	9,171,992		
	% change .	19.0%	17.4%	21.0%
35 to 44	2009	14,800,672		
	2015	12,174,546		
	% change	17.7%	17.8%	8.3%
45 to 59	2009	26,106,981		
	2015	25,425,668		
	% change	2.6%	4.7%	5.1%
60-plus	2009	25,240,777		
•		29,678,861		





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YOUR HOME-OWNED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1842

Who Killed Mr. Baseball?

CAST AND PLAYERS

SUPER FANS JAN AND DOVIE Becky Tyner-Belt & Phyllis Sykes

> AGENT G. JOHN MANN Adam Ledford

ATTORNEY YANKTON MIMOONEY Luke Erickson

WIDOW MRS. RITA REDBONE B.J. Tinsley

RUFUS REDBONE BROTHER OF THE DECEASED Todd Riley

TOWN DRUNK CHERIE LOWBALL Dee Heimgartner

PSYCHIC MISS COMMUNICATION Kathleen Guess

CORONER RIGGER MORTIS Brad Gilbert

SHERIFF WILLIAM T. BUFORD Keith Stout

CSI WEST KENTUCKY AGENT Shanna West

FORMER GM WALLY B. WARE Chris Evans

STORE OWNER MYRTLE MAYHEM Elizabeth Floyd

TOWN BOOKIE LONNIE THE GREEK Frank Pierce

> MASCOT MOLLY Paula Miniard

UNION BOSS "PEANUT" LAURA DeVILLIAN Nicole Tabor

NERD EUGENIA HIGHWATERS Sue Ledford



Ballpark to be auctioned and sold

STAFF REPORT

Redbone Field, former home to the Marion Bobcats semi pro-baseball team, could be sold to the highest bidder during a public auction next month at the county courthouse.

The field and 10 acres of surrounding real estate, located in one of Marion's oldest and finest subdivisions, was foreclosed upon by First Planters Bank after the team was sold off by its owner Roger Redbone.

Valued at almost \$600,000 ,the stadium and property is reportedly unattractive to local government or the parks and recreation department. Local leaders say the general condition of the grounds and improvements and the cost for routine upkeep is far too great a burden for area taxpayers.

It is unclear whether the auction will draw much in-



terest. The Valley Baseball League, in which the Bobcats played for six seasons, remains a vibrant league with eight other ball clubs in the tri-state area.

Redbone had been unable to pay the mortgage on the ballpark after selling off rights to his team, which was moved to nearby Mayfield and continued playing under the league flag as the Kentucky Whippoorwills.

Redbone was found dead recently in a city alleyway (see story page 4). His death remains under investigation.

It is unclear whether Redbone's family – chiefly his widow or brother – might have some interest in reclaiming the rights to the ballpark prior to it going to auction.

First Planters Bank officials have indicated that it is seeking top dollar for the ballpark and that this will not be an absolute auction. There is a secret reserve price, they say.

"This is not going to be a fire sale," said bank attorney Yankton Mimooney.

The Bobcats baseball team was the brainchild of the Redbone brothers; however, Roger emerged as the primary figure in the team's management. The club was a local sensation, drawing huge crowds in its early years. However, support for the team waned over the last couple of seasons due to accusations of impropriety, namely complaints by the local concession workers union and a reported investigation into the influences of illegal gambling on Bobcats baseball games.

Lonnie "The Greek" Gambino, a local entrepreneur, remains in the spotlight of an ongoing investigation with regard to corruption among team officials and a purported gambling cartel.

Wally B. Ware, former general manager of the Bobcats, said he has been working with potential investors, trying to raise enough cash to buy the park with hopes of attracting a new ball club.

"The community supported the team. It shouldn't have been allowed to deteriorate into a cesspool of sin and corruption that ultimately destroyed America's game in Marion," he said.

Marion Press Special Murder Mystery Weekend

Local Obituaries

Redbone

Roger Dimaggio Redbone, 69, of Marion, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y., died March 6, 2018 in Marion.

He was former owner of the local semi-professional baseball team, the Marion Bobcats; a member of the Life's the Way Church, a volunteer fireman and a member of the Masonic Lodge 121.

Surviving are his second wife, Rita Redbone; a stepson, Tyson Cobb; a brother, Rufus; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dallas Foxx Redbone and Willamina Flattening Redbone; and a sister, Whoopie Jasper Redbone. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Smithfield Bradley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Fakerton

Gleaford A. Fakerton, 74, of Marion died Feb. 26, 2018 at his residence. He was a member of the Life's the Way Church, a former hospital board member and member of the Masonic Lodge #121. A former automobile salesman, Fakerton was also a partner in the Huge Hill Hot Dog Co., headquartered near Frances, Ky.

Surviving are three children, Heath, Carry and Jon Ryan, all of Marion; and a sister, Hilda Durral Stingraston of Fort Benning, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rell and Jill Fakerton.

Services were March 1, 2018 at Smithfield Bradley Funeral Home in Marion. Burial was at Parkside Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Masonic Lodge #121.

Highwaters

Gatewood C. Highwaters, 23, of Marion died Feb. 24, 2018.

He was a member of the Big Banks Baptist Church and worked as a bicycle repair man for Henry Holly's Bike Shoppe.

Surviving are his sister Eugenia Highwaters of Marion; and his grandmother, Famalda Hide Highwater.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dathal and Nahla Highwater of Cave In Rock, III.

Services were Feb. 27, 2018 at Smithfield Bradley Funeral Home in Marion. Burial was at Just-A-Mere Cemeterv.

Memorials may be made to the Gatewood C. Highwaters Scholarship Fund, c/o Rufus Redbone, PO Box 1222, Marion, KY 42064.

Granstaff

Holly Marie Granstaff, 92, of Marion, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y., died at 3:12 a.m., March 4, 2018 at her home.

She was a pianist and longtime member of the Wesleyan West Methodist Church and a retired legal secretary for the Concession Workers Union. She received her education at the City College in New York, N.Y., and worked until 1968 as treasurer for the Teamsters Union #333 in Chicago.

Surviving are her third husband, Ralph DeVillian; eight sons, Hoffa James Gambino, Bugsy Bill Gambino, Jeff DeLuca Gambino, Ralph James Gambino, Billingsly Beau Gambino, Jackson Douglas Gambino, Homer Pyle and Peter William Pyle, all of Chicago; and a daughter, "Peanut" Laura Devillian of Marion.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Deacon Johnston Livingston III and Pearl Kennedy Livingston; her first husband, Tony Gambino; her second husband, Jim M. Pyle; and two sisters, Sally Ann and Annabelle May.

Services were March 6 at Smithfield Bradley Funeral Home in Marion. Graveside services will be held March 12 at Rose Mausoleum in Calumet, III.

Marion Press Obituary Policy

Most obituaries in the Marion Press are published at no charge. However, extended obituaries are available for a small fee. There is no charge for use of a photo. Please ask your funeral director about fee-based obituaries. Obituaries that appear in the paper are also accessible on our website.

Mascot Molly leaves memorabilia to LN Fluorspar Miner's Museum

By Luther Mick PRESS REPORTER

Molly G. Miniard is parting with some of her father's most prized artifacts from the fluorspar mining industry that flourished here in the early to mid 1900s.

In donating hand-held tools, mining gear and miner clothing, Molly said her father G.R. Miniard would have wanted the items to be on display in the Luther Nunnswitch Fluorspar Miner's Museum in Marion.

Her father and Mrs. Nunnswitch were college roommates when they studied geology at Northern University. They were colleagues, partners and competitors at different times during their professional careers in the mining industry.

The museum has estimated the value of Molly's donations of materials and items to be worth about \$30.000.



Molly Miniard stands in front of something she donated from her late father's vast collection of mining materials from a bygone era.



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Marion Press Special Murder Mystery Weekend

Columnist decries team's removal from community

Take me out to the ballgaaa.... No, we can't go there anymore! It's unbelievable that malicious greed has resulted in the loss of our beloved Bobcats.

How inconsiderate it is of the owners to have allowed this disgraceful discharge of the boys of summer from our quaint community that is often lacking in family entertainment.

My attempts to organize a protest on Main Street failed because apparently blocking off a federal highway to publicly air complaints about the exodus of a baseball franchise is not acceptable in this country where the prescribed pastime is none other than the game itself.

Whatever!

Thank goodness this newspaper offers a public forum where I, and others, for that matter, may voice their opinions - in this case dissatisfaction for the powers that be whose larceny has left an oceanic void in our sporting souls.

This is not fake news!

Losing this ball club harkens back to similar feelings when the skating rink at Wrightsville Plaza closed.

Just when we felt good about getting our youngsters off the streets and into the grandstands for some great baseball, it's gone! Now, they'll be back in the parking lots and on backroads partying and carrying on without a glimpse of wholesome or redeeming value in their endeavors.

I count among my friends in the world those fans who adore and have followed these Bobcats through wins and losses, pains and rainouts for the last few summers. They are devastated.

There must be some type of formal probe into what went wrong. Gate receipts were surely enough to cover the team's expenses. Although I do not know what precisely the numbers were, the expenses being bantered around town seem grossly overstated. As



they say, "Follow the money and you will find the rat."

The economic impact of losing the team is enormous on this town. Look at how many people lost their jobs! The concession workers, maintenance crews, gift shops and other vendors are now in the unemployment line or seeing their receipts greatly reduced.

The death of the team's principal partner is a heartwrenching loss to those who knew and loved him. However, there was clearly no love lost between many in this community and the man largely being blamed for the team's assassination.

Whether Roger Redbone died of natural causes, at the hand of a single assailant or as a result of a conspiracy, it's clearly a tragic situation. Complicating matters for those investigating his death is the consternation of the townspeople who so loved their Bobcats that any one of them might have had the motive to deal ill will toward those responsible for executing the team's spirit from our humble little hamlet.

Bobcat Allie is owner, operator, editor, columnist and the greatest expense of Marion's only newspaper. Her comments are reflective of the staff and management of the publication which has been a constant source of news for this community since 1842. You may email her at theeditor@thepress.com.



Policeman Westley Copperfield arrested a woman last week for public drunkeness after she was found on a public park bench with a flask of an alleged intoxicant.

Local woman faces multiple charges

BY PATTI HIEST Press Reporter

Local resident Cherie Lowball was arrested Tuesday after Marion officer Westley Copperfield found her in an alleged intoxicated state on a public bench.

Ms. Lowball was charged with public drunkeness, falsely reporting an incident and possession of a controlled substance not in its original container. All are misdemeanor charges. She will be arraigned next Wednesday by District Judge Heady B. Watchman.

Ms. Lowball was released without bond early Wednesday morning.

Life's the Way Church to host gospel singing

BY T. LEE TABOR Press Reporter

Life's the Way Church will host a gospel singing Sunday following morning worship services.

Pastor Horace Jackson says some of the greatest gospel quartets in the area will be part of the extravaganza.

A meal will also be served and contributions will be accepted for the church's outreach program that is currently aimed at providing personal items to individuals and families negatively affected by the loss of the baseball club.

"Many of them are out of work and having a tough time with simple everyday items that we take for granted," the pastor said.

The Holy Boys, Eugenia Highwaters and the Savior's Choir and Men of Faith will be the featured performers at the afternoon affair.

A love offering will also be collected for those providing entertainment



Joining with our friends and neighbors to CELEBRATE Marion Bobcats Baseball



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Marion Press Special Murder Mystery Weekend Redbone's death under scrutiny by authorities

BY PATTI HIEST Press Reporter

It remains a mystery as to how Roger Redbone died, and while local authorities are mum on their investigation, it is clear that foul play is not being ruled out.

Sheriff William T. Buford has turned the investigation over CSI West Kentucky and there is some speculation that the FBI has been engaged to participate in the investigation. Bureau agents were apparently already in town investigating an unrelated case when one of their agents stumbled onto the victim's body in the alleyway on East Carlisle Street about dusk Tuesday.

FBI Special Agent G. John Mann purportedly notified local authorities after finding Redbone's lifeless body lying fully clothed and facedown in the alley. Redbone, 69, was pronounced deceased by the county coroner, officially at 6:28 p.m., however, local investigators have pointed out that the time of death is unknown.

A death investigation was immediately launched by Sheriff Buford, who asked for forensic assistance from crime scene investigators with the regional bureau headquartered in Paducah.

Although Sheriff Buford has made it clear that he will not discuss the case publicly until a coroner's report is finalized, he did

Coroner calls press conference for noon

County Coroner Rigger T. Mortis has announced that his forensic investigation of the body of Roger

Redbone will be released to the public at noon on Saturday at the courthouse lawn

gazebo. Coroner Mortis has been in possession of the body since shortly

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Mortis

after it was found Tuesday. His autopsy report could shed a great deal of light into the cause of death. So far, local authorities have been reluctant to say whether Redbone's death was from natural causes or whether foul play is suspected.

insinuate that there is little evidence to suggest Redbone was murdered other than some bruises about his body.

Everyone in town knows that Redbone was a regular at the batting cages next to the alley. Despite being near 70 years old, Redbone frequently took hundreds of swings in the cages a couple of nights a week.

"Roger loved the game and still enjoyed taking a few cuts in the cage. He was like a kid, really," said Wally B. Ware, the former general



Former Bobcats owner Roger Redbone (left) and former club general manager Wally B. Ware are seen together in this Marion Press file photo taken behind home plate during a game a few years back.

manager of the now defunct Bobcats baseball team.

Ware said Redbone would often be black and blue from being hit by pitches in the batting cage.

"Time had taken its toll on Roger and he just couldn't get out of the way of that inside fastball like he once did," Ware explained. "Subsequently, he took a few pitches off his body."

The sheriff wouldn't say whether Redbone was battered or bruised by baseballs, but a bat was taken into evidence. An ambulance EMT had found it partially underneath Redbone's body when he arrived at the scene.



This photo taken shortly after the body was removed from the alley depicts potential evidence if indeed Roger Redbone met foul play Tuesday night. His lifeless body was found about dusk.

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Bank official is on federal board

BY T. LEE TABOR Press Reporter

First Planters Bank President

Terry M. Wade has been selected to the U.S. Financial Institute's Eastern Division Resources Board.

The prestigious nomination will not affect his responsibilities at the bank, the financial institution said in a news release issued late last week.

Mr. Wade has been president of the bank for 13 years. He was formerly vice president of Second Land Bank in Mayfield, Ky., where he also served as president of the Mayfield Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the U.S. Financial Institute's Eastern Division Resources Board are appointed by state legislators.