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# PSC lowers Atmos bills to reflect fed tax changes

STAFF REPORT

The average Atmos Energy gas customer in Crittenden County is going to see a lower monthly bill.

Last week, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) reduced the annual revenue of Atmos, thereby lowering the average monthly bill for residential customers by more than \$2. The PSC reset rates that were established on an interim basis in March to reflect reduced federal corporate income tax rates that took effect at the first of the year.

The reduction in the monthly residential bill includes a reduction to zero of a \$2.97 surcharge assessed to pay for an accelerated program to replace

aging and potentially hazardous pipes in the Atmos distribution system. That surcharge was in addition to the interim \$16.52 base monthly service charge.

The base monthly service charge will return to \$17.50, which is the amount it was prior to the interim rates taking effect. The delivery charge for gas will rise from the interim \$1.45 per 1,000 cubic feet to \$1.73 per 1,000 cubic feet. A typical Atmos residential customer uses an average of 5,300 cubic feet per month.

When all of the changes are taken into account, the average monthly base residential bill will decline by 53 cents from its current level, and \$2.28 from the rates in effect prior to

the interim adjustment.

The base rates do not include the cost of the gas itself, which accounts for about half the average total bill. The gas cost is adjusted every three months to reflect – on a dollar-for-dollar basis – the actual amount Atmos pays for gas on the wholesale market.

Atmos serves nearly 175,000 customers in central and western Kentucky, including Marion and portions of rural Crittenden County.

Atmos filed a rate increase request in September 2017, seeking an additional \$10.4 million in annual revenue from gas distribution operations, an increase of about 6.1 percent. Following the

## Monthly Atmos bills to drop

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has reduced the annual revenue for Atmos Energy, resulting in a \$2.28 reduction in monthly bills for the average natural gas utility customer.

	RATES JAN. 1	INTERIM RATES	NEW RATES
Monthly charge.....	\$17.50....	\$16.52...	\$17.50
Delivery charge (5,300 cu. ft.).....	\$8.13 .....	\$7.68.....	\$9.14
Pipeline replacement surcharge.....	\$3.29.....	\$2.97 .....	\$0.00
TOTAL BASE BILL.....	\$28.92....	\$27.17 .....	\$26.64

passage of federal corporate income tax reductions, Atmos revised the requested increase to about \$1.76 million.

In determining an appropriate revenue level for Atmos, the PSC calculated an annual revenue for Atmos that is \$1.89 million less than the cur-

rent amount. The revenue figure includes what customers pay in both base rates and pipeline replacement surcharges.

The PSC also changed the way Atmos will recover pipeline replacement costs in the future. Rather than basing the surcharge on future esti-

mated costs, Atmos will be required to base it on actual costs, with no more than \$28 million recovered for a 12-month period ending in September of each year. A recalculated surcharge will take effect every March.

Finally, the PSC rejected a request by Atmos to institute an annual rate adjustment mechanism that would allow the company to change its rates based on changes to its costs, including the pipeline replacement program. The PSC found that the current process of adjusting rates is fair to Atmos, and its shareholders and serves the public interest, and that an adjustment mechanism is unwarranted.

# Marion woman ends long path to American citizenship

By MIMI BYRNS  
STAFF WRITER

Marion got a new American citizen a couple of weeks ago when Casta Adams, originally from Honduras, got to the end of the lengthy legal process of naturalization. She received her certificate of citizenship at a ceremony held at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 26.



C. Adams

She is married to Russ Adams, a project manager for ESCI, an engineering firm in Marion, who met her while visiting Honduras to get a new mine operational in 2008. They were married in 2011 and ever since, they have been in the process of obtaining permanent residency and citizenship for Casta.

“My husband supported me through the entire journey,” she said. “I am really happy to be a citizen of the USA. This means that I have the right to vote and my traveling outside the country will be easier since I will be able to use an Ameri-

can passport, says Casta.”

She can exercise those voting muscles in less than two weeks in Kentucky’s primary election.

Like anyone who marries an American citizen, Casta first had to apply for a permanent residency card. She also had to fulfill multiple conditions that allowed her to get a 10-year green card and apply for citizenship.

Out of all the process, the application for citizenship seemed to take least amount of time, said Casta. The test consists of two parts – language and civics. She was asked to read and write in American English and to answer 10 questions regarding the government and history of the States.

“I applied in December, and got the first response from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Office in January,” said Casta. “I went to Nashville to have my biometrics and photo taken, and there they gave me a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Casta Adams, a native of Honduras and current Marion resident, earned her American citizenship April 26 in a formal underground ceremony at Mammoth Cave National Park along with 21 other immigrants.**

book to study for the civics test. Little did they know that I had already started studying for the civics test before submitting the application. I wanted to have enough time to prepare.”

The interview test took place March 8 in Louisville.

“I was very focused and excited. I remember when the immigration officer called my name in order

for me to be tested, my husband didn’t hear it,” Casta recalls. “But I did, so I rushed towards the office door. I was asked to give a sworn statement that I will speak only the truth, and I started answering the questions from the immigration officers.”

There are three components to the English portion of the test – speaking, reading and writing. The ability of the candidate to speak English is deter-

mined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer.

“The sentence I was given to read was, ‘Columbus Day is in October,’” Casta said. “I also had to write that sentence down. I remember I had to answer who advises the president as well.”

Her husband Russ is very proud of his wife and her success. He especially enjoyed the location where his wife was presented with her citizenship certificate, since he is a mining engineer.

“They perform the ceremony at Mammoth Cave once a year, and it is actually about half a mile underground,” he explained. “What a unique location for such an important ceremony. The naturalization process is a lengthy and life-changing process to go through. Having the ceremony where you become a citizen in such a unique location makes it that much more memorable for us.”

At the naturalization ceremony two weeks ago, people from 22 countries – including China, El Salvador, Nigeria, Cuba and

Mexico – were presented with their certificate of citizenship. Casta and Russ said this event is only ceremonial since all the decisions are made previously at the interview, but yet very meaningful and special. The national anthem is performed and everyone says the Pledge of Allegiance, representing a very patriotic moment for everyone involved.

When Casta first got to the United States, she was very surprised to see winter for the first time in her life. That was one of the first shocks for the Central America native.

“In Honduras, it is always warm, and there is no snow. The first year here, when the leaves would start falling off the trees I would be so surprised not knowing what was going on,” she said with a laugh.

Casta and Russ have a 3-year-old daughter, Brisa.

*(Editor’s note: The author, Mimi Byrns, is an immigrant from Macedonia living in Marion. She is currently in the process of becoming a naturalized American citizen.)*

## FERRY

Continued from Page 1

revenue.

“I’m losing money every day we operate,” he said.

On July 15, Lewis said new U.S. Coast Guard requirements will force him to add a second deckhand to the crew. Right now, a pilot operating the tug and one deckhand on the ferry barge are a tandem team operating the service at any given time. In a few weeks, a new law requires three workers.

The ferry operates two eight-hour work shifts each day from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Lewis said liability and health insurance has skyrocketed, fuel is more expensive and new policies requiring a marine engineer to oversee any repairs made to the boat are driving him too far into the red.

“All these new laws are going to put us out of business, and it’s not just me,” Lewis said.

Keith Todd, spokesman for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KyTC), says the commonwealth intends to ask the Coast Guard for a waiver on the additional deckhand. Todd said Kentucky has seven ferries that would be affected by the policy if it is enforced starting July 15.

The ferry’s revenue is legislatively set through 2020, Todd said. KyTC’s hands are tied unless something changes.

“We get our marching orders from the legislature,” Todd explained. “(Kentucky legislators) have put a certain amount of dollars into the budget and that’s where we’re at.”

Todd is sympathetic to the situation, however. He lives in Crittenden County and understands the value of the ferry, which he says carries an average of 500 vehicles a day across the river.

“It goes back to the adage that transportation creates commerce and commerce creates jobs,” Todd said.

There are several people who ride the ferry each

day for work on either side of the river, and Todd explains that Kentucky is the closest place to grocery shop for people living around Cave In Rock. Additionally, Illinois traffic brings commerce to Marion for fuel, restaurants and tobacco products.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said local and state officials are working with Lewis, trying to develop a plan for keeping the free ferry service operating as it has for more than two decades.

Shutting down or shortening the hours would have a major impact on transportation and commerce, Newcom said. He and ferry officials have met with state Sen. Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, and the county judge is supposed to talk this week with state transportation officials who deal with ferry services.

“For the amount of money we’re talking about, in the big scheme of things, it shouldn’t be a problem,” Newcom said.

However, he points out that the bureaucratic process can be laborious and frustrating.

“We’re trying to work something out. We hope to get everyone together with all of the attorneys for a meeting this week,” the judge-executive said.

Lewis has hired his own maritime attorney to help settle the matter, but if the states don’t budge, he will.

“I will have to do something,” said Lewis, who indicated that he believes

Illinois is ready to up the ante, but he’s not sure about Kentucky.

Among the first things to go if funding isn’t increased will be holiday service.

Lewis said his crew earns double time on holidays, and he’d likely cut that out immediately by being closed on the major federal and state holidays, like Memorial Day and Labor Day, two heavy traffic weekends. Additionally, he would look at cutting the operation by four hours a day, which would allow a one-crew shift to work for 12 hours.

There is very little or no chance that a fee will be charged for riding the ferry, although a toll was required for decades until Lewis purchased the ferry company in 1994 from former operator Tom Patton. Lewis said the State of Illinois has a provision in its agreement that prohibits fees for service because Illinois provides other free ferries across the state. Allowing Cave In Rock Ferry to charge would be discriminatory against citizens of southern Illinois, Lewis explains.

Lewis owns legal rights to operate the service. The franchise was originally issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, well before Kentucky became a state in 1792, Lewis said. Lewis also owns the real estate surrounding the ferry landing on the Illinois side of the river and the property at the end of Ky. 91 North which stops at the river bank.

The annual meeting of the

## DEER CREEK CEMETERY, INC.

will be held

**Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 p.m.**

*It will be held at Deer Creek Baptist Church*

All family members with loved ones buried in the cemetery are urged to attend.

*Deer Creek Cemetery Committee*



## Children's Summer Reading Program

Registration for the children's program begins May 29th at 9 a.m. Children receive a reading tracker and program guide to get started upon registration. Attend programs on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and also plan to come on Thursdays at 1 p.m. for Maker Thursdays. Create homemade instruments and musical make and takes with Kathleen in the meeting room.

**Kids can also participate in summer learning through Wonderopolis.** Information will be available at registration on how to sign up for this fun online program.

**May 29th 9 a.m.** — Registration Begins in the library and online.

**June 5th 10:30 a.m.** — Summer Reading Kickoff Program

**June 12th 10:30 a.m.** — Opera with Michelle Crider

**June 19th 10:30 a.m.** — CCHS Band

**June 26th 10:30 a.m.** — Classy and Grassy Bluegrass

**July 3rd 10:30 a.m.** — Ukulele with Ellen Merrick

**July 12th 1:00 p.m.** — Summer Reading Finale & Awards – Steel Appeal Campbellsville University Steel Drum Band


## Teen & Adult Program

This year there will be an adult and teen program for those age 13 and over following PBS's Great American Read Series. Participants can register beginning May 29th. A book list of America's top 100 favorite books will be available at the library and participants can register to track books, audiobooks and movies they read or watch this summer as well as miles walked to earn prizes. Programs include Fit Lit walks at the park (a walking book club) on Fridays at 8:00 a.m. beginning July 6th through September 7th to discuss favorite books on the book list and Movie Mondays starting July 9th at 2:00 p.m. through August 13th showing some of the books made into movies on the list. Participants can vote for their favorite books all summer and in the Fall we'll host viewing parties when the 6 week Great American Read PBS special airs on KET.

# CCPL

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Wed., Thurs, Fri: 9-5 • Sat: 9-3





# Primary Candidate Survey



A survey of candidates for local races can be found on Page 4

The primary elections in Kentucky are Tuesday, May 22. All candidates were mailed a questionnaire from The Crittenden Press in mid-April. Their answers appear on this and the subsequent page. Answers come directly from the candidates, though it was necessary in some cases to edit for clarity and brevity. Receipt of the survey was confirmed with all candidates. Those not responding are indicated by, “Did not respond.”

## Q&A 1st U.S. House District/Democratic

	Years living in District	Political or relevant experience	In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing the Kentucky residents of U.S. House District 1?	Top 3 issues facing all Americans?
<div><div><b>Paul Walker</b> - 45, Murray - English professor at Murray State University</div></div> <div>VotePaulWalker.com</div>	11 years	No elected positions, but I have chaired university committees and served for three years on the Faculty Senate at Murray State University.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health care: The move to place requirements on Medicaid recipients indicates we need to provide single-payer health care for everyone. Not only will this ensure the preventative care and overall health care of all of us, but it will take away the insurance burden on businesses and organizations, helping them save overhead and personnel costs.</li><li>- Education: In Kentucky and in the nation, education is under attack. Not only is public education being undermined, but there is also an active effort to label educated Americans as elitist, when in reality, it is the super-wealthy who are elitist. We need to expand educational opportunities, including vocational training, and make it affordable and accessible to anyone who wants to take advantage of education and skill-building.</li><li>- Jobs/fair wages: All Americans need opportunities for work that pays the essentials of life. Businesses and government need to work together to make it possible for good businesses to be productive and profitable without exploiting workers – people are always the best investment and paying them fairly for their labor pays dividends in many ways in the long term.</li></ul>	I think the top issues for Kentuckians are also the top issues for all Americans. These are the areas that directly affect our daily lives – our health, our wallet, and our children's future. We need to address these issues before we try to do anything that less directly affects our ability to live a quality life.
<div><div><b>Alonzo Pennington</b> - 38, Princeton - Musician</div></div> <div>PenningtonForKy.com</div>	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.

## Q&A 4th Ky. House District/Republican

	Years living in District	Political or relevant experience	In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing the residents of state House District 4?	In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing all Kentuckians?
<div><div><b>Fred Stubblefield</b> - 65, Marion - Retired process analytics technician</div></div> <div>FredStubblefield.com</div>	My entire life	Current vice chairman of Crittenden County Republican Committee and past chairman. Also at-large state delegate for Crittenden County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Infrastructure: These are the roads and bridges we use on a daily basis for commerce, industry and recreation.</li><li>- Economy: Economic growth starts by rebuilding the infrastructure. This would bring jobs.</li><li>- Educational options: Encourage the promotion of vocational and trade schools, which facilitates a broader range of opportunities for skilled workers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Infrastructure: It's important to repair Kentucky's infrastructure now to save the taxpayers from higher costs later.</li><li>- Taxes: Replacing the state income tax with a sales tax-only structure puts more money into the pockets of workers, which drives the economy.</li><li>- School safety: Our children's safety is something we can no longer take for granted. Kentucky needs a bipartisan solution.</li></ul>
<div><div><b>Lynn Bechler</b> - 72, Marion - Retired engineer and technical manager</div></div> <div>Facebook.com/RepBechler</div>	10 years	Current three-term Kentucky House District 4 Representative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Investing in our children: Continue my efforts in funding educational opportunities after high school in areas other than a four year college.</li><li>- Family farms: Continue my work with the Department of Agriculture in developing programs to keep these farms operating.</li><li>- State programs: Continue my push to ensure services for community development, aging and disabilities are provided to the district's people and communities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Economy and taxes: Continue my work and that of the 2018 General Assembly toward eliminating the state income tax and moving to consumption based taxation.</li><li>- Government spending: Continue my efforts as Chair of the Program Review and Investigation Committee to bring to light and eliminate wasteful and unnecessary spending.</li><li>- Abused and neglected children. Continue my work in the General Assembly in revamping the state's adoption and foster care system.</li></ul>

### LAWMAKER

Continued from Page 1A

cumbent James Comer, but will select their Kentucky House hopeful from between two local men, the current three-term incumbent and an officer in the county's Republican committee. The winner will face Abigail Barnes, an attorney from Salem who will represent Democrats in the general election race for the Frankfort seat.

#### U.S. House District 1

The Democratic Party is looking to ride a “blue wave” created by an unpopular Republican President. They hope to regain the U.S. House District 1 seat in Congress they had held since the end of the Civil War until it swas wrested away by Republican Ed Whitfield in the 1994 election and subsequently filled by Comer in 2016. To challenge the freshman Republican Representative, Democrats will select either Princeton musician Alonzo Pennington or Murray State University associate English professor Paul Walker.

Both candidates cite health care and jobs as two of their three priorities. Not surprisingly, the Murray educator who holds three degrees, including a Ph.D. from Arizona State University, also ranks education among his top concerns.

“I’m a product of public education and a big advocate,” the 44-year-old former firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service said at a Democratic fundraiser in Marion last month. “It’s one of the things that prompted me to get in this race.”

A Utah native, Walker earned his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young

University. He has also resided in New York, Florida and Arizona, where he not only finished his doctorate at ASU, but also earned a master's degree at Northern Arizona University. He has lived in western Kentucky since 2007, when he took the job at Murray State, and has three children.

Pennington, son of well known folk musician Eddie Pennington, puts infrastructure as his third priority.

“You have all traveled I-24,” he told voters, following Walker at the Crittenden County Democratic Committee fundraiser in April and reminding them of the interstate's deteriorating condition in areas. “And broadband is a problem all across our district.”

At 38, Pennington has spent his entire life in Caldwell County. He attended Murray State University, but acknowledges that a four-year college education was not for him.

“I know what it's like to get my hands dirty,” he told local Democrats, adding that he has served as a hunting guide in Crittenden County, paiting himself as a blue-collar candidate.

Where the two candidates sync – the economy and health care – they both blame the Republican Party.

“So many aspects of our overall well-being have been dismantled in one year,” Walker responded in an eight-question 2018 Kentucky Voter Guide survey from the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. “I will push forward additional changes that directly provide Kentuckians and anyone in the United

States greater financial security in terms of more jobs, fair wages and less wage inequality, as well as health care for all and low-tuition college and vocational training.”

Pennington said policies that favor the wealthy are killing small-town America and leaving the average working person with little more than struggles.

“I’m tired of greed, tired of money buying our politics,” he said at the local party forum. “We’re leaving small business and what’s left of the middle class with nothing.”

Both support a single-payer health care system financed by taxpayers, which they say would make health insurance coverage available for all Americans.

“The move to place requirements on Medicaid recipients indicates we need to provide single-payer health care for everyone,”

Walker said in response to a questionnaire sent last month by The Crittenden Press.

Pennington did not respond to the newspaper's survey, but told Kentuckians for the Commonwealth that loopholes need to be eliminated that allow individuals to fall through the health care cracks.

“An up-to-date, checks-and-balances system needs to be enacted to eliminate price gouging on life-saving medications needed by our citizens,” he said.

The 1st Congressional District is comprised of 35 counties, including all of far western Kentucky and extending along the Tennessee border to central Kentucky.

More of Pennington's and Walker's views can be found on Ballotpedia.org and in the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

2018 Kentucky Voter Guide at KFTC.org/ election. Walker's complete response to The Press survey can be found on this page.

#### State House District 4

For the statehouse race in the fall, Republicans will pick either incumbent Lynn Bechler or challenger Fred Stubblefield. Both men are retired from full-time work and live in Crittenden County.

In 2012, Bechler became the first Crittenden Countian in almost 100 years to represent the county in its entirety in the Kentucky General Assembly. He has subsequently been re-elected twice, but has never faced opposition from within the GOP.

Meantime, Stubblefield wants a change in conservative representation in Frankfort. The former chair of the Crittenden County Republican Committee and current vice chairman is making his second run for the seat 14 years after falling to Democratic incumbent Mike Cherry of Princeton. Bechler was also defeated by Cherry in 2010.

Bechler, 72, is a retired engineer and technical manager who worked for IBM and holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from St. Louis University. The Missouri native and his wife Kathy have owned land in rural, southern Crittenden County for almost 25 years, but moved here in 2007 to retire. The couple has four adult children and a dozen grandchildren.

Meeting the needs of young children, in fact, is one of the focuses of Bechler's campaign. He has been a champion of legislation in Frankfort to better serve abused and neglected children and supports a wider array of

post-graduation opportunities for teens.

In a questionnaire sent from The Press to both candidates, Bechler said one of his goals for the House district that includes Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and a portion of Christian County is to “continue my efforts in funding educational opportunities after high school in areas other than a four-year college.”

Stubblefield, 65, also wants to expand career options for youth.

On his survey, the recently-retired process analytics technician with Westlake Chemical Corp. in Calvert City said a top priority for the district is to “encourage the promotion of vocational and trade schools, which facilitates a broader range of opportunities for skilled workers.”

Bechler cites protecting family farms and bolstering state programs for community development and helping the aging and disabled as his other two priorities for the district.

Improving infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges in the four-county area, is another top goal for Stubblefield, as is improving the western Kentucky economy.

Born in Livingston County, Stubblefield has spent his entire life in the 4th District, much of it in Crittenden County with his wife Sabrina. He holds a bachelor's degree

in electronics engineering.

When asked by The Press what the top three issues are concerning Kentuckians statewide, rebuilding infrastructure again arises in Stubblefield's response. He would also like to further revamp the state's tax system by moving to a consumption-based sales tax only and doing away with the commonwealth's income tax.

“It puts more money into the pockets of workers, which drives the economy,” he explained.

Moving away from the levy on wages is also one of the top three ways Bechler wants to improve the entire state. He wants to revamp the adoption and foster care system and also hopes to reign in government spending. As chairman of the House Program Review and Investigation Committee, he desires “to bring to light and eliminate wasteful and unnecessary spending.”

As his third priority for the Bluegrass State, Stubblefield is aiming to improve school safety.

“Our children's safety is something we can no longer take for granted,” he responded to the newspaper's questionnaire. “Kentucky needs a bipartisan solution.”

Bechler's and Stubblefield's complete responses to The Press survey appear on this page.

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Q&A

Judge-Executive/Republican

	Years living in county	Political/relevant experience	Top duties of the office	In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing Crittenden County?	How can you make life better for constituents?	Why do you want to be judge-executive?
 <div><b>Perry A. Newcom</b> - 54 - Crittenden County Judge-Executive</div>	33 years	Current second-term judge-executive of Crittenden County.	Fiscal management; stewardship of tax revenues; advocacy for community at regional, state and national level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Workforce availability: Efforts to grow, educate and train our community.</li><li>- Accessibility: Must continue efforts to establish reliable internet access across our community via partnerships and collaborative efforts.</li><li>- Emergency services (ambulance, law enforcement, fire protection): Declining population affects availability of qualified responders. Must work together to grow our community.</li></ul>	Alone, I can do nothing. However, working as a team and continuing to solicit community involvement, we can accomplish a great deal.	I feel we have made great progress on many fronts over the past seven years and feel there is still plenty of work to be accomplished. As resources and revenue continue to decline, it is prudent for our judge-executive to be able to address problems and make adjustments that place no to minimal burden on our citizens.
 <div><b>Ricky Winders</b> - 51 - Substitute teacher and bus driver.</div>	Entire life	Worked for Crittenden Fiscal Court as animal control officer.	To listen to the people and work with the current magistrates, balance the budget, be a leader.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Our animal shelter is one of the worst in the state. I plan to get with other counties and upgrade our facility to get it back in the top.</li><li>- Roads: To obtain and get a list of all roads that need repair and get a plan to get these roads fixed.</li><li>- Budget: To go over our budget with the magistrates and make sure we are using our tax money in a way that is best for Crittenden County.</li></ul>	When I am talking to the people, they are wanting two things – a better place to take our precious animals and upgrade our shelter and better roads. My promise to you is to do these two things.	I want to be judge-executive so I can help other Crittenden Countians. I believe my education, being able to work with others, and having a good ear so I can listen to people, will let me get done what they want and be their voice.





Q&A

District 2 Magistrate/Republican

	Years living in county	Relevant experience	Top duties of the office	What are the top issues facing Crittenden County?	What best qualifies you for the position?	Why do you want to be magistrate?	How can you improve constituents' lives?
 <div><b>Todd Perryman</b> - 30 - Loan officer at Farmers Bank &amp; Trust Co.</div>	Entire life	None.	Members of the fiscal court should handle the finances of the county in a reasonable, responsible manner. A magistrate should listen to the concerns of the citizens.	I would say many citizens – especially those living on small county roads – including myself, would say the deterioration of our county road system is a huge issue and the lack of funding for repairs and/or replacement. This is a tremendous issue facing the county but others include items that have been in the news recently – detention center, EMS, etc. These services are both necessary and vital to our community but require funding from the fiscal court.	I am a detail-oriented person. I want to dig into the issues whether that be the budget, additional funding requests, county contracts, etc., and help make decisions that are in the best interest of the people of Crittenden County.	I want to bring a different perspective, new ideas and an innovative way of thinking to the fiscal court. We need to work together to improve our county.	I would like to see the fiscal court keep the public better informed about the issues facing the county. I have often wondered why the fiscal court meets at 8:30 a.m. on their designated days. This time prevents many citizens from attending meetings and sharing their thoughts and concerns.
 <div><b>Matt Watson</b> - 36 - Service manager, Johnson's Furniture &amp; Appliances</div>	Entire life	Work with the public on job to solve problems and maintain customer service.	To stand up and be a true voice for the people of Crittenden County. Face issues head on and find the proper way to solve them.	Most people say our roads are our biggest issues, and I agree; but with the lack of funding the county is facing, we need to think of the best ways to bring revenue into the county without affecting taxpayers. We need to find ways to draw people to Crittenden County. Entice companies and businesses into building here to create jobs to bring in more revenue.	In my job, I deal with the people every day with issues. I first identify the problem, find the best way to fix it, then follow through to fix it and make sure the best customer service is provided. I will commit to the job, whatever it takes. I will go to go to Frankfort as many times as it takes to fight for our county to get things done.	Because I care for my community and county. I love-working with people. I know for a fact that I am a perfect fit for the job. I want to see the county grow in a good way and stop wasteful spending.	Being a true voice of the people and working for the people. Find the best way to boost the economy.

Q&A


District 3 Magistrate/Republican

	Years living in county	Relevant experience	Top duties of the office	What are the top issues facing Crittenden County?	What best qualifies you for the position?	Why do you want to be magistrate?	How can you improve constituents' lives?
 <div><b>Zach Bloodworth</b> - 32 - Director of Quality, Par 4 Plastics</div>	2 years	Current District 3 magistrate, appointed to post in 2017	Manage county activities in a manner that increases the quality of life for the citizens. Be a good steward of resources so that additional resources are not required, while working to proactively solve problems.	The most important issue is the loss of funds from the state while the county retirement contribution requirements have increased. Luckily, the current fiscal court and county officials have worked hard to offset these increased costs and minimize their impact to the county citizens. Other important issues are infrastructure and workforce development. These are key in creating new jobs, which will allow our county to grow and prosper.	I am best qualified for the position because of my current experience and knowledge of the current issues facing the fiscal court. This puts me a step ahead of the other candidates. Also, my background in business and problem solving has proven to be useful with regard to issues facing the court such as contract negotiations, resource allocation and planning.	So I can help make a positive difference in the community in which my family works and lives. I've said before, I feel like my family's story is a "Crittenden County success story." We both started working in the county, got involved and decided to move and raise our family in Crittenden County.	I will work extremely hard to represent the citizens in the 3rd District. I will work to come up with creative solutions, which are required to meet the challenges of today and the future. I pledge to be transparent about the activities of the fiscal court and involve citizens in constructive conversations surrounding the issues we are facing.
 <div><b>Willard Guill</b> - 71 - Retired heavy equipment operator</div>	More than 50 years	Active member of Crittenden County Republican Party, served as precinct captain for 6 years	Staying aware and listening to the people of your district and representing their best interest.	Lack of funding from state and federal levels for roads and other important services that benefit our county.	I'm retired and have the time to best serve the people of District 3. I am aware of the road conditions and have the desire to serve my district.	I want to make Crittenden County a better place to live and work. I want to see our county grow and prosper.	Listen to the concerns of the people in my district and address their concerns to the best of my ability.
 <div><b>Rick Mills</b> - 54 - Crittenden County EMT</div>	19 years	Local emergency planning committee	Keeping our roads in good shape, making sure everyone in my district has their concerns heard and to represent the county as best we can.	Funding, looking for money to pay for things that we all want but we don't have the money for.	I am very community oriented and want what is best for Crittenden County.	To see that the people in my district have a voice when it comes to county matters.	Work and volunteer, stay involved in Crittenden County matters.
 <div><b>Marty Wallace</b> - 56 - Retired from U.S. Navy and Tropicana</div>	About 45 years	I have no experience in the magistrate field, but was a chief union steward for the Teamsters Local 173	To listen to the citizens of Crittenden County as well as help maintain and upgrade our roads, not only District 3 but all of the county.	Money: We as a community need to figure out as a whole how to solve our problems without raising taxes, use our imaginations and come up with new ways to make money to attract business and families to our county.	I love our county and small towns that lie within it. With not much of a political background, that means I'll come in with different ideas and points of view. Some may not have been entertained yet and different is good in some cases.	I love our county. As a retiree, I can spend more time in our community and talk to people and work on our biggest problems. We shouldn't be trying to compete with other counties, we should be the county they want to mirror.	Work with and for the people of our county. I can collect ideas and suggestions and present them to the board. It's our hard work and determination that will help us overcome these obstacles; only we as a whole can make us better.



PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, “MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED,”  
THE FOLLOWING RACES WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES  
AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY  
FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, MAY 22, 2018.

REPUBLICAN PARTY  
PRIMARY ELECTION



1st Congressional District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
4th Representative District  
(Vote for One)

☐

Fred STUBBLEFIELD

☐

Lynn BECHLER

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE  
(Vote for One)

☐


Perry A. NEWCOM

☐

Ricky WINDERS

ALL PRECINCTS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PRIMARY ELECTION



1st Congressional District

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
in CONGRESS  
1st Congressional District  
(Vote for One)

☐

Paul WALKER

☐

Alonzo PENNINGTON

ALL PRECINCTS

MAGISTRATE  
2nd Magisterial District  
(Vote for One)

☐

Todd PERRYMAN

☐

Matt WATSON

SHERIDAN #9 AND TOLU #10

MAGISTRATE  
3rd Magisterial District  
(Vote for One)

☐

Zachary BLOODWORTH

☐

Willard GUILL

☐

Rick MILLS

☐

Marty R. WALLACE

MARION #4 AND FRANCES #8

# Voter 411

## Answering the 5 Ws (and 1 H) of voting

### WHO?

Anyone over 18 who registered to vote in Crittenden County by April 23. Existing voters who changed their party registration must have done so by Dec. 31 of last year to be eligible to vote.

### WHAT?

Kentucky's primary elections are closed, meaning voters can cast a ballot in only their respective party's race. Republicans can vote only for Republicans, and Democrats for Democrats.

### WHEN?

Polls are open Tuesday, May 22 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone in line to vote at 6 p.m. will get to vote. If you will be out of town on Election Day, you can vote on the absentee machine inside County Clerk Carolyn Byford's office until 4 p.m., Monday, May 21. Paper absentee ballots are also available.

### WHERE?

There are 12 polling precincts in Crittenden County. If you are unsure where you vote, contact Byford's office at (270) 965-3403 or visit [GoVoteKy.com](http://GoVoteKy.com) and click on the "Review Your Registration" tab. The precincts and their locations are as follows:

- District 1
- Emmanuel Baptist Church.....Marion No. 2
- Mattoon Fire Department.....Rosebud No. 11
- District 2
- Deer Creek Baptist Church .....Sheridan No. 9
- Tolu Community Center .....Tolu No. 10
- District 3
- Marion Ed-Tech Center .....Marion No. 4
- Grace Baptist Church .....Frances No. 8
- District 4
- Crittenden County Courthouse .....Marion No. 1
- Crittenden County Gun Club .....Fords Ferry No. 5
- District 5
- St. William Catholic Church.....Marion No. 6
- Mexico Baptist Church.....Frances No. 7
- District 6
- Marion Baptist Church .....Marion No. 3
- Shady Grove Fire Department .....Shady Grove No. 12

### WHY?

While primaries do not decide who will ultimately earn a political seat, they are an important part of the election process. It gives each party an opportunity to elect who they think will best represent them in the November general election. Not all races will have a primary. Unlike in November, if a race is uncontested in a particular party's primary, the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot.

### HOW?

There are two types of voting machines at each poll. The eScan machines use a paper ballot on which you will vote by darkening in the box next to candidates' names and running it through the electronic scanner. The eSlate machines allow you to vote digitally on a screen where you will make your selections. There is no paper ballot involved, and these machines can be used by the visually-impaired.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Sheridan – I think the Republican numbers will be about 25 percent," she said. "Also in the 3rd District, about 25 percent."

The most important race in the county is for judge-executive. In the final year of his second four-year term, Perry Newcom is looking to extend his role as the county's top official to 12 years. He will face Ricky Winders, a former animal control officer for the county and previous candidate for other offices, including jailer and Marion City Council.

The May 22 GOP primary will, in essence, serve the same role as a general election. That's because no other party put forward a candidate for November. Though write-ins can still seek office, whomever wins this month will be the only name to appear on the general election ballot.

In fact, the only contested race for countywide office in November will be that of county attorney – Democratic incumbent Rebecca Johnson is facing Republican Bart Frazer. Incumbents are the only candidates seeking election in other county-level contests.

The Crittenden Press sent all 12 candidates for local primary races a questionnaire in mid-April. Responses from all appear on Page 4 of this issue. Newcom and Winders shared their vision for the county's future in their answers, with Newcom hoping to continue the work he started in 2010.

"I feel we have made great progress on many fronts over the past seven years," he said, explaining why he wants to seek re-

election. "I feel there is still plenty of work to be accomplished."

Winders, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Murray State University, said he wants to better represent the interests of his constituents.

"I want to be judge-executive so I can help other Crittenden Countians," the 51-year-old said. "I believe my education, being able to work with others and having a good ear so I can listen to people will let me get done what they want and be their voice."

He has lived his entire life in the county and works as a substitute teacher and bus driver for Crittenden County School District.

Newcom, 54, is also a graduate of Murray State University, with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business/business administration. He's lived in the county 33 years after spending time in the U.S. Air Force, having served during the Persian Gulf War. He ran Crittenden Farm Supply before entering political life.

Newcom wants to improve internet service across the county, bolster emergency services and help grow the workforce through training and educational programs.

"Alone, I can do nothing," he said. "However, working as a team and continuing to solicit community involvement, we can accomplish a great deal."

Winders cites improving the animal shelter and roads – the two biggest complaints from voters he has spoken with – and ensuring taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely as his primary goals if elected.

"Our animal shelter is one of the worst in the

state," he claims. "I plan to get with other counties and upgrade our facility and get back on top."

In the supporting role to judge-executive on Crittenden Fiscal Court is magistrate. There are two contested GOP primaries across the six districts.

In District 2, which is comprised of Precincts 9 and 10, either Todd Perryman, 30, and Matt Watson, 36, will look to continue momentum following the May 22 vote. They will have to face the longest serving member of the fiscal court, Democrat Curt Buntin.

Perryman is a loan officer at Farmers Bank & Trust Co. in Marion. He graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Much of his concern is with the financial matters of county government, particularly funding the jail, EMS and repairs to deteriorating county roads. Watson, the service manager at Johnson's Furniture & Appliances, agrees that roads are a major concern, but growing the county is also important to him. He attended Bevell State Community College in Alabama.

There is a crowded GOP field in District 3 – Precincts 4 and 8 – that includes incumbent Zach Bloodworth, 32; Willard Guill, 71; Rick Mills, 54;

and Marty Wallace, 56.

Bloodworth has lived in the county only two years, but was appointed by Gov. Matt Bevin last year to fill the unexpired term of the late Glenn Underdown. He is the only candidate to have political experience. He has a bachelor's degree in business management from Mid-Continent University and works at Par-4 Plastics as the director of quality.

Mills is an EMT with Crittenden EMS and has spent 19 years in the county. Like most candidates for magistrate, keeping up with road needs is a primary concern.

Guill was born in Livingston County, but has lived more than a half-century in Crittenden County. Improving roads is a top priority. The retired heavy equipment operator's daughter, Melissa Guill, is Crittenden Circuit Clerk.

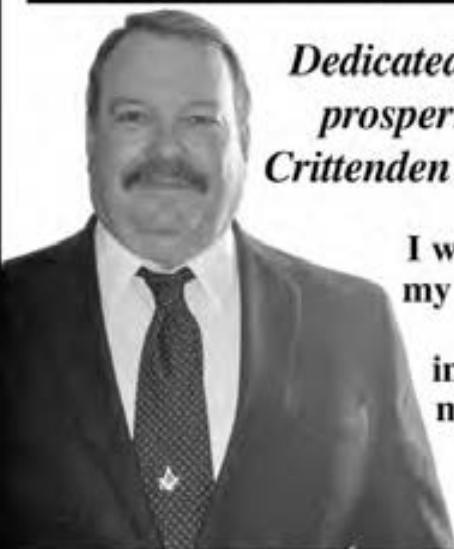
Wallace, a retired U.S. Navy veteran and former employee with Tropicana in Florida, has spent all but 11 years of his life in the county. Attracting businesses and more residents to boost the economy is his primary goal. He has a bachelor's degree in homeland security from State College of Florida.

The winner of the Republican primary will face Democrat Harold Collins in the general election.

Elect

Rick Mills

Crittenden County Magistrate District 3



Dedicated to the  
prosperity of  
Crittenden County.

I want to be  
my district's  
voice  
in county  
matters.

Paid for by  
Rick Mills

LOVE CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION

will have its annual meeting

Saturday, May 12

2 p.m. at the Cemetery

Donations may be made at Farmers Bank  
or People's Bank or mailed to  
261 County Dr., Marion, Ky. 42064.

Thank You  
Charlene Armstrong, Treasurer







# Chamber offers membership discounts

STAFF REPORT

Membership discounts will highlight a 2018 drive to raise awareness of its work and to grow the Chamber of Commerce.

President Randa Berry said the Chamber is gearing up to make a big splash in order to help the community understand the group's varied and key role. From partnering with local entities for school-to-work programs, coordinating events such as the Christmas Parade, Pumpkin Festival and Farm to Table Dinner and providing leadership for commercial businesses, the Chamber has been a vital part of the community for decades, Berry said.

As an incentive to attract new members, the Chamber is offering free first-year membership to businesses established in 2018 and half-price memberships for all other prospective Chamber affiliates.

The group is currently working off survey results that pointed to workforce development as a key component for growth in Marion and Crittenden County. Chamber leaders have reached out to the school system, hoping to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Glenn's Apothecary in Marion was named the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for April. Pictured above are Chamber board members (from left) Elizabeth Floyd and Natalie Parish, Glenn's staff Debbie Henderson, Gayle Snyder, Denise Hall, owner Tashina Hill, Rhonda McDaniel, Nikki Conger, Marilyn Belt, Chamber President Randa Berry and board member Elliot West.

partner on a job shadowing type program in the near future.

Michael Parshall, a Chamber director and part of Par 4 Plastics human resources team, said his company hired a couple of 2017 Crittenden County graduates after he met them at school functions, such as the job fair. The Chamber hopes to work more closely with the schools in the coming

months to create a better relationship between students and local businesses.

The Chamber will host its annual meeting and awards ceremony starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 17 at Marion Cumberland Presbyterian Church's fellowship hall. Cost is \$25 for members and \$27 for non-members. RSVP to the Chamber office at (270) 965-5015.

## Clean water often taken for granted

STAFF REPORT

It may be hard for local residents to believe, but clean water is not readily available to all people everywhere. Each year for the past 62 years, Crittenden County Conservation District and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) have encouraged awareness of a conservation topic. Last week was Soil Stewardship Week, and this year's theme is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home."

"Clean water is important to everyone," says NACD Past President Earl Garber. "Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state and national boundaries. Every inch of the land on planet Earth is part of a watershed ... No matter where you are right now, you are in a watershed."

Watersheds direct water first to smaller streams and creeks, then larger rivers, and eventually to the oceans. Whatever drains from those small sources eventually ends up mixed with waters from everywhere. If people are not careful of how local runoff water is treated, the stage can be set for ecological problems downstream. Many USDA farm programs address this issue.

A good example is excessive fertilizers running into the Mississippi River from farmland, and down into the Gulf of Mexico. There, the fertilizer causes increased algae growth, which uses the oxygen in the water so it isn't available for the fish and other water species. The result is a dead zone, which in 2017 was 8,776 square miles, or an area the size of New Jersey.

Awareness of our individual actions can prevent pollutants from entering the water system. Paints, chemicals, gasoline, oils or other toxins should never be disposed of down the drain or poured on the ground. Vegetation buffers should be maintained along streambanks, and erosion solutions put into place as soon as possible to minimize sediment. Water can also be conserved during regular activities. This will help make more clean water available for everyone.

For more information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact the local conservation district at 118 E. Bellville St., Marion; call (270) 965-3921, ext. 3; or visit the NACD website at NACDnet.org/education.

## OBITUARIES

### Decker

Neil Thomas Decker, 64, of Marion died Sunday, April 29, 2018, at his home.

He had made a profession of faith in Christ. He worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and also owned and operated Duke's Racquet Club and Rough Country Golf Course.



Survivors include a sister, Abbie Erin Tyler of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, Dale Cameron Decker and wife Darla of Greensburg, Ky.; two nieces and two nephews: Kyle Decker and wife Stephanie, Leah Barrett and husband Brad, John Hamby and wife, Chie and Laura Hamby; great-nieces and nephews, MaKaylee Decker, Zoey Barrett, Riley Decker, Zane Barrett and Charlie Hamby; and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by parents, Thomas Kendall Decker and Mildred Irene McConnell Decker; his biological mother, Laura Ellen Minton Decker; and a sister, Deborah Renee Hamby.

A memorial service will be held at Mexico Baptist Church at 1 p.m. on June 2.

Memorials may be made to Norton Children's Hospital at NortonChildrens.com/donate.

Myers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### Gregory

John Scott Gregory, 74, of Marion died Saturday, May 5, 2018 at Crittenden Hospital.

He was a farmer. Surviving are a son, David (Chelsea) Gregory of Marion; a daughter, Cheri Gregory of Marion; a grandson, Kyler Goodwin of Marion; brothers, Richard (Jan) Gregory and Bill Gregory of Marion; and a sister, Rose Gregory of Paducah. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Virginia Sullenger Gregory; and his wife, Nina Elaine Slack Gregory.

Services were at noon Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Myers Funeral Home in Marion. Burial was at Mapleview Cemetery.

### Shelby

Leva D. Shelby, 94, of Marion died Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at Crittenden Health Systems.

She was a member of Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Shelby is survived by a daughter, Annetta Rae Spencer of Clarksville, Tenn.; a son, Edward Ray Travis of Michigan; grandchildren, Trevor R. Travis and Kendell Travis, both of Charleston, S.C.; and a great-granddaughter, Sydney Marie Spencer of Clarksville.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Fred A. Travis; her second husband, William O. Shelby; her parents, Virgil and Pearl Duffy; three brothers; and five infant children.

Services were scheduled Saturday May 5 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion with interment in Sugar Grove Cemetery.

### Brown

Chester W. Brown, 81, of Marion died Tuesday, May 08, 2018, at Baptist Health Paducah.

Arrangements are incomplete at Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services in Salem. A complete obituary can be found here next week.

## TYNER CHAPEL CEMETERY

Anyone having family buried at the chapel is urged to donate to cemetery for maintenance.  
Thank You

Mail To:  
Tyner Chapel Cemetery  
P.O. Box 154  
Salem, KY 42078

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## I'll be YOUR VOICE on the Fiscal Court



*Elect*  
**MATT WATSON**  
Crittenden County  
Magistrate, District 2  
(Tolu and Sheridan)

*Focused on*  
★ **OUR** ★  
*Community*

Paid for by Matt Watson



Calendar

– The **Crittenden County Genealogy Society** will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday in the meeting room at the Crittenden County Public Library. The program will be “How to spot and avoid nine common genealogy mistakes and errors in your research.”

– **Friends of the Library** will meet at 6 p.m., May 17. Summer fundraising and the annual membership drive will be discussed. The Friends are always looking for new members. Annual dues are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families and \$1 for students. All ages welcome.

– **Caldwell Springs Fire Department** will hold a fish fry from noon-2 p.m., May 19 at the former Frances Elementary School grounds, which now houses the fire department. The fish fry is \$7/plate, which includes two pieces of fish, beans, French fries and hushpuppies. Proceeds will go toward repairs of the Frances School gymnasium.

**Church Notes**

– Dates for **Hurricane Camp Meeting** are June 11-17, services nightly at 7. Dining Hall opening at 5:30 for the public.

– A clean-up and maintenance day at **Hurricane Camp** on May 12, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is provided. All help appreciated. For additional information, (270) 965-9307.

**Extension**

– Sue Parrent will present a class titled “**Know the Limits,**” at 2 p.m., Thursday (today) at the Extension Office. This class will focus on empty calories and added sugars, sodium and salt in your diet. Call (270) 965-5236 to register.

– **After Hours** Homemakers will meet at 5 p.m., May 15 at the Extension Office.

– **Crochet Corner** will meet at noon, May 16 at the Extension Office.

KPA searches for founders’ relatives

In January, 2019, the Kentucky Press Association will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. KPA is the nation's 10th oldest state press association and represents all newspapers published in the Commonwealth.

On Wednesday, January 13, 1869, a group of newspaper editors gathered in downtown Frankfort to organize a society for newspapers.

While the association does not have a list of who attended the organizational meeting, it does have a list of officers elected to organize the association and to serve as officers the following year.

Those men and their newspaper affiliation were George D. Prentice, The Courier-Journal; A.B. Hodges, Frankfort Commonwealth; W.H. Perrin, Louisville Democrat; J.R. Marrs, Danville Advocate; S.I.M. Majors, Frankfort Yeoman; Thomas S. Pettit, Owensboro Monitor; J.G. Craddock, Paris True Kentuckian; J. Stoddard Johnson, Frankfort Yeoman; H.T. Stanton, Maysville Bulletin.

The Kentucky Press Association is searching for descendants of these individuals who helped organize the association. If you are a descendant of one of the individuals named, or know a descendant of these gentlemen, please contact David T. Thompson, Kentucky Press Association, 101 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or by phone at (502) 223-8821 or by email at dthompson@kypress.com.

Gobin new CEO of Health First organization

Health First has announced the appointment of Shelley Gobin as their new CEO.

“After a nationwide search, the Health First Board of Directors has completed the arduous task of searching for a CEO,” said Mr. Nibby Priest, President of Health First Board of Directors.

“Gobin has 22 years healthcare experience and has proven herself as a leader over the past several months, serving as the Interim CEO, Priest said.”

Gobin has been part of the Health First team for five years, beginning in the nursing and quality department before being promoted to chief operating officer in 2015.

“It is an honor to have been selected by the Health First Board of Directors to lead this organization and care for the health and wellness needs of our region,” said Gobin. “Being from this area, I am invested in the community and my vision is to provide vital healthcare services to those in need. Our team of health care professionals does an outstanding job with this.”

Gobin earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of the Cumberland and associates degree in nursing from Madisonville Community College. She has been a Registered Nurse in Kentucky since 2003. Prior to obtaining her RN license, she worked as a LPN from 2001 to 2003.

During her nursing career, she has worked in the hospital, long-term care and health clinic settings.

Gobin is a native of Muhlenberg County. She resides in Shady Grove with her husband, Snapper and two sons, Riley and Case.



Gobin



Sorority officers named

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority - Alpha Zeta chapter installed new officers last Thursday at its Founders Day celebration held at the home of officer Cathy Hunt. Pictured (from left) are Nancy Hunt, president; Sandy Gilbert, vice-president and extension officer; Cathy Hunt, recording secretary; Patty Gilbert, treasurer; and Pat Moore, corresponding secretary. Jeanne Lynn, outgoing president, installed the officers with an M&Ms installation ceremony. New officers begin their two-year term in June.

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 hashbrown ham casserole, lima beans, wheat roll and ambrosia fruit salad.

– Friday: Menu is baked chicken, cornbread dressing, giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and banana pudding. A Mother's Day recognition will be held.

– Monday: Menu is ham and bean soup, hot spiced beets, buttered spinach, pear crisp and cornbread. Ladies exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.

– Tuesday: Menu is Tomato chicken parmesan with noodles, cucumber salad, whole wheat roll and peach cobbler. Legal aid will be offered at 10 a.m.

– May 16: Menu is meat balls with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, whole grain biscuit and pears. Bingo will begin 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. The center is a service of Pennyriale Allied Community Services.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crittenden County Extension Homemaker President Darl Henley (left) and Rose Eldridge display Eldridge's winning People Choice quilt at the Backroads Quilt Show.

33 quilts featured at April show

Visitors from eight states and four countries were in Marion to view the Crittenden County Extension Homemakers Backroads Quilt Show April 21.

A display of 33 heritage quilts of many different patterns and colors were on display at the City Hall Council Chambers.

As a special feature to the annual show, award winning quilts, table runners, hand bags and other fabric items made by the Crittenden County Extension Quilt Club members brightened the lobby of City Hall.

Members of the Quilt Club – Rose Eldridge, Margie Belt, Debbie Cox and Jerrell James – greeted each visitor and shared information about their Quilt Club activities.

Rose Eldridge's quilt “Triple 4 Patch” was chosen as the winner of the People Choice Award. She received a plaque from the Extension Service and \$25 gift certificate given the City of Marion Tourism Commission.

Crittenden County  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Annual Meeting 2018  
The Crittenden County  
Chamber of Commerce Cordially  
invites you to its Annual Meeting  
May 17, 2018 • 6 p.m.  
1st Cumberland Presbyterian  
Fellowship Hall  
\$25 • Chamber Members • \$27 • Non Members  
Annual Awards  
Catered by Anna Mae's  
Reservations Must Be In By May 14  
(270) 965-5015  
susan@crittendenchamber.org

Vocabulary comes in from left field

Getting ready for work a couple weeks ago, going through my normal routine, random early-morning thoughts running through my mind. What are the kids' after school plans? Is his uniform clean? Where are her cleats? Is the college student up for class? What's on the dreaded menu for the evening? Trump's ridiculous Tweet of the hour.

A lot can pass through a Mom's mind when she's left alone for a few minutes.

Suddenly, as if someone was standing next to me saying it, the word ubiquitous pops into my head. I repeat it a couple times to myself, thinking “where did that come from.” I then wondered how it would be spelled and keep getting ready. Ubiquitous – why did that word pop into my head?

Since I wasn't sure how to spell it, I spoke it and let Siri send me in the right direction. Ubiquitous: Being everywhere, especially at the same time.

Although unable to come up with an explanation as to where, I clearly had heard it somewhere – at church the day before? On the news that morning while the coffee was brewing?

Who knows, but I did add a new word to my vocabulary.

Fast forward a few days. In the press box at Gordon Blue Guess Field



Allison  
EVANS  
Staff writer  
Write  
Now

with the legendary David Hunt, Rocket baseball aficionado from whom I'm learning many things this season. “Look at that Eephus pitch,” he said, doing some customary commentary. “A what?” my friend and I ask, before being schooled on its meaning and origin on a beautiful spring afternoon at the ballpark.

On two occasions, I had to ask my husband what that “rainbow pitch” was called before coming up with a way to remember the Eephus pronunciation. Rhymes with Bocephus, as in Hank Williams Jr.'s nickname.

Hunt, a longtime local baseball personality who's been the voice of the Rockets at Gordon Blue Guess Field for a number of years, schooled those of us in the press box on the Eephus pitch.

It's attributed to Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Rip Sewell in the 1940s. It's a junk pitch that starts out extremely high, is delivered very slowly, but dies in the strike zone, taking batters – even today in the Big Leagues – by surprise. Look up a couple videos. That little league pitch can strike out the best.

Clearly, new vocabulary words are likely to come from left field – or even the pitcher's mound.

Hughes  
Net.  
Looking for  
High-Speed  
Internet?  
Call  
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SPRING SPORTS

STANDINGS

BASEBALL

Up to date as of Monday

FIFTH DISTRICT	ALL	DIST
Trigg County	12-8	5-1
Livingston Cent.	11-6	5-1
Lyon County	9-9	2-4
Crittenden Co.	6-15	0-6

**SOFTBALL**

FIFTH DISTRICT	ALL	DIST
Crittenden Co.	15-6	3-1
Trigg County	16-10	3-1
Lyon County	14-10	2-3
Livingston Cent.	1-11	0-3

Upcoming Games

**BASEBALL**

**Thursday**  
Freshmen at Graves Co.

**Friday**  
Rockets at Madisonville

**Saturday**  
Rockets host Webster  
Freshmen at Webster

**Monday**  
Rockets host Hopkins Cent.

**Tuesday**  
Rockets at Union Co.

**SOFTBALL**

**Thursday**  
Softball hosts Trigg Co.

**Friday**  
Softball at Tilghman

**Tuesday**  
CCHS at Madisonville

**TRACK & FIELD**

**Saturday**  
CCHS at Regionals, Murray

Hunting Seasons

Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Coyote Night	Feb. 1 - May 31
Bullfrog	May 18 - Oct. 31

Turkeys numbers

are way down

Crittenden County's turkey harvest has plummeted to its lowest in almost 20 years. Records are readily available for the turkey harvest since 2000. This year's take of 287 birds is the lowest since the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources began tracking such information on its website. Unofficial harvest results collected by this newspaper in the mid 1990s indicate a harvest of 178 in 1995. Over the past 19 seasons, the lowest county figure was 351 in 2000. The most was 566 in 2012, but harvest numbers have steadily declined since that peak. Livingston County is seeing similar trends. There, hunters took 226 birds over the spring season, which ended Sunday. Zak Danks, the state turkey program coordinator, was here during the season with a crew of biologists. They took samples and have sent off turkey carcasses to a Georgia laboratory for further testing. Results will not be available for several more weeks.

**Stingray sign up**

Marion Stingrays will have an informational opportunity set up at the Crittenden County Public Library from 4-6 p.m., on Monday. This will be an opportunity for potential swimmers to drop by and learn more about joining the summer recreation team. Information will be available about costs, practices and swimmers can be fitted for swim suits.

Crittenden Track and Field Results



Freshman Keller

sets new 1600

school record

Crittenden County freshman Kate Keller has set a new 1600-meter record. The ninth grader eclipsed the mile standard Friday during the Area 1 Championships meet at Fort Campbell.

Keller ran the race in 5:38.61. The previous school record was set 30 years ago by Sally McKenney at 5:41.6.

Crittenden County's track and field team will be performing at Murray on Saturday at the First Region Championships. Those who qualify for the state meet will be in Lexington on May 17.

High Jump: 8. Natalie Hutchings 4-4, 11. Grace Driskill 4-4  
Triple Jump: 7. Kenlee Perryman 31-1, 13. Trinity Hayes 26-9  
Shot Put: 14. Lauren Gilchrist 22-7  
Discus: 14. Lauren Gilchrist 67-5

**Boys Results, May 4**

Team Totals: Marshall (156.5), Mayfield (97.5), Hopkinsville (83), McCracken (82.5), Murray (57), Fort Campbell (55.5), Christian (52), UHA (23), Trigg (21), Crittenden (19.5), Graves (18.5), Lyon (17), St. Mary (13), Dawson (5)

110 hurdles: 5. Devin Ford (18.18)

300 hurdles: 11. Devin Ford (46.69), 19. Zack Weathers (51.04)  
100 meters: 11. Devon Nesbitt (12.14), 14. Eli Moss (12.31)  
200 meters: 20. Doug Conger (27.74)  
400 meters: 12. Eli Moss (56.09), 19. Noah Perkins (1:01.79)  
800 meters: 9. Preston Morgeson (2:18.37), 16. Tyson Steele (2:31.23)  
1600 meters: 6. Aaron Lucas (4:52.17), 8. Preston Morgeson (5:14.32)  
4x100 relay: 6. Crittenden (45.68)  
4x200 relay: 10. Crittenden (1:44.49)  
4x400 relay: 8. Crittenden (3:52.89)  
4x800 relay: 3. Crittenden (9:00.19)  
Long Jump: 13. Branen Lamey 17-6, 15. Doug Conger 16-3½  
High Jump: 9. Devin Ford 5-2, 12. Sawyer Towery 5-0  
Triple Jump: 9. Branen Lamey 36-10, 15. Tyson Steele 34-6½  
Shot Put: 15. Brock Langston 32-3½, 19. Adam Beavers 28-5½  
Discus: 8. Adam Beavers 104-0, 10. Ross Crider 101-0

**Girls Results, May 1 at Marshall County Double Quad Meet**

Team Totals: Marshall (163), Trigg (106), Crittenden (90), Graves (64), Livingston (61), St. Mary (40), Lyon (39), Dawson (22), Murray (21), McCracken (13), Ballard (7), Caldwell (3)

100 hurdles: 3. Ryleigh Tabor (20.88)  
300 hurdles: 5. Ryleigh Tabor (1:07.86)  
100 meters: 4. Grace Driskill (14.26), 11. Addyson Faughn (15.07)  
200 meters: 10. Addyson Faughn (31.49), 12. Cortne Curnel (32.10)  
400 meters: 12. Trinity Hayes (1:16.43)  
800 meters: 9. Jaelyn Duncan (3:00.13), 17. Southern Pate (3:18.05)  
1600 meters: 3. Kate Keller (5:50.86)  
3200 meters: 3. Kate Keller (14:04.57)  
4x100 relay: 3. Crittenden (58.40)  
4x200 relay: 1. Crittenden (2:06.58)  
4x400 relay: 2. Crittenden (4:56.43)  
Long Jump: 3. Trinity Hayes 12-5¼, 15. Ryleigh Tabor 8-5  
High Jump: 3. Natalie Hutchings 4-8, 4. Grace Driskill 4-4

Triple Jump: 1. Kenlee Perryman 30-7½, 8. Trinity Hayes 25-11½, 13. Southern Pate 20-7½  
Shot Put: 10. Lauren Gilchrist 22-9½, 13. Abby Kirk 20-10  
Discus: 9. Lauren Gilchrist 57-5, 19. Abby Kirk 47-3

**Boys Results, May 1**

Team Totals: Marshall (170.5), West Creek-TN (134.5), McCracken (81.5), Crittenden (71), Graves (58), Trigg (56), Lyon (46), Livingston (24), St. Mary (23), Dawson (12), Ballard (8.5), Caldwell (2)  
110 hurdles: 3. Devin Ford (18.25)  
300 hurdles: 5. Devin Ford (47.03), 12. Zack Weathers (51.41)  
100 meters: 2. Devon Nesbitt (11.78), 8. Eli Moss (12.28)  
200 meters: 6. Devon Nesbitt (24.73), 7. Gavin Davidson (24.93)  
400 meters: 4. Eli Moss (56.17), 19. Noah Perkins (1:02.35)  
800 meters: 12. Sawyer Towery (2:19.73), 14. Preston Morgeson (2:24.01), 28. Tyson Steele (2:51.09)  
1600 meters: 5. Preston Morgeson (5:10.38)  
4x100 relay: 3. Crittenden-A (45.95), 9. Crittenden-B (50.73)  
4x200 relay: 9. Crittenden (1:45.53)  
4x400 relay: 2. Crittenden-A (3:55.62), 6. Crittenden-B (4:12.84)  
4x800 relay: 2. Crittenden (9:07.89)

Long Jump: 10. Branen Lamey 16-7, 17. Doug Conger 14-10½, 21. Noah Perkins 13-1  
High Jump: 5. Devin Ford 5-6, 9. Sawyer Towery 5-2  
Triple Jump: 5. Branen Lamey 36-5, 15. Tyson Steele 33-4  
Shot Put: 13. Adam Beavers 33-0½, 20. Brock Langston 29-11, 22. Riley Gobin 29-7, 23. Dillan West 29-0  
Discus: 6. Adam Beavers 104-9, 9. Ross Crider 97-6, 21. Riley Gobin 78-10, 24. Dillan West 76-3

**Area 1 Championship at Fort Campbell**

**Girls Results, May 4**

Team Totals: Murray (126), Marshall (111), UHA (88), Hopkinsville (87), McCracken (82), Fort Campbell (49), Christian (45), Mayfield (29), St. Mary (28), Trigg (24), Crittenden (19), Graves (11)  
100 hurdles: 7. Jessie Potter (19.27), 12. Ryleigh Tabor (22.11)  
300 hurdles: 13. Ryleigh Tabor (1:08.09)  
100 meters: 14. Grace Driskill (14.54), 18. Addyson Faughn (14.80)  
200 meters: 18. Addyson Faughn (31.18), 20. Cortne Curnel (32.04)  
400 meters: 20. Trinity Hayes (1:17.00)  
800 meters: 12. Jaelyn Duncan (2:50.53), 17. Southern Pate (3:13.94)  
1600 meters: 3. Kate Keller (5:38.61) School Record  
3200 meters: 4. Kate Keller (13:24.81)  
4x100 relay: 8. Crittenden (57.82)  
4x200 relay: 7. Crittenden (2:07.69)  
4x400 relay: 9. Crittenden (4:57.61)  
Long Jump: 14. Trinity Hayes 13-2, 19. Ryleigh Tabor 11-0½

CCHS SOFTBALL

Crittenden County (15-6) broke a 2-2 tie with two runs in the sixth inning and added three more in the seventh to gain a measure of revenge against Union County Monday night at Morganfield.

The Lady Rockets had dropped a game to Union (7-14) last week. In this one, Jenna Potter and Ashlyn Hicks had three hits apiece for the Lady Rockets.

Chandler Moss went the distance on the rubber for CCHS. She fanned none, but walked none and got an errorless defensive performance behind her. Moss also had Crittenden's only extra-base hit.

Crittenden County 200 002 3 - 7 10 0  
Union County 002 000 0 - 2 12 3  
WP Chandler Moss. LP K.Blackburn. 2B Moss. RBI Matthia Long 3, Jenna Potter.

**BALLARD COMES FROM BEHIND**

Despite an early 4-1 lead, the Lady Rock-

ets were unable to hold on last Tuesday, losing to Ballard Memorial on the road by a score of 11-7. The turnaround came in the bottom of the third inning as the Lady Bombers batted through the lineup, scoring five runs. Later in the fifth, Crittenden (14-6) cut the lead to one on four consecutive singles, but the rally was short-lived as Ballard pulled away in the final innings. Freshman Chandler Moss was tagged with the loss, lasting three innings, allowing six runs on six hits. Sophomore Jenna Potter threw three innings of relief allowing five runs on five hits. Freshman Ashlyn Hicks led Crittenden with three hits in three at bats and also drew a walk. Potter also had two hits in the game.

Crittenden County 121 021 0 - 7 8 5  
Ballard Memorial 105 122 x - 11 11 3  
WP - Moss. LP - Moss. 2B: A.Hicks. RBI: Book, Hayes, El.Smith (2).



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Crittenden's Jada Hayes hustles to third base during a recent softball game at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

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## CCHS BASEBALL

With just over a week remaining in the regular season, Crittenden County's baseball team has hit its stride in many respects. But there have been some hiccups – like Monday's meltdown at St. Mary.

Crittenden traveled to Paducah Monday to a rematch with the Vikings. The Rockets had won five of their last eight and were well on their way to another victory over St. Mary when the floor caved in.

Crittenden got a tremendous starting pitching performance from junior Ethan Dossett before the bullpen gave away a six-run lead in the seventh and lost the game in extra innings.

The Rockets beat Paducah Community Christian on Tuesday at Marion. CCHS was originally scheduled to play at Caldwell County, but that game was cancelled so the Tigers could make up a district matchup with Hopkins Central.

Crittenden will host its annual Senior Game on Saturday when Webster County comes to Marion for a 1 p.m., start.

Monday's loss at St. Mary was heartbreaking for a team that was playing as well as it had all season long and cruising along with a 6-0 lead going into the last inning. The Rockets (6-15) needed just three outs for the victory, but the Vikings scored six to tie the score and send the game into extra innings.

Crittenden had three costly errors in the inning, including a pair with two outs and still leading by three. Later in the top of the eighth, the Rockets went back on top as freshman Gabe Mott singled in two runs, but another error in the bottom half of the inning helped the Vikings tie the score once again.

In the ninth, St. Mary loaded the bases and a single drove in the winner in a 9-8 CCHS loss.

Senior Logan Belt took the loss, pitching two-thirds of an inning, allowing one run on three hits and walking one.

Dossett started the game, lasting six innings, allowing four hits and three runs while striking out three. Freshman Ian Ellington and junior Briley Brown also saw time on the mound.

Senior Cody Belt remains hot at the plate, collecting two hits in as many at-bats. Freshman Trace Adams also had two hits and drove in a run.

Despite Monday's setback at St. Mary, Crittenden has now won six of its last nine games.

Crittenden County 030 101 120 - 8 8 5  
St. Mary 000 000 621 - 9 9 1  
WP - Haas. LP - L.Belt. 2B: C.Belt. RBI: C.Belt, Mott (2), Riley, Adams.

### ROCKETS BLAST DAWSON SPRINGS

The Rockets found plenty of offense at Dawson Springs last Thursday, racking up 32 runs in a blowout road win over the Panthers.

Crittenden put 11 runs on the board in the opening frame, sending 15 batters to the plate. As a team, the Rockets had 17 hits in the 34 official at-bats for



Rocket junior hurler Ethan Dossett pitched well for six innings before the bullpen gave up a 6-0 lead in the seventh and CCHS lost in nine innings at St. Mary on Monday. Still, Crittenden has won six of its last nine games.

the game to go along with 16 RBIs.

Senior Cody Belt went 3-4 with 3 RBIs to lead the team while Jayden Carlson, Gabe Mott, Caden McCalister, Hunter Jones and Trace Adams each had multiple hits on the night. Junior Payton Riley pitched a complete game, allowing one run on three hits and striking out three over the five innings.

Crittenden County 11 405 0 - 20 17 1  
Dawson Springs 0 010 0 - 1 3 2  
WP - Riley. LP - Bardin. 2B: C.Belt, J.Carlson (2). RBI: Brown, McCalister (3), C.Belt (3), Mott, Jones, J.Carlson (3), Robinson, Riley, Adams (2).

Crittenden traveled to Eddyville last Tuesday searching for a much-needed district win in their final regular season district game against Lyon County. The Rockets opened the game scoring three runs in the first on five hits as they batted through the lineup, but the Lyons were able to plate four of their own to take the lead back and Crittenden never was able to mount a comeback, falling by a score of 12-4. Gabe Mott, Tyler Boone, Cody Belt, Trace Adams and Ethan Dossett all had two hits each on the day as the Rockets out-hit the Lyons 13-12. Sophomore Erik O'Leary took the loss for Crittenden, allowing six hits and six

runs over two innings of action. Junior Briley Brown went an inning and two-thirds, also allowing six hits and six runs. Freshman Trace Adams pitched two and a third scoreless innings without surrendering a hit. Crittenden now sits at 0-6 in the district and will await the No. 1-seed in the opening round of the district tournament a week from Monday. It will either be Trigg County or Livingston Central.

Crittenden County 300 001 0 - 4 13 1  
Lyon County 420 600 X - 12 12 1  
WP - Bridges. LP – O'Leary. 2B: Dossett, J.Carlson. RBI: C.Belt (2), Mott.

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## Six football players headed to combine

STAFF REPORT

Six Rocket football players will participate in the West Kentucky Conference Showcase at McCracken County High School.

The event is a combine for 2019 high school sen-

iors.

Rocket coach Sean Thompson said it's somewhat a revival of the old western Kentucky combine that used to be held in Hopkinsville every year. Players will be evaluated for recruiting pur-

poses and for setting the roster for next year's senior all star game.

Crittenden players heading to the combine this week are Brock Langston, Sean O'Leary, Ethan Dossett, Hunter Boone, Devon Nesbitt

and Branen Lamey. Senior-to-be Gavin Dickerson is not participating because he only recently was released by doctors for sports activities after suffering a knee injury last football season.

## Montgomery 'low key, low maintenance'

Even though most were speculating that Georgia forward E.J. Montgomery was going to pick Duke over Kentucky and others, Rivals.com writer Dan McDonald (@DMcDonaldsRivals on Twitter) was not surprised when he signed with John Calipari and Kentucky.

"I had been tipped off by a source close to him a couple weeks ahead of time that Kentucky had the edge over Duke and UNC (North Carolina). I think his experience at the McDonald's All-American Game finished it off," McDonald said.

Kentucky signees Kelton Johnson and Immanuel Quickley played in the McDonald's All-American Game and spent considerable time with Montgomery – as did Duke's four signees. What might have sold him on UK was the need for a 6-9 player with his skills.

"I like his athleticism and his soft touch around the rim best. He's really fast up and down the court and quick off his feet," McDonald said.

"In the past, I questioned his toughness. He always floated around the perimeter too much for me.

"I thought he made great strides this high school season in playing harder, being tougher, and playing more in the paint. I give a lot of credit to his high school coach Larry Thompson, who I think really pushed him and challenged him. To his credit, he took to the coaching and is a better player now for it."



Larry Vaught  
UK Sports Columnist  
Vaught's Views

McDonald said the next step for Montgomery is to become an even better perimeter shooter to make his overall game even better.

"He's become a much more dominant post player in the past year, so now I'd like to see him round out his game and polish up his shot to where he can hit jumpers more consistently," McDonald said. "I'd like for him to become more of an inside-outside threat."

He showed he has the potential to do that during the McDonald's All-American Game practices when his play — along with his physical appearance — reminded UK fans of former UK All-American Tayshaun Prince. His personality might even remind UK fans of Prince, who went on to a successful NBA career.

"He's definitely a more reserved personality. He's a quiet kid off the court, but I think he has a goofy side, too," McDonald said. "He's a really good kid from everything my own experiences and everything I've heard. It carries over onto the court, too. I think it's out of his comfort zone to show a mean streak, but don't mistake that for a lack of competitiveness. He's just a more even-keeled kind of kid.

"I think Kentucky fans will appreciate the fact he's a low key, low maintenance type of kid and player. He'll understand his role, play it, and he'll take well to the way Kentucky's coaching staff tries to coach him."

-----

Losing linebacker Denzil Ware is a big blow to Kentucky's defense for the 2018 season.

Ware announced last week – the day before his graduation – that he was leaving UK as a graduate

transfer. He became the 12th player in the 2014 signing class to transfer and is taking the same path his former UK roommate, receiver Jeff Badet, did last year when he transferred to Oklahoma for his final season.

Ware played in 37 games with 156 tackles, including 26.5 for loss and 13 sack, in his career. He did not play in the Music City Bowl for a "violation of team rules" but went through spring practice and coach Mark Stoops even moved line-backer Josh Paschal to the defensive line to get him on the field rather than backing up Ware and Josh Allen.

Ware had been considered a possible early entry for the NFL draft but along with linebacker Jordan Jones, safety Mike Edwards and Allen opted to remain in college. Those four were supposed to be the an-

chors for an improved UK defense in 2019.

Think back to what running back Benny Snell said about Ware before the Music City Bowl.

"Negativity is coming and all that. I would like to say there's no Benny Snell mentality without Denzil Ware. That man has done a lot of great things for me," Snell said. "I've learned too many things from him. That man's a great man and I hope to see him go to the next level one day. But he's given me knowledge and there's no Benny Snell without Denzil's knowledge."

Those were strong words from Snell about Ware and those who think teammates are happy Ware is leaving just don't understand how popular he was with them.

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COMMUNITY YARD sale at Bellville Manor Apartments, 819 Terrace Dr., Marion. Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ladies' clothing, little girls' clothing sizes 5-6, wingback chair, round cherry coffee table, new comforter, small appliances, refrigerator dishes, cookbooks, Disney toys. Too much to list. Shop early for best deals. (1tp-43)

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The Public Service Commission of Kentucky will hold a hearing on May 24, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at the Commission's offices, located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of cross-examination of witnesses in Case No. 2018-00034, which is *In the Matter of Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers, Inc. vs. Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company*. The hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov). The address for Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company is 220 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202.

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### bid notice

Crittenden County Lions Club is seeking sealed bids for design and cost estimate for the construction of a new building. Building specifications and information may be obtained by contacting Jared Belt at (270) 871-4502. Bids will be due by May 18, 2018. Any and all bids may be accepted or rejected as deemed necessary by Crittenden County Lions Club. (1t-43-c)

### legal notice

Notice is hereby given that on April 25th, 2018, Rebecca

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Combs of 302 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed executrix of Caroline D. Brown, deceased, whose address was 302 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky. 42064. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 25th day of

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SISCO CHAPEL RD...3 BR, 1 BA brick ranch home. Located on the road to the south of Moore Hill. Features 2 car garage, large lot, partial fenced in, wa "OWNER SAYS MAKE AN OFFER! COUNTRY CLUB DR...3 BR, 2.5 bath split level brick home. Features: Central Heat & Air, eat-in kitchen & formal dining room, basement has 1023 SF and upstairs has 1815 SF., 2 car attached garage, all appliances. an **SOLD**

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411 S. MAIN ST. MARION, KY 42064  
OFFICE: (270) 965-5271 FAX: (270) 965-5272

October, 2018 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-43-c)

Notice is hereby given that on May 2nd, 2018, Abbie Erin Tyler of P.O. Box 59182, Nashville, Tn. 37205-9182 was appointed administratrix and Dale C. Decker of 2853 Liletwon Rd., Greensburg, Ky. 42743 was appointed administrator of Neil Thomas Decker, deceased, whose address was 808 Wilson Farm Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064. Hon. Robert Frazer, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administratrix/administrator before

the 2nd day of November, 2018 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named

decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-43-c)

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3Bed 2Bath – 775 Chapel Hill Rd.....**SOLD**.....\$94,900 JS  
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# Century-old MUMC stained glass windows to undergo restoration

STAFF REPORT

Repairing timeless art-work that punctuates one of Marion's oldest and largest church buildings is no minor job.

The congregation at Marion United Methodist Church is close to signing a contract with Mominee Studios Inc. of Evansville, Ind., to remove, renovate and replace the stained glass windows on the church at the corner of College and Bellville streets. The church plans to begin the project – which could take almost a year – with its window on the south side of the building next to Carlisle Street. The largest window in the sanctuary, which faces Bellville Street, will be refurbished afterward. At some point, the smaller windows will likely be renovated, too.

The church is reaching out to present and past members in its fundraising effort, which began a few months ago and will continue in 2019.

Barkley Hughes and Brian Kirby, co-chair the church trustee committee, and have been working on details of the project and finding a contractor for more than a year. Construction of the church was completed in 1911 and the stained glass and its lead framing have deteriorated over the last 100-plus years. The glass was originally installed by Kokomo



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS/THEPRESS

**Stained glass window specialist Jules Mominee of Evansville, Ind., discusses plans for renovating the large picture windows at Marion United Methodist Church with members of the congregation.**

Opalescent Glass, which has been in business in Indiana since 1888.

Jules Mominee, owner of the company doing the renovation work, was able to identify the original glassmaker by the texture of work. He said there are very few fine glassmakers left in the country and only about 100 companies doing high-quality repair work. His company recently completed a project at the Kentucky State Capitol rotunda.

Hughes said Mominee was selected as the contractor for the job, which will cost well into six fig-

ures, because of its credentials and reputation. Jules Mominee holds master of architecture and a master of fine art degrees and he's also a certified historic preservationist. His wife is the company's primary artist.

The church has begun raising funds to complete the project, but work will likely not begin until next summer because Mominee's schedule is booked until then.

The windows will be carefully removed and taken to the company's studio in Evansville where they will be restored pane by pane.

Each large window will take about three months. Plywood will be used to temporarily replace the windows while they're removed for repair.

The church is thinking about having its children come up with an artful project to decorate the makeshift wooden fillers while the stained glass is out.

Hughes said that over the last 100 years the beautiful windows have deteriorated to the point that something must be done to preserve them for the next century and beyond.

ANNOUNCING  
CCHS CLASS OF 1968  
50 YEAR CLASS REUNION  
September 7th and 8th, 2018

We are very excited to announce our 50 Year Class Reunion is scheduled; and invitations with further information will be mailed to you very soon. As you can see, we have events for both Fri., Sept. 7th and Sat., Sept. 8th. We are asking for anyone in our class that has a new address, phone number or email to please contact Sheila Brantley Truitt in Marion as soon as possible. Whether you attended one or 12 years with us, we want you to come. Please pass this information on to other class members that may miss this announcement.  
Friday afternoon is a picnic at Dam 50 and begins at 2 p.m. until ??  
Saturday evening will be a sit-down dinner at Fohs Hall in Marion beginning at 5 p.m.

CONTACTS  
1. Sheila Brantley Truitt Marion, KY Phone (270-965-2490)  
2. Robert (Bobby) Weldon Evansville, IN Phone (812-430-4885)  
3. Barbara Conway Brickman, Ooltewah, TN Phone (423-344-1545)  
“We can’t wait to see you!” Bobby, Sheila, and Barb

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**Fohs Hall**  
**12 Graduates**  
*Public Invited to Attend*  
*Reception to Follow*



PHOTO ALLISON EVANS/THE PRESS

## Tour of duties

Above, Marion fireman Chris Cooksey gives Crittenden County Elementary School kindergarten student Emarie Cox a glimpse into what it feels like to work the fire hose Friday during a tour of Marion businesses and governmental offices. The students toured a half dozen locations in Marion before having free time at Marion-Crittenden County Park. The 100 or so students also ago a look inside county government with a tour of the courthouse and question-and-answer session with Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom.

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*Paid for by Lynn Bechler*

## U.S. 641 diversion under construction

STAFF REPORT

A contractor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KyTC) is starting construction of a diversion road where the new U.S. 641 will connect with existing U.S. 641/Ky. 91 just south of Marion near the intersection with Coleman Road.

Construction of a traffic diversion at existing U.S. 641 is required to allow the contractor to complete construction of a culvert for Crooked Creek and make final connections at the north end of the relocated U.S. 641 so-called super two-lane project. Much of this work will be off oof the right-of-way

away from traffic. Appropriate caution is required where equipment, flaggers and construction personnel are along the roadway in close proximity to traffic flow.

The contractor is working with a goal of activating the diversion sometime in late May or early June to facilitate construction of the connecting point. The contractor and KyTC will provide appropriate advance notice before the diversion is activated.

Completion of work to clear fiber optic cables, gas lines, electric lines and other utilities near the connecting points has al-

lowed this work to move forward.

Rogers Group is the prime contractor on the \$13.8 million project to pave two lanes of relocated U.S. 641 and finish out connecting points at Marion and Fredonia. Due to extended wet weather this spring, the target completion date has moved to Nov. 1 of this year.

Grade and drain work along this 5.2-mile section was completed under an earlier \$18.5 million contract.

As of today, it has been 2,275 days since a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new road on Feb 17, 2012.

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At Crittenden Health Systems, we take pride in serving our community by providing quality services with integrity and compassion. We are looking forward to providing several new services in the near future right here close to home. We encourage you and your loved ones to make us your first choice for healthcare.  
  
As always, thank you for your trust.  
Sincerely,  
Daniel Hiben, CEO  
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# SPRING HOME AND GARDEN

B SECTION • THE CRITTENDEN PRESS • THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

## Fixer upper Couple flips shabby home into house of their dreams

PHOTOS & STORY By ALLISON EVANS  
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

It took two years of blood, sweat – and even a few tears – for Michael and Jackie Wood to reach the vision they had for a small, run-down home purchased out of foreclosure.

Location drew the young Crittenden County couple to the property on Levias Road. It certainly was neither the flooded basement nor storm-damaged roof. They found holes in the bathroom ceiling and kitchen, and vandalism had left basement windows in shambles. The sight of the molded siding, sunken roof and deplorable interior didn't scare the couple away either.

This wasn't their first real estate flip. They knew going in what to expect.

They purchased their first fixer upper in Colorado while Michael was enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Sadly, with the crash of the housing market in 2008, they sold it for the purchase price and felt fortunate.

It didn't deter them from trying again upon returning to Kentucky. They fared much better when they flipped a home in Livingston County, doubling their money upon its sale.

Then they turned their sights to the house in the Levias community near Michael's family, living across the road in a double-wide while waiting for the bank to release their next project from foreclosure.

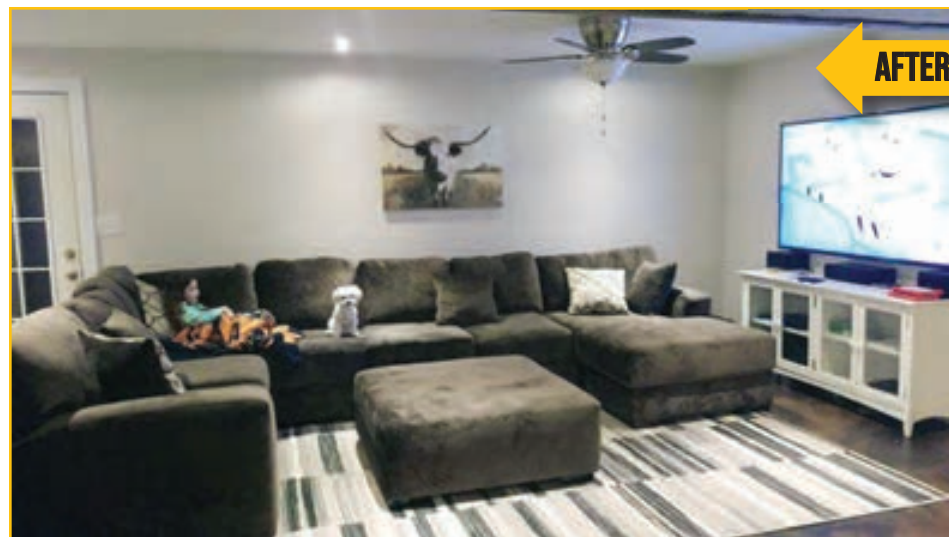
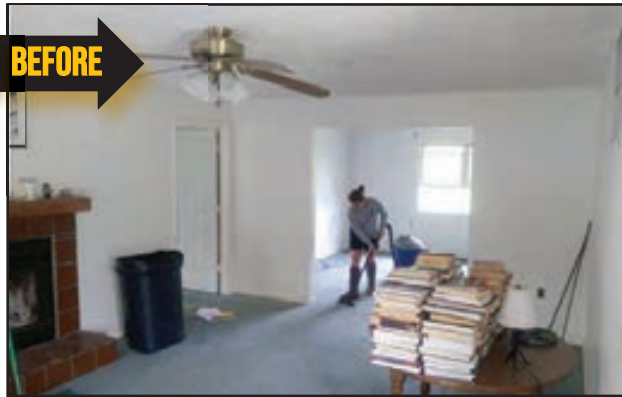
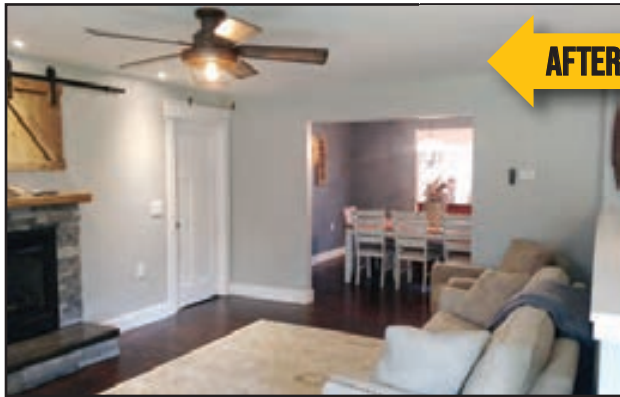
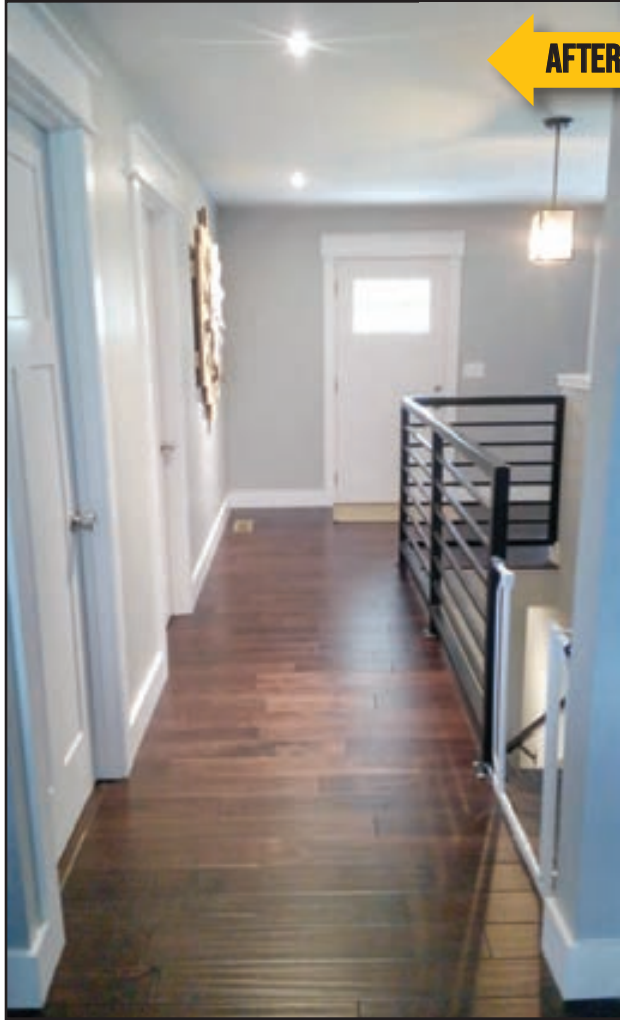
As they fixed up the mobile home they were living in, they looked out their front door at the 1,500-square-foot home that was in desperate need of ... well, everything. It turned out to be a complete gut job, starting with a basement full of water from storm damage, busted pipes and months of neglect.

When they finally were cleared to purchase the early 1990s home from the bank, the couple – with three children under age 9 at the

See **FIXER**/Page 9B



PHOTOS BY ALLISON EVANS, THE PRESS  
Michael and Jackie Wood spent two years turning a mistreated home on Levias Road that they purchased in foreclosure into a 3,200-square-foot dream home. Above, the couple stands in their newly-renovated kitchen. The before-and-after comparisons on this page show the exterior (top), and interior hallway (just below), the living room (middle) and the basement (bottom). Additional photos on Page 9B show more of the transformation.





# From ants to wasps, pest control rite of springtime

METRO SERVICES

Just when winter thaws out and people are anxious to enjoy the blooming flowers and luscious lawns of spring, pesky pests can appear and impact comfort levels and safety.

Many pests resume their levels of activity as spring draws closer and temperatures warm up. The presence of these insects and rodents may cause problems in and around a home, which makes it essential to recognize them and avoid issues. The following are some of the more common spring pests and how to remedy infestations.

- Pavement ants: Pavement ants are some of the most common pests residents encounter inside and outside of their homes. These ants are light brown to black with appendages that are lighter than the rest of their bodies. Small in stature, pavement ants have parallel lines on their heads and thorax, according to pest extermination company Orkin.

Although pavement ants nest outdoors, they can enter homes through small crevices in search of food scraps. Their large colonies may not disappear until treatment is introduced. Keep foods in tightly sealed containers, clear counters and floors of crumbs, and address water sources, such as leaks. Pesticides may be needed in extreme conditions.

- Fleas: Fleas are tiny, jumping, biting pests that must find a host upon which to live. As ectoparasites, they feed on blood while living on the body of



METRO SERVICES

In the springtime, with warmer weather, pesky insects like ants (above) can appear and impact comfort levels and pests like wasps and spiders can affect safety.

living hosts. Pets can bring fleas inside the yard and home in warm weather. According to the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, flea larvae develop more quickly at higher temperatures. At normal room temperatures, the entire life cycle of a flea is about 18 days.

Several flea control products are available to control fleas on cats and dogs. There also may be powders and sprays to alleviate flea infestations in the home. Vacuuming is also very effective in killing larvae in the carpet and at picking up adults.

- Wasps: An errant wasp, hornet or yellow jacket may have survived winter and ridden out the colder temperatures within a home. Once the weather warms, queens will begin to look for places to lay eggs and establish colonies. Treating areas where wasps are seen entering and leaving the home is key. Seal holes as soon as

possible.

Although wasps help control other insect populations, their painful stings and potentially aggressive nature can make them challenging to have around a home. If a nest is found, hire a professional to remove it.

- Spiders: Many spiders are not harmful enough to humans and pets to be much of a problem. In fact, spiders can be helpful to have around to control the populations of other insects. Still, many homeowners would prefer these web-slinging friends remain outdoors. Therefore, sealing cracks in a home's foundation and repairing small openings around windows and doors can help keep spiders out. Also, alleviating moisture issues in basements, garages or attics may keep out other bugs that would be prey to spiders.

Homeowners can take the steps necessary to cut down on pests in and around their homes.

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# Bathrooms going high-tech

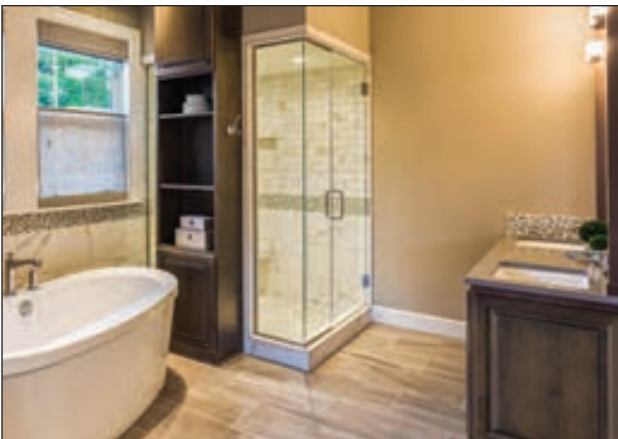
METRO SERVICES

Technology is infiltrating every room of the house. Many new home buyers are millennials, and this tech-savvy demographic covets technological innovations.

A recent survey by Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate indicates 77 percent of Generation X and Y home buyers want their homes equipped with the tech capabilities they have grown accustomed to. Many of these involve smart innovations, including those that can transform one of the most private rooms in the house — the bathroom.

Automated home theater rooms and Wi-Fi-enabled home security systems have become the norm, but what tech improvements are available to make the powder room more in touch with today's digital lifestyle? According to the home improvement resource The Spruce, bathrooms have the most potential of any rooms to be improved with technology. The following are just some of the bathroom gadgets and gizmos no one should resist before giving a try.

- Automatic faucets: In-



METRO SERVICES

**A recent survey by Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate indicates 77 percent of Generation X and Y home buyers want their homes equipped with the tech capabilities, including those that can transform one of the most private rooms in the house — the bathroom.**

frared sensors have been helping keep public restrooms more hygienic for years. The same technology can be used in home bathrooms to curtail water waste and keep faucets and sinks from becoming infested with germs. In addition, faucets with built-in timers can be programmed to set tasks for brushing teeth or washing your face.

- Musical shower: Instead of having to blast the volume on the portable speaker you use in the bathroom, a wireless speaker is

built into some showerheads. This enables those who like to sing in the shower or listen to podcasts while washing up to enjoy this luxury effortlessly.

- Smarter weight management: Bathroom scales have gone high-tech as well, with various options enabling users to measure weight, BMI and body fat percentage before sending the data wirelessly to a phone, tablet or computer. This can put you in greater control of fitness goals.

- High-tech toilets: Bor-

rowing ideas from bidets and trends around the world, modern toilets do not require hands or paper. These toilets have temperature-controlled water, spritzing wands and air dryers to clean and sanitize. Self-cleaning toilets help busy professionals save time and are ideal for those who always want their bowls as clean as possible. And if you desire extra comfort, toilet seat warmers are available, while LED lights can make nighttime restroom visits easier.

- Soaking tubs: As fast as stand-alone showers were introduced to the modern bathroom, tubless designs have been replaced with streamlined soaking tubs. Tubs come with different features, including chromatherapy, which employs colored lights to enhance mood. Air baths are controlled electronically and provide different levels of sensation for those who are skipping the hot tub.

Round out these innovations with automated lights, chilled medicine cabinets and aromatherapy, and your bathroom will indeed become a technological spa.

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# Rake, pruners, hose tools of gardening trade

METRO SERVICES

Gardening attracts new devotees year after year. While Baby Boomers may spend more on gardening than any other demographic, even millennials are getting on the gardening bandwagon.

A 2016 National Gardening Survey from the National Gardening Market Research Company found the average amount spent on backyard or

balcony gardening projects exceeded \$400 per household. More than \$36 billion was spent in 2015, and the vast majority of the 6 million "new" gardening households belonged to millennials.

When it comes to outfitting a gardening shed, gardeners will not want to be without certain tools and gear.

- Shovel: A rounded-blade digging shovel is

needed to plant shrubs and trees as well as to excavate areas in a landscape.

- Rake: A rake can be used to clear the ground, remove thatch and leaves from a lawn and level soil in a garden bed.

- Hand tools: Hand tools, such as a hand fork and trowel, are essential for small digging jobs, especially when working with flower pots or containers.

- Edging spade: This flat-blade shovel is handy to have around because of its versatility. Edging spades can slice turf, edge gardens and cut through roots.

- Pruners: Sharpened pruners cut through stems and branches effortlessly.

- Hose: Choose a high-quality hose that is lightweight and durable, as hoses will always be necessary.

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# How to clear clogged drain

**METRO SERVICES**

Home plumbing systems are designed to handle heavy usage. When everything is working as it should, toilets flush, showers drain properly, and sink basins empty of water in a snap. But when a clog is present in a system, water can quickly back up.

There are various techniques to clear clogged drains. Minor clogs may be cleared without the help of a plumber or even any tools. More significant blockages will require more elbow grease.

The first step to clearing a clog is to locate the problem. Drainage issues that affect a particular sink or toilet may be isolated to that fixture. Clogs that are present throughout the house may be indicative of a larger problem in the plumbing that is directing waste away from the house and into the sewer system.

Sometimes a clog can be freed by pouring boiling hot water or a combination of baking soda and vinegar down the drain. If that doesn't help, move on to a plunger, advise the experts at This Old House. By creating pressure within the pipes, a plunger can dislodge whatever is causing the backup. If the clog seems to be further down the drain, hair or grime may have become trapped. An auger, often referred to as a "plumber's snake," can be inserted into the drain to remove the grime and free up the water flow. Homeowners without access to an auger can try to fish the clog out of the drain with a wire hanger.

If clogs cannot be alleviated, drain traps may need to be accessed. Those who do not know their way around pipes and wrenches should hire a professional.



**METRO SERVICES**  
Before the weather starts to warm up too much, homeowners may want to evaluate their home cooling needs and ensure that all equipment is in good working order.

# Prepare HVAC system for increasing temps

**METRO SERVICES**

The arrival of a new season can be an exciting time. Homeowners may have renewed vigor to start home renovation projects or even tackle some cleaning and organization tasks. Before the weather starts to warm up too much, homeowners may want to evaluate their home cooling needs and ensure that all equipment is in good working order.

Spring air conditioning inspections and tuneups are essential steps in system performance. Homeowners should not take for granted that a system that performed optimally last year will do so this year when temperatures climb. Various factors, including weather damage, dust and grime, mechanical wear and tear, and even rodent or insect infestations, can compromise HVAC systems. Since HVAC systems have so many moving parts, a thorough inspection of such systems can save headaches and money down the road.

According to Heating

Ontario, the extreme weather conditions that come along with fall and winter can be especially taxing on homes and the systems that keep them comfortable. During a spring visit, an HVAC technician will perform maintenance on the air conditioner and make sure it is ready for the heat of summertime. This maintenance may include cleaning the unit, checking controls, calibrating the thermostat, lubricating moving parts, checking refrigerant levels, tightening electrical connections, and clearing any clogs. Homeowners are urged to also change the filter at the start of the cooling season.

Correcting any issues in the HVAC system well in advance of the arrival of warm weather can help ensure comfort when air conditioning is needed. As an added advantage, homeowners should install programmable thermostats if they do not already have them to keep cooling as cost- and energy-efficient as possible.

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# Ideas for empty-nesters to transform their home

METRO SERVICES

After bringing home a bubbly baby boy or girl, it can be hard for parents to imagine that a day will come when their kids are off to college and then onto their own apartment or house. After spending decades nurturing and caring for children, parents are then left with a suddenly quiet house and probably much more time to spare. If saying goodbye to the kids also means extra house, there's the option to downsize or make that extra space more useful.

Homeowners who choose to stay put can renovate vacant rooms into spaces that meet their newfound needs.

- Hobby haven: If you've always meant to set up a crafting room, home-brewing station or an artist's studio, now is an ideal time to do just that. Figure out which supplies you will need and begin reworking that former bedroom into a new sanctuary for leisure interests.

- Guest suite: If you've never had a spare bedroom to entertain guests, a child's former bedroom can fit the bill. It may not be that difficult to transform such spaces into relaxing and inviting rooms for overnight guests. Be sure there is at least a queen-sized bed and a dresser or chest of drawers to stash belongings. Select paint colors and linens in neutral tones so the room will be inviting to guests.

- Living room redo: When there's an entire soccer team coming over to hang out, that large sectional sofa or modular seating may be



METRO SERVICES  
If saying goodbye to the kids means extra house, there's the option to make extra space more useful.

ideal. Now that the kids are out of the house and their friends are no longer coming over for movie night, living rooms can be made more intimate with small-scale seating. A small sofa and two comfortable chairs may be a more fitting option.

- At-home gym: Save on gym membership fees by building a mini studio right at home. Choose one of the larger bedrooms and then fill it with some fitness equipment, such as an elliptical trainer, a bench press bench and some free weights. Store rolled-up mats in the closet for yoga or Pilates sessions.

- Expanded bathroom: If space has always been at a premium in the bathroom, borrow area from an empty bedroom and turn it into a spa. Install a soaking tub separate from the shower, and fill the room with other amenities.

- Home office: Working from home a few days a week may be more plausible when nearing retirement, as it will be a smoother transi-

tion from heading to the office each day to spending more time at home. Turn a bedroom or den into an office space with a new desk and bookshelves.

An empty nest can be a bittersweet experience, but parents can make such situations work for them by transforming their homes to better reflect their current needs.

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# Water features offer multitude of benefits to garden landscapes

METRO SERVICES

Many homeowners aspire to make their homes appear as beautiful and welcoming as possible. Exterior renovations may be high on homeowners' to-do lists, and landscaping is oftentimes a key component of those projects.

When planning gardens, homeowners may benefit by considering more than just flowers and shrubs while giving thought to other elements that can breathe vitality into their landscape designs. Water features can do just that, as such features provide more than just visual appeal.

- Aesthetic appeal: Water elements stand out against the greenery and foliage and can be used to

create focal points around the garden or yard. A single fountain can draw the eye, while a trickling stream or waterfall can deliver water to various spots in the landscape.

- Soothing sound: Rain drops on a rooftop or waves lapping on a shoreline elicit feelings of harmony and relaxation. Water features can bring that gentle sound close to home, further enhancing the ambiance.

- Brings texture: Water has its own unique and fluid texture that can provide stark contrast to blades of grass or the hard lines of architectural elements, such as pergolas or retaining walls. A pond or fountain can soften lines.

- Enhance the natural ecosystem: Water features can attract wildlife to a property. Birds may visit to take a quick sip, and dragonflies are sure to dart and hover over the shimmering ripples. Inviting natural wildlife to the yard can add hours of entertainment by enjoying the animals and insects.

- Remedy problem areas: Rather than fighting with the landscape, homeowners can adapt it. An area of the yard prone to soggy conditions or flooding can be transformed into a pond or waterfall to work with natural surroundings.

- Foster a passion: Many people turn to water features so they can explore the hobby of nurturing an

outdoor aquarium. Koi ponds are relatively easy to install and maintain, and the vibrant fish add visual appeal.

- Add a personal touch: Water features are as unique as the homeowners who create them. To set landscaping apart from neighbors' homes, homeowners can add fountains, ponds or flowing water elements to their properties. Decorative water features also can be melded with pools and spas to help these manmade recreational areas seem like they were carved right out of the natural landscape.

Water features can take landscapes to the next level with sounds, texture, movement, and beauty.

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# Plumbing problems can lead to costly fixes

METRO SERVICES

No homeowner wants to be confronted with plumbing problems, which many associate with costly repairs and water damage. But many plumbing problems are preventable if homeowners take the time to learn about them and make the effort to nip them in the bud before they become something major.

- Clogged kitchen sink: Kitchen sinks get used quite a bit in the average home, and what makes its way down the sinks can contribute to plumbing problems. Avoid pouring gravy, grease, cooking oil, or fat down the kitchen sink, as these substances can cling to the pipes and lead to a backed up sink and a messy situation. Discard thick liquids and sauces in the trash can instead of the sink. Periodically turn the faucet on as hot as it can go and run it for a few minutes to dislodge anything that might have stuck to the pipes.

- Clogged shower drain: The pipes in the shower/bathtub can easily become clogged as well. Hair is the main culprit when shower drains get clogged, so install hair traps that catch any hair you and oth-

ers might shed while they are bathing. Instruct each person to remove their hair from the drain upon getting out of the shower. If you suspect the drain might already be on its way to clogging, use a wet/dry vac to remove any hair that might have started piling up in the pipes.

- Washing machines: Few homeowners think to periodically inspect their washing machines, but normal wear and tear on washing machine hoses can gradually build up, potentially leading to flooding if left unchecked. Periodically inspect hoses for cracks and other damage, replacing them if they look especially vulnerable.

- Water heater: Water heaters also can produce plumbing problems if homeowners don't keep an eye on them. Rusty tank fittings on water heaters are a warning sign that the heater might need some repairs. When left unchecked, water heaters can cause flooding that produces significant water damage, and water heaters may even need to be replaced, which can be very expensive. If you detect any problems with your heater, call in a plumber to confirm if anything is awry and address the problem.

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# Home sales fall, prices strong

NEWS RELEASE

Home sales in Kentucky did not follow the national trend in March, as transactions in the state were down 6.8 percent for the month compared to March 2017 (4,576 in 2017 versus 4,262 in 2018). Nationally, sales rose 1.1 percent. Even with the drop of 314 total sales, March 2018 was still the second highest on record, just edging out March 2006 when 4,106 homes were sold. Total homes sold for the month were up 36 percent over the previous month.

For the first quarter of 2018 sales ended down 3.7 percent, with 10,419 homes sold in 2018 compared to 10,821 homes sold in the first three months of 2017, a difference of 402 transactions.

“The housing market is still really strong,” said Steve

Cline, 2018 president of Kentucky Realtors. “Last year was a record breaking year in homes sold and home prices. This year, we had to endure unseasonably cold weather through the latter part of the quarter, which may have negatively affected the market. The spring and early summer months will be telling as to how the rest of 2018 will look.”

Lawrence Yun, National Association of Realtors chief economist, says that while the healthy economy is generating sustained interest in buying a home this spring, sales are lagging levels from one year ago due to low supply and home prices keep climbing above what some would-be buyers can afford. On the national level, median home prices are north of \$250,000, however, that is

not the case in Kentucky.

Home prices in the state reached a median of \$132,290 in March, an 11.5 percent increase over March 2017 and 10.7 percent over the previous month. March's median price is the fifth highest on record, but is still just over half of the median for the country.

The months ahead are traditionally the peak for home sales and Kentucky has seen a slight decline in housing inventory to this point in the year, with 3.8 months of supply for March – a decrease of 5 percent over last year and down 2.1 percent, to 4.7 months, for the quarter.

Because of the tight supply, days on market also saw a decline, falling to 120 days in March which is down 4.8 percent over last March. For the quarter, homes closed 4

days faster, hitting 122 days in 2018.

“I'm optimistic about the real estate market because we have a strong economy,” said Cline. “We are at a place where both state and national unemployment is near record lows and the environment is stable for home purchases. Certainly, we could use more inventory to meet demand as activity is picking up with the warmer weather, but overall it should be another strong year.”

Nationally, the momentum is swinging toward home ownership. In 2017, the homeownership rate rose for the first time in 13 years and the first quarter of 2018 marked the fifth consecutive quarter where the homeownership rate rose from the prior year, jumping almost 1 percent to 64.3 percent.



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# Earthworms can be boon to landscapes

METRO SERVICES

Gardeners eager to revitalize their lawns and gardens may spend hundreds of dollars on tools and products designed to improve soil and growing conditions. Although many of these items can be advantageous, gardeners also may want to look to nature's best garden helpers: earthworms.

It is believed that nearly 3,000 different types of earthworms inhabit the planet. Worms have been around for hundreds of millions of years.

Worms can be seen as bait dangling on fishing lines or as meals for red-breasted robins. But these subterranean dwellers play their biggest role beneath the soil.

Earthworms move through dirt as they search for food. The worms consume particles in the soil, helping to recycle materials like dead leaves, plant parts, decaying animals, and feces. Through their travels, worms also serve to aerate the soil. Worms bring the subsoil closer to the surface and mix it with the topsoil. Earthworms' castings also help naturally fertilize the areas in which they reside. The slimy mucus that worms leave be-

hind contains nitrogen, which also helps to amend the soil.

The University of Illinois Extension says most earthworms found, particularly in North America, can only grow so long, even though some worms seem like they stretch forever underneath the ground. Depending on the type of worm and how many segments it has, as well as its age and ability to get nutritious foods, worms typically reach only a few inches in length, offers National Geographic. There are some anomalies, however. The Oregon giant earthworm is one of the largest earthworms found in North America, growing to more than three feet in length. That worm is very rare, however. In 2016, a 16-inch-long earthworm was discovered in England and became part of the collection at the Natural History Museum in London.

Worms need the correct mix of oxygen, moisture and favorable temperatures to survive. If they do not have these components, they will seek them out elsewhere.

Because of the many benefits earthworms provide, they can be a boon to landscapes.

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# Prepare for elder guests

METRO SERVICES

Homeowners may find themselves hosting senior guests several times throughout a typical year. These occasions can be wonderful opportunities for making memories, but homeowners may need to take certain precautions to ensure that guests are safe and comfortable. This may involve making some minor modifications around the home.

Mobility and comfort needs for seniors may differ those necessary to accommodate other guests. Meeting the needs of senior guests may involve any of the following.

- Make sure pathways leading to and from the home are level, cleared and easy to see.
- If possible, add a ramp over stairs that lead to the front door. Ensure handrails are sturdy.
- Remove clutter and excess furniture if a guest visiting will be using a walker or a manual/motorized wheelchair.
- Remove accent rugs from a home, and be sure that any mats are secured with nonslip material.
- Increase lighting in entryways, staircases and hallways, especially areas leading to kitchens or bathrooms.
- If guests will be staying overnight, arrange sleeping accommodations on the first floor and/or in a room closest to the bathroom.
- Well-placed grab bars in the bathroom can be an asset. See if you can borrow a portable shower seat to make bathing or showering easier for overnight senior guests.
- For long-term guests, consider replacing round doorknobs and other pulls with lever-action ones that are easy to grab.
- Concessions may need to be made concerning interior temperature, noise levels and television viewing.

Several easy modifications can be made to make senior guests feel comfortable when visiting others.

# Laundry room renovation ideas made simple

METRO SERVICES

To former apartment dwellers or those who have never enjoyed the benefit of a dedicated laundry area, even the smallest washer and dryer space can seem like a luxury.

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound. However, disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits. Depending on the needs and preferences of each homeowner, laundry room designs can be customized for convenience.

- Employ vertical space: Floor space may be at a premium in a laundry room, especially for those who want to devote as much space as possible to bulk-size washer and dryer units. Therefore, utilizing wall space is key. Use shelving, wire racks, hooks, and other organizational tools to store items on the wall. Shelves can be tucked into just about any space, and there are different options that can fit into corners or shallow areas. These are a great option for keeping detergent or other laundry essentials nearby.
- Clean designs reduce clutter: Simple, clean designs can be an asset in a laundry room. If budget and space permits, cabinetry built into the design will help keep items out of sight in the laundry room. Cabinets hung directly above the appliances can store detergent, bleach and fabric softener. Use cabinets elsewhere in the room as catch-alls for cleaning supplies used in various other rooms around the house.
- Incorporate a sink in the design: Some older laundry room setups have a

slop sink to drain discharged water from the washing machine. However, newer homes may have plumbing installed directly through the floor or walls. It is still a worthwhile idea to have a sink in the laundry room for rinsing out stains, hand-washing items and having a go-to sink for messier cleanup.

- Utilize a tension rod: A rod installed between two cabinets or across a narrow width of space in the laundry room is a handy spot to hang shirts or pants to prevent wrinkling. Repurposing a ladder and suspending it from the ceiling also creates a spot to hang clothes.
- Consider laundry room



METRO SERVICES

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound, but disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits.

make good laundry room floor materials. Resilient flooring that mimics the look of hardwood may add a classy touch, and give the appearance of wood without having to worry about damage. To alleviate fatigue while spending long moments in the laundry room, invest in a memory foam mat that can be placed underfoot.

- Keep lighting in mind: Lighting can be important in the laundry room. Rely on task lighting, under-cabinet strip lighting and overhead lights as needed for efficiency.

Laundry room design can maximize the space available and make it more convenient to launder and sort clothes.

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Michael and Jackie Wood spent two years turning a home in disrepair on Levias Road into a 3,200-square-foot dream home. A series of photos (starting at top) show the home before and after, including the kitchen, bathroom and rear of the house. Below, after the remodel, (from top) a custom-designed metal railing stands around the basement steps that emerged from the remodel, the dining room allows the family of five to sit together for meals and a basement bathroom has a kid-friendly design for the couple's three young children.

# FIXER

Continued from Page 1B

time – began the project, serving as general contractors, laborers and consultants.

After Michael finished a shift as an electrician at a Calvert City plant, he would spend several hours on the house before catching a short night's sleep – nearly every day for 24 months.

“Our friends stopped asking us to do things. We didn't go on vacation; all we did was work on the house,” Jackie said.

And they worked on it in every sense of the word. They built a two-car garage, framing and raising the walls on their own. They even hung the trusses with the help of a front-end loader. They knocked down walls, relocated the front door, ripped up tile, installed new heating and air and electrical and laid the decking for a new roof.

The only thing the two didn't do was finish the roof and hang the gutters.

Once the basement was dry, they stained the concrete, hung dry wall and painted to create a family room, three bedrooms and a full bath in an area that once looked more like a pond filled with floating abandoned baby toys and personal items from the previous owner.

Achieving the vision they and to double the square footage took time, but now they have a modern ranch style home and countless stories about the trials and tribulations of an amazing renovation.

“I was reluctant in the beginning; he had to convince me,” Jackie said about the project.

They used a blow torch to heat up the tile floor throughout the main level before it could be scraped up.

“There was no duct work in the basement, and we had to use acid and special cleaners and wear respira-

tors to clean the basement floor before we stained it,” Michael explains. “And we moved the laundry room upstairs, built a 40-foot deck out back and added a front porch.”

Virtually no stone was left unturned, and the couple takes pride in their labor. While Michael was at his job, Jackie was laying a good portion of the three-quarter-inch, hand-scraped birch hardwood throughout the main floor.

It helps that Michael has the skill and willingness to tackle any project, including a walk-in tile shower with concrete seat, poured concrete counter tops and a new kitchen table top made from reclaimed wood from a train car floor that Jackie bought at a Paducah salvage store.

Michael's step-father, Pat Guess, a pipefitter, custom designed a metal railing around the exposed basement steps that emerged from the remodel. The painted black metal rails give the entrance a modern vibe.

“I can't say enough about Fredonia Valley Bank,” Jackie said. “It took us a lot longer than a year, but they would come out periodically to see that we were making progress. It did take us about two years.”

What advice would they give other couples considering flipping a house or hand-crafting a dream home?

Have patience, Jackie says.

Michael agrees, but also says to add a 10-percent contingency to materials. Otherwise, you might be shocked in the long run.

Technology played a big role in Michael's ability to meet the job's required skill set, he said.

“I looked up how to do everything. A lot was on YouTube, so there was really no reason we couldn't do it ourselves,” he said. “I looked up the building code on a lot of things. Used Google a lot.”



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Pickup, full-size bed (full).....	\$35
Pickup, full-size bed with sides.....	\$60
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Sofa/loveseat.....	\$12
Bed.....	\$15
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Dump truck, 1-axel (full).....	\$125
Dump truck, 2-axle (half).....	\$125
Dump truck, 2-axel (full).....	\$160
<b>Brush</b>	
The county's brush dump on Bridwell Loop is accessible 24/7, but dumping is restricted to natural materials only.	

**Availability**  
The center is open to Crittenden County residents from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday and Saturday. The center is closed Sunday.

**Free dump days next week**  
The county has free dumping days each year in the spring and autumn. The next dump days will be this autumn. The center will accept items like furniture, appliances and a variety of other items at no charge. Every-day trash is not included for free. Other restrictions apply.

**Recycling**  
Bins are available for paper, cardboard, glass, steel/aluminum and plastics Nos. 1 and 2. Electronics may be recycled, but there is a fee for disposal. There is also a mobile recycling bin taken to communities in the county.

**Location, contact**  
Located at 1901 U.S. 60 E., Marion, Ky. Call (270) 965-0892.

# New Ky. law makes calling 811 before dig more critical

NEWS RELEASE

With the arrival of warm weather, homeowners, contractors and others are getting outside to work on projects that have been on hold through the winter. This increase in excavation activity is usually accompanied by an increase in the number of incidents of damage to underground utility facilities.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) is joining with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and utility regulators across the country to remind anyone planning a project involving excavation to call 811 before beginning work.

“Striking a utility line while digging not only causes damage and disrupts service, but it also can pose a danger of severe injury or even death,” PSC Chairman Michael Schmitt said. “Hitting a natural gas line can cause a fire or an explosion, while digging into a power cable can lead to electrocution.”

Like every other state, Kentucky has a statewide 811 service that, by law, should be called at least two days prior to beginning excavation. That will allow ample time for utility lines to be located and marked so that excavation can proceed safely.

Natural gas providers are required to provide the location of their lines to the 811 center. Most electric utilities, larger water providers and telecommunication companies also provide location data to 811, but, in some cases, it also may be necessary to contact a local utility service provider directly.

Beginning in mid-July, failing to call 811 in Kentucky may have consequences be-

yond the risks that go with striking a utility line.

A new law (Senate Bill 104), enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed by Gov. Matt Bevin, gives the PSC the authority to enforce existing provisions in Kentucky statutes



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

that are intended to protect natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines. The PSC will investigate incidents of damage to pipelines to determine whether a location request to 811 was made in a timely manner, whether the pipeline was located accurately and properly, and whether the excavation was conducted safely.

Excavators, including homeowners, could be penalized for not calling 811 or for ignoring location markers. Utilities could be penalized for not responding to requests to locate lines or for improperly or inaccurately locating or marking underground facilities.

Penalties are up to \$1,250 for a first violation, \$3,000 for a second and \$5,000 for subsequent violations

“Not every incident in which a gas line is hit will result in a violation being issued and a penalty assessed, especially if 811 has been called,” said John Lyons, director of the PSC division of Inspections, which will in-

vestigate incidents. “However, a failure to call 811 is much more likely to trigger an enforcement action.”

In 2017, there were more than 1,200 incidents in Kentucky in which a gas line was damaged during an excavation.

A PSC review of a sampling of the damage reports indicates that:

- Contractors and other professional excavators were responsible for 85 percent of the incidents, with water and sewer line repairs, building construction, swimming pool installation, and irrigation system installation among the most common causes.
- About 60 percent of the excavators who hit natural gas lines called 811 before digging.
- Homeowners accounted for the remaining 15 percent of incidents. The most common causes were installation of mailboxes or fencing, landscaping and water or sewer line repairs.

- Only about 27 percent of those landowners called 811 before beginning work.

PSC Chairman Schmitt said that the stepped-up enforcement of the call-before-you-dig statutes and regulations reflects a greater emphasis nationally and at the state level on pipeline safety.

“This new law brings Kentucky into line with tougher federal standards, which the PSC enforces under an agreement with the US Department of Transportation,” he said. “More importantly, it is an effort to significantly improve public safety by reducing the unacceptably high number of dangerous dig-in incidents involving natural gas pipelines.”

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# Don't get scammed

## Find qualified contractor for home remodel

NAHB RELEASE

There are thousands of legitimate, ethical contractors in business around the country. Unfortunately, there are also scam artists looking to cheat you out of your money who pose as legitimate contractors. These "fly-by-night" operators often show up in communities impacted by natural disasters to try to scam distressed home owners into paying for shoddy repairs or work that they will never show up to perform.

Here are some warning signs to look out for:

- Doesn't have license and insurance. All professional contractors should be insured and able to show their certificate proving such insurance. Although all states do not require licensing, contractors in states requiring licenses should have it and be able to provide a copy.
- Asks you to sign anything before you've hired them. If they want you to sign an "estimate" or "authorization" before you've made the decision to hire the contractor, look out. They may be trying to get you to sign what is an actual binding contract.
- Doesn't write contracts. Professionals have clear contracts that outline the job, process, the cost, and helps clarify how problems will be managed. If you don't have a

contract, you are not protected when something goes wrong. Don't hire anyone who tells you a contract "won't be necessary."

- Requires cash or payment in full before starting the job. Shady contractors demand cash and then run with the money. Many home owners have been stranded by paying in full up front. A deposit towards materials is common, but only pay it once you have a contract signed by both you and the contractor. It's also suspect you're asked to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check or money order to a company.
- Vastly underbids all other contractors. They may have the best price, but that doesn't guarantee the best work. Such contractors may cut costs on quality, which can end up costing you more when you have to have the substandard work redone.
- Offers "special" pricing. If you're told you've been "chosen" as a demonstration project at a special, low price, or you're told a low price is good only if you sign a contract today.
- Cannot provide customer references. Professional contractors should have current references they can provide from current and past clients — and you should be able to reach those references, not just an answering machine.

- Difficulty contacting the contractor. Professionals have a physical office, mailing address, phone, and email. They should respond to your queries in a timely manner. Make sure you can verify the contractor's business address. If they only have a P.O. box, be wary.
- Tells you to obtain the building or remodeling permits. Professional contractors go to the county or state offices and get permits for their work themselves. Asking the home owner to do it is a sign that they are not a legitimate contractor.

Your best bet is to take your time, do your research and choose someone you feel completely comfortable with. If your state requires contractors to be licensed, look them up on the state licensing website even if you've seen a piece of paper that looks like a license. Make sure they don't have a record of consumer complaints lodged with your local Better Business Bureau.

You can also find your local home builders association and contact Three Rivers Home Builders Association at (270) 871-1145 for a list of reputable contractors in the area. Or you may search the National Association of Home Builders' Directory of Professional Remodelers to find a NAHB Remodelers member in the community.

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# Most remodeling not recovered in resale

METRO SERVICES

Of the 29 projects it studied for its 2017 "Cost vs. Value Report," Remodeling magazine found that the average payback in resale value was 64.3 cents.

The lone project in the 2017 report to return a higher value than its cost was installation of loose-fill insulation in an attic, which provided a return of 107.7 percent. Homeowners who replaced an existing entry door with a 20-gauge steel unit recouped 90.7 percent of their investment at resale, placing that project second on the list.

What helps homeowners who finance such projects re-

coup their associated costs is the relatively low sticker price of the projects.

But a recovering real estate market has helped homeowners recoup more of their investments on some expensive projects as well. For example, the 2017 report saw the biggest year-over-year percentage increases in value on expensive projects like upscale bathroom remodels, upscale master suites, two-story additions, grand entrance installations, and family room additions. The increase in value on those projects ranged from 5.6 percent to 7.4 percent from a year earlier.

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