

# GRADUATION AND END-OF-SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT The Crittenden Spress

Thursday, May 16, 2013 | Section B

PLAYER

GAME

OULS

# Class of 2013 wraps up compulsory ed, released on world

STAFF REPORT

It was one of the smallest classes in recent memory to receive diplomas from Crittenden County High School, but that did not make the evening any less significant for those 68 students Friday night marking an end to their compulsory public education. Many will go on to further their education in college, some will catch on at the family business or farm and others will serve their country in the military. A few may start families of their own in the community in which they grew up, or they may pack their bags for life in another ZIP code.

Regardless, all of Friday's graduates were greeted with applause and flash bulbs as they took their seats for commencement ceremonies and when they walked across the stage at Rocket Arena to receive their diploma. Thirteen seniors—almost a quarter of the class—graduated with honors, including valedictorian Devin Clark and salutatorian Tucker Frazer. Clark also earned a Commonwealth Diploma that requires four advanced placement credits and pre-college curriculum requirements. Seven other students completed a college preparatory course of study.

Outside, the storm clouds that so often seem to accompany graduation excercises dumped about a half-inch of driving rain, but that did little to dampen the spirits of the evening. However, the ceremonies did start with a somber moment of silence prior to the invocation in recognition of the neighboring Union County softball students injured in a bus wreck little more than an hour earlier in Livingston County.

Distinguished alumni Dr. Jeff McKenney and Johnny Rushing, graduates of Crittenden County High School 56 and 39 years prior, respectively, were also recognized during Friday's 90-minute ceremony.

But the night, as always, belonged to the graduates, their friends and family. Congratulations to the Class of 2013 and best of luck on all your endeavors.

> Clockwise from top, Dugan Overfield and a loved



one pause for photos following graduation Friday. Friends and family of graduates hang over the railing of the walking track at Rocket Arena gazing down during commencement. As tradition dictates, newly-crowned graduates toss their mortar boards high into the air once confirmed and streams of "Silly String" fill the gym as well. Salutatorian Tucker Frazer poses for a photo with his parents, Sharie and Robert Frazer. ALL PHOTOS BY JASON TRAVIS AND DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

# **CCHS GRADUATION** Valedictory speech: Devin Clark

irst and foremost, I would like to congratulate the class of 2013. I would just like to say that I am honored to represent such a fine group of young men and women. Before me tonight sits a class with an unfathomable amount of talent. Our class is comprised of star-athletes, performers, musicians, artists, and, of course, incredible scholars. There is no doubt in my mind that each and every one of you has the potential to achieve your dreams and aspirations.

Tonight is a bittersweet moment for all of us. Savor it. Many of us are going our separate ways and unfortunately tonight will be the last night we are all together. We will never again be able to hit a walk-off triple to beat Trigg, to wear a Rocket football jersey on Friday nights, to give an outstanding performance in marching band, or to simply give each other a hug in the hallway. Look at the bright side, though. No more reading contracts. No more ACT testing. No more exit interviews. And no more school lunches. High school is filled with bountiful joy. However, it is just a taste of the things to come. Graduation isn't an end but rather a beginning. Do not dwell, my fellow classmates, on the minor setbacks, for we are all going to accomplish great things in our lives. Do not listen to these people who say that high school is the best time of your life. They are ignorant. The best years of your life are ahead of you as long as you keep pursuing your dreams.

The message I would like to convey to you tonight is a very simplistic one: the difference between success and significance. I was first introduced to this concept by former University of Kentucky graduate Jacob Tamme. Success. Significance. At first, these two terms seem one in the

same. However, they are in fact quite different. Success is defined, by Webster's dictionary, as the attainment of wealth, favor or eminence. Significance, on the other hand, is defined as meaning or importance. Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Gandhi, Stephen Hawking, and Susan B. Anthony are just a few historical figures who have shown significance. These people won't be remembered for the amounts of money they made or the cars they drove. They will be remembered for the messages they conveyed and the impact they had on this world.

My challenge to you tonight is to be significant. Do not take this life for granted. Go out into the world and better it. Be inspirational. Be amazing. And most of all, be yourself. Never forget your journey and always appreciate your blessings. If you have the chance to help someone, take it. If you are able to assist a family member, do it. And if you are able to change this world in a positive way, change it.

Before I conclude my speech, I want to thank a few people. I promise this won't take long. First, I want to thank everyone in attendance tonight for your support. I want to especially thank that section over there. (Pointing to family). Thank you, Nom and Dad, for always supporting me in everything I've done. I couldn't ask for better parents. I love you guys so very much. Thank you, Dylan, for always being so nice and considerate. I'm so happy we never fought growing up. Really, though, I am glad that you made me tough. I guess all that physical abuse eventually paid off. Thanks, Bro. I want to thank my friends, as well, for always putting up with me. I'm going to miss all those exciting trips to Paducah. What happens in Paducah, stays in Paducah. Also, I

# **About Devin**

Name... Vincent Devin Clark **Age...** 18 Parents... Vincent Lee Clark

and Alicia Howard Clark Favorite memory... Seeing

the beach for the first time Post-graduation plans... Attend the University of

Louisville, majoring in biol-ogy in the pre-med program Dream job... Orthopedic suraeon

Favorite school subject... Math

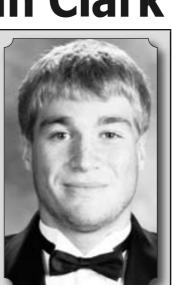
Favorite music... Anything but country music

Favorite TV show... "The Voice'

Person you would most like to meet (living or dead) ... John F. Kennedy What does being salutatorian mean to you... It means the world to me. I'm glad to carry on the valedic-

want to thank the countless teachers who have had a helping hand in our educational successes. There is no telling how much hair you all have lost from us. From Ms. Lee to Mr. Holloman, thank you, teachers, for your guidance and wisdom. The next people I want to thank all gave me \$10 to mention their names in my speech. So thank you to Ethan Hill, Bobby Knox, Uncle Wes, Tucker Frazer and Howard Suggs. On a serious note, I want to thank God and His son Jesus Christ for letting all of this be possible. And finally, thank you, Class of 2013, for being the amazing classmates you were. The memories and friendships we have made will live forever in infamy.

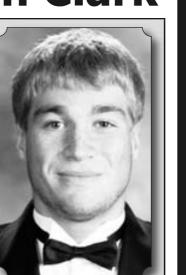
I want to leave you guys with a quote by Bonnie L. Mohr. It reads: "Life is not a race- but in-



torian legacy. My mother was valedictorian. I consider it a great accomplishment. Where would you like to be at 40... Settled down with a wife and kids, owning my own orthopedic practice and being debt free.

hard. Be choosy. Say 'thank you' and 'great job' to someone each day. Go to church; take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given; it is not accidental. Search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry; less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive; it frees the soul. Take time for yourself. Plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today.

Congratulations, Class of 2013. Thank you and God bless.



deed a journey. Be honest. Work

Enjoy the moment."



Yarbrough, distinguished members of the board, Mrs. Callaway, Mrs. Lusby, respected members of the faculty, honored parents and friends of the class of 2013, on behalf of my fellow students I would like to thank you all for coming tonight and celebrating our latest achievement with us. In the next few hours you will see us transition from high school seniors living at home to unemployed graduates... still living at home. To get to this point, it required individual effort and hard work. Yet without the help and support of friends and family, hard work and effort would not have been enough. In my case, I would like to thank all the teachers who instructed and helped guide me over the years. Thank you to my four biggest fans: my grandparents who were there when my parents couldn't be and for spoiling me when my parents wouldn't. Thank you to my sister Regan for being the best sister any brother could ask for, and I'm especially thankful for my padlocked door that kept you from killing me. To my parents, Mom and Dad, for raising me, with love and discipline, into the young man I am today. And most of all I would like to thank my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ for taking my place on the cross and dying for my sins. When I asked what this speech should be about, they said to discuss what I love about high school and when I realized that would be a rather short speech, I decided to expand the normal definition of high school. To me it encompasses so much more than just classes and grades. In fact, the biggest part of my high school is sitting right in front of me. It's my friends

that have made this journey so great. We are very different from the way we were when we first met 13 years ago. Being different hasn't changed who we are, but simply made us who we have become. I remember when we were little kids: each girl wanted to be a princess, and each guv wanted to be Superman or Batman. Now we want to be doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, and for some of us still Batman. (Hang in there, Austin.) We have grown up together. We have laughed together and cried together, stayed out of trouble and got in trouble together, procrastinated, worked, fought, procrastinated again, bonded and procrastinated some more. Shakespeare coined the phrase, "The world's mine oyster." To be honest, I have never liked that cliche. It says to me that life is chance. There may be a pearl or there might not be. I believe that this world is more like a box of Legos, because it is what you make it. This means it is up to you, not chance. You have the power to be who you want to be, to live the life that you want to live. I'm not saying things will always go your way; they won't. I would like to quote the great philosopher, Rocky Balboa: "The world isn't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place, and I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is donna hit as hard as life. But it isn't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving; how much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done. Now, if you know what you're worth, then go out and

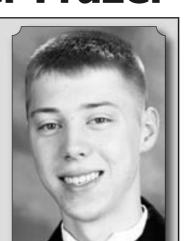
# About Tucker

Name... Tucker Frazer Age... 18 Parents... Bart and Sharie

Frazer Post-graduation plans... Attend the University of

Kentucky to pursue a degree in mining engineering with a masters in business administration

Dream job... President of the United States Favorite school subject...



# **CCHS GRADUATION** Graduating with honors

### Valedictorian

In Crittenden County, any students who maintain the highest grade-point average, or GPA, in their graduating class are hon-ored as valedictorians. At the high school, GPAs are weighted based on the strength of academic schedule.

### Salutatorian

Salutatorians in Crittenden County are honored for having achieved the ranking of second-highest GPA.

### Commonwealth Diploma

Kentucky qualifications for a Commonwealth Diploma require that a student take Advanced Placement courses (one English, one science or math, one foreign language and one elective) and sit for the Advanced Placement exam in at least three of the four areas.

## **College Prep Diploma**

A district honor only, College Prep Diplomas are just below the state standard, requiring students to have taken advanced English their junior year, Advanced Placement senior English, four sciences, two foreign languages and a computer technology class.

## **Honor Graduate**

Any senior who has earned a 3.5 GPA or higher during their high school career is considered an honor graduate.



Elizabeth Anne Brown Vincent Devin Clark **Robert Tucker Frazer** Kaylee Lynn Gibson Stacie LeAnn Shea Hearell Shanna Leigh Henry Ethan Thomas Hill Robert Lawrence Knox Alyssa Renee Leet Brittany Jo Lemon Ellen Priscilla Merrick Hannah Marie Roberts Terra ShaDawn Williams

### **Commonwealth Diploma** Vincent Devin Clark

### **College Prep Diploma**

Ian Christopher Cartwright Austin Lynn Dunkerson Robert Tucker Frazer Kaylee Lynn Gibson Robert Lawrence Knox Alyssa Renee Leet Hannah Marie Roberts

> Salutatorian Robert Tucker Frazer

Valedictorian Vincent Devin Clark



Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (and later)

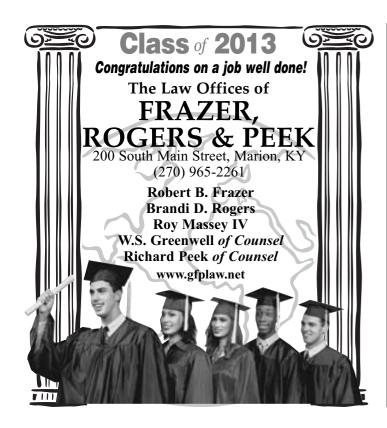
Favorite TV show ... "The Office'

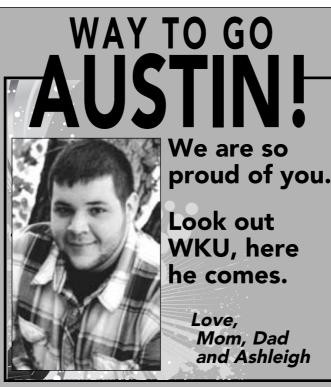
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... Ronald Reagan What does being salutatorian mean to you... Hard work pays off, and I have room to improve.

get what you're worth. But you gotta be willing to take the hits, and not point fingers saying you aren't where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody." Don't let other people keep you from achieving your dreams. You have the rest, and the best years of your life ahead of you. It is whatever you want it to be. That is why it is so important to give it all you have in everything you do. Harun Yahya once said, "I always wonder why birds choose to stay in the same place when they can fly anywhere on the earth, then I ask myself the same question." It is up to you, what you make of your life.

This truly is a breathtaking moment. The past 13 years have all come down to this night. Soon, we will walk across this stage and receive our diploWhere would you like to be at 40... To have a successfull career in the mining industry and be in a position to start my career in public service.

mas. It is meant to signify the great accomplishments of completing high school. This piece of paper, though, doesn't give our experience justice. It doesn't show the lifelong friendships that we have developed, the memories that will forever be etched in our minds. It won't tell the stories that our parents will never hear. The thing is, though, it doesn't have to. These experiences will be a part of us forever. As we honor this time in our lives, when we close one chapter of our life story, while at the same time start to write a new one, I offer this piece of advice: Make sure whatever is being written in your life book down here gets you in the Book of Life up there. That's all that really matters, and I hope we never forget that.





# Big 6 goals moving forward

How are we doing on behalf of student learning and continuous improvement in the Crittenden County Schools? This is a great question to reflect upon at this time of the school year.

It seems like year after year our district takes important steps to improve the quality of educational opportunities for students and staff. The 2012-13 school year has certainly been no exception to this positive trend.

### **Big Six Goal 1**

Cultivate College and Career Readiness - Improved district's College/Career Readiness percentage: Exceeded the state's target for Crittenden County High School by 5.5 percent or more.

- Increased number of college campus and career exploration visits where students focused on their individual career path.

- Graduated our 50th student from our Pathway Academy Program.

- Celebrated our third annual Community "College" Day.

- Implemented our second annual "Town Hall" meeting where high school students meet with individuals from a variety of professions for a question-and-answer session.

**CCHS** 



## Big Six Goal 2

Improve Attendance - Continued the second year of our Truancy Diversion Program.

- Implemented positive incentives at all schools for student attendance.

- Achieved a 94.89 percent overall for the district (as of May 1). Our goal is 95 percent.

- Utilized the "One Call" system for all students absent from school.

### Big Six Goal 3

Increase Student Achievement - Earned a proficient rating by the state of Kentucky for Critten-

den County School District student achievement performance on the new academic standards assessment model. - Increased high school stu-

dent enrichment, remediation, and entrepreneurial opportunities through Crosswalk Learning Center.

 A total of 247 students have participated in these programs.
 Enhanced the utilization of technology as an instructional

tool for digital learners.

**Big Six Goal 4** Maximize Resource

Effectiveness - Granted the ability to pilot a propane-fueled bus as the first district in the Commonwealth. - Awarded an \$84,000 Ken-

tucky Clean Diesel Fuels Grant to assist with this purchase.

- Awarded a \$625,000 competitive federal 21st Century Learning grant for implementation of Bridgeway Learning Center at Crittenden County Middle School.

- Continued the districts energy efficiency plan and exceeded the goals set for 2012-13.

- Implemented the first employee safety team in the district.

## Big Six Goal 5

Enhance Internal and External Connectivity - Completed technology infrastructure at CCMS and HS for future Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. - Updated the district and school websites.

- Met with local law enforcement and established a stronger partnership for safety and security of schools.

- Implemented a "Watch DOG" program at Crittenden County Elementary School. More than 100 men from the community participated in the kickoff event!

**Big Six Goal 6** 

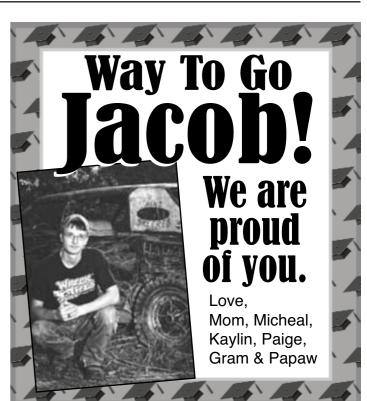
Boost Rockin' Culture and Climate - Initiated the first annual "Lacy" Award to recognize one classified and one certified employee nominated by their colleagues.

 Conducted our first districtwide home visits on buses at beginning of the school year.

Increased effort to celebrate student and staff performance.
By the way, the Rocket Reg-

iment received a Distinguished rating at the state level for the first time ever!

Wait until you see what we have in store for 2013-14! (Dr. Yarbrough has been superintendent of Crittenden County Schools since 2008. Her column appears periodically in this newspaper.)

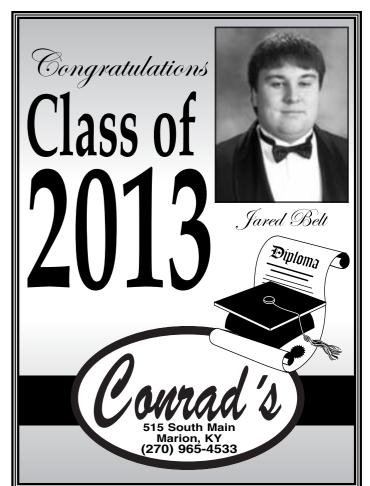




RANDA LEIDECKER Crittenden County High School JACOB HUNT Crittenden County High School FAITH TIDWELL Crittenden County High School ELLEN MERRICK Crittenden County High School DEVIN CLARK Crittenden County High School JAMES COYAZO Madisonville North Hopkins High School MAGGIE HARRISON Crittenden County High School KAYLIN MCCONNELL Crittenden County High School LAUREN BERRY Madisonville Community College JASON DUNBAR Liberty Theological Seminary EMILY MERRICK Murray State University ASHLEY KEMMER Murray State University BRYAN GUESS Life University

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. Proverbs 8:11

MARION BAPTIST CHURCH 131 East Depot Street • Marion, Kentucky



# Four from Crittenden selected for Governor's Scholar, arts program

Four Crittenden County High School students have been selected to participate in the Governor's Scholars and Governor's School of the Arts programs. Maggie Collins, Micah Hollamon and Brenden Phillips will participate in the Governor's Scholars program. Leah Scott has been selected to attend the Governor's School of the Arts.

A summer residential program for outstanding high school students, the Governor's Scholars program began in 1983. The purpose was to keep the state's top students in the Commonwealth to pursue higher educational opportunities. The program's mission is to enhance the Commonwealth's next generation of leaders. Originally located at one campus site, host campuses are determined competitively every three years. For the 2013 session, host campuses include Bellarmine University in Louisville, Morehead State University and Murray State Uni-



Collins

Phillips

pete on the state level. The application process is similar to that of major universities. Also considered is an academic profile, standardized test scores, an outline of extracurricular activities and teacher recommendation. An original essay by the student is also considered as part of the application process.

Summer sessions include a core curriculum in three areas. The Focus Area is the primary subject of study. General Studies include areas of study assigned by staff to challenge students. The final area includes a seminar, with a small group session that focuses on respectful debate and discus-



trips will also be part of the program.

In addition to academic excellence, Crittenden County High School students were selected based on extracurricular activities. A member of FCA and 4-H, Collins was also a hospital and Community Christmas volunteer. Phillips is a member of the Young Republicans and an advisor for a youth group at St. William Catholic Church. Hollamon is a member of the student council, FBLA, marching band and chess team. All three students said the Governor's Scholar program is an exciting opportunity and important for all students to consider. They said

making them eligible for scholarships. In the coming weeks they will learn which campus will host them and more about their focus area of study.

Beginning June 23, Leah Scott will attend the Governor's School of the Arts, a three-week program held at Transylvania University in Lexington. The program offers high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to study nine different disciplines: Architecture, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Musial Theater, New Media, Visual Art and Vocal Music. Scott will study Creative Writing. She said the program is a great opportunity to participate in workshops that help develop and enhance skills in the discipline.

Both Governor's Scholars and Governor's School of the Arts programs benefit students by allowing them to interact with peers from across the Commonwealth.

"I'm really excited about meeting people from across the state

To participate in the program students must be nominated by their high school and then comsion. Students are challenged to ask probing questions. Guest speakers, special events and field participation enhances a student's academic resume when applying for entrance to a university while that are interested in the same things that I am," Hollamon said.

# Middle school promotes 104 to CCHS

We've had a great year at Crittenden County Middle School. On May 6, we promoted 104 eager eighth-grade students. They are so excited about becoming freshmen and beginning the next part of their lives. While it is exciting, it is also bitter sweet for the faculty and staff at CCMS. We have watched them grow and blossom into fine young men and women. We wish them lots of luck in the future.

With one group leaving, there is always another entering the halls of CCMS. On May 7 we met



our new incoming sixth-grade students for the 2013-14 school year for the first time. They were smiling and eager to start their middle school experience. We are equally excited about being a part of their young lives. We look forward to providing lots of new learning experiences for them as they become a part of the CCMS community.

As the year closes, I would like to say thank you to all the faculty and staff who worked hard to provide our children with a challenging learning environment. We had students who participated at the state level in both speech, STLP, chess and band. We had students who won awards for creating trash sculptures, writing essays for the Patriot's Pen and competing in the 4-H Communications program. We have so many talented students at CCMS, and can't wait to see what they can do for the 2013-14 school year.

Also, to all the parents of our students, we say thank you for entrusting us with your children. It is our mission at CCMS to create a learning experience that impacts every child every day in a positive way. We look forward to seeing you in August. Have a great summer!

(Marshall has been principal at Crittenden County Middle School for the last four years.)

# ■ ссня Exiting, incoming students each pleasure to work with

The Class of 2013 has been a very unique group to work with. It has been fun to watch them mature into young adults. Whether they choose to enter college or move right into the workforce, we feel they are prepared for the next step in their journey. They are a very close group of kids who work well together and take up for each other. There is no doubt in my mind they will do great things with their many talents, skills and academic focus. I have encouraged them all to bring back to the community whatever it is they have to offer.

The Class of 2017 will be arriving in August and we are very excited about. I came to Crittenden as assistant principal at the elementary when this group was in the fifth grade, so I've been able to stay in communication with them throughout their time in middle school. Crosswalk Learning Center put on a Teen Leadership Conference at the Ed-Tech Center for them where they experienced sessions lead by



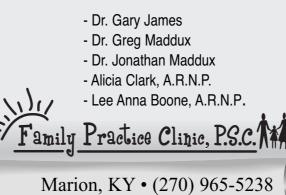
current high school students which was very successful. We also were able to bring them to the high school for a modified Transition Day where they rotated through the Freshman Academy teachers and then toured the Career Tech Ed classes which are performancebased. They finished up the morning with Crosswalk Learning Center with Team-Building Activities. We hope our rising freshmen will feel "right at home" from the first day of school. We are looking forward to a great year with them.

(Calloway has been principal at Crittenden County High School since 2010.)



You are about to begin a new chapter in life. The story is yours to write.

Best wishes Devin Clark, CCHS Jonathan Cole Moore, LCHS and the Class of 2013.



# Class of 2013

We applaud your success and extend our congratulations for your accomplishments.

Compliments of

**Crittenden County** 

**Board of Education** 

Phyllis Orr

Bill Asbridge

Pam Collins

Barrett Belt

Chris Cook

Dr. Rachel Yarbrough, Superintendent

# PRESCHOOL

# Tiny Tot grads all girls in 25th commencement

### **By JASON TRAVIS** STAFF WRITER

It was a first for Tiny Tot Day Care. This year's graduating class included all girls. It also marked the 25th graduating class from the daycare, which started in March 1988.

The graduation ceremony was held Friday at Emmanuel Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall. The location accommodated members of the audience, which included parents, grandparents and extended families of the seven graduates.

Chris Hodge of Tiny Tot Day Care said the facility gradually evolved from a babysitting service to a nationally-accredited center.

We have a teacher that has a degree in early childhood. We have a preschool program. We

also partner with the Audubon Area Head Start," Hodge said. "So we have preschool and Head Start, and it blends with the daycare. It's such a blessing to have a job that you love and one that you feel like you're making a difference in young children's lives."

Hodge said she knows each child will be successful in future endeavors because of the support she sees from their families.

"I know they will be successful at whatever they do because they have a good strong family structure and they also have extended families," Hodge said. "That's how important family is to children. To have a background with supportive parents, supportive grandparents, extended family that makes such a difference. It's crucial.'



School's Out!

PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

It was all girl power at the 25th graduating class of Tiny Tot Day Care in Marion. Graduates include (from left) Hadley Myers, Georgia Holeman, Anna Boone, Elle McDaniel, Lacey Boone, Gavin Grimes and Josie Taylor.

# **Dozens of locals graduate from WKCTC**

STAFF REPORT

Dozens of area county residents are among 1,500 candidates for graduation eligible to receive one or more credentials from West Kentucky Community and Technical College this month.

More than 230 candidates for graduation participated in the 2013 WKCTC graduation ceremonies at Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center Tuesday. Paducah Mayor Gayle Kaler and WKCTC students Kevin Quinn of Grand Rivers and Roy Henley of Mayfield, both All Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Academic Team members were featured speakers.

Graduating with distinction requires a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 to 3.599. High distinction takes a cumulative grade point average of a 3.6 to 4.0.

The following residents are candidates for graduation for associate's degrees, diplomas and certificates:

### **Crittenden County**

Associate in Arts: Talaney Elizabeth Werne.

- Associate in Science: Summer Lee Courtney and Casey Mathew Hamby; and Savannah Rose Peek, who graduated with distinction.

- Associate in Applied Science: Elizabeth A. Collins and Misty Dawn McDowell; and Deborah Ann Croft and Anna Carol Hillvard, both of whom graduated with high distinction. Diploma: Kasey Tanner Hale

and Chad Dean Ingram.

Certificates: Jurlene A Burcks, Amelia Jean Gilley, Carrol Turner Martin, Kaitlyn Briannon Moss, Jennifer Diane Puckett, Megan Paige Roberts and Linda Mae Swyter.

### **Livingston County**

Associate in Arts: Alexi Nichole Dixon of Grand Rivers, Johnson Tanner Gordon of Salem, Elizabeth Lynn Tinsley of Smith-Arielle



and

- Associate in Science: Alex Brent Dycus of Grand Rivers, Donna Maria Hurt of Grand Rivers, Jessika D. Joiner of Smithland, Katelyn Danielle Riley of Tiline and Kathryn Michelle Sanders of Grand Rivers, who graduated with distinction.

- Associate in Applied Science: Jackie Clinton Doom of Tiline, Melinda Ann Gordon of Smithland, Payton Elyse Jackson of Grand Rivers, Candace Annette Kitchens of Salem, Chad Robert McCormick of Salem, Kayla

# KCTCS college to award 14,198 credentials at spring graduations

STAFF REPORT The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) will honor 9,617 candi-dates receiving 14,198 credentials for graduation this spring in 16 college ceremonies across the state.

In addition to the spring graduates, many KCTCS college commencement exercises will also recognize students who have graduated since the May 2012 commencement. These

Jenette Moore of Smithland, Dylan Ramage of Burna and Shannon Leigh Sexton of Smithland; Bennetta Gayle Henderson Grand Rivers, Kristie Lee Stokes of Grand Rivers and Crystal Paige Taylor of Salem, who all graduated with distinction; and Kevin Quinn of Grand Rivers, who graduated with high distinction.

Certificates: Talia Santana Aquilar of Tiline, Tristin R. Arflack of Grand Drivers, Hailey Nicole Bowles of Grand Rivers, Weston Garry Chittenden of Salem, Nishit Shailesh Desai of Grand Rivers, Geneva C. Gingerich of Grand Rivers, Addie Marie Guess of Smithland, Gary Allen Ivy of Salem, Brandy Leann Johnson of Tiline, Natasha Le Jones of Smithland, Christopher Scott

students total 1,926 in summer 2012, and 8,522 in fall 2012 ceremonies

Hopkinsville, Henderson and Madisonville Community Colleges all held their graduation ceremonies Friday. West Kentucky (Paducah) and Owensboro community and technical college honored their graduates Tuesday.

A list of local graduates from each school will be printed when available.

Martin of Burna, Chelsea Caitlin O'Brien of Smithland, Teala Renee Owens of Smithland, Shea Danielle Shewcraft of Burna, Amanda Jane Shull of Salem, Phillip Neal Skipper of Smithland, Olivia Renee Smith of Smithland, Kayla Southern of Tiline, Christopher Shane Stokes of Grand Rivers, Christian Jane Walker of Smithland, Danielle M. Walker of Salem and Jerrad M. Wilson of Salem.

### Fredonia

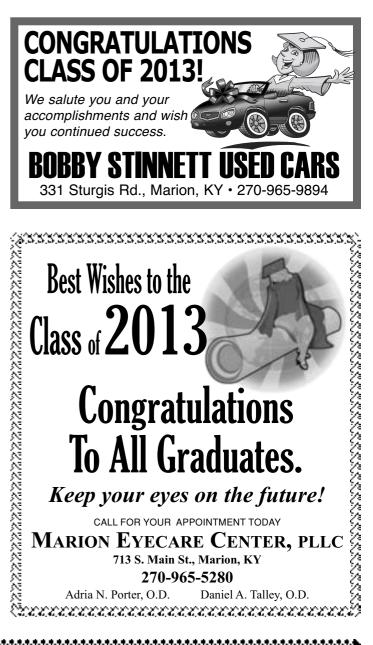
- Associate in Applied Science: Donald Clay Conway II; and Tammy A. Stinnett, who graduated with distinction.

- Certificates: Jordan Thomas Hillyard, Terry Holt and Tiffany Nicole Ray.

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## 



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Forty-four West Kentucky Community and Technical College nursing students receive nursing pins during a ceremony in the Clemens Fine Arts Center on Friday.

# WKCTC nursing students pinned

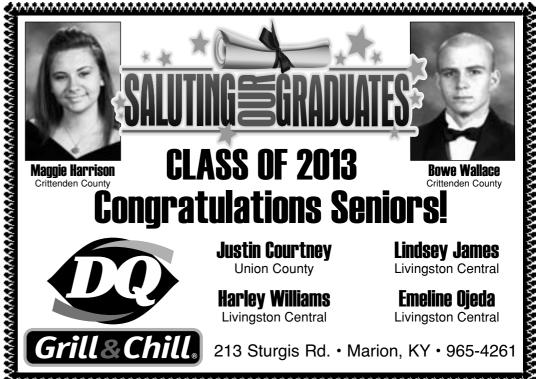
### STAFF REPORT

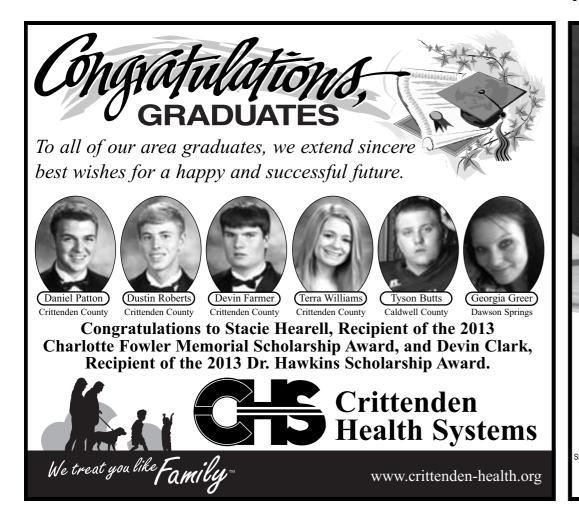
West Kentucky Community & Technical College's nursing department held its pinning ceremony for May 2013 graduates Friday in the Clemens Fine Arts Center, honoring five local students with the decoration.

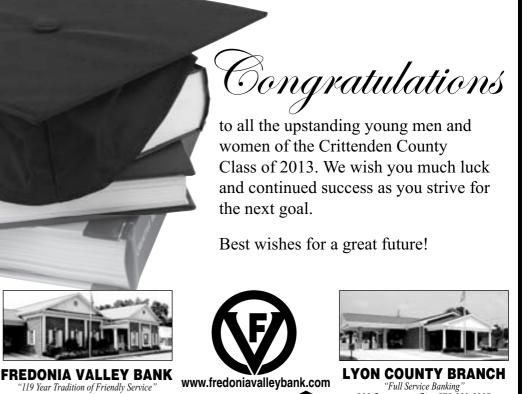
Forty-four nursing students crossed the stage to receive nursing pins representing the completion of the associate degree in nursing program. From Crittenden County were Anna Hillyard

and Misty McDowell; and from Livingston County, Kayla Moore, Kristie Stokes and Michelle Walls.

The pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming of newlygraduated nurses into the nursing profession.









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## COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



PHOTO BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS

# **1st Lacy Awards** presented Monday

Certified and classified employees of Crittenden County Schools were honored with the first-ever Lacy Awards presented Monday at closing day ceremonies. The Lacy Awards were created to preserve the legacy of Dr. Dennis Lacy, who served as Superintendent of Crittenden County Schools from 1982 to 2000. Wayne Winters, lead bus mechanic for Crittenden County Schools, received the award for classified staff. Kim Vince, Crittenden County High School social studies teacher, received the award for certified staff. Nancy Lacy, widow of Dr. Lacy, presented the honors. She said the awards help celebrate Dr. Lacy's memory and his belief in building strong relationships with both staff and students.

# College to launch 4-year guarantee

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky Wesleyan College says it will begin offering four-year graduation guarantees to incoming freshmen this fall. In addition, the school also plans to offer a three-year degree option.

KWC director of admissions Rashad Smith told the Messenger-Inquirer that the college will pay for up to one year of additional

coursework for students who don't graduate within four years.

The program is being launched to foster lasting, helpful relationships with students in the beginning of their college experience.

Meanwhile, vice president for academic affairs Paula Dehn said the three-year program would save a student up to \$16,000, but the coursework is more intense.

# ■ COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **Ex-Globetrotter pays visit** during last week of school

### **By JASON TRAVIS** STAFF WRITER

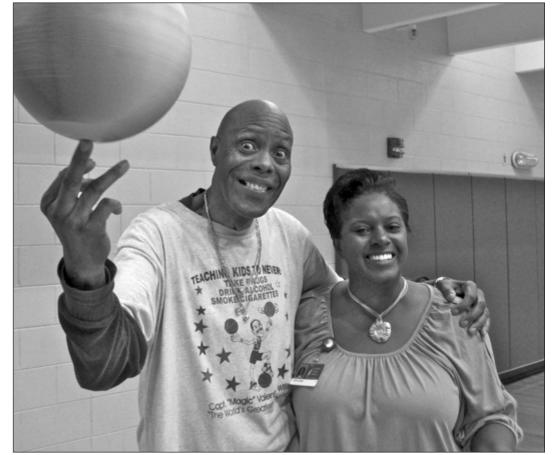
With a talent for basketball and a flair for comedy, Capt. "Magic" Valentino Willis of the Harlem Swish Comedy Basketball team captivates audiences of all ages. During his visit to Rocket Arena last week, Willis shared with students the importance of leadership, the dangers of using drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. He also spoke about the importance of respecting authority figures, whether they are parents, grandparents, teachers or coaches. He spoke out against bullying and fighting with others and the importance of respecting one's peers

At 6-4, Willis played for Norfolk State University and was originally drafted by the New Jersey Nets. He played in the Eastern Professional Basketball League where he averaged 25 points per game. He spent eight years with the Harlem Globetrotters traveling the world and entertaining audiences.

Today he visits schools, boys and girls clubs, kids' basketball camps and other community organizations warning students to not throw away their futures.

"I tell kids, 'you are the future of the world. Stay in school and get a good education," he said.

Willis also relates the tragic story of his friend Len Bias. A forward at the University of Maryland, Bias was the second pick of the 1986 NBA Draft. He was selected by the Boston Celtics. Weeks later Bias died after taking



PHOTOS BY JASON TRAVIS, THE PRESS Capt. "Magic" Valentino Willis of the Harlem Swish Comedy Basketball team joins Crosswalk Coordinator Cheryl Burks before the assembly at Rocket Arena.

cocaine

Willis said he loves working with kids and always tries to emphasize staying in school and the importance of education. In addition to basketball, Willis has ap-

peared in movies "The Wiz," with Michael Jackson and Diana Ross and "For Heaven's Sake," with Ray Bolger and Kent McCall.

His appearance was part of Transition Day activities at Rocket Arena, where students got the opportunity to participate in many physical activities such as climbing a rock wall, chair exercises, corn hole, Geomotion and team building.

# ■ COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **Band earns distinguished rating**



After receiving top honors at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Concert **Band Assessment in Bowl**ing Green, Crittenden **County Concert Band mem**bers were awarded a distinguished rating at the state concert festival held last weekend in Louisville. A three-judge panel awarded the band the rating. Band director Jonathan Nash credited his students for their hard work and accomplishments. "The group did a good job," Nash said. "They have been working really hard and it shows. I'm really proud of them." At left, Nash directs the band during Friday's gra ation ceremonies at Rocket Arena.

# Congratulations! **CLASS OF 2013** *On your graduation day, we would like to congratulate*

you and wish you good luck as you embark upon new and exciting endeavors. May good fortune and good health be yours as you continue to acheive great things.





PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

# ■ COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **Board chair: Thanks to employees**

(The following address was given to faculty and staff Monday, which was closing day for Crittenden County school district.)

I have noticed that Dr. Yarbrough is putting me first on the program now...before the blessing and before the meal....I think that she may be trying to tell me something .... but I will not be able to be with you next fall for Opening Day, so there are a few brief thoughts...and stories....that I do want to share with you, as you prepare for your summer and begin to think about next school year.

So let's start with a story...in February, your school board went for part of our annual training. Just to prove that miracles do happen...I was getting to our first morning session early. As I am waiting for the elevator, I realized that our morning speaker was also waiting. As you all know, I am fairly shy and bashful, but I mustered the courage to introduce myself to him. We visited on the elevator and continued our conversation onto the conference hall where he would speak. This training session is for all 174 school boards in the state, so I would conservatively estimate that there were 700 people in the room. As I found our team and sat down, I shared that I had met our speaker and knew that we were in for a treat. He started his presentation with the statement that he knew that great things were happening in education in Kentucky. In fact, he knew that great things were happening in individual school districts like Crittenden County. Our team looked surprised and one of Dr. Yarbrough's big smiles began to creep across her face. After the presentation, superintendents from around the state started asking Dr. Yarbrough how we got our school district included in the



program. She said, you just have to know our board chain

But besides mentioning Crittenden County, Wes Moore had a few thoughts that I wanted to share with you all this morning.

First, potential is universal...opportunity is not! Potential is universal...opportunity is not! Let that statement really sink in. This statement has certainly had a positive impact on me.

Second, education matters! And for a reason that I had never thought of. Who we learn from and with matters! Seventy percent of jobs come from a phone call...from an e-mail...from a mutual friend. In higher education, our network...our friendships... our connections change.

Third, use our voices and power to advocate for others...use our voices and power to advocate for others.

Fourth, expectations matter! We are not products of our environment...We are products of our Expectations. This is a key tenet of Marva Collins...she expects the same from all of her students...regardless of their background or environment.

Fifth, when it is time for you to leave here, make sure that it mattered that you were ever even here.

Two more quick stories....Let me start by saying that God knew that it was best that I did not have any children of mv own...because they would be wild. As your board will attest,

discipline is not one of my strongest suits....and let me say these stories are not meant to build me up; they are simply reminders and examples of what all of tou already know and do. So, my first story... I was told that one of our students was a lost cause. I could not accept that. I continued to reach out to this student, even after his second disciplinary hearing in front of our board and his apparent disregard for my concern. Last May, as I was walking on the trail at the county park, I met this young man with a group of his friends...always being conscious that some young people do not want to acknowledge that they know an adult when they are with their friends, I simply smiled as we met. He said hello and gave me a high five. On my next round, we met again. I simply said hello and kept walking...But as I walked away, he yelled in his friends' presence, I have changed because of you. No student, no person is a lost cause until they have taken their last breath.

Second, one of our students recently said to me, "Thank you for believing in me." No, we do not have to condone every action of a student...but does it cost us anything extra to always believe in a student and make sure that they know that without a doubt?

So my final story. Last fall, Tracy and I had the rare opportunity to enjoy the ocean. As we started walking along the beach, I began looking for sea shells; big, beautiful shells, shells that were whole. I soon realized that whole shells were going to be rare, especially large ones.

So I began picking up pieces of shells...and I discovered that the most beautiful part of these broken shells was the part that was hidden inside the shells...the part that I would have never

seen if the shell had not been broken.

It made me realize that we, as people, are the same. Are any of us really whole? And many times, some of our most beautiful attributes are hidden inside...and it takes us being broken to reveal that inner beauty. When we are broken, sometimes it brings out the best in us, the most beautiful part of us.

Our last day, as I was walking on the beach, picking up more beautiful pieces of shells, I realized that people were walking on and over the broken shells. It made me think that we sometimes tend to walk over and ignore people that are broken...people that do not appear whole and immediately beautiful. We need to stop and appreciate everyone...take time to see their real beauty. We may miss some of the most truly beautiful people, if we do not look past their brokenness.

As broken people, we may gravitate toward others who fill in our brokenness, others who may have some of the pieces that we are missing or that are broken...or others who have the same missing or broken pieces...because they understand us.

As broken people, we are vulnerable. People can see inside us. We may be able to minister to others better as vulnerable people.

To wrap up, let me share one of Wes Moore's comments again... When it is time for you to leave here, make sure that it mattered that you were ever even here.

Thank you for all that each of you do...have a great summer and a great start to our school year next fall.

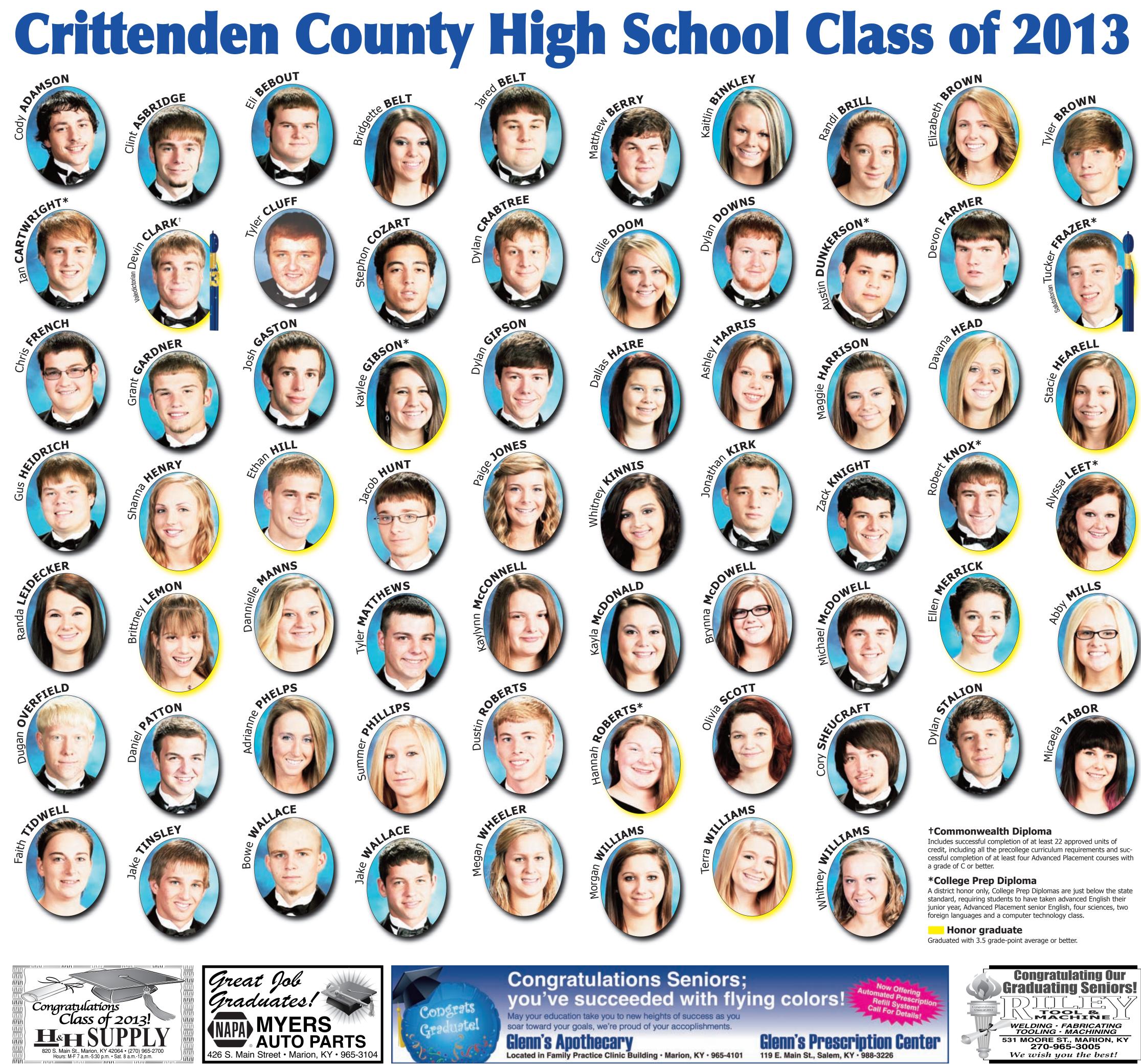
(Cook has been chairman of Crittenden County Board of Education since 2008.)

Congratulations Seniors On CA Job Well Done! Class of 2013, may your future be everything you've always dreamed it would be. 🔊 🖌 Full Body itness Stud Serena Dickerson, Owner 270-704-1871

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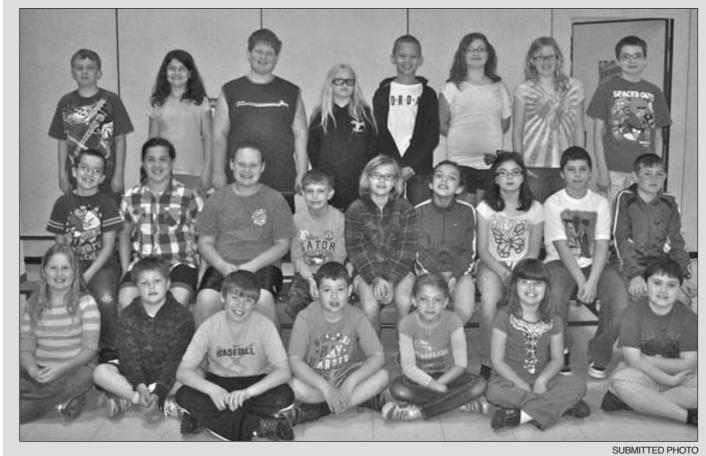






# **April Rocket Role Models**

Final selection of top monthly Crittenden County Elementary students for 2013



# Third through fifth grade

(Front, from left) Katie Willan, Tyler Pigg, Daley DeBoe, Colyn Caraway, Erica Darnell, Faith Conner, Blake Martin, (middle) Devin Doyle, Emily West, Destiny Knight, Dominic Rorer, Sara Jones, Destiny Sikes, Abby Kirk, Eli Hardin, Conner Taft, (back) Lukas Graham, Kyron Hicks, Jake Kurtz, Christa Sisco, Chris Perez, Skye Tercero, Shelby Cooper and Chase Day. Not pictured are Bryce Rogers and Talissa Jenkins.









SUBMITTED PHOTO

# **Kindergarten through second grade**

(Front, from left) Hattie Hattield, Jaxon Belt, Katie Curnel, Cameron Lovell, Jazmyne Tramel, Chaun Tramel, Josh Robison, Taylor McKinney (middle) Kayle Duncan, Toby Bates, Tanner Crawford, Jaycee Champion, Mason Crider, Kyler Goodwin, Braelynn Pate, (back) Matthew Jenkins, Tori Ladd, Colton Gilland, Hannah Baker and Trevor Eifler. Not pictured are Avery Johnson, Antwan Brown, Seth Guess, Lanie Greenwell, Addison Mundy, Olyvia Lanham and Luke Drawdy.

# ■ CCHS GRADUATION 2013 scholarship recipients

Brescia University	Ethan Hill
Murray State University	
University of Kentucky	
University of Louisville	
Campbellsville University	Ellen Merrick
Madisonville Community College	Ashley Harris, Alyssa Leet
West Kentucky Community & Technical College	Elizabeth Brown, Hannah Roberts, Stacie Hearell
Jake Hodge Memorial Scholarship	
	Ethan Hill Tucker Frazer Ellen Merrick
Delta Kappa Gamma Grant-in-Aid Scholarship	Alvssa Leet
Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation Scholarship	
Crittenden Health Systems Charlotte Fowler Memorial	
James M. Hawkins, MD Scholarship	
Donan & Georgia "Jo" Travis Jenkins Scholarship	Bobby Knoy Ductin Poberts Alvess Leet
American Legion Fredonia Post 103 Scholarship	Stacio Hoard
Paul F. Riley Memorial Scholarship	
Crittenden County Attorney Rebecca Johnson Scholars	
Caldwell-Lyon Cattlemen Association Scholarship	
Woman's Club of Marion Marie Frazier Scholarship	
Woman's Club of Marion English Award	
Kentucky Youth Seminar Scholarship	
Crittenden County Extension Homemaker Association	
Crittenden Health Systems Auxiliary Scholarship	
Crittenden County Education Association Scholarship	
Morris Sisco Memorial Scholarship	
American Legion Post 111 Scholarship	
Crittenden County Retired Teachers Scholarship	Kaylee Gibson
Crittenden County/Kentucky Farm Bureau Scholarship	Ethan Hill, Bobby Knox,
	Alyssa Leet, Elizabeth Brown
Crittenden County Cattlemen Association Scholarship.	Stacie Hearell
Nellie Stone Hamilton Scholarship	Ethan Hill
Hamilton Cochran Memorial Scholarship	
Marion Zumba Fitness Scholarship	
Marion Eye Care Center Scholarship	
Raymond & Agnes Easley Scholarship	
Amy C. Kirk Memorial Scholarship	
Greg "Dozer" Belt Memorial Scholarship	Dugan Overfield
Woodmen of the World Lodge 92 Scholarship	
Kentucky High School Coaches Association Scholarship	
Paul E. Mick Memorial Scholarship	
CCHS Scholarship Foundation	Daige Jones Austin Dunkerson
CCHS Potter & Brumfield Scholarship	
U.S. Marine Corps Awards	
U.S. Mallie Culps Awalus	Bobby Knox (Athlete), Elizabeth Brown (Athlete)
Friends of FFA Scholarship	DUDDY NIUX (AUTIELE), EIIZADEUT DIOWIT (AUTIELE)
Par-4 Plastics FFA Scholarship	
rai-7 riasuus fra suiviaisiiip	Dugan Overfield

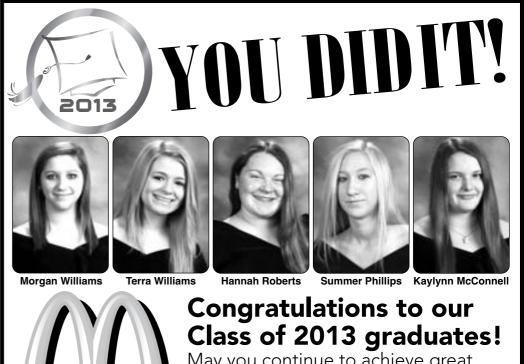
# Some colleges' graduate lists to come later

The names of local graduates this spring from many public and private colleges and universities in Kentucky are not released in relation to their hometowns. However, for a list of Murray State graduates, visit tinyurl.com/ck5zuoz. WKU will post a list of spring 2013 graduates after all names are certified.

i'm lovin' it



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May you continue to achieve great success in all of your future endeavors.

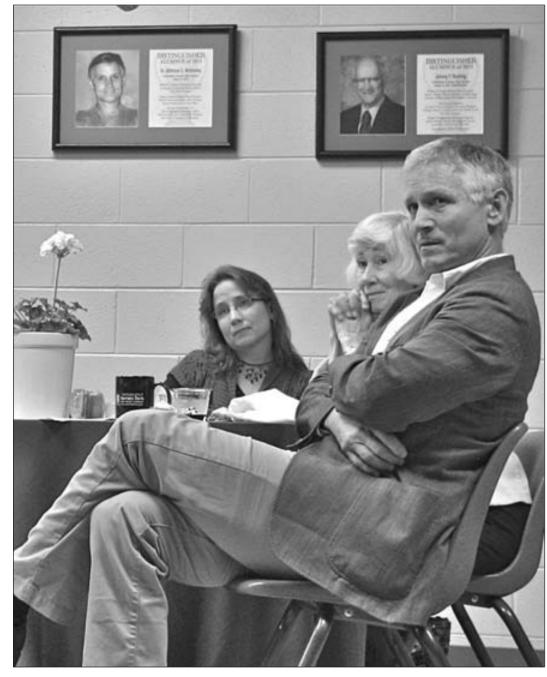
129 North Main St. Marion, Kentucky

## SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS

# Distinguished Alumni enshrined Friday







# Class of 2017 leaves its indelible mark on world

Physicist Johnny Rushing and missionary Dr. Jeff McKenney were inducted Friday as the third class into Crittenden County's Distinguished Alumni, but both are first-class graduates of Crittenden County High School.

Rushing, shown at top left receiving recognition during Friday's Class of 2013 commencement ceremonies, spent a significant portion of his physics career on research and development of lasers to be used in President Reagan's "Star Wars," or Strategic Defense Initiative, aimed at destroying Soviet nuclear missiles before they could strike the United States.

Though never employed, Rushing said the program essentially ended the Cold War by bankrupting the communist empire before it did America. Billions of dollars were put into the program, Rushing said, after the administration learned the Soviet Union was working on the same Rushing graduated CCHS in 1957, prior to consolidation with Marion High School. Back then, the CCHS Shamrocks wore green instead of blue.

and went into private practice after a distinguished career in the Navy. However, in 1992, McKenney founded The Cornerstone Foundation, a Christian missionary organization that established Hospital Loma de Luz-hospital on the hill of the light in Spanishin impoverished northern Honduras, where the doctor works and lives and with his family fulltime.

"It's a great thing because we desperately need this hospital," the caption on the screen (above) reads in still shot of a YouTube video, "Dr. McKenney-Prescription for Renewal."

McKenney and Rushing, the third class inducted, join former state senator and educator Dr. Ken W. Winters and pharmaceutical researcher Dr. A. Michael Crider, inducted in 2011; Kentucky Army National Guard Col. Scott A. Campbell, author Trish Milburn, inducted in 2012; and posthumous inducties Forrest C. Pogue, F. Julius Fohs, U.S. Sen. Ollie James and James T. Hatfield. To qualify, members of this achievement hall of fame inducted each May must have graduated from a high school in Crittenden County.



McKenney, shown at left with his mother Marty McKenney and sister Sally Mahoney, graduated high school in 1974, went on to medical school to become a surgeon on a U.S. Navy scholarship



# Congratulations To The Class of 2013!

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Your hard work and dedication have gotten you where you are today. Be proud of yourself, graduates. We wish you all the best.

Congratulations to all of our local graduates!





Since 1881

Ethan Hill, **Megan Wheeler** and Devin Clark



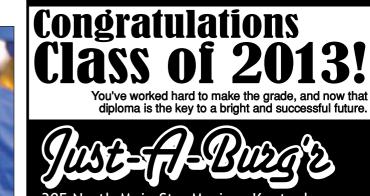
The Marion United Methodist Church Congratulates all the 2013 Graduates, especially those with family ties to the congregation.



Samantha Peek 2013 Graduate of Murray State University Daughter of

## **CCHS GRADUATION**





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ALL PHOTOS BY JASON TRAVIS AND DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

# Pictures tell story of graduation

Crittenden County High School graduated 68 seniors Friday night. From top, classmates look on as Tucker Frazer gives his salutatory speech during commencement exercises. Next, graduates rush for Rocket Arena as rain begins to fall from storm clouds gathered overhead. Daniel Patton poses with loved ones for a postgraduation photo opportunity. Graduate Ellen Merrick stands between her parents, middle school teacher Todd Merrick and Crittenden County Public Library Director Regina Merrick. Just above, Hannah Roberts receives a handshake from Crittenden County Board of Education Chairman Chris Cook. Finally, at right, Dylan Downs and Ethan Hill share a moment for the camera following commencement ceremonies. There were 13 honor graduates recognized during commencement exercises. Scholarships and financial awards for furthering education were announced last Thursday at class night.



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# Congratulations Class of 2013! Go you!







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