



The Crittenden Press

Baseball at region; track heads to state | Page 9A

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS / THE-PRESS.COM

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

General election June 4 deadline

Candidates seeking election to non-partisan posts during the fall general election have until Tuesday, June 4 to register. These would be local elections for positions such as city council, school board or conservation supervisor.

Marion Rocks Weekend

Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum in Marion will host its annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show this weekend on June 1-2 at Fohs Hall. There will be displays, vendors and other activities for all ages. The event will run from 9 a.m., until 5 p.m., on Saturday, June 1 and from 10 a.m., to 4 p.m., on Sunday, June 2.



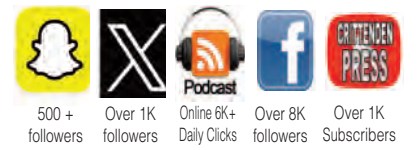
NextGen Mailbox

A new generation of demands on the U.S. Postal Service from online shopping has prompted the USPS to suggest you getting a bigger mailbox. The plan is also intended to curb crime, what's commonly called "porch pirating." Statistics from last year indicate that around 119 million package thefts occurred across the country. That is about 1 out of every 200 deliveries. Americans lost about \$13.4 billion to package theft in 2023, with the average stolen package worth around \$112. To combat the problem, USPS is suggesting people upgrade their mailbox to something larger, sturdier and safer, particularly if you do a lot of shopping through the mail. Dimensions of a larger mailbox are at least 13.63 inches wide by 7.75 inches tall on the sides, 12 inches tall at the center and 16.5 inches deep, the USPS says. These boxes also fit on standard posts of smaller mailboxes. You can typically get a high capacity mailbox at hardware or home improvement stores.

CCKG Back to the Opry

Local entertainers Cutter and Cash and The Kentucky Grass will be back on stage at the Grand Ole Opry next weekend. The band will be part of a special Opry Sunday hosted by Brenda Lee. The group debuted at the Opry earlier this spring. Patriot Tours is once again putting together trip packages that include chartered bus transportation and tickets. The show starts at 4 p.m., June 9.

No matter your generation or which platform you prefer, The Press is there bringing you news and sports in a timely fashion. Join us online today!



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Water Funding Now Totals Almost \$16 million

City, CLWD get another \$4.1M

STAFF REPORT

Another \$4.1 million is coming to this area to improve water security for Marion residents and those throughout Crittenden and Livingston counties. Gov. Andy Beshear announced late last week that \$2,880,000 is going to Livingston County Fiscal Court to increase capacity at Crittenden-Livingston Water District's treatment plant. A news release from the governor's office points out that this funding through Kentucky's Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities program is meant "to better serve their customers while also allowing for more water to go to the City of Marion." Additionally, Gov. Beshear said the City of Marion will directly receive \$1,200,000 to make improvements to water storage capacity at the city's own water treatment plant. The money could also be used to replace some aging water lines, according to city leaders. Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning said the \$1.2 million for Marion works in concert with Crittenden-Livingston Water District's (CLWD) longterm plan



to double the size of its treatment facility south of Salem on the Cumberland River. Aging holding tanks, also known as clear wells, at Marion's plant on Chapel Hill Road would be renovated with this money to benefit Marion in the short-term while its plant continues to produce water. In addressing the city's long-term needs for a more stable water source, the tanks could further be used to store water produced by CLWD. Marion has stated that its longterm solution is to eventually buy all of its drinking

water from CLWD. That goal, which has been embraced by state leaders, other regional partners and CLWD wholesale customers, will take around 10 years to achieve. As part of a broader aim to improve CLWD's ability to meet demands of all of its customers - which include Ledbetter, Smithland, Salem, Grand Rivers and Lyon County - Kentucky legislators recently assigned \$10 million in the state's two-year budget to help the district achieve its mission. Additionally, CLWD has been awarded \$1.75 million from a line-item appropriation through Congress in the Environmental Protection Agency's budget, largely thanks to Rep. James Comer. Marion has so far gotten more than \$4 million from Kentucky Emergency Management to stabilize Lake George as part of a short-term response to the water crisis. Marion began struggling to meet its water needs in the spring of 2022 when Lake George developed a levee leak. The

See **WATER**/page 4



INSIDE
6-Page Graduation Special

Country music icon Jeannie Seely provided a commencement address Friday night at Rocket Arena. The entire two-hour graduation service can be viewed online at the Crittenden County High School YouTube channel.

Country music legend addresses Class of 2024

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County High School conferred diplomas to 122 members of the Class of 2024 on Friday with a special appearance by country music legend Jeannie Seely. Seely and her husband Gene Ward delivered commencement addresses in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Rocket Arena. Seely is a Grammy Award winning singer, songwriter

and record producer from Nashville. She has developed a tie to this community as producer of rising Marion entertainers Cutter and Cash and The Kentucky Grass. The band's Cutter Singleton was among candidates for graduation. He and the band also performed their latest release, a cover of country music hit "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys."

In her speech, Seely said she wished that every child could grow up in Crittenden County. "I wish every child could grow up in Marion, Kentucky," she said. "They say it takes a village to raise a child, but I don't believe there are many that take it as seriously as you do." A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Seely said she has no doubt that

the seniors graduating there Friday will receive the same kind of support she's seen the community provide to the Singletons and their band with whom she's become very close. The graduating class was one of the largest in recent history. See more inside this issue about the Class of 2024 in our Special Graduation B Section.



Tammy Heady sang the National Anthem Saturday to open Memorial Day Weekend services at Blackford Veterans Memorial as the colors were presented by members of Burna's American Legion Post. Severe weather interfered with a great deal of the holiday celebration, but memorial services were held around the area, including those at Marion, Shady Grove and Fredonia. See page 3A for our annual Memorial Day memory page featuring fallen military heroes from Crittenden Countians throughout history.

Fitzgerald pleads guilty to federal drug, gun charges

STAFF REPORT

Brian Fitzgerald of Marion has pleaded guilty in U.S. Federal Court in Paducah to charges stemming from a drug and weapons investigation last year in Crittenden and Muhlenberg counties. Fitzgerald, 33, changed his plea last week and agreed to a sentence of between 18 and 22 years on two counts of possession of large quantities of methamphetamines with the intent to distribute and weapons possession violations. A formal sentencing date has yet to be determined. Fitzgerald remains

lodged in McCracken County Jail where he has been since December. Starting in the summer of 2023, Fitzgerald was the target of a drug investigation that included the West Kentucky Violent Crimes Task Force, DEA, Crittenden County Sheriff's Department and other area agencies. Human and electronic surveillance and other advanced investigative means were deployed in



Fitzgerald

See **PLEA**/page 4

Deaths

Holt

Carl L. Holt, 86, of Benton died Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah.

He retired after 32 years as a school teacher and was a land surveyor for over 50 years. He enjoyed being outdoors raising cattle, fishing, farming and gardening. He was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Little Cypress Baptist Church in Possum Trot for 45 years. He enjoyed spending time with his family and especially his grandkids.

Surviving are his wife of almost 60 years, Beulah Nell Holt; two sons, Kendall (Rhonda) Holt of Possum Trot and Kerry (Phuong) Holt of Lucas, Texas; a sister, Ida Jane (Buster) Allgood of Calvert City; two brothers, Lois (Sally) Holt of Paducah and Jimmy (Kay) Holt of Boaz; three grandchildren, Jared Holt and Justin Holt, both of Possum Trot, and Abby Holt of Lucas, Texas.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Taft and Birdie Josephine (Dycus) Holt.

Services were Tuesday, May 28 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Barry Summer-ville officiating. Burial was in Old Salem Cemetery.

Masse

Lana Riley Masse, 68, of Paducah died Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at her home. She was born to the late Dentis “D.K.” Riley and Naomi Hale Riley. She was a 1973 graduate of Lone Oak High School and a retired surgical tech.

Surviving are her husband, Robert Paul Masse; a daughter, Taylor Masse of Greece; three sons, Tyle Masse of Princeton, James (Jennifer) Masse of Charleston, S.C., and Sean Masse of Los Angeles, Calif.; a sister, Mona (Michael) Gish, of Owensboro; a brother, Monty Riley of Marion; nine grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Ricky Riley.

Services were Tuesday, May 28 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home with Rev. Curtis Prewitt officiating.

Burial was in Whites Chapel Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

Ordway

Carl Deane Ordway, 83, of Marion, died Sunday, May 27, 2024 at his home.

He was a United States Air Force veteran and worked in several capacities over the years, including at Ford Motor Company and the City of Marion.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Linda Dianne Ordway; and a son, Tim Ordway of Marion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Iva (Scott) Ordway; a daughter, Crystal Lynn Ordway; two sisters; and three brothers.

There will be no services at this time.

Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.



Gillott

Charlotte “Char” Stallion Gillott, 75, of Leesburg, Fla., died

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at her home in Plantation Resort. She was born July 30, 1948, in Marion to Dallas “Dick” Stallion and Naomi Stallion.

Charlotte dedicated her career to education, serving as an elementary teacher and reading specialist. She obtained her undergraduate and master’s degree from Murray State University. Her passion for teaching touched the lives of many students throughout her 30-plus year career.

Outside of work, Gillott found joy in reading and crafts. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Leesburg, Fla., where she found solace and community.

Surviving are her former husband of 10 years, Richard Gillott; a sister, Branda K. Stallion; a brother, William “Bill” Grant (Dianne) Stallion; two nieces, Kristal and Sabrina; four great-nieces and one great-nephew.

Services will be held at Gilbert Funeral Home at a later date with Pastor David Leneave officiating. Memorial contributions can be made to Paws Rescue and Therapy in Honor of Gillott’s love for dogs.

Community Calendar

- Thursday, May 30**
- Line dancing class is at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center.
 - Two weeks remain for Prime Time Reading from 3:30-5:30 p.m., each Thursday at Crittenden County Public Library. It is a family-based event led by professional storytellers/educators that presents reading and discussion strategies proven to increase creativity, critical thinking skills and academic success. Dinner and door prizes are provided. June 6 is the last meeting.
 - Crittenden County Homemaker Cooking Club will meet at 1:30 p.m., at the Extension Annex.
 - Crittenden County Public Library Board meets at 5 p.m., in the library meeting room.
- Saturday, June 1-Sunday, June 2**
- Mark your calendar for the gem, fossil and mineral show at the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.
- Wednesday, June 5**
- A Walk in the Park begins at 3 p.m., each Wednesday at Marion City-County Park. Meet in the top parking lot to walk the trail.



Well wishes

Donna Hearell (right) receives well wishes for retirement from Jana Croft during a reception May 20 at Williams, Faughn and Associates. Hearell retired after 40 years at the Main Street office, which previously was Larry Orr CPA.

School budget includes raises

STAFF REPORT

A 3.25-percent pay increase for teachers, classified staff and substitutes is built into a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 approved earlier this month by the Crittenden County Board of Education. The pay raise is the largest provided to school staff in several years.

The \$14.9 million tentative budget includes an increase in anticipated state funding and increased local tax revenue as a result of reassessments of Crittenden County property by the PVA.

Finance officer Diane Winters said the proposed spending plan uses known school district costs and anticipated revenue. The new budget will go into effect on July 1.

State funding based on student attendance is increasing, as well as the transportation budget as a result of action taken during the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly. However those totals will not be known for a couple more months.

The tentative budget serves as the district’s guide until a working budget is approved in September once revenue figures become clear.

“Now we have to budget what we expect, but in September we will have total SEEK and average daily attendance



Construction is continuing on a two-story addition to Crittenden County Middle School. The building will connect to the back of the existing middle school and eventually result in the razing of the western wing of the 1940s building.

and finalized transportation numbers,” she told the board.

Superintendent Tonya Driver said staff raises were, in part, the result of a market analysis of nearby counties conducted by the district’s resource efficiency team, comparing pay rates at various levels of experience in nearby counties.

In other action, the board approved the following:

- A \$50 fee per student for marching band. Crittenden County band director Alex Benoit said the funds will cover instrument repair and supplies.
- A \$5,700 annual pest control bid from PASS

Pest Control.

- The fifth construction payment to MP Lawson and subcontractors for work on the addition to Crittenden County Middle School.
- Memorandum of agreement with Mountain Comprehensive Care school-based mental health services for the 2024-25 school year.
- Annual audit services with Duguid, Gentry and Associates in the amount of \$23,000.
- Memorandum of agreements with Audubon Area Community Services, Madisonville Community College dual credit and FRYSC CORPS program.
- A licensing agreement

with First United Bank to issue Rocket Spirit Debit Cards in return for \$1,000 to the board annually.



May students of month

Students recognized in May by the Crittenden County Board of Education are (from left) high schooler McKayla Fugere, middle schooler Jack Porter, high schooler Keifer Watson and elementary students Bryza Curnel and Kayleigh Duvall.

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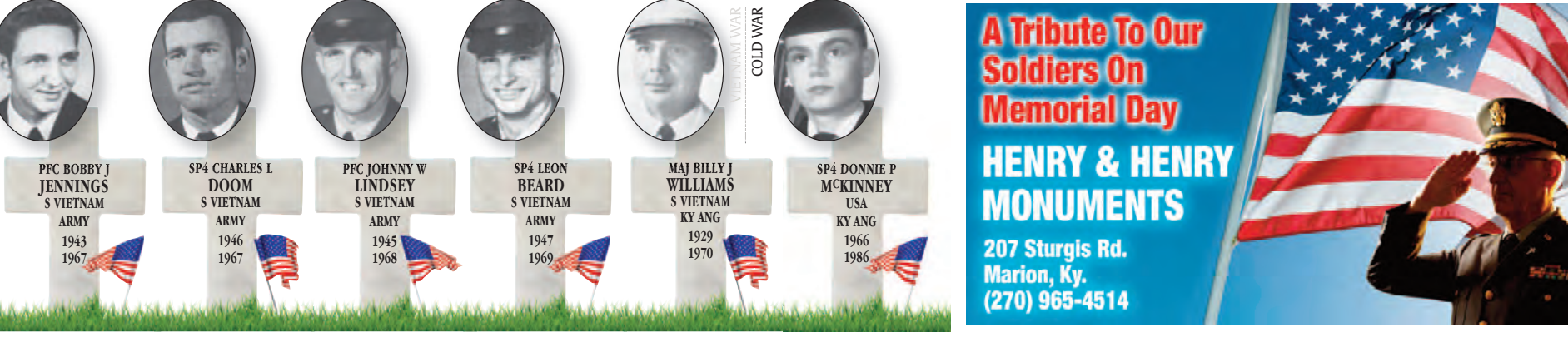
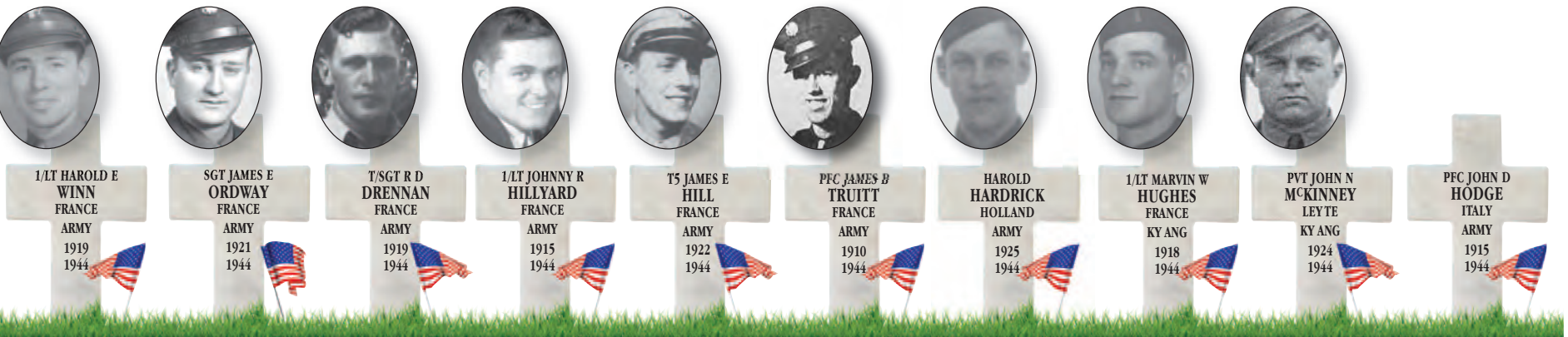
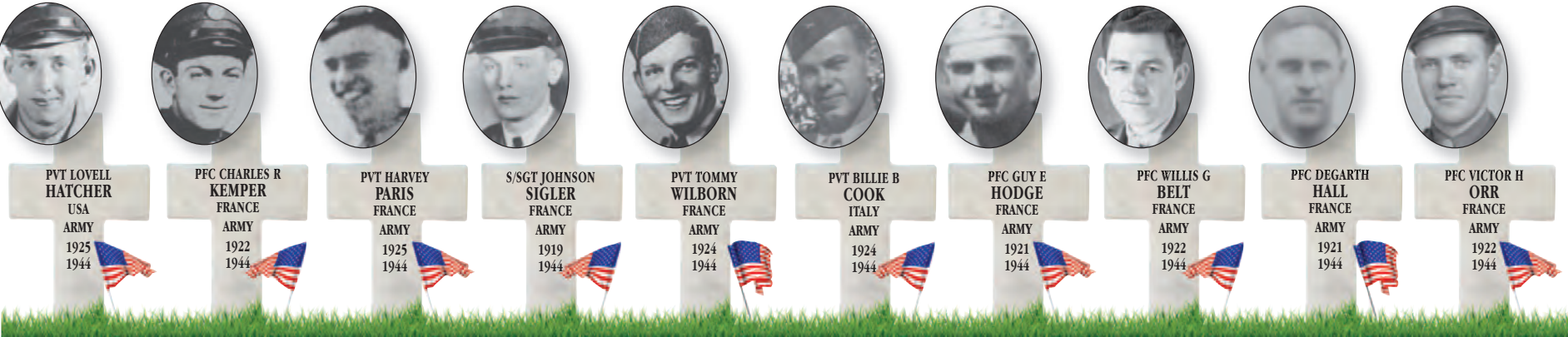
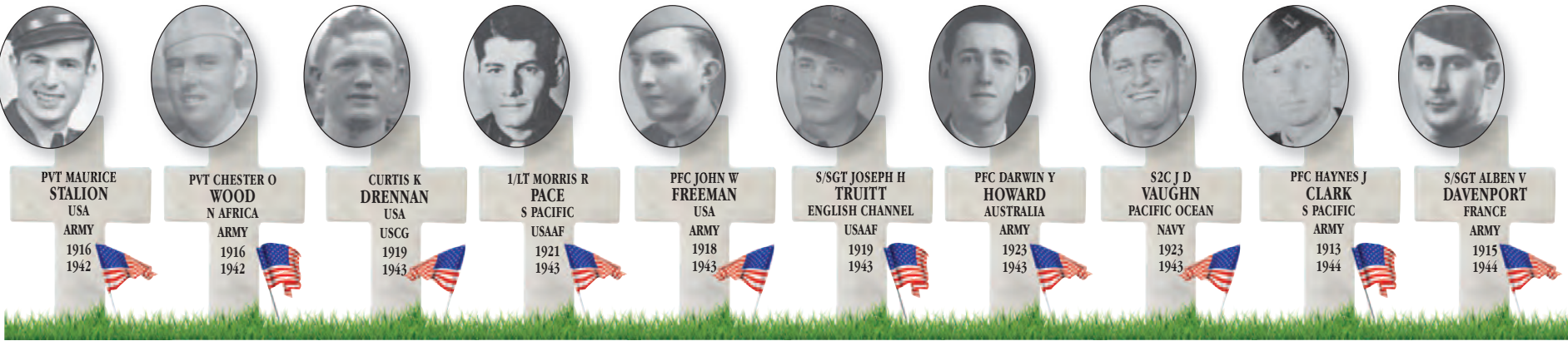
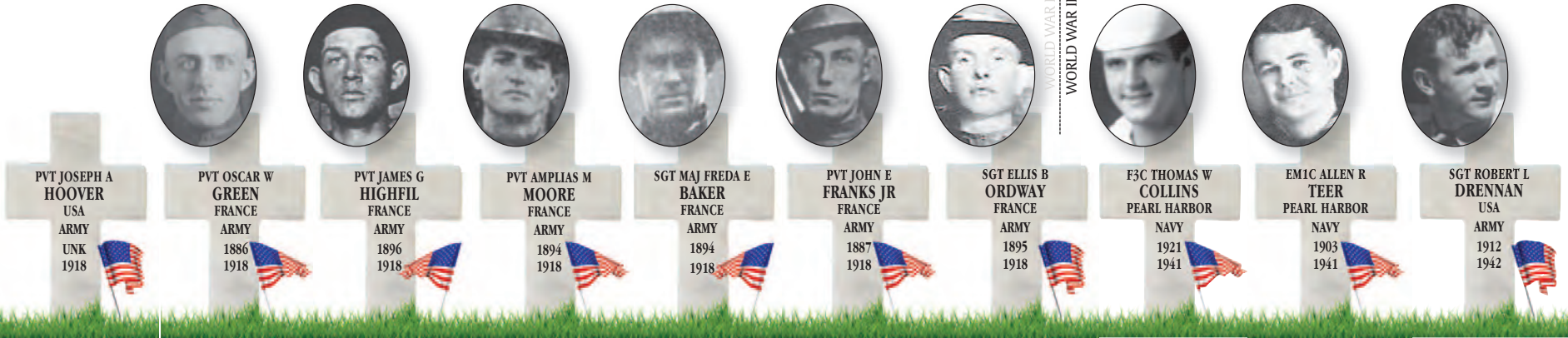
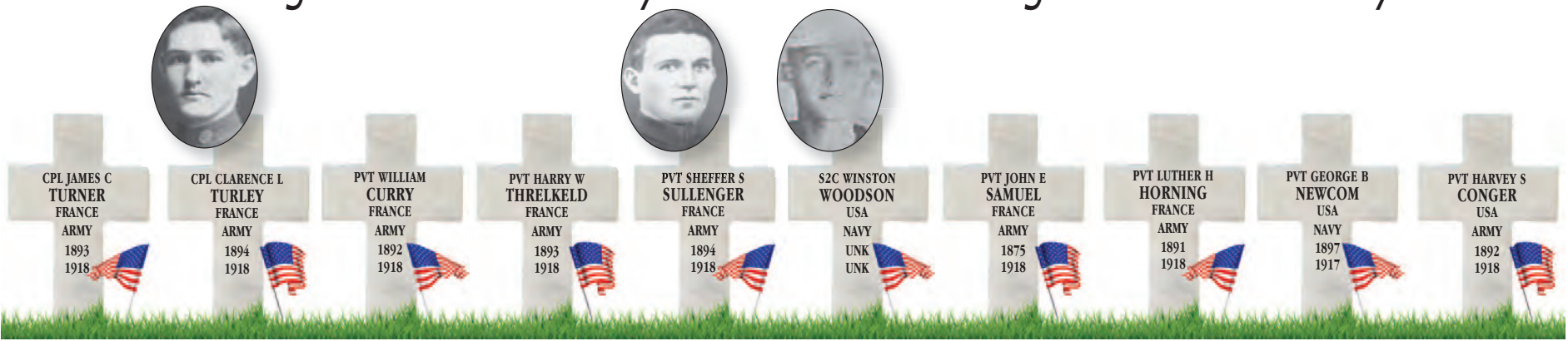
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for information on obituaries, funeral arrangements, pre-need arrangements and background information about the funeral home.

Saluting Our Own

Remembering Crittenden County's Lost in War during this Memorial Day Week



A Tribute To Our Soldiers On Memorial Day

HENRY & HENRY MONUMENTS

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Baker’s med school path moves closer to home



Dr. Reid Baker

STAFF REPORT
Eight years after his graduation from Crittenden County High School, Dr. Reid Baker’s path toward family medicine is bringing him closer to home.
Eventually, he hopes to be back in Marion.
But for now, Baker will begin his residency at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. He graduated May 11 from Kentucky College of

Medicine at the University of Kentucky. He holds an undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry from Murray State University.
There is a great chance Baker will end up practicing in Marion in a few years at Crittenden Community Hospital (CCH).
Baker, 26, and the medical facility in Marion have a non-binding

agreement that has helped him meet financial obligations as he finished med school and will continue when he moves into a residency program in nearby Hopkins County. The relationship will give CCH an option to hire Baker when his three-year residency is complete.
For now, Baker is excited about the work ahead in western Ken-

tucky, which could include clinics in Princeton and could bring him into contact with friends and family. His wife is from Eddyville and Baker grew up near Fredonia.
On a path to become a full-fledged, autonomous family practice physician, Baker is just over half way. He’s already earned the title of doctor, but will have to work alongside other physi-

cians for a period before he can practice independently.
As part of his next three years of residency, Baker will also spend time in Louisville at Norton’s pediatrics unit.
“Eventually, I want to be at home and Crittenden County is my home,” Baker said. “I like small hospital systems and that’s where I want to work.”

Fire destroys home

Multiple fire departments responded to a house fire on KY 506 in rural Crittenden County about 11:30 a.m., last Thursday.
The home belonging to Frankie Piper and his family was destroyed. The owner reported the fire, which started in the kitchen, according to fire officials.
Besides Piper’s wife, two of their children were also residing at the brick ranch style home. All belongings were lost.
Firemen from Crittenden County, Shady Grove, Mattoon, Fredonia, Princeton/Caldwell County and Salem were on the scene for about four hours.

Local WKCTC grads

West Kentucky Community and Technical College held commencement service last Thursday at The Carson Center.
Several area students were among more than 900 who were eligible to receive associate degrees, diplomas or certificates during Spring 2024.
Following are students from the area who were recognized by WKCTS. Students with one asterisk in front of their name graduated with distinction with a grade point average of 3.4–3.5, while students with two asterisks graduated with high distinction with a grade point average of 3.6–4.0.
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE
Caldwell County: **Mary Tays
Crittenden County: Caitlyn Guess, Kelsey Simpson
Livingston County: Amber Davis, **Lydia Martin, Zachary Poindexter, **Layken Thomas



Lyon County: **Jennifer Gracia, **Hailey Webb
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS
Caldwell County: Jimmy Smith, *Robin Storms, Allen Wadlington
Crittenden County: **Blake Martin
Livingston County: Alexandria Bunyan, **Mason Fuller, **Sabrina Quertermous
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
Crittenden County: *Nicole Adams, **Hannah Birk, Kina Downs
Livingston County: Ethan Hopkins, Aidan Wyatt
Lyon County: Laney Dalbey
CERTIFICATE
Caldwell County: *Dequaz Glover, Brady Holeman, Makenzie McConnell, Hannah Miller, Elizabeth Myers, Joshua Rogers, **Michaelyn Sample, Travion Samuel, Tyler Stevens, Kaylee Watts, Emma West
Crittenden County: Connie Caylor, Kylie Collins, Jennifer Daugherty, Hannah Faughn, Ellie Guess, Seth Guess, Janet Henshaw, Kekoa Kuamoo, Tyler McKinney, Chrystal Rich, Tiffany Tosh.
Livingston County: Joy Abell, Robert Burns, Graycee Clark, Jason Culver, **Timothy Downs II, Deagan Dukes, Tina Dunkerson, Jude Ferrell, Rosa Gilland, Kainan Goodaker, Daphne Hanson, **Scott Henson, Calista Jennings, Benjamin Kinder, Sy McDonald, Alexis Pinnegar,

Colton Poindexter, Anthony Rinella, Brooklynn Sanders, Aaron Sears, Chris Shelton, Kaitlyn Smith, Miranda Thomas, Daisy Wilkerson, Abigail Wring
Lyon County: Amber Chaptman, Haleigh Clark, Salvador Coronado, *Abigail Crawford, Anna Crawford, Jackson Crawford, Katie Ladd, Karmine Long, **Brady Orr, Lydia P’Poole, Erin Story, Paul Thiel, Kendell Tobey.
DIPLOMA
Caldwell County: Sarah Conway, Amanda Wetherington
Crittenden County: *Carly Guess
Lyon County: Macayla Cooke, Keisha Litchfield, Connie Smith

Meth lab discovered

Three people were arrested and an alleged meth lab was confiscated last Wednesday in Crittenden County.
Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head received a complaint of a male burglar at a residence located on KY 723 South. The suspect left the scene after being confronted by the homeowner, but the homeowner got a photo of the alleged burglar’s vehicle. Deputies quickly located the suspect at his residence.
Further investigation led to the discovery of an active methamphetamine lab inside an outbuilding along with various drug paraphernalia and a loaded handgun.
Arrested on a number of drug related charges were Richard Rozwalka, 42, and Taylor Henderson, 26, and Makaley Davis, 27. Henderson was also charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon and two active warrants.

PLEA

Continued from page 1
the case. When officers tried to arrest him in July, he escaped but left behind a great deal of evidence that was eventually used to strengthen the federal case against him, including a 9mm semiautomatic handgun, a .22 caliber rifle and what has been determined by federal authorities to be about 14 pounds of methamphetamine. Other evidence found at his residence on Brown Mines Road, included a marijuana-growing site consisting of more than 70 plants, a

large amount of dried marijuana, heroin and other drug paraphernalia; however, those seized items were not mentioned in the federal plea deal.
Fitzgerald was later arrested along with a Lyon County woman at a Central City motel in Muhlenberg County following a brief chase.
It remains unclear what will happen with the multiple state charges against him in Crittenden and Muhlenberg counties.
According to U.S. Court records, Fitzgerald and the U.S. prosecutor have agreed to sentencing guidelines between

216 and 264 months which is 18 to 22 years and a fine at the lowest level of the guidelines which is due at time of sentencing.
Both sides may argue for a sentence within those guidelines, records say.
As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney’s office consented to forego any pursuit of enhanced charges of being a repeat offender based on Fitzgerald’s lengthy criminal record, which includes at least eight felony convictions between 2008 and 2023.
The agreement also provides for a sentence reduction option if

Fitzgerald’s behavior records are acceptable during the incarceration period.
Court documents say Fitzgerald’s charges could potentially carry a combined minimum term of 10 years to life, a \$20.5 million fine and supervised release for 5 years to life upon release.
As part of the plea agreement, Fitzgerald will forfeit weapons, accessories, \$8,368 in cash and any other property used to commit or facilitate the commission of the violations or that was derived from the proceeds of the crimes to which he pleaded guilty.

WATER

Continued from page 1
dam was purposely breached to reduce pressure on the earthen structure, leaving the city without a full supply of raw water. Marion has also applied for a \$1 million USDA grant to continue restoration efforts at Lake George beyond the current stabilization project.
Mayor D’Anna Browning says a multi-county approach to solving Marion’s water crisis and improving water security for the broader region is coming together with nearly \$16 million over the next couple of years.
“This exemplifies exactly what I was elected to do. To build a team, to create a plan and to work with Gov. Beshear, Sen. Howell, Congressman Comer, Director Sarah Gaddis with the Department of Water, Kentucky Emergency Management, the Pennyrile Area Development District, Judge Perry Newcom, Judge Teris Swanson and Crittenden Livingston Water District.
“The past year and a half has been tough, but the City of Marion is finally benefiting from hard work, communication and the drive to succeed,” Browning added.
Livingston County’s judge-executive echoed similar remarks.
“Water security is one of the

most important things for any community, not only for the safety and health of our residents, but for economic viability and security in the future as well.” Swanson said. “The importance of this project cannot be overstated, and we are so blessed and thankful for all the support we have received so far.”
The \$2.88 million CLWD received from the block grant was the largest appropriation among 10 projects announced last Thursday by the governor. This particular grant was one that appeared troubled in the beginning because necessary customer surveys were initially incomplete when submitted. However, through negotiations and lobbying by various local leaders, the state approved the application based on an urgent needs status.
Tim Thomas, Marion’s water crisis consultant, says there could be even more money coming from additional sources, perhaps \$1 million or more to aid CLWD and Marion.
In order for CLWD to adequately serve its own customers and help Marion emerge from its current crisis, a multi-year strategy was developed months ago by engineers and planners. A total of about \$40 million will eventually be needed to complete the project.
While pocketbooks are opening

for the ongoing water crisis, problems still exist on the ground in Marion where contractors are struggling to dewater a part Lake George, which is now inside a temporary coffer dam. The rock coffer dam was constructed to protect the damaged levee and to allow experts to seal off a crippled pipe that runs through the earthen dam. Pumps have been unsuccessful to adequately draw down the water level inside the coffer dam area, prompting engineers to reimagine how the pipe can be capped. Work will take several more weeks to complete as dry weather is needed to make progress on the next stages of work.
Due in part to current issues and previous delays due to failure of the lake’s access road under the strain of heavy loads of rock coming into the site, local leaders have decided to seek a four- or six-month extension to the emergency declaration that has been in place for more than two years. If the state extends the emergency order, it would be the fourth extension since May of 2022. Under this order, Marion is being reimbursed by the state for expenses incurred to stabilize Lake George. Without the order, Marion would be on its own.



YEARS AGO

May 30, 1974
■ Holding pictures of tornados in front of a gymnasium full of elementary school students, Lois Hicks and Jean Watson represented the Crittenden County Rescue Squad in advising students what to do in the event of a tornado.
■ Becky Johnson played two piano solos on WPSD-TV Channel 6 during the Superiors Festival Television Program in Paducah after receiving superior ratings at the district National Federation of Music Club Festival.
■ Seven members of United Methodist Women Sub-unit 4 presented a tea and fashion show featuring dresses from the 1800s to present. Participating were Betty May, Dulcie Hardin, Ann English, Mary Jane Watson, Barbara Hodge, Nancy Mick and Brenda Guess.
■ Pony League baseball registration was underway. Two teams from Marion were preparing to play two teams from Sturgis and a team from Uniontown. Teams played two games each week through the July 22 final.

25 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1999
■ Kim Hunt, a member of the Crittenden County Future Homemakers of America, recently received the Anges Foster Golden Horizon Award at the annual FHA state meeting.
■ Crittenden County baserunner Brad Guess dives safely back into first base during a pickoff play in the second inning of the 1999 fifth district tournament. The tag by Caldwell county first baseman Jason Gray was late, but Guess was later in that inning thrown out trying to steal home during a pickoff play at second base.
■ Larry Hearell and his son Dusty spent a few hours this weekend moving their riding burros from one pasture to another. The father and son duo unloaded the last of three donkeys into a field near Midway. The Hearells organized a big trail ride every year on Memorial Day on their farm in rural Crittenden County.

10 YEARS AGO

May 29, 2014
■ Matthew O’Dell, a Crittenden County High School graduate and Western Kentucky University student was initiated into Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honor society in economics and one of the world’s largest academic honor societies for college students.
■ Crittenden County High School senior Travis Gilbert committed to play baseball at Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio. Capitol had more than 3,500 students and was one of the oldest and largest Lutheran-affiliated universities in North America.
■ Crittenden County High School juniors and seniors selected Dusty Lemon and Davin Steinback as queen and king of the 2014 CCHS Prom. The theme for prom was “A Night Under the Oaks,” held at the Lyon County Convention Center.

Read Brenda Underdown’s
Forgotten Passages column
at The Press Online

Crittenden Press

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Jamie Brown, delivery

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Days begin with anticipation

Just over 37 years ago, I woke up and realized, “This is the day!” It was the day I was to marry the woman with whom I had fallen in love, and we had decided to build a life together. Such days do not happen without a great deal of planning. Not to mention the nature of relationships of young people trying to sort themselves out. People came from several states. Friends gathered round and imposed strange colored socks on the groomsmen. My best man had snuck some water guns into the ceremony. We were showered as we kissed for the first time as husband and wife.

A few decades later we woke up one morning and spent the day preparing for another such day for our daughter. “This is the day” was on the minds of all those who came from several states and took the day to celebrate.

I have also woken up knowing that what lies ahead is not pleasant. When saying goodbye to those whom we love who have passed from this life. “This is the day” is not limited by the nature of the event.

There is a popular Christian song based on a verse from the Revised Standard Version



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

of Psalm 118, “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” I have sung it hundreds, maybe thousands of times. I must admit that I rarely consider its context. I sometimes sing it in the morning more like a Disney princess floating through life before a wicked relative spoils everything.

However, Psalm 118 is a song about being rescued from disaster. It is a song filled with suffering and fear that has been overcome because of the action that God has taken. It is a recognition that it is God that has brought salvation to those who are singing.

I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Hark, glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD is exalted, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

The LORD has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank thee that thou hast answered me and hast become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.

This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:13-24, RSV)

There is another song I sing that has the same effect from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.” The context of this song is even more dire. This is a lament being written by a weeping prophet as he visualizes the destruction of his beloved city, Jerusalem. It is a powerful statement of faith in God.

Here are a few verses that lead into his exclamation of praise.

He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is;

so I say, “Gone is my glory, and my expectation from the LORD.”

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:16-24)

It is a good thing to begin each day recognizing that each day is a blessing from God. It is a good thing to recall that God’s love for us never stops. Some days this is easy, but it is on those days when it is hardest that we need to sing them the loudest.

Every day is a day that is the culmination of events. Every day begins with some form of anticipation – be it joy or dread. Always though, “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

Dr. Sean Niestrath is a minister in Madisonville, Ky. He holds a doctoral degree in ministry. You may contact him at sean.niestrath@outlook.com.

Religious Outreach

- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

THANK YOU

The family of James “Melvin” Buckingham would like to thank the staff of Baptist Health for their kind and considerate care and the staff of Crittenden Hospital E.R.

Thank you to everyone who sent flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and food.

Also, a very special thank you to Bro. David Perryman and each pallbearer.

May God bless each and everyone.

Melvin Buckingham’s family

PLEASANT GROVE GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH

will have

Homecoming

Sunday, June 2

Meal following worship service

with singing at 1:30 featuring



THE *Childress* FAMILY

Church is located 4 miles north of Salem on Ky. 723


Real faith is having complete trust in Jesus

Question: I have a science background. I need facts to be proven. I have trouble with things I can’t see and prove scientifically. It’s hard for me to trust Jesus is God and that He can change my life for the better. What is real faith, anyway?

Answer: “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Heb.11:1). Real faith acknowledges Jesus is God and one puts his trust in Him as Savior and Lord. Real faith isn’t

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



just belief in the right facts about Jesus but it is a trust in Him that leads to obediently following Him. It is the line between someone’s being saved (delivered from his sin-debt) or lost (not have a relationship with God for eternity).

A person can see God’s

God’s Word to each of us. “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21).

I put my full trust in Jesus Christ 62 years ago and I have experienced Him meeting my needs daily. I encourage you to seek a personal closeness to God through Jesus, also. Many things are true that can’t be proven scientifically.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH



315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.
Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church



Sunday Mass 11 a.m. 860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky. (270) 965-2477
Father John Okoro

Mexico Baptist Church



Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Tim Burdon
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.
175 Mexico Rd. (270) 965-4059 MexicoBaptist.org

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
“Whatever It Takes”
Bro. Jamie Baker
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220

Emmanuel Baptist Church



108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.
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Tolu Methodist Church



Pastor: David Brown
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Barnett Chapel General Baptist



Sunday School: 10 a.m. Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Barnett Chapel...
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m. where everyone
Bro. Ken Suits, pastor is welcome.

Freedom General Baptist Church



Pastor: Ross Atwell
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)
CHURCH TIMES:
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

Marion Baptist Church



College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Join us for praise & worship
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children’s & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holean
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

SEVEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH



219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064
Sunday evening service 5 p.m.
Wednesday night service 6:30 p.m.
- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us. -
Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church



Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
David LeNeave, Pastor

growing in grace PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church



2 Peter 3:18
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God



334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
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Speaker: Greg Rushing PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.
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Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian



585 Sugar Grove Church Rd. Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455
Pastor Jesse Thornton (618) 200-0884
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church



We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.
Steve English, Interim Pastor
South College St.

Frances Community Church



Bro. Butch Gray
Worship service:..... 11 a.m.
Children’s Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.
“The little church with a big heart”

Hurricane Church



Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
Sun. School, 10 am. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church



4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ



546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

A. H. Cardin was one of Kentucky's top farmers

Before and shortly after 1900, one of Crittenden County's best-known residents had perhaps the most immaculate and innovative farming operation in this part of the state. A. H. Cardin, who was once a nominee for governor, owned and operated the farm in View, just west of Crayne. This article appeared in The Crittenden Press Aug. 9, 1894.

The proprietor of Gum Grove, and one of the leading farmers and tobacco growers of western Kentucky, was born near Richmond, Va., in 1836, and was brought up on a farm. He has always been devoted to farming and stock business. In 1845 he came to Kentucky and has since made this his home. About 30 years ago he began buying and wholesaling strips, and leaf tobacco, and that, added to his already extensive business and large operations, have wonderfully increased its volume.

Gum Grove farm is a beautiful farm of 1,200 acres, by nature adapted to stock raising, and every improvement in the way of building and fencing has been made that would add to its utility, so that it may well be considered one of the finest farms in Kentucky. It is not only a pride to the owner, but to the people of the county of Crittenden.

When farming and stock raising are conducted carefully on scientific principles, such as are used by Mr. Cardin, it is of more value to the country than one first realized, but if you will go back even 10 years and note improvement in stock throughout the county, you must concede that the importance and care of fine blooded stock marks an era in the history of a county with increased prosperity as surely fixes as though it was a treaty of peace at the close of a disastrous war.

Mr. Cardin has a handsome residence which, with its beautiful surroundings, large shade trees, a good bearing orchard, and all kind of small fruit, large lawns, wagon and machinery sheds, tobacco warehouse and houses for his tenants that farm the land and prepare the tobacco for shipment, make valuable improvements of a most substantial character. The farm lies on the main road leading out of Marion about seven miles from the city.

The land is fertile and yields abundant crops of wheat and tobacco, but the grasses are the staples to which the propri-

etor gives his attention.

Mr. Cardin also owns a large tobacco house in Marion and buys, packs and ships by far the greater part of the tobacco that is sold at this point. He is now disposing of the crop of '93 and sells to large dealers in foreign countries. He has in his employ over 100 people the year round, and this is of itself an object of no little importance to a town of this size. To this help he pays weekly hundreds of dollars and a great deal of that money goes at once into circulation. He has made Marion a splendid tobacco market and pays good prices for all he buys as he has special advantages in disposing of it.

His farm is stocked with the best-blooded stock. His cattle are of the Jersey and Hereford strain, a fine breed of both, and each individual animal is recorded. All animals purchased of him are known to be honestly pedigreed and descendants from a good herd, which has received the best of care, treatment, studied and scientific breeding. With the innate love every Kentuckian has for the fine horse, Mr. Cardin has devoted a great deal of time, as well as money, to the improvement of his horses. Several years ago he brought from Woodford County some of Old Lexington's colts. These proved to be fine brood mares, and from these sprang the splendid roadsters and saddlers that now compose the three score of beauties now grazing on the grassy acres of Gum Grove farm.

The present head of the herd in Tom Slasher, a colt of Mountain Slasher, one of the country's famous saddlers. These horses are under the immediate care of James Baker, one of the most careful, best posted and enthusiastic horsemen in southern Kentucky, every animal he knows by name, and its pedigree is in his mind ready to answer a sight draft. Mr. Cardin will have the honor of exporting the first horse ever sent across the waters from



A.H. Cardin had a beautiful well-kept residence and surrounding farm structures, until the Night Riders destroyed it in 1908. The structures were never rebuilt and the farm became overgrown.

this county. He has sold a superb young saddle and harness mare to parties in Liverpool, to be shipped next spring.

With the advent of blooded stock came the necessity for better stock build, and our illustration shows how readily the proprietor of this farm supplied the want in that direction; the finest stock barn in the county is on the farm. All in all, Gum Grove farm is an ideal county home.

(The A. H. Cardin farm was located in the community of View. This area was located west of Crayne in the areas between Reiter View Road and the Mexico Road.)

February 13, 1908
Cardin's home and tobacco factory visited and burned by Night Riders..

February 9 - Night Riders destroyed the tobacco factory and warehouse of A. H. Cardin, at View, in Crittenden, six miles from this city, after invading this place and putting the telephone lines out of commission. Thirty-five thousand pounds in the factory was the property of Buckner and Dunkerson, of Louisville, for which firm Mr. Cardin was the agent. The remaining 10,000 pounds was the property of Mr. Cardin and his tenants. Mr. Cardin was the Populist nominee for Governor several years ago.

About 1:15 o'clock this morning 150 men masked and heavily armed rode into the town of Fredonia and took charge of the East Tennessee Telephone Company's office.

The men cut the cables leading to the exchange and after warning Oscar Scarberry, the residence of C. B. Lloyd, a prominent merchant, in whose store are located the telephones of the Home



Albert H. Cardin was a prosperous farmer and tobacco grower in the early 1900s. His farm named Gum Grove was located in the rural community of View.

had been buying independent tobacco while he is a member of the association.

The end of Gum Grove Farm

Mr. Cardin learned of his loss when he returned home that night. He went immediately to his destroyed residence. After this devastating event in the Cardin's lives they moved away for a while to Jeffersonville, Ind., for a year or so. When he returned home to Crittenden County he never the restored the residence or rebuilt any of the de-

stroyed structures, and his well cared for farm land had become grown up. History doesn't tell us what happened to his prized cattle and horses.

The Cardin family cemetery is located were View used to be, but it is in a state of disrepair overgrown with weeds and trees and all the stones are laying on the ground. Mr. Cardin chose not to be buried here and when he died July of 1918 he was buried in the Mapleview Cemetery at Marion. Nothing is left to tell the history of the once beautiful and prosperous Gum Grove farm. Today the view across the valley is peaceful and beautiful as it must have been in those early days, but without knowing its history, no one would guess that the little community of View was once the finest places in the valley, for there is nothing leave to show that it was ever there.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center

BLOOD DRIVE

JUNE 3 • noon-6 p.m.

at Crittenden Community Hospital
on the Bloodmobile

COMMUNITY WELCOME!

NOTICE

Piney Fork Cemetery, Inc.

will hold its annual meeting

Saturday, June 1 • 2:30 p.m.

at Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church

If you have loved ones buried in the cemetery please attend.

Donations for maintenance are appreciated.

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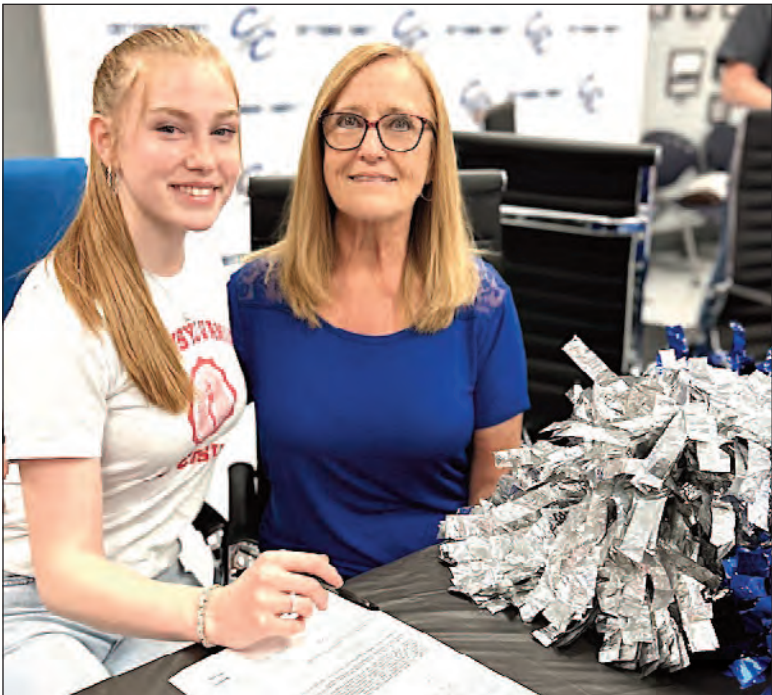
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SIGNING DAY



College Bound Rocket Athletes

Crittenden County High School last week held its college sports signing day for four senior athletes. Clockwise from top left are: Cheerleader Haylee Perrin who will study pre-med and cheer at Transylvania University in Lexington. She is sitting alongside her mother Gina Perrin. Gabe Keller will play football at Hanover College in Indiana. Pictured with him are his mother and father, Lee Ann and Mike Keller and Rocket football coach Gaige Courtney. Travis Champion will play basketball at West Kentucky Community and Technical College in Paducah. Pictured with him are his mother Teri Smith, father Jared Champion, WKCTC coach Brian Hill and his sister Abigail Champion. Jeremiah Foster will play golf and study at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. Pictured with him are his mother Lee Ellen Foster and CCHS golf coach Vicki Hatfield.

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All 2nd Region Players

SOFTBALL
SS Andrea Fedrico
BASEBALL
SS Qunn Summers
OF Tyler Belt



SOFTBALL | BASEBALL

Crittenden All Region

Crittenden County's All-Region performers had huge seasons for their respective teams. Sophomore softball player Andrea Federico hit a single-season record 11 home runs and batted a team-high .426 and had a team-high 45 RBIs. She has 19 career home runs. Baseball senior Tyler Belt stole a single-season record 50 bases and hit .320. Sophomore baseball player Quinn Summers hit .384 and drove in a team-high 24 runs.

Livingston All Region

Four Livingston Central softball players were named to the All-Region team. They were Hadley Hargrove, Addison Tramble, Victoria Joiner and Emersyn Ramage. LCHS baseball player Skylar Padon was also chosen all-region.

SPRING SPORTS

Post-season Play

2ND REGION TOURNAMENTS

SOFTBALL

MONDAY at Christian County
Union County 13, Madisonville 2
Trigg County 8, Christian County 4
Livingston Cental 5, Caldwell Co. 2
Henderson Co. 17, UHA 0

TUESDAY at Christian County
Henderson Co. 10, Livingston 0
Union County 10, Trigg County 5

WEDNESDAY's championship
Union Co. vs. Henderson Co., 6pm

BASEBALL

MONDAY at Hopkinsville
 Union County 3, Crittenden County 2
 Hopkinsville 9, Caldwell County 0
 University Heights 14, Madisonville 4
 Henderson Co. 7, Lyon Co. 6, 9inn

TUESDAY at Hopkinsville
 Hopkinsville 8, Union County 2
 University Heights 11, Henderson 10

WEDNESDAY's Championship
 UHA vs Hopkinsville, 7pm

FOOTBALL

Rocket Youth Camp

Rocket Youth Football Camp will be June 17-19 on the high school campus. Forms were sent to CCES and CCMS. Camp is for ages 5-15. Cost is \$30 with discounts for families with multiple children. Camp is 9 to 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at the end of the day. Registration is open starting at 8:30 a.m., the first day of camp.

Hunting Seasons

Here are some of the most common hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up:

Bullfrog	May 17 - Oct. 31
Squirrel	May 18 - June 21
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

FOLLOW THE ROCKETS at THE PRESS ONLINE
www.The-Press.com Sports Tab
@CrittendenPress on Twitter
CrittendenPress/youtube.com



TRACK AND FIELD

More state qualifiers for 1A State Finals

Crittenden County found out last week that four more high school track athletes had qualified for this week's Kentucky Class A State Finals at Lexington.



With a first-place finish in the discus, senior Karsyn Potter earned an automatic berth in the state tournament by virtue of her regional championship on May 18.

On Wednesday of last week, CCHS junior Mary Martinez earned an at-large invitation to the state meet in three events. She will race in

the 1600 and 3200 meters and on the 4x800 relay team. Sophomores Aubrey Grau and Ella Geary and freshman Presley Potter are also qualifiers with the relay squad. The foursome has qualified for its third straight state championship meet.

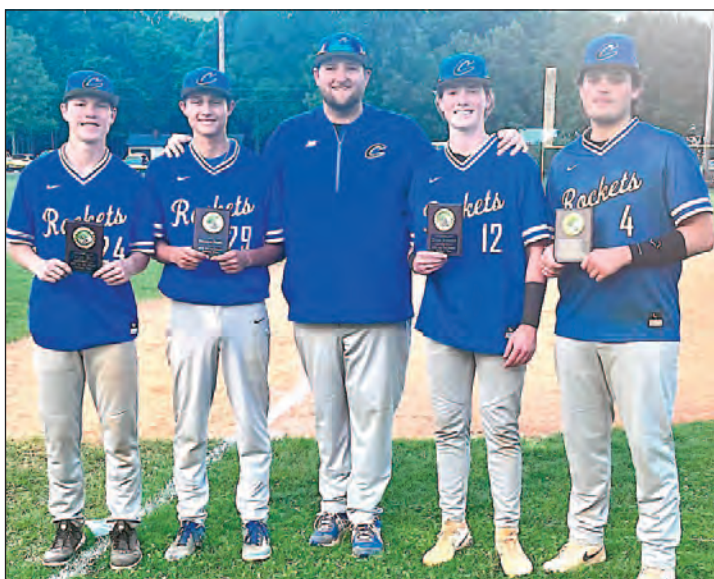
Martinez ran third in the 3200 meters at the regional meet with a time of 13:22.02. She was fourth in the mile at 6:05.85.

The 3200 meter relay girls finished sixth in the regional meet at 11:32.28. The squad is the CCHS record holder for the 4x800.

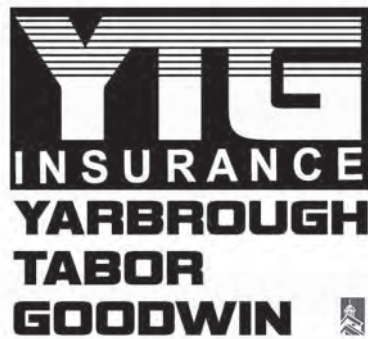
BASEBALL

Rockets edged 3-2 by Union County in region

Crittenden County had 2



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Tumble Extreme competitors earned six first-place honors during the Kentucky USTA competition at Morehead a few weeks ago. Pictured are (from left) Alivia Caudill, first place floor routine; Bailee Walls, first place double mini; Callie Hildabrand, first place floor routine and trampoline; and Evelyn James, first place double mini and tampoline. The team is coached by BJ Minton.



Members of the Burna American Legion Color Guard took part in Monday's Memorial Day celebration at Marion's Maplevue Cemetery. Despite some rough weather over the holiday, all of the local memorial services were held.

Fredonia hit hardest by Sunday morning storm

STAFF REPORT
A tornado that passed through the area shortly after dark on Sunday has been rated at an EF-3 based on damage in some areas. The storm skirted just south of Crittenden County passing near the West Kentucky Correctional Complex and moving into Crider northwest of Princeton and then to Charleston, which is just north of Dawson Springs. The National Weather Service has posted that storm teams have surveyed damage and found that impacted parts of Lyon, Caldwell, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties were hit by a long-track tornado that followed a corridor near Interstate 69 with estimated peak wind speeds of 165 mph. The findings are only preliminary.

Four people died in Kentucky during Sunday's storms, one was a 48-year-old woman in Hopkins County. In the immediate area, most of the wind damage on Sunday came from an early-morning storm that downed trees and power lines from around Crayne in Crittenden County all the way to Princeton and Eddyville and beyond. Thousands of homes and businesses in a multi-county area were without electricity for hours, some for days. As of noon on Tuesday, there were still almost 100 Kenergy customers in Crittenden County without power and hundreds in Lyon and Caldwell counties. Fredonia seemed to be the hardest hit, and the vast majority of its damage came from the early Sunday morning storm that produced heavy rain and high winds. Mayor Jim Seibert said city council members and community members were among the first responders to help clear trees from roadways. Downed power lines were mostly repaired by Monday evening. Woodman of the World Park near the Fredonia

ball fields was heavily damaged, the mayor said. A gazebo there was destroyed and other equipment. Seibert said various nearby structures, including a silo and a city utilities lift station south of town was damaged. He is asking Kentucky Emergency Management and the governor to declare a state of emergency for the town. "We just have a whole lot of damage here," he said.

17th

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Camper's Name

Name Used

Address

City, State, Zip

Grade Entering Fall

Age

Sex

Birthdate

Parent's Name

Phone: Home

Office

Emergency Contact (not parent)

Phone: Home

Office

Doctor's Name

Phone: Home

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GRADUATES

1B | Thursday, May 30, 2024
A special publication of The Crittenden Press



VALEDICTORY ADDRESSES 2024

Caden DeBoe

Good evening, fellow graduates, esteemed faculty, proud parents, and special guests, I'm Caden DeBoe and it is truly an honor to stand before you as a valedictorian of our 2024 graduating class.


What can be determined by 6 tenths of a point? An Olympic Gold Medal, the Kentucky Derby, or even the chance of standing before you today as valedictorian.

Last year, as I was fulfilling my FFA duties, I attended a field trip which required missing a college class. Knowing I would be gone in advance, I notified my professor and I completed the chapter assignments ahead of time. However, little did I know, there would be a unit test assigned in a differ-

ent on-line location later that week. Whenever I checked my scores on Monday morning, I saw a big red 0 in the gradebook for a major unit test. My emotions were on overload at this point with me feeling upset, disappointed, and even feeling like I had failed. I reached out to my professor and asked if there was any way that I could complete the test, but unfortunately, there was none. After some heavy calculations, I determined hope was not all lost. If I made at least a 96 on every assignment and test the rest of the semester, I could still reach my goal of valedictorian. It would indeed be a challenge, but I was prepared. As the semester continued, I worked extremely hard trying to recover the points. At the end of the semester, I got my handy calculator and calculated my final grade: there it was, a 91. My first thought was yes,

talk about. As I thought more, I realized the whole reason I am standing up on this stage in front of a thousand people.

Looking back, I real-



Deboe

Parents: Billy and Tiffany DeBoe

I had accomplished my goal. However, little did I know that the professor would make deductions in my personal Effectiveness Skills portion of grading for asking to make up the test which supposedly was asking for an exemption to the syllabus. With these deductions, my final grade was an 89.4 which was just 6 tenths of a point short from reaching my goal of valedictorian. For

But it turns out, he had a really good point. Why do I have a B? From that day, something clicked, and I realized I could do much better. My goal became getting all A's. This continued through all of middle and high school.

Now, achieving a 4.0

some, this might have been seen as a failure, or a blemish on an otherwise perfect record. After some thought, I decided that instead of letting this grade, course or professor define my destiny, I would choose another route. Instead, I would use this setback as an opportunity for growth. I made the decision to retake the class next semester, to put in the extra effort, and to persevere until I earned the grade that reflected my true ability. Through this experience, I learned a valuable life lesson: our past does not define our future.

I understand that for some of us, the challenges we face may run deeper than just an average from a class. Our past could include a difficult childhood, marked by adversity and uncertainty. For others it may be financial struggles, where every day feels like an uphill battle. Or

it could be falling into the wrong crowd, making choices that we later come to regret.

Yet, no matter the circumstances, I want you to know that your past does not define you. It's the choices you make in the face of adversity, the actions you take to overcome obstacles that truly define who you are. Each setback is not a roadblock, but rather a stepping stone on the path to success.

Furthermore, we must remember that with God, we always have a future. My most important future placement won't be determined by 6 tenths of a point. No struggle, obstacle, or failure can ever diminish the love and grace He offers us through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. All we have to do is confess with our mouths and believe in our hearts, and we will find our true path and purpose. Through faith, we can overcome any

hardship and achieve the greatness that God has destined for us. Just as we strive for excellence in our studies and celebrate our academic achievements, we must also commit ourselves to living a life of faith and righteousness. The most important decision we have to make is our relationship with God, and it has to be done correctly here in this life. Remember, our past does not define our future; it is our faith and actions today that will shape our destiny.

As I come to a close, I want to leave you with a question to ponder: What will you do with the challenges you face in life? Will you let them dictate who you are and what your future holds? Or will you rise above them and forge a path toward bigger and better things. The choice is yours.


Congratulations, Class of 2024! This is only the beginning! Thank you!

Thank you.

Gabe Keller

Good evening. First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for being here. It is an honor and a privilege to stand before all of our friends, family, teachers, staff, administration, and most importantly, the Class of 2024. Let's give ourselves a round of applause.

Last Thursday, I received my final grade, which solidified my status as valedictorian. I was so happy and relieved, but then the pressure of writing this speech hit me. I had no idea what I wanted to



Keller

Parents: Mike and Lee Ann Keller

ized it all started in early elementary school when I got a report card of my grades. Later that night, I sat down at the dinner table with my family. My dad looked at my grades and asked, "Why do you have a B?" I hadn't thought about it. I was just a little kid going with the flow, coasting along through school, and having a good time. After all, I thought my grades were just fine.

But it turns out, he had a really good point. Why do I have a B? From that day, something clicked, and I realized I could do much better. My goal became getting all A's. This continued through all of middle and high school.

Now, achieving a 4.0

GPA is not the ultimate measure of success and certainly is not the end goal in life. It was just a personal goal I set when I was young, and I wanted to stick to it. Over the years, I learned the importance of striving and achieving goals.

Believing in yourself, having a positive attitude, and setting goals are crucial. Everything you do is based on your mindset: if you think you can do something, you can; if you don't believe in yourself, you cannot. My faith in God has been a guiding force throughout my journey, and it has helped me achieve many great things. I believe that having a sense of faith and purpose can

make a significant difference in one's life. My hard work and dedication got me here, but I wouldn't be here without the support of my family, girlfriend, teachers, leaders, coaches, and most importantly, my faith in God. They have been with me as a source of encouragement through my successes and failures.

Lastly, I want to leave you with a verse that has really helped me in recent years. Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Throughout my journey, this verse has

been a great source of strength and inspiration. It ultimately guided me to trust in God's plan. God has a plan for everyone; as long as you trust and believe, anyone can do anything.

To my classmates since kindergarten, it's been an honor spending these last 13 years with you all. As we step into the next chapter of our lives, let's take chances, have fun, make a difference, and always remember to believe in yourself. Thank you all for being here tonight to celebrate this milestone with us. Congratulations, Class of 2024. Let's go do big things.




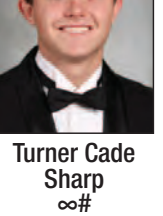



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 Karsyn Grace Potter ^ ∞ #	 Tessa Jayden Potter ∞	 Destiny Faith Reed ◊	 Jacie Ellen Ricketts ◊	 John Lee Rose ◊ Ω	 Clhoe Elizabeth Rozwalka	 Gabriel Luke Rushing ∞ •	 Turner Cade Sharp ∞ #	 Wyatt Crase Shewmaker	 Joseph Conner Simpkins ∞
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 Keifer Blake Watson ∞	 Sofie Rae Watson ∞ •	 Calob Joseph Watts ◊	 Tyson Lane West ∞	 Austin Joe Whitt ∞	 Bailey Elizabeth Williams ^ ∞	 Jon Koby Williams	 Ty Murphy Willingham *	 Jasmine Nichole Wooley ^ ∞	

Not pictured: Kailey Marie Duncan ∞; Kayee Dawn Goodrich; Olivia Marie Green; Rylee Brooke Remus ◊; Ethan Cruz Torres Abbott ∞; Jazlyn Alana Watson



After receiving their diplomas May 24, Crittenden County graduates move their tassels from one side of their mortar boards to the other, officially signaling their graduate status.



Graduate Laycee Lynn takes a final selfie with the Class off 2024 before closing commencement.



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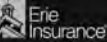


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Addison Mundy

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**Best wishes to the
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Joey Myers and
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to the
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Graduate Carly Travis receives her diploma from Crittenden County Board of Education Chairman Chris Cook.



Work ready

Crittenden County High School senior Tucker Atchison (center) is seated with his parents, Nathan and Melissa Way, Friday in Rocket Arena while signing a letter of intent for full-time employment with Ervin Cable. Atchison participated in CCHS' co-op program, allowing him to attend school half days and serve as a warehouse intern at Ervin Cable in Sturgis. After his 18th birthday in September, Atchison will join the OSP training program for linemen and cable installation.

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Jeremiah Foster

Cameron Smith

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CHLOE BRANDSASSE
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JOEY MYERS

You worked hard.
You persevered. You graduated!
We hope your big day is special in every way.
Wishing you happiness & success in the future.

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2024 CONGRATULATIONS

To graduates of 2024, best wishes for health, happiness and success both today and in the future.

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Nice Work, Graduates!

As you turn the page to the next chapter, we hope you find success, satisfaction and meaning in your future endeavors.

Keep up the great work, and enjoy your big day!

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Congratulations Class of 2024

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CONGRATULATIONS! GRADS

On your graduation day, we'd like to say how proud we are of your achievement! We wish you the best of luck as you take the next step on your journey, and every happiness along the way.

May you acheive great success in all your future endeavors.

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Crittenden County class of 2024 scholarship recipients

SCHOLARSHIPS					
Micah Newcom: American Legion Fund Scholarship	din Memorial Scholarship	Scholarship-Segal Education Award	arship, Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative Scholarship	Tanner Crawford: Murray Carr Scholarship, Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative Scholarship	Scholars Out-of-state tuition Waiver, McKinght Leader Scholars Scholarship, Ferguson College of Agriculture Scholarship
Allie Beard: CHS Charolette Fowler Memorial Scholarship	Lane West: H & H Home and Hardware Trades Scholarship	Caden DeBoe: 2024 DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award & FFA Scholarship	Katie Perryman: Academic Success Scholarship \$12000 over 4 years, admitted to Early Entry Pharmacy Program	Brynn Porter: Woodman Life	Carly Travis: UK Selective Provost Scholarship \$20,000 over 4 years, College of Fine Arts of Theatre and Dance Outstanding Incoming Freshman Scholarship
Avery Belt, Kailyn Stokes, Quaid Cook-Brown, Karsyn Potter, Allie Beard: Crittenden County Conservation District	Lane West: Hayes Construction Tradesman Scholarship	John Rose: Army	Gabriel Keller: 1827 Scholarship, HC KEES Matching Scholarship, HC Campus Experience Award	Tessa Potter: Woodman Life	Turner Sharp: Murray State Carr Scholarship \$4000, Dean and Nana Akridge Family Scholarship
Tessa Potter: Crittenden County Nancy Hunt Extension Homemaker Scholarship	Allie Beard: Paul F. Riley Memorial Scholarship	Damion Toy, Joey Myers: National Guard	Marley Phelps: Family, Career & Community Leaders of America Region 2 Rosemary M. Pace Scholarship, University of Evansville Presidential Scholarship, University of Evansville Kentucky Excellence Award, University of Evansville Honors Program Scholarship	Ryleigh Stevenson: Woodman Life	Keira Chaney: Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Region 2 Rosemary M. Pace Scholarship
Allie Beard: Crittenden Health Systems Scholarship	Kailyn Stokes: Paul E. Mick Scholarship	OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS	Laycee Lynn: Berea's Tuition Promise Scholarship	Jeremiah Foster: Kentucky Wesleyan Academic Scholarship, Kentucky Wesleyan Men's Golf Scholarship	
Jasmine Wooley, Quaid Cook-Brown, Brynn Porter, Tanner Crawford: Fohs Hall Inc. Scholarship	Allie Beard: Woman' Club of Marion Marie Frazer Scholarship	Allie Beard: Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative, Murray Carr Scholarship, KSBA First Degree Scholarship	Bennett McDaniel: Red & Blue Scholarship to Ole Miss, Academic Merit Scholarship	Addison Mundy: WKU Academic Merit Scholarship	
Avery Belt, Caden DeBoe, Bennett McDaniel, Karsyn Potter: Friends of FFA Memorial Scholarship	Caden DeBoe: Salem Garden Club Scholarship	Caden DeBoe: River Valley AgCredit Scholarship, Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative Scholarship, Murray Provast Scholarship, Dean & Nona Akridge Family Scholarship, Mabel Garrett Pulen Freshman Agriculture Scholarship, Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship		Kailyn Stokes: Oklahoma State McKnight Leader	
Payton Hall: Gareth W. Har-	Karsyn Potter: Marty McKenney Scholarship	Aria Kirk: University Schol-			



Graduate Tyler Belt poses for a photo after walking across the stage in Rocket Arena



Family and friends of Destiny Reed meet up for photos at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony.





A World of Best Wishes to the Class Of 2024



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SIC President's and Vice President's list


Southeastern Illinois College has announced the President's and Vice President's lists for the spring 2024 semester. To be eligible for the President's and Vice President's lists, students must take a total of six credit hours in the summer and 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, in addition to having a stellar grade point average.

The following local students earned the Southeastern Illinois College President's List (GPA 4.00) for the spring 2024 semester.

Fredonia: Hadlee Rich

The following students for making the Southeastern Illinois College Vice President's List (GPA 3.25-3.99) for the spring 2024 semester.

Marion: Logan Bailey



Congrats Graduate!

Congratulations

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Eleven graduates were at the Seventh Annual Preschool Graduation May 9, 2024




Back row of teachers: Lily Shuecraft, Sandy Fletcher, Michelle James, Katie Beth James, Bev Hackney, Chasity Sosh Robinson. Middle row (students): Charlotte Mefford, Layton Herrin, Annabelle Brown, Leighton Oliver, Stevie Renfro, Cori Fraley. Front row: Charlie Jepsen, Jameson Federigni, Creed Travis, Gunnar Whitehair, Jordyn Ferrell, not pictured Baylee McMackin




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Ethan Torres
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It's a Wrap!

As you wrap up this exciting chapter, we hope you'll take with you fond memories of friends, classmates, teachers and experiences. May the valuable lessons you've learned pave the way to continued success in your education and career.

Congratulations and best wishes, graduates!

Cameron Smith & Sophia Madden



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●●●

VALEDICTORY ADDRESSES

●●●

Karsyn Potter

Good evening and welcome to the graduation of Crittenden County’s class of 2024. As I am honored to stand before you today and it’s clear you saved the best for last, I do have to warn you that I don’t usually make it through these things with at least a few tears.

Before I begin I want to take the time to thank my parents, educators, and all those who have supported and helped me

along the way because I would not be standing here today without your help. Your belief in my ability has taken me so far and will continue to carry me throughout not only the rest of my educational career, but through the rest of my life. Thank you.

Beginning my time in Crittenden County schools, I was worried about the path ahead of me. Finding friends, liking my teachers, and enjoying the time that I have. I never truly understood what this would give me and how much I would miss it when it’s



Potter

Parents: Tom and Melora Potter

all said and done. When entering a new step in your life, anxiety is present, but you know you

must continue. Just as we had to convince ourselves that we would be okay going to kindergarten, we are now convincing ourselves that we are okay going to college or the next step we are to take. For many of us it may be a relief, but for some of us, this new step is full of the unknown. Which ever side you are on, there are new opportunities set in front of you each day. Be brave they say, face it head on, and don’t be afraid, but can you truly be brave without being somewhat anxious? If there are no nerves for your future, is their hope?

Just as our parents had hope for us beginning our educational journey in this school system, we must have hope for the future of our success. Success will not be given to you, despite what some may think. Instead, through hard work and dedication, you will succeed. As we sit here today, about to graduate the first step to becoming who we were born to be, uncertainty is unavoidable, but hope in yourself must prevail. Being the best version of who you are will carry you through the most important parts of your life. No one else can do

it for you, only you can show what you’re truly capable of and obtain the success you have been reaching for through your unwavering commitment to yourself.

So, be you, be great, and fill the shoes that you set in front of yourself because even though there will be people to help you along the way, you are your own inspiration.

I’m going to end this with a quote by one of my very best friends through it all, Kailyn Stokes, “doors will open for those brave enough to knock, so just knock”.



CCHS graduate Cutter Singleton (center) and his band Cutter & Cash and the Kentucky Grass performed “Mamas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys” during commencement May 24.

Murray State scholarship recipients

Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Scholarship; Farmers Bank/Crittenden County Scholarship; Carr Scholarship: Allie Beard

Opportunity Scholarship: Kira Belt

Dean Scholarship: Jaylee Champion

Farmers Bank/Crittenden County Scholarship; Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

Scholarship; Carr Scholarship: Michael Crawford

Commonwealth Honors Academy Scholarship: Jayden Dance

Dean and Nona Akridge Family Scholarship; Farmers Bank/Crittenden County Scholarship; Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Scholarship; Mabel Garrett Pullen Freshmen Agriculture Scholarship; River

Alley AgCredit Scholarship; Provost Scholarship: Caden DeBoe

Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Scholarship; Deans Scholarship: Kaylee Hewitt

Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Scholarship; Governor’s School for the Arts Scholarship Full Tuition: Aria Kirk

University Scholarship:

Austin Martin

Deans Scholarship: Joseph Myers

Racer Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Scholarship; Farmers Bank/Crittenden County Scholarship; Bill and Louise Hatley Scholarship: Micah Newcom

Crittenden Co. High School 2024 Academic Awards

Vocational

Animal Tech: Addy Wood

Intro to Greenhouse: Chloe Rushing

Principles of Ag Science: Gaige Markham

Animal Science: Madison Walker

Ag Construction: Dakota Sosh

Greenhouse Tech: Jayden Dance

Ag Power & Machine: Keifer Watson

Digital Literacy: Macie Conger

Marketing Principles: Presley Potter

Marketing Applications: Raleigh Peyton Smith

Advertising and Promotions: Will Jarvis

Principles of Entrepreneurship: Lizzie Campbell

FCS Essentials: Ruby Peek

Relationships: Adrienne James

Lifespan Development: Brianna Walker

The Learning Community: Kate Kerley

The Learner-Centered Classroom: Layla West

Small Business: Tessa Potter

English

English I: Braelynn Merrill

English I Adv.: Presley Potter

Yearbook: Layla West

Dual Credit ENG 101/ENG 102: Payton Maness

English II: Hailey Rose

English II Adv.: Elle McDaniel

English III: Baylee Muff

English III Adv.: Madisyn Switzer

English IV: Ari Smith

Creative Writing: Emily Adams

Humanities

Concert Band: Hunter Kirk

Intro to Percussion: Hannah Tyrie

Arts & Humanities: Hayden Hildebrand

Art: Chloe Rushing

Advanced Art: Abby Martin

Health & Physical Education

Health & PE: Gunner Topp

Fitness & Conditioning: Bryan Chaney

Fitness for Women: Mary Martinez

Math

Algebra I: Jake Rich

Financial Literacy: Jaycee Champion

Math Concepts: Jayden Duncan

Geometry: Taylor Davis

Adv Geometry: Hunter Kirk

Algebra II: Baylee Muff

Advanced Algebra II: Chloe Rushing

PreCal: Macie Conger

Probability & Statistics: Mary Martinez

Science

ICP: River Rogers

Physics I: Dan Buckman

Computer Science Essentials: Madisyn Switzer

Computer Science Principles: Alex Conner

Computer Science A: Tanner Crawford

Cybersecurity: Tristan Long

Biology: Madison Walker

Advanced Biology: Hunter Kirk

Integrated Science: Jenna Maxfield

Chemistry I: Baylee Muff

Principles of Biomedical Science: Ella Whitney

Human Body Systems: Aubrey Grau

Medical Interventions: Danielle Riley

Biomedical Innovations: Karsyn Potter

Social Studies

Integrated Social Studies: Payne Bradford

Military History: Cheyenne Starkey

World Civilizations: Maddison Walker

Adv. World Civilizations: Macie Conger

Psychology: Jenna Maxfield

US History: Jenna Maxfield

Adv. US History: Dan Buckman

Motion Picture History: Allie Beard

Foreign Language

Spanish I: Gracie Orr

Spanish II: Macie Conger

2024



Ali Southard

CALDWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Stepdaughter of Lee Hobby; daughter of Dana Hobby and Cliff Southard. Lee is a loan officer at Farmers Bank. Ali plans to study radiology as she continues her educational career. Congratulations!



Michael Tanner Crawford

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Son of Stacy and Jeff Hughes and Donald Crawford. Stacy is a customer service representative and teller at Farmers Bank. Tanner plans to study computer sciences at Murray State University this fall. Congratulations!

