



Fall in air, on ground
City of Marion releases leaf
pick-up schedule | 11A

Crittenden Press

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Frances polling location moved

A Crittenden County polling change will send some Frances area voters across the street to cast their ballot in the upcoming Nov. 8 general election.

"It has been brought to our attention the lack of electricity at the Frances Baptist Church," said County Clerk Carolyn Byford. "Therefore, the voting location (D102) will be moved across the highway to the Masonic Lodge."

There will be two precincts within this one location for this election.

Stout sworn in as judge Tuesday

Marion attorney Alan Stout will be sworn in as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Kentucky at 4 p.m., Tuesday in Paducah.



Stout

Stout will have a formal investiture in Louisville at a later date.

USDA hosts open house in Salem

The USDA Farm Service Center in Salem will host an open house from 11 a.m., to 1 p.m., today (Thursday). The center serves both Crittenden and Livingston counties. A grilled hamburger and hot dog lunch will be served.

Meetings

✓ Crittenden Hospital Board will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday at the hospital administrative annex.

✓ Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday and the new judicial center.

✓ Crittenden County Board of Education meets for its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday at Rocket Arena.

✓ Crittenden Public Library Board of Directors, will meet at 5 p.m., next Thursday at the library.

✓ Crittenden Health Systems will hold a public meeting regarding ambulance service operations at 5:30 p.m., next Thursday at the Marion Ed-Tech Center. Speakers for the meeting will be EMS Director Kevin Hilkey and Chief Nursing and Operations Officer Robin Curnel. Questions can be forwarded to Curnel at 965-1031 or rcurnel@crittenden-health.org.

ON THE WEB

Press online poll

This week's poll at The Press Online asked readers the following question: **"Could you support new or higher taxes if it's the only way to guarantee a quality ambulance service continues to operate in Crittenden County?"**

A slight majority of respondents do not want to see taxes raised even if it means losing a quality EMS in the county. Here is what 365 voters said:

- Yes: 131 (35%)
- No: 164 (44%)
- Maybe: 22 (6%)
- Need more info: 48 (13%)

Press office hours

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■ CITY COUNCIL

His just 'dessert'



Marion City Police Lt. Marty Hodge (left) enjoys a piece of German chocolate cake Monday made by Ethel Tucker (right) especially for him in appreciation for saving her life during a choking incident in April. Hodge was awarded a commendation by Mayor Mickey Alexander (center) from the American Police Hall of Fame for his effort.

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Lt. Hodge modestly accepts praise from Tucker, city for life-saving effort

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Marty Hodge proudly wore the smudge of red lipstick left on his face left by another woman, even though his wife sat just a few feet away. After all, he had earned the kiss from one of the community's most beloved women.

For years, Ethel Tucker has been leaving a trademark imprint of bright red lipstick on the cheeks of others as an expression of her love and gratitude. It's worn as a badge of honor by most, and Monday night was Hodge's turn to carry the mark – a mark made even sweeter by a healthy serving of his favorite cake baked by Tucker specially for the police lieutenant on his special night.

Hodge, second in command at the Marion Police Department, was honored Monday evening not just with a kiss and slice of rich, delicious German chocolate cake made from scratch, but with a commen-

"It's just part of the job. I've been doing this all my life."

– Lt. Marty Hodge

on his efforts in April to save Ethel Tucker from choking. Hodge joined the military at 18 and has been a Marion City Policeman since 1996.

datation for a heroic and successful effort to save Tucker from choking six months earlier. Yet the medal and framed Life Saving Award from the American Police Hall of Fame issued to Lt. Marty K. Hodge meant little beside the hug and kiss from the appreciative 93-year-old community matriarch.

Tucker credits Hodge with saving her life last April as she collapsed after choking on the first bite of her lunch that day. Repeated efforts by family to dislodge the food blocking her airway failed. She blacked out. Her life hung in

the balance until Hodge was able to free the obstruction a short time after authorities were alerted to the emergency.

Following a short stint in the hospital following the incident, Tucker made it her mission to honor Hodge. She had promised him his favorite cake, but didn't have the ingredients on hand after returning home. So, she baked him a regular chocolate cake, vowing to finish the job she had promised.

"German chocolate is more of a cool-weather cake anyway," she said.

Not satisfied with a simple culinary reward, Tucker asked Mayor Mickey Alexander, her longtime next door neighbor, to find some way to honor the 15-year city policeman above her own gratitude and chocolate cake.

"I've always respected our police, and he seems like a mighty fine

See **HODGE**/page 5A

■ CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit judge sentences 3 last week

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden Circuit Court Judge René Williams sentenced three individuals to prison last Thursday and issued a bench warrant for a man who failed to appear for sentencing.

The judge issued a warrant for William J. Schmidt, 23, of Marion who had reached a previous plea agreement

with Commonwealth Attorney Zac Greenwell. He was supposed to be in court last week for formal sentencing. The judge said the agreement is subject to being set

aside now that Schmidt failed to appear. Schmidt was indicted earlier on charges of second-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine); manufacturing methamphetamine by complicity; and two counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance by complicity (methamphetamine).

Court records indicate that on Feb. 4 and Jan. 13 Schmidt is alleged to have been involved in the making and selling of meth at an apartment on East Belleville Street in Marion. A Marion woman, Trisha L. Little, 23, was also charged in connection with the same investigation. Her case is still pending in circuit court.

■ Chase A. Bull, 18, of Eddyville, who was originally indicted on charges of first-degree robbery by complicity and first-degree assault by complicity, was sentenced on an amended charge last week.

Bull was involved in the alleged armed robbery at Marion-Crittenden County Park last winter where a cooperating witness had set up a drug buy which was being watched by police officers. Five individuals were charged in



Stolen Jeep later found

A Marion woman was arraigned on a burglary charge and served a warrant for automobile theft in district court last week. See Page 12A

See **COURT**/page 4A

Japanese woman returns to Marion, adopted family

By JERRITT HOVEY-BROWN
PRESS REPORTER

It has been nearly 14 years since Marina Okamoto, a student from Tokyo, visited Crittenden County but with a series of international phone calls to Pearl Bearden, all of that changed.

Okamoto first came to Crittenden County in 1994 when she made the long-distance trip from Japan with her mother Keiko, who was a foreign exchange teacher, and her younger brother. During their stay, the trio lived with Bearden after it was discovered that she had visited Japan not too long before their visit and she agreed to be a host family. Bearden, the Okamotas discovered, had visited Japan not too long before their arrival in the United States and arranged for Bearden to host the family.

"At that time, my son and daughter-in-law were in the Navy and were living in Japan," Bearden said. "I hadn't been back in Kentucky that long before I heard that a teacher, Brenda Foster, was looking for an exchange family for the Okamotas, and I decided that I would do it."

As a military wife and mother, foreign travels are not unknown to

Bearden, which helped her to open her home to three strangers. By the end of their stay, however, the Okamotas were more family than guests.

"Keiko and I became really good friends and Marina and her brother were like my own grandchildren," Bearden said. "They were family as far as I was concerned."

"I want to share my culture here with students and show how wonderful Japan is."

– Marina Okamoto

who is in the midst of a six-week break from her Tokyo studies to visit a local family and share her culture with Crittenden County students.

"I was surprised," Bearden said. "I just wasn't expecting to hear from her."

The now 24-year-old Okamoto made the call to Bearden after deciding to take a six-week leave from her studies at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology and visit Kentucky once more. After making the arrangements, Okamoto arrived Oct. 2. Although different from Japan and what she's used to, Okamoto says that she loves America which is what sparked her interest to return.



PHOTO BY JERRITT HOVEY-BROWN

Marina Okamoto (left) is pictured with Marion resident Pearl Bearden during her recent trip to Kentucky. This is the third time since 1994 that Okamoto has visited and stayed with Bearden while in the United States.

See **JAPAN**/page 12A

★ ELECTION PREVIEW: GOVERNOR. KENTUCKY WILL ELECT STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS NOV. 8 ★

Political prowess makes Williams GOP's top man

(Editors Note: This is the second in a three-part series profiling each of Kentucky's 2011 gubernatorial candidates. Next week Gov. Steve Beshear will be profiled.)

By ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Headlines across Kentucky screamed of the shift in the Frankfort political structure back in 1999.

Republicans had wrangled control of the state Senate with the help of a couple of Democrats who defected to the GOP and the strategy of a small-town lawyer who went on to become one of the most recognizable faces in Kentucky politics.

It's been more than a decade since that lawyer, David Williams, took over as Senate president. His reputation for a keen intellect and a sometimes prickly disposition makes him equally respected and reviled by political opponents.

Now running for governor, Williams, 58, is trying to overcome a decidedly negative perception fostered by a decade's worth of political battles played out on the front pages of Kentucky newspapers and on the evening news.

"That would dent the popularity of even the Apostle Paul," said Lexington attorney Larry Forgy, a long-time Republican activist who has closely watched Williams' political career. "He's the most powerful man in state government, and so he becomes a lightning rod."

Williams has been an unyielding opponent of abortion, gambling and same-sex marriage, and has led the opposition to legislation that would

allow any of the three. Time and again, he has been at odds with Democrats on budget issues, which has led to stalemates, special legislative sessions and consternation of Democratic governors and House leaders.

Those battles also have, according to some recent polls, hurt his likeability among likely voters in the Nov. 8 election. He's running second in a three-way race, but is trailing the incumbent, Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear, by more than 30 points.

Williams, aware of his negatives, has tried to use them to his advantage, telling voters that Kentucky needs a tough leader to pull the state out of the economic funk of the past four years.

"I'm not running for cruise director on the 'Good Ship Lollipop,'" he said at a recent political forum.

No one doubts Williams' qualifications to serve as governor, including Democratic House Speaker Greg Stumbo, who, while he supports Beshear, called the GOP nominee "honest, competent and qualified."

Williams also has drawn accolades from U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell. In a handwritten note shortly after Williams' rise to power in the state legislature, McConnell credited Williams with "the most brilliant legislative leadership I have ever witnessed." It's framed and hanging in Williams' office in the Capitol Annex.

He's proud of his reputation as a political tactician.

"I do plan things ahead," he said. "I do have a strategy. ... For 10 years, I've helped the Republicans

chart a very treacherous sea on a multitude of issues."

But he's also bucked the GOP, most notably in 1990 when he supported passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act, a landmark law that brought fundamental change to classrooms across the state to ensure that students in small, rural school districts have the same opportunities as those in urban areas. William said he voted for that measure, even though it included huge tax increases, because he believed it was the right thing to do.

"I thought it could very well be my last vote," he said.

Williams survived a Republican primary filled with potential bombshells to capture the GOP nomination over Louisville businessman Phil Moffett and Jefferson County Clerk Bobbie Holsclaw.

Many of the same issues used against him in that primary are cropping up again in the general election campaign. Williams was dealt a particularly troubling setback when a judge unsealed decade-old income tax returns from an aging divorce file that showed he had once frequented casinos.

In a Bible-belt state like Kentucky, an anti-gambling lawmaker found to have a history of gambling may have turned off a key voting bloc, conservative Christians.

While his own divorce file generated unflattering publicity, his running mate, former University of Kentucky basketball star Richie Farmer, also became embroiled in a divorce. The case between Farmer and his wife, Rebecca, is not scheduled to be resolved until after the election.

Williams had recruited Farmer, a member of the 1992 UK team dubbed "The Unforgettables," to be his running mate, saying he

thought his athletic star power would put the ticket over the top. Farmer, who had considered running for governor himself, is now finishing his second term as agriculture commissioner, an elected position in Kentucky.

Democratic opponents have kept up a constant bombardment of the pair since the primary. An independent group, Kentucky Family Values PAC, painted Williams as a big-spending Frankfort politician and a gambler in television spots. That prompted Williams' wife, Robyn, to come to his defense, calling the spots "disgusting."

One ad claimed Williams spent \$17,000 to upgrade his Capitol Annex office, including the purchase of a 60-inch television. That TV, originally in Williams' office, now is in the Senate chamber where it's used to display the votes on legislative issues that come before lawmakers.

While Democrats have painted Williams as "the bully from Burkesville" for his rough-and-tumble politics, he insists the tag really doesn't fit. Burkesville is in Cumberland County in south-central Kentucky, on the Kentucky-Tennessee border, about 100 miles from Louisville.

"As far as how I treat other folks, I come from a very small area in a district where people know each other," Williams said. "I'm a popular person down there, and it's not because I bully people around."

Williams said opponents call him an obstructionist because he stands on his conservative principles.

"I have been in their way when it comes to raising taxes," he said. "I have been in their way when it comes to their liberal social agenda. I have been in their way when they wanted to expand government."

Williams' bio

NAME: David Williams
AGE: 58
HOME: Burkesville.
FAMILY: Wife, Robyn. Two stepchildren.
OCCUPATION: Senate president, attorney.
PARTY: Republican.
EXPERIENCE: Williams has represented the 16th Senate District since 1987 and has served as Senate president since 2000. He also served three years in the House. He previously lost races for county judge, commonwealth's attorney and U.S. Senate.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, law degree from the University of Louisville.
RUNNING MATE: Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer, a former UK basketball player.
WEBSITE: williamsfarmer.com

SOURCE: The Associated Press

However, Williams said he offered his help to Beshear shortly after he was elected governor in 2007.

"I said ... 'If you want to do something, you're looking at the guy who will be your closest ally, because I have no other ambition other than to try to advance this state,'" Williams said.

Williams said Beshear spurned his offer of cooperation by working for the past four years to try to wrestle control of the Senate away from the GOP, creating a contentious, partisan atmosphere in the Capitol. Williams said political opponents have tried to blame him for that when Beshear should get the credit.

"He's kept his fist in the face of the state Senate," Williams said.

Letters to the Editor policy

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author's name, address, phone number and signature. Phone numbers and addresses are required, but will not be published.

Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words or be submitted within 30 days of your last submission. The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Originals submissions will not be returned.

Your letters to the editor may be brought into our office, sent to: Letters, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064-0191 or e-mailed to thepress@the-press.com.

LETTERS

Hit-and-run police work appreciated

To the editor

I would like to thank Marion Chief of Police Ray O'Neal for the fine police work with the hit-and-run last month on my building at 210 S. Main St.

(Editor's note: On Sept. 25 a truck and horse trailer kicked out of gear and jackknived into the downtown building.)

Thom Hawthorne, Jr.
Marion, Ky.

If we forget we are one nation under God...

"If we ever forget we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under," President Ronald Reagan once said.

How very true, and many great men in our history reminded us of God's warnings with these words from ancient Israel to today.

Some of the following statements were sent out in a newsletter by one of the most brilliant Constitutional Christian attorneys of our time, David Gibbs. He regularly argues cases before the Supreme Court for Christians and churches. He wins far more than he has ever lost.

National polls consistently report that 95 percent of Americans believe in God. Sadly, however, many Americans only turn to God in times of crises.

We saw this after the 9/11 attacks when many churches were packed with people in mourning, but three weeks later, many of the same pews were again empty. It was another national crisis that resulted in the phrase "In God we Trust" first being placed on America's money.

During the Civil War, public opinion favored the recognition of God on our coins. As Rev. M.R. Watkinson wrote on Nov. 13, 1861: "From my hearth, I have felt our national shame in disowning God as not the least of our present national disasters."



Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Salmon P. Chase supported this movement when on Nov. 20, 1861 he wrote to the director of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia: "Dear sir, no nation can be strong except in the strength of God or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."

Where are many present-day politicians who have that kind of character and boldness?

On April 22, 1864, the desire of the people to demonstrate their trust in God became law when President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill that permitted "In God we Trust" to be placed on our coins. The two-cent coin was the first to bear the inscription in 1864.

The Cold War crisis is credited with the law that led to the inscription "In God we Trust" on all our currency and coins. Congress approved this law on July 11, 1955, with little debate.

Speaking in favor of the bill, Congressman Charles

Edward Bennett of Florida said, "In these days when imperialistic and materialistic communism seeks to attack and destroy freedom, we should continuously look for ways to strengthen the foundations of our freedom. At the base of our freedom is our faith in God and the desire of Americans to live by His will and His guidance. As long as this country trusts in God, it will prevail. To serve as a constant reminder of this truth, it is highly desirable that our currency and coins should bear these inspiring words 'In God we Trust.'"

And didn't God bring the great Soviet Empire to ruin and end the Cold War? Again, the cry goes out, where are the present-day politicians with that character and boldness?

In 1956 — just one year after the slogan was adopted to appear on all of America's money — at the height of the Cold War, Congress approved "In God we Trust" as the national motto of the United States. President Dwight Eisenhower signed the bill into law on July 30, 1956. Congress was motivated by the desire to set America apart from the secular and atheistic foundations of communism. It was also influenced by a verse in the National Anthem.

We need to note the "Star-Spangled Banner" was writ-

ten in 1814 in a time of crisis during the bombardment of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812 between America and Great Britain.

Even before the 9/11 attacks on America, many local and national leaders were encouraging the public display of our national motto as an antidote to a national crisis of character in the American people that appeared to be deepening. School children were murdering their peers and political leaders who routinely lied were being accepted.

In one effort to stem the tide against this moral decline in America, the Colorado State Board of Education approved a non-binding resolution on July 6, 2000 urging Colorado public schools to display "In God we Trust" posters. In supporting the resolution, Clair Orr, chairman of the Colorado Board of Education, said, "The words we pass on to our young can shape their destiny and the destiny of this land. Our nation has lost its way on the road of virtue and moral character — the very fabric needed for a people to govern themselves on the foundation of liberty and justice."

Despite the violent deaths of Columbine High School students in 1999, and the need to trust God deepening in America after the 9/11 crisis, there remains a prevalent

group of people who have succeeded in preventing this resolution from being implemented in the very county the Columbine High School is located. We can blame this on atheists, pagans, polytheists, some professed Christians and others of so-called faith, who prevented the same in many other schools across our nation.

May all Christians cry out to God to shut the mouths of lions — this group of God-haters and those God-haters in the so-called American Civil Liberties Union — as in Daniel's time. May they all cry out for educated leaders in American history, God's Word and the source of past blessings upon this land to help lead this country again to greatness.

How I praise God for my crisis when He loved me enough to keep after me with His love and Holy Spirit until He could give me enough sense to stop my ignorant path of sin and turn to Him with all my heart and soul. How I praise Him for letting me live out my life doing all I can to represent and present Him to people whose lives will all be in vain and eternal pain if they don't turn to the God of love and justice

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

With EMS on life-support, just how much is it worth to you?

Perhaps a series of upcoming public meetings hosted by Crittenden Health Systems will help lead to a solution regarding an issue nagging our fiscal court the last few months. Perhaps it won't.

CHS has planned meetings to discuss ambulance service operations. It is intended to provide basic information on the emergency medical service — the mechanics and business of it all. The issue of financing will likely be on the minds of some, as the hospital has made clear to Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and magistrates that it needs help in keeping the service running. Incidentally, most of the fiscal court will be out of town for next Thursday's meeting.

At CHS, many of its 27 departments, according CEO Jim Christensen, have already been cut to compensate for the financial black hole that is the EMS. He's playing Robin Hood against himself, robbing from wealthier departments to feed the poorest. There is little fat left



My 2¢ Worth

to trim, claims Christensen. Still, EMS is close to flatlining. The problem is not new or unique, though. For years, the hospital has made overtures toward the fiscal court that an EMS is not profitable in small-town America and help may be needed. Livingston County has been through similar straights.

Times are tough. That goes, too, for health care providers faced with more government mandates and a growing number of patients who simply can't — or won't — pay up amid a horrid economy. Now, a gaping hole in the hospital's budget, which they say is left by EMS, has renewed a plea for help from, essentially, tax-

payers.

No doubt, we all think an ambulance service is important to the community. But if the hospital can no longer afford to fund EMS, even though it feeds CHS by bringing in patients, then the responsibility is left to someone else — either local government or benefactors.

The county's fiscal court is not unsympathetic to the plight of the hospital, but with its own unfunded mandates and a property tax rate well below the commonwealth's average, the money just is not there to supply the hundreds of thousands needed to erase the deficit on the EMS's balance sheet.

In seeking a solution, the first question is, Do we want to keep EMS in the county?

If so, who is to pay for keeping EMS in this county — the hospital, a local magnet with unheard of generosity, city government or county government? Most clearly, it's the hospital or fiscal court, who acts for us all, to perform CPR or stand by and watch EMS die on the

side of the road. Neither is obligated by law to give us the service, however.

Imagine waiting on an ambulance from another county when dad is having a heart attack or your daughter is in a car wreck. Not comforting.

But short of a financial miracle, what's most likely are higher taxes, or a stripped-down EMS which acts as little more than a taxi service.

According to The Crittenden Press' weekly online poll, slightly fewer respondents would support paying higher or new taxes in order to keep the current service alive as wouldn't. Keep in mind, however, the poll is unscientific in that there is no way to accurately measure the local response.

While the online question is simply a straw poll of Web-surfers, if more taxation is the answer to keep EMS as it is, registered voters of the county could submit to the fiscal court a petition to set up an ambulance service taxing district to be run by a court-appointed board, much

like the library or extension service. Also, the court, on its own, could establish the taxing district and its board by ordinance, it could increase existing taxes or create other new levies to cover EMS shortfalls.

The court could even hire a private contractor or take on management of the service itself, if it chose to pay. But the fiscal court is best left to mending busted roads, not bodies.

The decision to help fund the ambulance service through additional taxes has essentially been put in the laps of our elected officials — either they submit or they don't. There is no method for a referendum on the subject to be answered by the voters of the county.

While the vote may rest with the fiscal court, the answer is ours as taxpayers to relay to our elected representatives. Is saving a life important enough to drain even more of our disposable income in the worst economy since the 1930s? Or do we roll the dice and hope that

the life on the line with no EMS in sight is not our own or someone we love?

Across the nation, government wells have run dry, even causing some municipalities and states to declare bankruptcy or at least consider it. Policymakers have overextended themselves on the services they can afford to provide and we don't want to pay more taxes to bail them out.

But our fiscal court has operated rather conservatively to prevent any expansion of government beyond its means. Without more resources, it simply cannot provide additional services — life-saving or not — without sacrificing some it already provides.

The answer is simple across the land. If you want public services, someone has to pay for them.

So how much is an ambulance service worth to you?

(Tabor is the managing editor of The Press. His column appears regularly. He can be reached at 965-3191 or at thecrittendenpress@att.net.)



News and notes on the people you know from Marion and surrounding communities

Community Spotlight



Denise and Mike Hamilton

Hamiltons add embroidery to Superior Trophies

Custom embroidery is the latest addition to Superior Trophies and Screen Printing in Marion. Owners Mike and Denise Hamilton have purchased an embroidery machine that can create custom designs, monograms and logos to almost any type of bag or clothing item. The Hamiltons, both retired school teachers, have operated Superior Trophies and Screen Printing on Main Street since the 1980s. The trophy business began in the back room of Hunt's Department Store and has evolved into a sports attire headquarters, complete with Rocket apparel in all styles and sizes. Embroidery, t-shirt and trophy orders can be placed at the store, located at 216 St. Main Street, or by calling 965-4310.

Studio By Stacy named Business of the Month

The Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce named Studio By Stacy as the October Business of the Month. Studio By Stacy is a photography business operated by Stacy Crawford. Crawford started doing photography in 2009 after making the decision to do something that she loved, "not just liked," according to Crawford.

"I love to be challenged and this type of work is very challenging," Crawford said. "I put all of my chips in one basket to make this work and I'm doing it to prove to my dad that I can." Crawford's father passed away not long before Crawford started her business and she says that it helps her to push herself to become better at what she does.

Crawford is a 2011 graduate of New York Institute of Photography and is an on-location photographer but still offers studio work. Her sessions include portraits, weddings, pets, sports, families and seniors. She also offers custom birth announcements and graduation cards. Crawford has been a member of the chamber since 2009. "It's an honor for me to have been selected as business of the month," Crawford said. "The Chamber does amazing things for the community and it makes me feel special to be a part of that organization."

"I think it's important to support local businesses like the chamber does and in turn, those businesses support the chamber." Crawford and her husband Donald reside in Salem with their sons, Tanner, 6 and Cooper, 3. To find out more about Studio By Stacy, visit www.studiobystacy.com or call 969-0540. Samples of her work can also be seen in the window of Signature Salon on Main Street.

Stout Law Office merges with Frazer, Rogers and Peek

The Law Firm of Frazer, Rogers and Peek has merged with Stout Law Office. The merger was completed Oct. 1 and clients of the Stout Law Office have been notified by mail. Alan Stout, who practiced in Marion for more than 30 years, was recently recommended for appointment as a federal bankruptcy judge. He will no longer continue in private practice. The firm of Frazer, Rogers and Peek evolved from Greenwell and Frazer law office. Its attorneys are Bart Frazer, Brandi Rogers and Roy Massey IV.



Pictured above are (from left) Chamber President Bob Briley, Stacy Crawford with sons Tanner and Cooper, Vanda Hunt, Minnie Lou Brown, Barbara Myers, Marty Kares, Tom Potter and Scott Belt.

Tucker featured in quarterly magazine

Ethel Tucker was recently featured in Captions, the quarterly alumni magazine of Bethel University in McKenzie, Tenn. She was one of a handful Bethel alumni to be recognized in the Fall 2011 edition for her accomplishments. Tucker, 93, attended Bethel with the intent of becoming a teacher and left the college in 1935 before graduating, later earning a degree at the New York School of Interior Design in 1956. Tucker was recognized in Captions, among other things, for publication of her cookbook "From Pilot Knob to Main Street" in 2005 and her upcoming follow-up work, "Tea Time of Life," scheduled to be published later this year.

Local girls place in beauty pageants

Kate Keller participated in the annual Hunter's Moon Festival Pageant in Grand Rivers on Oct. 6. She was the winner of the eight-12 year old age division. She is the daughter of Mike and Lee Ann Keller of Salem. Also participating in another beauty pageant was Cheyenne Camp, 2. Camp competed in the Phenomenal Faces Halloween Pageant Oct. 15. She won prettiest eyes, queen, over all best costume and supreme ticket sales. She was sponsored by Shawneetown Harbor, Alexander Farms, Crawford Farms, Professional Touch and friends and family.

Camp is the daughter of Aaron and Stephanie Camp.



Camp

Carol Guess receives award

Carol Guess, a long time member of St. William Catholic Church in Marion, was recently recognized by the Diocese of Owensboro with the Sophia Award. The Sophia Award is given annually to notable senior members of the church for their work and involvement.

Award recipients, according to Guess, must be 65 years of age to be eligible for the award. A member of St. William since 1973, Guess has been heavily involved in church, wearing several hats. Guess is a parish council member, president of the ladies guild and many others. "I'm very honored to have been recognized for this award," Guess said. "Very honored."

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CCES offers new kinds of fun

By JERRITT HOVEY-BROWN
PRESS REPORTER

The changing of the leaves means that autumn is in full swing and that it's once again time for the Crittenden County Elementary School's Fall Festival.

Sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), this year's festival will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday with lots of new games, booths and food for everyone of all ages. Royal Court will be announced at 3:30 p.m., prior to the festival.

PTO President Jessi Champion said the committee has worked extremely hard this year to offer new activities for the children and parents. Some of the things offered will be more inflatables for children. That is something Champion said PTO members agreed was needed to help keep the 30-year-old event interesting.

"Our fall festival is the biggest fundraiser that the PTO does, and we

want it to be an event that everyone can enjoy," Champion said. "We've all worked hard at bringing new ideas to the table, and I think that parents and children will enjoy this year's event."

Champion said that one or two inflatables are usually offered during the festival but this year there will six full inflatables, including an obstacle course, laser tag, fun house and basketball dunking.

Also available will be a dunking booth, allowing students a rare chance of dunking their principal, Melissa Tabor. While new features have been added to the festival, fan favorites will remain part of the festival.

"The kids really enjoy the ER booth,"

CCES Fall Festival

The annual CCES Fall Festival is from 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday at the school.

Champion said. "It's just one of those things that they look forward to doing when they come to the festival – getting bandaged up and walking around with gauze on their heads, arms or legs."

Money raised from fall festival will go back into the PTO's general fund, providing money for school needs.

"Field trips, classroom purchases, anything that is needed to be bought, this money takes care of that," Champion said. "It ultimately benefits our children in the school."

In addition to the inflatables and dunking booth, silent auctions will be held for parents more than a dozen themed baskets up for grabs. There will be a cupcake walk and class quilts will be auctioned.

"This is a fun event for everyone to enjoy while helping raise money for our school," Champion said. "It's a good, family fun time that everyone can enjoy and we hope to see everyone out there."

Man used local bank to allegedly bilk investors

FROM STAFF AN AP REPORTS

A man who used a local bank to help bilk investors under the account name of G3 Capital Management went to trial this week.

Kevin Canizaro thought it sounded like a good deal — 4.1 percent interest on a certificate of deposit and visits from a sales representative of G3 Capital Management LLC.

Canizaro, who works in the oil and gas industry in Houston, sent along \$250,000 to Cory B. George, who ran G3 Capital Management. Canizaro now figures he may never see the money again.

"If I had done my diligence beforehand, I would have known," Canizaro told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

What Canizaro and more than 20 mostly elderly investors didn't know, federal prosecutors say, is that George is a man with a long history of arrests and misde-

meanor and felony convictions stemming from fraud-related scams in Kentucky, Indiana and Nevada. A federal grand jury in Kentucky indicted George, 27, in August on charges of mail fraud and wire fraud. George is now in federal custody in Kentucky and has pleaded not guilty and headed to trial Tuesday in Owensboro. Prosecutors wanted to delay the proceedings while they lined up 23 witnesses from Kentucky, Texas and Florida to fraud schemes they allege George ran over the years.

The charges against George stem from his alleged actions with three people. But, prosecutors estimate that a total of 23 investors gave George about \$1.4 million in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000. Court papers filed last week mark the first time prosecutors have given an estimate of the scope of George's alleged fraud.

"Many of these victims are elderly, and some invested their life savings with the defendant believing they were investing in a guaranteed and insured certificate of deposit," Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Ford wrote in a motion filed last week to include the evidence at trial.

His attorney, Benjamin Early of Lewisport, Ky., did not immediately return a call seeking comment last Wednesday.

George also has legal troubles in Florida. Flora N. Beal, a spokeswoman for the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, confirmed that the agency has an open investigation involving George, but declined to give details.

According to an affidavit filed by FBI Special Agent David McClelland, George opened G3 Capital Manage-

ment in Owensboro on Dec. 16, 2009, which wasn't a bank and not authorized to issue certificates of deposit. Around the same time, McClelland wrote, George opened two checking accounts in G3 Capital's name at The Peoples Bank in Marion. George also opened a brokerage account at Options Express and a checking account with JP Morgan Chase Bank, also in the name of G3 Capital.

The story was first reported locally in the Sept. 8 edition of The Crittenden Press.

In the ensuing months, McClelland wrote, George deposited funds into G3 Capital's accounts at JP Morgan Chase Bank and The People's Bank, with each deposit being in the form of a third-party check written from someone in Florida, Texas and Kentucky.

Some of the checks noted in the memo line that they were for certificates of deposit.

"Much of the money deposited into these accounts was used by George for personal expenses such as shopping, traveling and gambling," McClelland wrote.

While the FBI said George was spending investors' funds, public records show



George

George gave \$250 to Trey Grayson's U.S. Senate campaign in March 2010 and joined the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce.

By 2011, George sought more customers for his certificates of deposit. George set up an office in Palm Beach, Fla., and began advertising certificates of deposit paying 4.1 percent interest — more than twice the rate available at the time — in Florida and the Houston area. McClelland said George would meet with investors or speak to them by phone, then send along a document that supposedly guaranteed the investment.

McClelland said that an analysis "shows that all investments George has made with investor funds have been made in the commodity market, which is historically very risky," George lost \$550,000 between March 2010 and February, McClelland said. George also tried to buy a house in the name of G3 Capital in April, shortly after receiving a \$250,000 check from an investor, McClelland said.

Bank and brokerage accounts for G3 Capital Management were seized by federal agents on April 27 of this year. The FBI contacted George on April 28, but George declined to discuss the complaint. George then fled Owensboro, leaving his cellphone behind, McClelland said.

The FBI caught George in Las Vegas in early August.

Detention center prisoner count

Crittenden County Jailer Rick Riley reported to Crittenden Fiscal Court on Tuesday that the detention center was filled four beyond its regular 133-bed capacity at press time, with four additional state inmates from Jefferson County en route. Last month at this time Riley reported 111 inmates.

Riley said the detention center is able to make proper temporary accommodations for inmates beyond normal capacity.

INMATE TYPE	MALE
Federal	0
State	122
Crittenden County	9
Union County	7
Graves County	3
Total Population	141

COURT

Continued from Page 1

the case which turned out to be a strong-arm robbery instead of a drug deal.

The charge of first-degree assault was dropped and Bull pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery by complicity.

Upon recommendation by the commonwealth's attorney, Bull was sentenced to seven years in prison. Probation was denied despite pleas for leniency from his attorney, Jeremy Ian Smith of Paducah, and the defendant himself.

Prosecutor Greenwell told the judge that the defendant and co-defendants' youthful ages had been taken into consideration in preparing plea agreements.

■ Henry J. Wilkey II, of Paducah pleaded guilty and was sentenced on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), second offense; DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia (needles); possession of a marijuana; possession of an open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle; and failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance.

Police records indicate that officers were investigating an unrelated complaint last summer near View Road in rural Crittenden County when they observed Wilkey driving a 1994 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. Police records alleged the vehicle driven by Wilkey stopped and started backing up when the driver saw a sheriff's vehicle.

State Trooper Darron Holiman stopped the vehicle. After running a check on the

driver, the trooper learned that he was wanted on an outstanding warrant. Further investigation revealed evidence in the vehicle that led to the other charges.

Wilkey was sentenced to three years, with all of the time probated for five years. Wilkey is currently in prison for a probation violation in McCracken County. He has 36 months to serve on a 13-year sentence. The probation from the Crittenden County case will run consecutively to any other sentences, Greenwell told the court.

■ Jeffery D. Vinson, 47, of Eddyville was sentenced to one year in prison for third-degree driving on a DUI suspended license and 12 months for second-degree fleeing or evading police. He was also fined for other minor traffic violations.

According to court records, Vinson was observed driving at about 10 p.m., May 5 on Ky. 506 by Game Warden Randy Conway. The conservation officer followed the vehicle after noticing it had just one headlight. The tailgate was down on the driver's truck preventing the officer from seeing the license plate. The officer turned on his lights and siren, but Vinson allegedly kept driving for about two miles, according to the citation. Court records say Vinson finally pulled into a driveway and stopped.

The two sentences will run concurrently for a total of one year in prison. He asked the court to delay his incarceration because of family matters. The judge gave him a couple of weeks to attend to those matters, ordering him to report to Crittenden County Detention Center on Nov. 1.

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RECENTLY REMODELED...3 BR ranch, new roof, new HTG/AC, new windows, new light fixtures, new carpet, new siding & roof on garage. **Price Reduced !!**

SISCO CHAPEL RD...2 BR, 1 BA home on approx. 1 acre. mh

MAIN ST...3 BR, 1 BA home on corner lot in Marion. Features: Living room, dining room, central heat & air. **SOLD**

CORNER LOCATION...3 BR ranch, all electric. Corner lot gives you more privacy and the ability to add a detached garage. ch

CLEAN HOME...well maintained through the years, 2 BR w/large sunroom & rear deck to enjoy the back yard privacy. no

HOMES FOR SALE IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

HOME w/GUEST APT...3 BR, 2 BA brick, plus 2 BR, 1 BA guest apartment, vb

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29 ACRES...3 BR, 2.5 BA brick home w/ 2674 sq ft. Of living space. **sb**

31.24 ACRES...approx. 18 acres open, balance in woods. **SOLD**

34.02 ACRES...house & Approx. 13 acres open, balance in woods. **SOLD**

40 ACRES...w/custom built home. 4 BR, 4 BA, in ground pool, stor- a g e bldg and lots of amenities. Additional acreage available. Jd

50.63 ACRES...approx. 30 open & tillable acres w/balance in woods. **SOLD**

APPROX. 59 ACRES...w/a combination of open rolling fields & mature hardwoods, property is located in the Flat Rock community of Caldwell County. mh

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98 ACRES+...located in Crittenden / Livingston Counties. Property has a running creek, approx. 20 acres of row crop. Building sites with views looking over Livingston CO. County water and Electricity available at the site. bg

APPROX. 99 ACRES...per survey located between Joy and Carnsville, KY. Has several small fields, hardwood timber. Several building locations available.

211 ACRES...80 ac. of row crop. Home site sits on 1 of the highest points of the farm. Mature timber, oaks, cypress, tupelo. Over 60 acres of flooded cypress and tupelo trees. jw

245 ACRES...pastures, hardwood, creeks, ponds, along with 4800 sq ft barn & 1800 sq ft 3 BR, 2 BA home w/separate lodging for guest. st

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UPCOMING AUCTIONS
SAT. OCT. 29, 10 AM—House, lot & personal property.
Location: 224 Poplar St., Owner: Sherry Brown Estate

411 S. Main, Marion, KY. 270-965-5271

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Absolute ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 29, 10:AM
224 Poplar St. Marion, KY

Here is your opportunity to buy this Two Bedroom, one bath house within walking distance of downtown Marion. This low maintenance exterior house has vinyl siding with a metal roof. House has natural gas heat and hardwood flooring located on deep lot.

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REAL ESTATE TERMS: Buyer will sign a purchase contract & pay 20% down (cash or good check) day of sale with the balance in 30 days. **TAXES:** 2011 Advalorem taxes paid by Seller. **POSSESSION:** with deed. **DISCLOSURE:** The house was built prior to 1978, therefore lead based paint disclosure & laws will apply with the buyer being required to sign a waiver to conduct a risk assessment.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Maple Dining room table w/6 chairs; 3 Piece Bookcase headboard bedroom suite; 3 Piece spindle headboard bedroom suite; Cedar chest; End tables; Early American Rocker; Occasional Chairs; Stereo/record player console; Hassock; High back velour fabric rocker; Sofa; Coffee table; Octagon commode table; Table lamps; Vanity lamps; Telephone desk table; Metal utility cabinet; Walker; Box fan; Humidifier; Misc. Kitchen utensils, Pots & Pan; Roaster; Flatware; Whatnots; Wall décor; GLASSWARE; Marigold & Blue Carnival glass; Berry bowls set; Tea pots; Lazy Susan; Egg dish; Pickle and relish dishes; Cookie jar w/painted apple & pear; 10 gal milk can; Fruit jars; Plastic milk crates plus items too numerous to mention.

Announcements made day of sale take priority over advertisements.

TERMS: Cash or approved check with proper ID.

OWNER: Sherry Sue Brown, Estate

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Community Christmas sign-ups end Friday

STAFF REPORT
The final opportunity to sign up for Community Christmas, an annual effort to provide gifts and food to underprivileged families in Crittenden County, is from 3 to 6 p.m., Friday at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Greenwood Heights.
Already, 63 families with

children and another 18 individuals have signed on according to Nancy Hunt, one of the coordinators of the event. She expects the numbers after Friday to be at or above last year's figures of 130 families and 45 individuals.
"We've already had several that have never participated before," Hunt said.

For children, those 11 and under, sponsors can start looking for angel trees adorned with each child's wish list after Nov. 7. Trees can be found at Pamida and Farmers Bank's main office.
Distribution will be held at the National Guard armory and Marion Baptist Church Family Life Center on Dec. 16

based on appointment times given at October sign-ups.
A letter will be sent this week to local churches, businesses and organizations detailing how they may help community Christmas.
For information on Community Christmas, contact Hunt at 965-5236 or Mona Manley at 965-5229

HODGE

Continued from Page 1

boy," she said of the 46-year-old who has also served overseas with the Kentucky National Guard.
Late last month, Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal received word from the American Police Hall of Fame in Titusville, Fla., that his paperwork to have Hodge honored with the life-saving award had been approved. O'Neal and the mayor were able to keep the award under wraps until Hodge could be honored at Monday's city council meeting with Tucker in attendance.

"I'm proud of Marty," O'Neal said. "I depend on him a lot."
At this week's meeting, Hodge, covering for O'Neal who

was out of town, suspected something was up when he entered the room to see his family and Tucker seated in the rows of burgundy chairs neatly lined along the floor of the council chambers. As the award was unveiled and the presentation made, the police lieutenant exchanged smiles with Tucker as she awaited the opportunity to leave her mark.

When Alexander asked Hodge if he had anything to say, all he muttered was that he was going to get a kiss from Tucker. An hour later, he still wore her red lipstick on his cheek.

But unlike the kiss, Hodge very humbly accepted the award, brushing aside any accolades.
"It's just part of the job," he said to Tucker as she congratulated him. "I've been doing this all my life."

Joining the military at 18 and having served as a deputy to then-Crittenden County Sheriff Floyd Andrews before joining the city police force in 1996, Hodge said he has been in the position to save lives before.

"It's just reactionary. You don't think about it," he explained.

Though he may not have been comfortable with the praise, Hodge seemed quite at ease downing a sizable chunk of Tucker's home-



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Nancy Hodge shows off her husband Marty's commendation and medal from the American Police Hall of Fame. Marion Police Lt. Hodge was honored at Monday night's city council meeting for saving the life of Ethel Tucker last April.

made cake.
Monday's medal and commendation will join a couple dozen others he's received during his military service, some in the face of hostilities. He has served in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, and as a reservist, Hodge spent all of 2005 overseas in the Iraq War before retiring in 2006.
"He's good at anything he does," said his mother, Phyllis.

And while Tucker's life may not be the first one he's saved, it is for certain the first time he's earned a cake for doing so. And carting home the leftovers was reward enough for Hodge.

'A remarkable woman'

As her made-from-scratch German chocolate cake she still owed Hodge sat cooling nearby on the kitchen table, Tucker prepared to recall the fateful day of her choking as she relaxed on the sunroom of her Main Street home. It was Monday, just a few hours before the hushed award was to be presented to Hodge, but she had something on her mind.

So, before telling the story, she pondered her luck... and her evening's schedule.

"I guess I had to keep living," she remembered. "The good Lord wanted to keep me around."

Indeed. She's got too much to do to be finished just yet.

Her second cookbook is due to be published next month, when she turns 94, and she was in a quandary over getting to her Methodist Women's meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, just an hour after the evening's council meeting began. The church group's Christmas gathering was on the agenda, and she had hoped to sit



Tucker

in on its planning, particularly if she was to host it again.

Finally settling in for the story that brought her to Monday's scheduling concern, Tucker vividly recanted the details of the day in April that Hodge came to her rescue.

She had just sat down to lunch with her nephew Alan Stout, his wife, Doris, and her mother to enjoy a pork chop sandwich bought from one of the fundraisers downtown. She admits she sometimes has trouble with choking, but had always managed to work her way through the ordeal on her own.

Despite her lunch companions' efforts to dislodge the food that was preventing her from getting air, Tucker was unable to get relief. About the last thing she re-

members before passing out was activating the life alert button worn around her neck and her nephew helping her to rest in a chair.

"We tried a couple of times and couldn't get it out," Alan Stout said of the Heimlich maneuver efforts to help his aunt. "It was very, very traumatic."

Almost instantly, the alert signal notified central dispatch of the emergency. As first-responders arrived, application of the Heimlich maneuver still proved unsuccessful. That's when Hodge, who had literally run over from the police department about a block away, reached into her throat with his fingers to dislodge the obstruction.

"As soon as I heard Miss Ethel was choking, I ran out the door," Hodge said as he motioned how he took flight out the door.

Tucker vaguely remembers Hodge and others working to free a passageway for her to breath, but came to full consciousness on an ambulance cot inside her house. Though she was kept in the hospital for a week afterward for observation and because of the soreness she was experiencing, Tucker is no worse for the wear.

"I'd say she's back to 100 percent and doing very well," Stout said, offering that she had just hosted Sunday dinner for 10 the night before. "She's a remarkable woman."

Equally as humble about her significance in the community as Hodge is about his role in saving her life, Tucker wanted Monday to be all about him. But Hodge, who checks in on Tucker from time to time, agrees with any assessment of her as the town's matriarch.

"I don't think anyone would contest that at all," Stout said.



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Kentucky traffic fatalities at 561

Kentucky State Police regularly report the accumulated number of traffic fatalities across the commonwealth. Below, the number of deaths through Oct. 16 are represented along with the change in number from the same time period in 2010.

2011 DEATHS	CHANGE FROM 2010	ALCOHOL RELATED
Deaths ...561-5792
MODE	DEATHS	NO SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Automobile.....	44232
Motorcycle.....	5430
ATV.....	2117
Pedestrian.....	38	n/a
Bicycle.....	2	n/a
Scooter.....	1	n/a
Horse-drawn.....	1	n/a

Halloween is here again!

Make plans now to celebrate by having your child's picture made in costume.

\$10⁰⁰ each

Published in the Nov. 3 edition of The Crittenden Press.

Date Change:
Friday, Oct. 28
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION:
Pictures will be taken inside the back of The Crittenden Press building.
Enter gravel parking lot from North College St.



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Saturday, Oct. 22nd

10:07 AM

168 Nipper Rd., Marion, KY

Location: From Marion Hwy 60 & Main St. traffic light proceed south on Hwy 641 (Main St.). Go half mile and turn right just past Central Baptist Church onto Chapel Hill Rd. Go ±2.4 miles and turn right onto Nipper Rd. Property on right.

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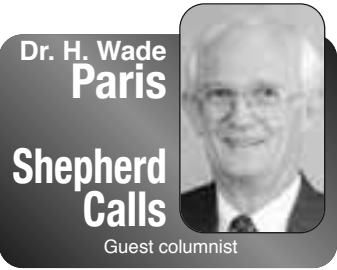
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Honor can come to those when least expected

In late February or early March of 1971, I conducted the funeral for Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Leroy Karnes. His widow and three children were a part of our church family. A few days ago Sgt. Karnes and seven other veterans were inducted into the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center's Wall of Valor. All eight inductees served in combat and were previously awarded medals for their service.

The explanation of Sgt. Karnes being chosen for this honor is as follows: "Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Leroy Karnes of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Calvary Division, served as an operations/intelligence supervisor. On Feb 16, 1971, his



team was ambushed by a North Vietnamese reconnaissance unit and could not immediately return fire. Karnes maneuvered his boat directly into the ambush site. The move exposed him to enemy fire and mortally wounded him but saved the lives of many of his comrades."

I never met Sgt. Karnes though I got to know his fam-

ily very well. Obviously, I can take no credit for his courage or his military service. However, in some indefinable way I am honored to have officiated at his funeral and over his grave.

Forty years have passed since that dreary funeral day. Yet, I still remember the groans of his widow at the sound of the 21-gun salute. The faces of his children that day still haunt me. They seemed not to fully understand what was happening but knew it was not good. One of those children, his daughter, has kept in touch. She sent me the notice of this honor. Thank you, Sue Ann.

The Psalmist wrote, "What is man that You (God) are

mindful of him . . . You have crowned him with glory and honor." (Psalm 8:4, 5) Those words were penned hundreds of years before Sgt. Karnes was born; yet they fit him.

Honor is a perplexing trib-

ute. Often, as in this case, it comes to one who can no longer enjoy it. Generally, it is preceded by pain and sacrifice. Frequently it comes when least expected. Occasionally it comes to one, like

me in this case, who just happened to be there.

To Sgt. Karnes' family, I say - I am honored to have been a part of your lives.

Churchnotes

■ The Potter's House Baptist Worship Center in Smithland is hosting a judgment house this weekend, open 6:30 - 10 p.m., Saturday night, and 2-7 p.m., on Sunday. The production, titled "Web of Lies," lets you follow the lives of three people through eight different scenes. Admission is free. Reservations can be made by calling 933-2850 or just walk in.

■ Creekside Baptist Church on U.S. 60 East, will host a fish fry at 5 p.m., Saturday. Everyone welcome.

■ Hopewell Church in Lola will host its Trunk or Treat at 5 p.m., Saturday. There will be a hayride, games, pumpkin painting, fellowship and a hot-dog and marshmallow roast.

■ Caldwell Springs Baptist Church located at 2112 SR 8555 will host revival at 11 a.m., Sunday. A meal will follow morning worship and the revival will continue Sunday evening 6 p.m., and again at 7 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. Joe Baker will be the evangelist.

■ Marion Baptist Church will have a fall festival at 10 a.m., Oct. 29.

■ Life In Christ Church will host its annual Fall Harvest Festival Oct. 29. Cost is free. Everyone welcome.

■ Marion Church of Christ will host its annual Trunk or Treat from 4-6 p.m., Oct. 31. The

church is located at 546 West Elm Street, next to Crittenden County High School.

■ Doug and Joli Cullen, with Choose Life Ministries, will be at Deer Creek Baptist Church

at 10 a.m., Sunday for Bible Study and 11 a.m., for worship service. They will share the message of the sanctity of human life, including a challenge to holiness, the importance of abstinence and the message of salvation beginning with Genesis' account of creation. For more information, call the church at 965-2220.

FALL FESTIVAL

at Marion Baptist Church
Family Life Center
131 East Depot Street/Marion, KY
Saturday, October 29, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Trunk or Treat - Outside the FLC - and Inflatables
Men's Chili Cook Off — Come and enjoy chili for lunch
Women's Pie Bake Off — Enjoy some great pie for dessert
~ Inside the FLC there will be Games for all ages, and the Bouncer will be up for small children

Come outside the FLC and jump in the Big Inflatables
We will have a drawing for door prizes!
If you need more information about the FALL FESTIVAL, please call the Church Office 965-5232

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

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Children's church provided
Sunday night | 6 p.m.
Thursday night | 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Bro. Dennis Winn, pastor
108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion, Ky. • 965-4623

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study • Children and Youth Activities
www.ebmarion.org

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

Mexico Baptist Church
175 Mexico Road, (270) 965-4059
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training 6 p.m. • Sunday Evening Service 7 p.m. • Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

Pastor Tim Burdon
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Visit us at www.mexicobaptist.org

Central Baptist Church
721 S. Main St., Marion We invite you to be our guest
Bro. J.D. Graham, pastor
Sunday Bible Study at 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m.

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

Tofu United Methodist Church
Bro. Selby Coomer, Pastor We invite you to be our guest
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 am • Service 11 am • Wednesday night youth 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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Sunday night, 6:30 p.m. Home 270.965.8164
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Mobile 270.339.2241

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
224 W. Bellville St. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. Ann Thompson, pastor • Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Night Worship Service 6 p.m.

Marion Church of God
334 Fords Ferry Road • Marion, Kentucky
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."
Lucy Tedrick, pastor

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

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

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

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

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

St. William Catholic Church
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father Gregory Trawick
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Marion, Ky.
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Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 6 p.m.

Frances Presbyterian Church
Bro. Butch Gray • Bro. A.C. Hodge
Wednesday night prayer meeting and youth service - 7PM
Sunday school - 10AM • Worship service - 11AM
Sunday evening service - 6PM

Second Baptist Church
730 E. Depot St., Marion
Sunday Bible study and coffee 10 a.m.
Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. • Sunday night study 6 p.m.
Children's TeamKID and Youth's LXVI (66) Ministries at 6:30 p.m.
Bro. Danny Starrick, Pastor • Diana Herrin, worship leader

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

ThePressOBITUARIES

Tiell

Rev. Maurice J. Tiell, 88, died Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 at the Carmel Home, an Owensboro nursing home.

Father Tiell was ordained June 3, 1950 and was pastor from 1988 to 1993 of St. William Catholic Church in Marion. He later returned to serve as interim pastor for a period. Tiell also has ministered as associate pastor at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro; as pastor at St. William, St. Lawrence, Knottsville, Precious Blood and St. Joseph and Paul, all in Owensboro; St. Francis de Sales in Paducah; Holy Cross in Providence; St. Michael in Sebree; and St. Mark in Eddyville.



Tiell

Father Tiell has been chaplain at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville and Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia.

He is survived by a brother, Herman J. Tiell of Tiffin, Ky., and a sister, Clara Rose Schilling of Fort Wayne, Ind.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday at St. Stephen Cathedral with burial in Resurrection Cemetery in Owensboro.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to the Retired Priests of the Diocese, 610 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

Haley-McGinnis & Owensboro Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences may be left at haleymcginnis.com.

Dollins

Mildred Truitt Dollins, 87, of Decatur, Ga., died Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011.

A native of Crittenden County, Dollins was a homemaker and a 54-year member at North Decatur United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Jim Dollins; a step-daughter, Gayle and husban Ron Alvis of Frankfort; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Wednesday in the chapel of A.S. Turner & Sons in Decatur with Rev. Angelo Mante officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to North Decatur UMC, 1523 Church St., Decatur, GA 30030.

Travis

Cecil Wayne Travis, 81, of Marion died Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services in Salem.

He was a laborer in the manufacturing industry.

Travis is survived by his wife, Connie Travis of Marion; a sister, Laverne James of Marion; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Rosa Duvall Travis, and two brothers.

Funeral services were Tuesday at Myers Funeral Home with burial in the Asbridge Cemetery.

Veterans Day events slated

Two community Veterans Day events are being planned for the morning of Nov. 11. The first will begin at 8:30 a.m., at Rocket Arena and is being hosted by Crittenden County Middle School. American Legion Post 111 in Marion will also be hosting its usual ceremony at Maplevue Cemetery at 11 a.m.

Veterans and members of the community are invited to both events.

Henderson

Velda Mae Henderson, 89, of Marion died Monday, Oct. 17, 2011 at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation Center.

She was a member of Second Baptist Church in Marion.

Henderson is survived by a son, Joe and wife Madeline Henderson of Marion; a daughter, Brenda and husband Earl Blanton of Leitchfield; two brothers, Jewell and Don Pugh, both of Marion; four sisters, Mary Pugh of Marion, Zoa Nell Davis of Ledbetter and Pauline Willings and Sue Tabor, both of Paducah; five grandchildren, Eric and wife April Henderson of Henderson, Jason Henderson of Antioch, Tenn., and Kevin, Keith and Troy Blanton, all of Leitchfield; and two great-grandchildren, Erica Lynn Henderson of Henderson and Savannah Blanton of Leitchfield.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ollie Henderson; parents, Virgil and Agnes Pugh; two brothers, Harry Lee and Junior Pugh; and two sisters, Anna Louise and Barbara Pugh.

Services are scheduled for 1 p.m., today (Thursday) at Gilbert Funeral Home with interment in White Chapel Cemetery. Visitation was from 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home.

Ashford

Bonnie L. Ashford, 78, of LeRoy, Ill., died Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011 at her home.

She is survived by her husband, Buddy D. "Bud" Ashford of LeRoy; two daughters, Terri L. Purdy of Ellijay, Ga., and Lisa Ashford, Joliet, Ill.; and one sister, Laura "Pat" Hammond of Morton Grove, Ill.

Ashford was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Arnie Prowl Hillyard.

Graveside services will be at 4 p.m., today (Thursday) in Roland Cemetery in Fredonia. Myers Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to Roland Cemetery, P.O. Box 682, Princeton, KY 42445 or OSF St. Joseph Hospice, 2200 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

Stone

Marlene Ann Stone, 75, of Marion died Monday, Oct. 10, 2011 at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion.

She was a bookkeeper and member of the United Methodist Church in Grand Rivers.

Stone is survived by four daughters, Lisa Tucker of Marion; Marla Gentry of Indianola, Iowa; Shari Fields of Bonner Springs, Kan., and Krist Shoemaker of Chariton, Iowa; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leslie and Elsie Bingham Burgett; her husband; a sister; and a granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Myers Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Harper

Martha Ann Harper 85, of Marion died Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 at Crittenden County Hospital.

She is survived by two daughters, Annette Murphy of Aurora, Ill., and Helen Shive of Marion; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Harper was preceded in death by her parents, O.J. and Loretta Bingley; three brothers; two sisters; and one grandchild.

Services were Tuesday at St. William Church in Marion. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Guggenheim

Anita Guggenheim, 86, of Oklahoma City, Okla., formerly of Marion, died Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011 quietly in her home. She was born on June 12, 1925 in Archer City, Texas.

Guggenheim was known equally for her generosity of spirit and for her elegance and style. She was a loving soul who always championed the underdog and gave generously to people and causes who were in need, particularly foundations for animal care.

After attending Abilene Christian College, Guggenheim lived in Oklahoma City and was the personal secretary of a well-known oilman. She moved to Marion in 1951 when she married prominent Crittenden County businessman, Sam Guggenheim. Together they raised three daughters and were a vital and active part of the community until he preceded her in death in 1981.

While in Marion, Guggenheim served for a time as a court reporter and was very active in civic duties. She served as chairwoman of the Republican Party for the western district of Kentucky. As well, she served as a delegate, representing Kentucky, to the Republican National Convention in 1976.

Guggenheim was an engaged part of the community in Marion and was known for her philanthropic activities and participation in many community service groups, including the Crittenden County Public Library Board of Directors and the Woman's Club and was a volunteer at the Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

She was an avid reader and loved to follow professional tennis, often attending major events at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. After her husband's death in 1981, she remained in Marion for many years, and then moved to Paducah in 1985, where she lived until 2009 when she returned to Oklahoma City.

Guggenheim is survived by three daughters; Micaela Knight of Oklahoma City, Eva Guggenheim of Syracuse N.Y., and Greta Guggenheim of New York City; four grandchildren, Leslie Pace, Sam Guggenheim and Robert and John Wojciekiewicz; and two great-granddaughters, Emily and Abby Pace, all of whom will miss her greatly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Theta Fitzgerald Durrett and Jess Durrett, and by her husband, Sam Guggenheim.

A memorial service was held Sunday at her residence at the Statesman's Club in Oklahoma City for her Oklahoma family and friends. Final interment will be at 2 p.m., today (Thursday) with a graveside service in Marion at Maplevue Cemetery.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of services.

Memorials may be made to Shelby County Animal Shelter, 266 Kentucky St., Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 or McCracken County Humane Society, PO Box 212, Paducah, KY 42001.

Extended obituaries require a nominal fee. Ask your funeral director about fee-based obituaries.



Guggenheim

Cronin

Edith Ann Cronin, 70, of Marion died Monday, Oct. 10, 2011 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehab.

She was a member of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church.

Cronin is survived by her husband, Danny "Dan" Cronin of Marion; a daughter, Mona Hutchison of New York City; a granddaughter, Molly Hutchison of St. Louis, Mo.; four brothers, Harold and wife Aliene Tabor of Marion, Joe and wife Ruth Tabor of Louisiana, William and wife Darlene Tabor of Mexico and Rollie Edward Tabor of Marion; a sister, Linda Kemper of Madisonville; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rollie and Edmona Tabor; a daughter, Veronica "Ronnie Sue" Kehoe; and a brother, Fred Tabor.

Services were Friday at Gilbert Funeral Home with interment in Shady Grove Cemetery.

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Whitetail Tip of the Week

Have your deer disappeared? Are those bucks you've been watching suddenly gone? Don't fret too much, they probably haven't been harvested. Chances are, the bucks have simply changed into their pre-rut patterns. Those crop fields that have been holding deer for the past several weeks are now harvested and the deer have moved to a new food source. Chances are they're dining on white oak acorns if there are any around. The acorn is the preferred deer food in this area. The acorn is low in protein content, but very high in fats and carbohydrates. They are easily digestible, their nutrients are readily absorbed, and they are processed and passed through the body quickly. Because these nuts are so easily digestible, deer eat lots of them, which also gets them the protein content they need. By late October, the best acorns have been eaten and the deer have the fatty reserves they will need to get through winter. So, if you want to find those deer you had been seeing, find an acorn tree. You will not wait too long before those deer show up to munch on their favorite food.

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CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 46 ACRES - \$1,750/ACRE - Property surveyed. 20 acres tillable, 2 ponds, balance in timber and brush.

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CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 61 ACRES - \$31,900 - All timber. Located 2 hours from Nashville, TN.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 250 ACRES - Price Reduced. \$1,750/ACRE - 3 ponds, hardwood timber, overgrown fields and pasture.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 360 ACRES - Price Reduced \$1,750/ACRE - 3 ponds, hardwood timber, overgrown fields and pasture.

CRITTENDEN CO, KY - 370 ACRES - \$1,825/ACRE - Nearly all timber, food plots, interior roads, and creek.

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Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, cards, phone calls, food and especially the prayers, as a result of my heart surgery. I am doing well now, and hopefully on the road to a full recovery. May God bless each and every one of you.

Barry E. Gilbert

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Keister shares road to recovery

Father calls return to full health, sports a miracle

BY DEREK MCCREE
PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Do you believe in miracles? Taylor Keister does, and explains why while remembering the events of the past year. At 7:30 a.m., Nov. 10, 2010, she and two other Crittenden County students were in a serious car accident near Sheridan on their way to school.

Keister, a junior and student-athlete on the Lady Rockets' volleyball and softball teams, was a passenger in a pickup that went off the road and overturned. She was thrown 75-feet

from the vehicle and suffered a life-threatening brain injury. She was air-lifted to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville where it was learned that Keister also suffered five fractured vertebrae, a broken nose, wrist and most of her teeth were knocked out.



Keister

For the next week her life hung in the balance. Keister was on a ventilator, in a coma and suffering from fluid buildup and bleeding on her brain.

"It was the hardest time of my life," Taylor's father Andy Keister said. "It's just the two of us, and when I arrived at the scene of the crash and saw her, I thought it was over."

After spending two weeks in

the intensive care unit at Deaconess, Keister's condition improved and she was transported to Lourdes Hospital in Paducah.

"I don't remember the night before the wreck or anything while I was at the hospital in Evansville," said Keister. "I woke up in the ambulance and found out I was going to Lourdes."

The next two weeks were just the beginning of an ongoing process with rehabilitation and adjustment to life after the wreck. What was as simple as tying her shoelaces, had to be relearned. Speech therapy followed soon after she arrived at Lourdes. Her taste and smell sensations had changed.

Despite the severe injuries sustained to her back and head, Keister was able to leave Lourdes Hospital after two weeks and return home. She continued rehabilitation and saw a specialist for brain trauma several times a month to determine the potential effects it would

have on her everyday life.

"The hardest thing for me to deal with is the memory loss," Keister said. "It affects everything I do from sports to academics – it is by far the biggest hurdle I have had."

However, there was one thing that she couldn't forget and that was her love for volleyball. Keister has played for the Lady Rockets varsity team since the sixth-grade. It was her dream to play the sport at the collegiate level.

"I never thought I would play softball or volleyball again," Keister said after being told by doctors that she could attempt to play sports, but that her chances were marginal at best.

That answer was not acceptable to her father because he did not want to see his daughter struggle through life and not achieve her goals. Her father provided the motivation, and she pushed ahead to make life as normal as it was before the

accident.

"At first I thought we would do good just to be able to go and watch games," her father said. "But because of all the prayers and support from the community and surrounding counties, she became daddy's little miracle."

Just a few months removed from her life-and-death struggle – Keister proved anything is possible. She stepped onto the softball diamond in right field for the Lady Rockets.

She described playing sports last year as difficult at first, but getting easier as she transitioned into volleyball. Still, Keister battles short-term memory loss.

"People don't see how hard the battle is to compete physically and mentally," she said. "My patience is gone, I feel different than before the wreck. But I won't give up."

That much is obvious for the senior co-captain of the Lady Rocket volleyball team. Playing

softball prepared her for the fast pace of volleyball. Not only did she help lead Crittenden's volleyball team to a post-season berth in the regional tournament, but her dedication and overcoming the odds as daddy's miracle earned her a surprise on the football field recently.

Keister was named queen of the 2011 football homecoming court and was able to share smiles with the king, Rocket quarterback Bryce Willis, the driver of the vehicle the day of the accident.

"We have been through so much together and if anything was possible it was to be queen with Bryce as king," Keister said. "We have been through so much together and he told me on the field how much he cared."

While many things have changed for Keister after the accident, she said that sharing the moment on the football field with Willis made it feel normal again.

Do Halloween on a budget

The fall can be a very expensive time of year for families with back-to-school clothing and supplies, as well as fall sports registrations and supplies. With all of the early fall activities, many families may not have planned ahead for Halloween expenses.

Halloween ranks as the third most expensive holiday, following Christmas and Valentine's Day. This might surprise some people, since typically the holiday does not involve large gift giving or family events.

Nonetheless, the price of costumes, candy, and decorations can add up. Below are some budget saving tips to help you celebrate Halloween in style, without playing a trick on your wallet.

Shop consignment or thrift stores for costumes. You may also consider selling some of your children's costumes from previous years. Often consignment stores will offer buying discounts to their sellers.

Be creative, search your

Nancy Hunt Home Notes

UK Cooperative Extension Agent

closets, as well as Grandma's, for items you can turn into a costume.

Do an internet search for easy DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Halloween costumes.

You certainly do not want to be a Halloween scrooge and not pass out treats. Search your local ads for Halloween candy specials or consider pencils or some other useful item. Try not to buy too much candy, not only does this cost extra, but you will also be tempted to eat the leftovers.

If you can, buy a little candy at a time, to spread the expense over several weeks. However, you may want to hide the candy once you get it home to make certain that it lasts until Trick-or-Treat night.



Tolu classes reunite

Tolu classes of 1974 and 1975 met at Riverview Park (formerly Dam 50) for a reunion on Oct. 9. Pictured are (front from left) Tina Adams Boyd, Marcia Prado Floyd, Pam Dale Croft; (middle) Gail Croft Palmor, Barbara Harris Crawford, Helen Jones Head, Kathy Adams Schroeder, Debra Thomas Eaton, Pat Belt Trolley; (back) Amanda Easley Dublin, Donald Croft and Carol Wayne Croft.

Students take tour through town's history

BY JERRITT HOVEY-BROWN
PRESS REPORTER

The streets of Marion were full last week with 92 fifth-grade students from Crittenden County Elementary School on a downtown Marion historical tour.

This was the third year for the tour sponsored by Marion Main Street, Inc. Susan Alexander, director of Marion Main Street, said the tour was created to help spark interest in Marion's history.

"Marion is rich with history," Alexander said. "We have a great heritage and a sense of pride comes with that when we think about where we've come from. The kids are always amazed when they go on the tours because they don't realize what all Marion had to offer in the olden days."

Students visited the law office of Rebecca Johnson,



While visiting the Crittenden County Historical Museum, tour guide Sarah Ford shows fifth graders a slate rock used by students years ago as a writing tablet.

the Crittenden County Historical Museum, Marion Junior High, the old hospital and ended the tour at Fohs Hall.

Some of the unknown his-

tory that students learned during the tour was that Marion used to have a movie theater known as the Kentucky Theater that once stood where the current office of Larry Orr is. Built in 1943, it was closed down in 1978. Another interesting fact learned on the tour was that the Marion Post Office has a secret room that was used years ago to spy on postal workers to make sure they were working. The post office has continued its service in Marion for 92 years.

Alexander said that several community members have helped make the tour a success, including Kathleen Guess who put together artistic renderings of buildings while Brenda Underdown provided historical information. Other community members volunteered to help guide the tours.



Campbell-Baker

Mike and Donna Campbell of Marion announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Ashley Nichole, to Jack Baker III, son of Jack Baker II and Vickie Baker of Marion.

The bride is a senior at Crittenden County High School and is a member of Ambassadors for Christ.

The groom is a 2002 graduate of Crittenden County High School and is also a member of Ambassadors for Christ.

Wedding vows will be exchanged at 2 p.m., Oct. 29 at Ambassadors for Christ. Out of town invitations are being sent. All friends and family are invited.

Birth

Jones

Heaton Jones announces the birth of a son, Jackson Aaron, Oct. 7 at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah. Jackson weighed seven pounds, four ounces and was 19½ inches long. Maternal grandparents are Jeff and Wendy Barnes of Marion and the late Rickey Jackson. Great-grandparents are Jim and Karen Downs of Salem and the late Loye Doon. Jackson has one brother, Brystin and one sister, Bryanna.

Community calendar

Thursday, Oct. 20

■ Crittenden County Inter-Agency Council will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday at the Crittenden County Extension office located on 1534 U.S. 60 East.

Saturday, Oct. 22

■ Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation will present its Chili / Chuckwagon supper at 6 p.m., Saturday at Fohs Hall. Chris Evans, editor of The Crittenden Press, will be the featured performer. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information please call Susan Alexander at 965-5983.

■ A benefit dinner and singing will be held from 2-6 p.m., Oct. Saturday at Soul Harbor Church in Smithland for Harvey Walton, who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Walton is a member of the Salem and Caldwell Springs volunteer fire departments and the Crittenden County Rescue Squad. Proceeds will be applied toward Walton's medical expenses. Everyone is invited to attend. Firemen are encouraged to wear shirts representing their fire departments.

Monday, Oct. 24

■ West Kentucky Regional Blood Center will have a blood drive from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday in the blood mobile behind Crittenden Health Systems. Each donor will receive a t-shirt.

■ Red Ribbon Health and Wellness Week will be observed by all Crittenden County students Oct. 24-28. Red ribbons will be placed throughout Marion in honor of a drug free and healthy community. Please help students recognize the importance of this event by participating and wearing a red shirt on Monday.

Tuesday, Oct. 25

■ The American Cancer Society will host Grocers Against Cancer Day from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Tuesday at Conrad's Food Store. Celebrity baggers will be bagging groceries and carrying them to cars for donations. Conrad's will also donate \$1,000 to the American Cancer Society.

On going

■ Story Hour for preschoolers is conducted at Crittenden County Public Library at 10 a.m., each Friday throughout the school year.

■ The second annual "Make a Difference Day" food drive is going on at all three Crittenden County schools. Non-perishable food items collected will be used to stock local food pantries. Foods may be donated at CCES, CCMS, CCHS, Family Dollar Store, Conrad's Food Store, Food Giant, The Crittenden Press (on Wednesdays) and other local businesses.

Upcoming

■ The second annual family math night at Crittenden County Elementary School will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Nov. 14. Dinner will be provided, free of charge. Learn about Math In Focus, the new math program that was introduced last year at CCES. Teachers and students will model and explain scientific strategies relevant to each grade level.

■ The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life committee in Crittenden County is planning its first Rocket 5K Run/Walk and the One-Mile Fun Run for Kids on Nov. 5. Pre-registration by Oct. 15 is required to receive a free t-shirt.

■ The Crittenden County Christmas Parade sponsored by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will be held at 2 p.m., Dec. 3. The theme this year is "An Old Fashion Christmas." Jeff Ellis will be chairing this event and can be contacted at 704-3234.

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY CARSEN EASLEY ON OCTOBER 18! Love, Mom & Dad (Son of Tom & Sandra Easley)

James Ford: Law-abiding citizen or outlaw

We left last week's story as the Regulators turned on Ford. This week concludes Price's research and conclusions on Ford.

Sometime during the early 1830s, the Regulators turned on Ford. Probably the principle reason for their interest in him was his lawsuits against local men in an attempt to collect old debts. Many of these men were members of the Regulators who Ford had for years loaned money on interest. Because they could not repay their debts, these men were in danger of losing their farms. At this time, half of the lawsuits of Livingston County were instigated by Ford for this reason.

Why Ford came to loan out so much money is explained by the economy of the time. The country had been in a depression for many years. There was a shortage of money and after many scandals involving Kentucky wildcat banks, no one trusted them with their money. Men with extra cash sometimes acted as their own bank and loaned out money at interest in the same way a bank would loan money. The recipient of the money would put up collateral, usually land, to insure repayment of the loan. If the loan wasn't paid, the collateral was forfeited.

For whatever reason, after the death of his two sons, the Regulators now turned on Ford. At this time there was a dispute in court over a \$300 debt between Ford and Vincent B. Simpson, the operator of Ferry Ohio and a suspected member of the Ford's Ferry Gang. When Simpson was killed by Henry C. Shouse, another local man, after a continuing battle between the two, Ford was suspected of having engineered the killing. It is hard to understand how Ford could be suspected of engineering the shooting since Simpson, drunk and abusive, was killed as he approached the house of Shouse. A fatal shot was fired from Shouse's house. This clearly was not a premeditated murder but an act of self defense. The Regulators believed otherwise. Ford was suspected of wanting to silence Simpson before he named Ford as member of the Ford's Ferry Gang in retaliation for Ford's attempt to collect the \$300 debt.

The killing of Simpson was the event that precipitated a sentence of death on Ford by the Regulators. Vigilante action was the method used to carry out that sentence.

Ford, the county sheriff at the time, was asked to attend a meeting at the ferry house of Ferry Ohio, the home of the murdered Simpson, on the pretext of investigating Simpson's murder. It was there he was murdered with a shotgun. The Regulators claimed the shot came from a nearby thicket. Other versions stated it came from the ferry house itself.

In August 1833, one month after the death of Ford, our Thomas Prince from Caldwell County swore out a warrant for the arrest and trial of Henry Neal for the murder of Ford. On Aug. 30, 1833 Neal was brought before the Justice-of-the-Peace of Livingston County on a charge of murdering Ford. Neal brought witnesses that stated he was eating supper at the ferry house at the time the fatal shot was fired. Neal was re-



leased. No one else was ever tried for Ford's murder. As recounted in Snively/Furbree's Satan's Ferryman, the burial of Ford was unusual, even bizarre. The burial was sad because the circumstances prevented a graveside ceremony or the presence of his family. Mixed with this sadness however, there was black humor.

Col. Arthur Love, a neighbor and family friend, was in charge of the burial. He gathered together a crew of slaves and had the grave dug in the Ford family graveyard. The great size of the man - he weighed over 300 pounds - caused problems with the coffin, the grave and the transport of the body. The suddenness and the nature of his death probably caused some confusion in the Ford household. For whatever reason his coffin was two days in constructing. This delay and the heat wave at the time caused the body to decompose. Because of the odor the family did not accompany the body to the grave site.

In imagination, let us go along with this burial party as it proceeded to the graveyard.

The procession of Col. Love, the farm wagon carrying the body and the grave detail of slaves left the Ford home late in the afternoon. A great storm cloud was forming in the west that would break the summer heat wave. The reputation of the man, his violent end and the evil smell coming from the coffin caused the beginning of a great fear to take hold of the slaves in the party.

Even the horses pulling the wagon seemed nervous. Since there was no wind, there was no way to escape the stench. Even Love riding some distance from the party could not escape the overpowering odor. By the time the party arrived at the open grave, the amount of white showing in the eyes of the blacks had perceptively increased.

The storm was now at hand and the still air was beginning to stir. Two pieces of wood were hurriedly placed at both ends of the grave and the coffin was positioned on them in preparation for lowering it into the grave with rope slips. Suddenly, with a great crash, the head piece of wood broke and the coffin pitched into the grave head down and wedged there.

Perhaps it was the stench from the dead body, the im-

minent thunderstorm and now the crash of the coffin that caused the already nervous horses to bolt. The team was controlled with some difficulty but now the slaves were ready to run. Love ordered them to remove the casket. They refused. He threatened them with his gun. They still refused. At that moment there came a great thunderclap, followed immediately by a deluge as the storm broke. That was the end of Col. Love's efforts for an orderly burial. He retired to a house in the neighborhood and the slaves that had not run away shoveled dirt into the grave with the coffin still wedged head down and so it remained.

Thus was buried the man who shared a mother with Thomas Prince. His end was tragic but only in the telling. In reality he had accomplished much and had provided well for his family (except for his second wife).

In spite of the suspicious death of his sons and the damaging rumors about him, many old friends did not believe he was dishonest. At the least, he was still asked to be the executor of an estate, a task he had performed many times before. This was a task no one would give to a man who was not trusted. Apparently at the time of his death, he was considered a pillar of respectability by his peers. It was only after his death that some began to believe the rumors, based on the "where there is smoke there must be fire" theory.

In summing up, one can make the case that Ford was a victim of his own success. Because he had excess money that he lent to individuals at interest and the hard times in the 1820s and 1830s had made the repayment of that money difficult, he was a threat to many families. The many lawsuits filed by Ford to collect overdue loans indicates the extent of the problem. In the Regulators were many men who owed Ford money and their families were threatened with the loss of everything they owned. This threat plus the unpopularity of his sons gave the Regulators their motive.

Neal, a member of the Regulators, at his murder trial was quoted as saying, "The damned old son-of-a-bitch ought to have been shot many days ago that so many people would not have been ruined by him."

Neal said nothing about Ford being a member of the Ford's Ferry Gang.

So we leave Ford with this final assessment. He was a man who was well-liked and respected for 30 years in his adopted county. He held all the important local offices except county judge, some by election and some by ap-

pointment from the governor. He was a brilliant businessman with energy and vision, as proven by his conceiving of and building an all-weather ferry across the Ohio. He was a strong-willed, perhaps ruthless, businessman but not a criminal.

The late Roberta Croft of Tolu, shared this information about the Ford cemetery back in the 1960s. For years after Ford's death, his box-like stone tomb, near where his house stood, was left undisturbed. But a farmer who once owned a parcel of the outlaw's land, used Ford's crypt and the crypt of other family members buried around him to cover some holes in a nearby pasture.

The fellow's cows started dying mysteriously after that, and people started saying Big Jim was getting his revenge. The farmer, who later sold out, returned the stones to the family cemetery

atop a hill that overlooks the Ohio and a stretch of Hurricane Island. The stones lay shaded by a squatty hackberry tree and concealed from the curious by tall grass.

If James Ford's stone was returned to the cemetery, it

has been missing now for many years. Only the stones of his sons, Phillip and Williams, are located there now. There should be some good news coming later this year about the restoration of this historic cemetery.



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BEAUTIFUL VIEW - This lovely home sits high in a wooded setting, 3 bdr, 2 full baths, lg den & liv. rm. Lots of kitchen cabinets, new appliances, also a lg. screened in back porch & bbq area. 2 car attached garage. **Reduced to \$160,000.00 Motivated Seller.** dc

COMPLETE MAKEOVER - Very nice 3 bdr, 2 bath home w/ basement & new kitchen cabinets, carpet, bathroom fixtures, central heat & air, electrical & plumbing upgrade. Great buy. \$75,000.00. bm

HOME SWEET HOME - When you walk in this well maintained home w/ 3 bdr, 2 baths, kitchen, dining rm, eat-in kitchen, basement, central heat & air. Many new updates. \$109,000.00. cb

LOLA - 2 bdr, 1 bath, kitchen, utility rm w/ hardwood floors, 2 storage bldgs, work shop, carport & nice lot. Lots of recent remodeling. \$37,500.00. rb

COUNTRY - Built in 1896, 2 or 3 bdr home w/ 1 1/2 baths, living rm, game rm, located on a hill w/ lots of trees. Nice horse or cattle barn, 2 storage bldgs all on 23 +/- acres. \$85,000.00. ma

OPPORTUNITY - This bldg has approx. 4,200 sq. ft. w/ nice office space, warehouse storage w/ 3 overhead doors, concrete floors, all sitting on 1.5 +/- acres. Great location. \$149,000.00. lg

REDUCED GREAT PRICE - 2 bdr, 1 bath with many updates. Appliances stay. Located just outside of town. \$47,000.00. km

BRICK HOME - Beautiful 3 bdr, 2 ba home w/ large family rm, lots of kitchen space, all appliances stay. Patio & a 24 ft. pool. Central heat & air. 106 Hart St. kf

BEAUTIFUL SETTING - 3 bdr, 2 1/2 bath, some recent remodeling, new kitchen cabinets & appliances, 2 stone fireplaces, a sun rm & 2 big porches. All on 3.8 acres +/- with a paved drive. \$84,000.00 ag

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Soccer

Three named all-district
Three Crittenden County High School soccer players have been named to the All-Fourth District Team. They are seniors Emily Owen, Taylor Cosby and Jenna Odom.

Youth soccer tourney
There will be an under-12 youth soccer tournament starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Eight teams from area counties will participate in the Pumpkin Kickin' It Tournament, which is a double-elimination format. Four fields will be used for the event. Crittenden County begins play at 9 a.m., against Massac County's A-team on youth field No. 1.

Soccer boosters meet
Crittenden County Lady Rockets Goalie Club will meet at 5 p.m., Thursday (today) at the high school library.

Basketball

Upward registration
Marion Baptist Church is once again sponsoring Upward Basketball and Cheerleading for participants in grades K-6. Registration and evaluation dates are 6-8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 7 for K-3 and 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8 for grades 4-6. Cost is \$40, which includes complete uniform. The price goes up for late registration after Nov. 8. Practices begin in January. For more information, call 965-5232 or email jdunbar@marionbaptistchurch.com.

Tailgate chop sale
The Rocket basketball boosters will host a tailgate supper before the football game Friday. The meal will be served from 5-7 p.m., at the school's multi-purpose room. Porkchop meals are \$5, and will include a sandwich, chips, drink and dessert.

Football

Junior pro followup
Here are some results from Crittenden County's fifth- and sixth-grade Junior Pro football that were unavailable last week:

The team won 26-12 Oct. 8 at Webster County. Crittenden's Ethan Dossett connected with Adam Beavers for a 45-yard touchdown pass to go up 6-0. The Rocket offense came alive in the second half, scoring three touchdowns. Payton Riley and Cruce Collyer each scored on three-yard runs and Devon Nesbitt added a 70-yard TD. Nesbitt followed up the score with the Rockets' only two-point conversion.

The junior pro teams play Webster again Saturday at Rocket Stadium.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Collyer 5-86, Nesbitt 4-79, Gavin Dickerson 5-54, Dossett 4-7, Joseph Estes 1-8, Payton Riley 1-3, Texas Young 1-3.
Passing: Dossett 1-3, 45 yds., Dickerson 1-1, 15 yds.
Receiving: Beavers 1-45, Riley 1-15.

Defensive Stats
Tackles: Beavers 8, Noah Sallin 5, Collyer 5, Dickerson 4, Riley 4, Braxton Head 3, Cole Wood 3, Sean O'Leary 3, Devin Ford 2, Drake Kemper 1, Mason Hunt 1, Nesbitt 1, Cody Belt 1, Ross Crider 1, Jimmy Crider 1, Gipson 1, Blake Curnel 1, Josh Sarles 1, Trent Champion 1.

Outdoors

Upcoming seasons

Dove	Sept. 1-Oct. 24
Dove	Nov. 24-Dec. 2
Dove	Dec. 31-Jan. 6
Deer Archery	Sept. 3-Jan. 16
Deer Turkey	Sept. 3-Jan. 16
Shotgun Turkey	Oct. 22-28
Shotgun Turkey	Dec. 3-9
Deer Crossbow	Oct. 1-16
Deer Rifle	Nov. 12-27
Deer Crossbow	Nov. 12-Dec. 31
Turkey Crossbow	Oct. 1-16
Turkey Crossbow	Nov. 12-Dec. 31
Duck	Nov. 24-Nov. 27
Duck	Nov. 5-Jan. 29
Goose	Nov. 23-Jan. 31
Youth Waterfowl	Feb. 4-5

Muzzleloader harvest
The early muzzleloader season allowed hunters to bag 137 deer in Crittenden County last weekend. So far, through black powder and archery seasons, Crittenden hunters have taken 379 whitetails. In Livingston, hunters took 51 deer in last weekend's muzzleloader hunt for a total of 155 this year with all types of weapons.

Telecheck Deer
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newsroom@the-press.com



Defensive Coordinator Vince Clark goes over strategy during a break in the action Friday at Ballard County. Players pictured are (clockwise from Clark) Korey Mayes, Eli Bebout (56), Stephon Cozart (74), Bryce Willis (35), Devin Clark, Bobby Knox, Zach Tinsley, Travis Gilbert (14), Noah Dickerson (23) and Jamie Atwell.

Willis provides spark Rockets sure up Class 2A playoff spot

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County's football season went from zero to 35 in a hurry Friday night at Ballard Memorial. No. 35 that is.

That would be Bryce Willis, who only a few hours earlier had been feeling the drain of a 103.4-degree body temperature brought on by strep throat. It didn't matter though. Willis posted 260 all-purpose yards and scored three touchdowns to make sure his Rockets will finish no worse than third in the Class 2A First District.

Crittenden beat Ballard 28-14 under some pretty extreme circumstances, none any more acute than an illness that hit the senior running back the day before this crucial league matchup.

"I've been pretty sick. The doctor gave me a shot and some pills yesterday," Willis said with a grimace that told the rest story.

Truth is, the narrative would have never included Willis bailing out. No, not at this point when his team was down to just 19 players and its back was to the wall. This, remember, is a team he once quarterbacked. Now, with injuries, disciplinary issues, defections and suspensions, Crittenden needed him elsewhere. Rocket coach Al Starnes has said all year that Willis is one of the most unselfish players on the team. He just wants to win, the coach has said.

Win, it did, and on a stage that could have played like a Shakespearean tragedy. Coach Starnes said his team was as short-handed as any had been in his 21-year tenure at CCHS. The Rockets put 11 guys on the field and there were only eight in reserve. It could have been a recipe for disaster.

"It's still our best 11 against their best 11," Willis said. "There were some expectations, and I think we exceeded what everyone

expected."

Inspired by the arduous task at hand, the few and proud Rockets turned in a heroic defensive effort that held Ballard to just 88 yards rushing. Although its secondary was stretched at times – for two touchdowns and 127 yards – it was an interception by safety Clint Asbridge that sealed the deal with 40 seconds left.

It was clear early in the game that Willis – who had deferred the QB position to backup sophomore Travis Gilbert a week earlier – was prepared to take this one on his shoulders. He lined up at tailback and fullback, rushed for 189 yards on 28 carries and caught four passes for 71 yards. He was named both offensive and special teams player of the game. His punting kept Ballard pinned in its own territory much of the game. One punt was downed at the one-yard line.

Willis put Crittenden ahead with two second-quarter touchdowns on a 10-yard pass from Gilbert and a 15-yard run where he pulled three defenders across the goal line. From there, Ballard was in catch-up mode the rest of the way. The Bombers' passing game brought them close. The hosts were within seven to start the fourth period, but the Rocket defense held firm. Pressure on the passer forced some bad throws, and coverage by backup Crittenden cornerbacks Noah Dickerson and Jamie Atwell was sure enough to stave off Ballard's late challenge.

For Starnes, this may have been one of the sweetest wins in two decades.

"We needed this. We needed something positive after all of the negative things we've had," he said. "These kids played through adversity and I have never been more proud of a group than this bunch of guys."

The victory at Ballard means Crittenden County, 3-5 overall and 2-1 in district play, can pull off a show-stopper this week when it hosts Caldwell County in the annual Pink Out game that helps support breast cancer awareness and research. The Tigers had nine turnovers in a loss to Murray last week, making their showdown with the Rockets a game for second place in the district.

The Rocket victory at Ballard was especially critical. A loss might have eliminated Crittenden from the playoff scene altogether – something that hasn't happened in ages.

SCORE BY QUARTERS
Crittenden County 0 14 7 7
Ballard Memorial 0 7 7 0

SCORING PLAYS
CC-Bryce Willis 10 pass from Travis Gilbert (Micah Holloman kick) 10:08, 2nd
CC-Willis 15 run (Holloman kick) 4:22, 2nd
BM-Devoun Bledsoe 35 pass from Trevar Langston (Jonathan Steele kick) 3:21, 2nd
CC-Zach Tinsley 15 run (Holloman kick) 9:03, 3rd
BM-Jay Bo Sadler 10 pass from Langston (Steele kick) 0:00, 3rd
CC-Willis 27 run (Holloman kick) 2:31, 4th

TEAM TOTALS
First Downs: Crittenden 18, Ballard 11
Penalties: Crittenden 1-5, Ballard 3-15
Rushing: Crittenden 44-278, Ballard 21-88
Passing: Crittenden 8-15-1, 128 yds., Ballard 10-21-1, 127 yds.
Total Yards: Crittenden 406, Ballard 215
Fumbles/Lost: Crittenden 0-0, Ballard 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing
Crittenden-Willis 28-189, Tinsley 12-71, Gilbert 4-18. Ballard-Fontez Hill 11-73, Alek Hugen 9-21, Langston 1-(-6).
Passing
Crittenden-Gilbert 8-15-1, 128 yds. Ballard-Langston 10-21-1, 127 yds.
Receiving
Crittenden-Willis 4-71, Jamie Atwell 2-43, Bobby



PHOTO BY DEREK MCCREE
Sophomore middle blocker Brittney Buell goes up against a Henderson County defender on a tip shot in Monday's loss.

season, Crittenden will return six players who saw extensive time as part of a deep rotation of juniors, including Leet, Stacie Hearell and Kaylee Gibson, and sophomores Brittney Buell,

Erin McDonald and Haylee Young.

"We should have another winning season next year and I expect us to be in the region again," Duvall said.

AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Aid available through Farm Bill
Technical assistance also
provided through NRCS

PRESS RELEASE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky is encouraging landowners, farmers and producers to visit their local NRCS office now to receive more information and apply for conservation technical assistance and possible financial funding opportunities. The application process for 2008 Farm Bill conservation programs is continuous, but funding selections are made at specific times throughout the year. The Kentucky NRCS application ranking cutoff date for consideration for 2012 funds in this sign up period is November 15, 2011.

Financial assistance is available to eligible applicants in Crittenden and Livingston counties for the following Farm Bill pro-

grams:

■ The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for this program. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.

■ The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for devel-

oping or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to eligible private and Tribal landowners for the development of upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat.

"We're urging producers to get their applications in as soon as possible to be considered for this year's funding" said Karen Woodrich Kentucky NRCS State Conservationist.

All recipients of assistance are required to develop a Conservation Plan. Conservation planning is an integral part of the conservation process. Landowners should work with a conservation planner to develop the plan based on the landowner's operational goals to improve the productivity, sustainability and profitability of their operation. The Conservation Plan will serve as a road map

to a variety of technical assistance and financial assistance through EQIP and WHIP, as well as other options available to the landowner. "We're getting back to our roots with conservation planning," says Woodrich. "Conservation planning is the vital first step in understanding natural resources on your land, and also understanding how technical and financial conservation assistance can be incorporated into your operation to help you help the land." She said "Now is the time to contact your local NRCS Field Office to develop a conservation plan."

If you are interested in participating Farm Bill conservation programs, you should sign-up as soon as possible and request a conservation plan. For more information, contact Larry Starr, NRCS District Conservationist at 965-3921, ext. 3 in Marion or 988-2180, ext. 3 in Salem or emailed at larry.starr@ky.usda.gov.

Nearing frost potentially deadly to livestock

Prussic acid poison
build-up occurs as
temperatures drop

STAFF REPORT

With weather models predicting cooler temperatures moving in later this week, the risk of frost is closely nearing, presenting potential treats to livestock, reports Corey Payne, Crittenden County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

With the first killing frost of the year brings the danger of prussic acid poisoning to grazing livestock. Prussic acid is a naturally occurring chemical that can build up to toxic levels in a number of plants including Johnsongrass, sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids and wild cherry.

Pearl millet does not produce prussic acid.

Prussic acid is most likely to build up to dangerous levels immediately after a killing frost. Also, tender young growth occurring immediately after a long drought can be potentially toxic. Young, tender fast-growing plants are more likely to be toxic than older, more mature plants.

Prussic acid causes death by interfering with the oxygen transferring ability of the blood, causing animals to suffocate.

Symptoms that indicate prussic acid poisoning include excessive salivation, rapid breathing and muscle spasms. The symptoms onset very rapidly usually within 10 to 15 minutes after the animal consumes the prussic

acid-containing forage.

"Animals may stagger, collapse and eventually die," Payne said.

The good news is that prussic acid deteriorates with time. Forage with high levels of prussic acid which is ensiled is usually safe to feed after the ensiling process is completed within three weeks after silo fill. Hay which has dried enough to be safely baled (18 to 20 percent moisture) will not contain toxic levels of prussic acid.

Standing plants in the pasture killed by frost are normally safe after about one

week. However, in some instances only plants in certain portions of a field are initially killed and subsequent frosts can create danger spots on other areas of the field. Because of this, the longer you wait to put animals back in the pastures, the less risk there will be of poisoning.

To reduce the chance of prussic acid poisoning, the best practice is to remove your animals from any pastures containing Johnsongrass or the other aforementioned susceptible plants listed for about two weeks after the frost until the plants have had a chance to wilt down completely.

When in doubt, don't allow cattle to graze at all or call the Extension office at 965-5236 if you need further advice.



Payne

Farm market program offers enrollment discount

STAFF REPORT

The season for roadside farm markets is far from over, but Kentucky Farm Bureau wants to help market owners get 2012 off to a great start – enrollment for the 2012 Certified Roadside Farm Market program is now open.

Established in July 1996, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program began as an initiative to help farmers expand their roadside fruit and vegetable businesses into a destination that would attract consumers from across the Commonwealth. Since then, membership has grown to include farm enterprises like

greenhouses, landscape nurseries, Christmas tree farms, vineyards/wineries, and meat/cheese farm markets.

Certified markets are identified by the program's cornucopia logo and listed in the annual Certified Roadside Farm Market Directory. The program also provides collective advertising, promotional items, education tour opportunities, and other marketing benefits with the intent to increase the net farm income of member markets.

Market owners who enroll during the early registration period which ends Nov. 15, pay just \$235 – a \$75 savings off regular enrollment fees. Registration for

regular enrollment in the program costs \$310 per market and runs Nov. 16 through Dec. 31. Enrollment applications must be postmarked by December 31 to guarantee a spot in the annual Membership Directory.

Applications are available on the Kentucky Farm Bureau web site, kyfb.com/roadside. For questions about enrollment, any of the benefits from participating in the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program, or to request an application, contact Kara Keeton, Director of Commodity Marketing, at (502) 495-5106 or kkeeton@kyfb.com.

LIVESTOCK REPORT
LIVINGSTON MARKET REPORTS WEEKLY BY USDA MARKET NEWS

LIVINGSTON LIVESTOCK

Tuesday Oct 18, 2011. KDOA-USDA Market News Livingston County Livestock, Ledbetter Auction (cattle weighed at time of sale)					28	500-600	574	100.00-128.00	123.95
					5	600-700	653	99.00-114.00	105.89
Receipts: 842 Head					Feeder Holstein Steers Large 3				
Compared to last week: Slaughter cows and bulls 2.00-4.00 higher. Feeder steers under 500 lbs 3.00-4.00 lower (quality not as attractive as last week), and steers over 500 lbs 2.00-4.00 higher. Feeder heifers 1.00-3.00 higher.					Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
					3	500-600	592	81.00	81.00
					1	600-700	620	67.00	67.00
					2	700-800	727	70.00	70.00
Slaughter Cows Breaker 75-80%					Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1-2				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
11	800-1200	1105	57.00-64.00	60.19	1	100-200	195	131.00	131.00
2	800-1200	1095	51.00-54.00	52.58 LD	6	200-300	258	133.00-147.00	136.30
24	1200-1600	1350	57.00-65.00	60.82	29	300-400	367	139.00-146.00	143.27
6	1200-1600	1318	52.00-56.00	53.33 LD	40	400-500	444	128.00-144.00	134.31
1	1600-2000	1855	66.50	66.50	58	500-600	546	119.00-129.00	124.68
1	1600-2000	1615	70.00	70.00 HD	22	600-700	634	110.00-122.00	114.62
Slaughter Cows Boner 80-85%					7	700-800	751	100.00-105.00	102.95
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	2	900-1000	938	95.00-101.00	97.99
1	700-800	755	57.00	57.00	Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2				
20	800-1200	1033	52.00-58.00	54.40	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	800-1200	1039	60.00-62.00	61.03 HD	5	200-300	266	126.00-130.00	128.03
2	800-1200	1002	46.00-51.00	48.53 LD	13	300-400	355	115.00-133.00	125.61
3	1200-1600	1223	55.00-57.00	55.65	21	400-500	469	108.00-124.00	117.03
1	1200-1600	1360	49.00	49.00 LD	14	500-600	565	103.00-115.00	113.03
Slaughter Cows Lean 85-90%					4	600-700	666	106.50-109.00	107.46
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	7	700-800	729	93.00-98.00	96.35
13	800-1200	973	46.00-53.00	50.13	Feeder Heifers Small and Medium 1				
1	1200-1600	1305	52.00	52.00	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
Slaughter Bulls Y.G. 1					1	300-400	340	104.00	104.00
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	1	400-500	470	100.00	100.00
2	1500-3000	1902	81.50-82.50	82.00	1	500-600	530	94.00	94.00
Slaughter Bulls Y.G. 2					1	600-700	650	85.00	85.00
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2				
1	1000-1500	1340	73.00	73.00	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	1500-3000	1748	70.00-73.00	71.93	21	300-400	364	130.00-145.00	138.57
Slaughter Bulls Y.G. 3					26	400-500	457	127.00-141.00	134.84
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	45	500-600	540	120.00-134.00	125.68
1	1000-1500	1290	63.00	63.00	7	600-700	636	110.00-120.00	114.34
2	1500-3000	1882	63.00-66.00	64.56	5	700-800	728	100.00-110.00	104.39
Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1-2					4	800-900	822	95.00	95.00
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	3	900-1000	915	88.00-90.00	89.33
8	200-300	270	140.00-165.00	155.20	Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 2				
33	300-400	363	143.00-162.00	148.92	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
37	400-500	461	130.00-148.00	138.20	4	300-400	392	120.00-128.00	124.47
18	500-600	524	130.00-141.00	134.66	17	400-500	461	112.00-124.00	118.84
19	600-700	650	116.00-127.00	122.75	18	500-600	543	105.00-117.00	110.76
8	700-800	732	110.00-117.00	114.40	11	600-700	639	100.00-109.00	104.64
2	800-900	828	100.00-109.00	104.60	5	700-800	737	88.00-96.00	93.16
Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2					Stock Cows: Medium and Large 1-2: Cows 2 to 3 years old and 5 to 7 months bred 1125.00-1150.00 per head. Aged cows 5 to 8 months bred 640.00-800.00 per head.				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Stock Cows and Calves: Cows 2 to 7 years old with calves at side 830.00-1030.00 per pair.				
1	100-200	195	130.00	130.00					
8	200-300	252	110.00-137.00	121.98					
6	300-400	364	118.00-140.00	128.58					
10	400-500	449	114.00-125.00	119.89					

Woman facing vehicle theft, burglary charges

STAFF REPORT

A Marion woman was arraigned on a burglary charge and served a warrant for automobile theft during Crittenden District Court last Wednesday.

Amanda J. (Waters) Kennedy, 29, was arraigned last week on suspicion of taking jewelry on Oct. 2 from a home on Freedom Church Road. Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent investigated that case. When the suspect appeared in court, City Police Chief Ray O'Neal served a criminal warrant charging Kennedy with allegedly stealing a Jeep Wrangler early Oct. 8.

Police records say the owner of the 2005 Wrangler heard it start up at 4 a.m. When the owner looked outside, the

Jeep had been taken from her garage and it was backing out of the driveway onto East Gum Street.

Coincidentally, a police officer, George Foster, was in the neighborhood, responding to a prowler complaint. The Jeep owner flagged him down and reported the the alleged vehicle theft.

The Jeep was found a few hours later behind the 88 Dip.

District Judge Daniel Heady ordered Kennedy to remain jailed on a \$5,000 cash bond. She was to be arraigned this week on the auto theft and trespassing charge from the Oct. 8 incident. There is a preliminary hearing on Oct. 26 in regard to the alleged Oct. 2 jewelry theft.

Trick or Treat on Main Oct. 28

By JERRITT HOVEY-BROWN
PRESS REPORTER

Ghouls and goblins and the occasional princesses and football players will be adjourning the streets Oct. 28 to participation the annual Trick or Treat on Main Street event, sponsored by Marion Main Street, Inc., and Crittenden Health Systems.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m., children 12 and under will be able to go door-to-door of local businesses, seeking treats and goodies to fill their halloween bags. Participating businesses will have flyers in windows, letting parents and children know where to find the sugared treats.

Crittenden Health Systems will also host a costume contest at 4:30 p.m., in the hospital lobby. Age groups will be one and under, two through four, five through seven and eight through 12. Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes.

The event is held during daylight hours to provide a safer environment for the children while going business-to-

business allows parents a peace of mind, according to Marion Main Street Director Susan Alexander.

"Parents don't have to worry as much about searching through candy because they know where it's coming from," Alexander said. "The same is said about trick or treating during the daylight hours – the children can easily be seen unlike during the evening when crossing roads can become a safety hazard."

The Crittenden Press will be taking traditional halloween photographs on Oct. 28 and will publish them in the Nov. 4 edition of The Press. Cost is \$10 per picture and will be taken in a new location, inside the back of The Crittenden Press building. Entry is through the gravel parking lot from North College Street.

Treating businesses

Participating businesses in Trick or Treat on Main slated for Oct. 28:

- Michael Overby, CPA
- Louise's Flowers
- Johnson's Furniture and Appliance
- Marion Antiques and Collectibles
- Five Star Food Mart
- Edward Jones Investments
- The Crittenden Press
- Marion Café
- Signature Salon
- Main Street Italian Grill
- The Peoples Bank
- Coaches Cleaners
- Frazer Rogers and Peek
- Bowtanicals
- Roy and Tim's Barber Shop
- Thrifty Medical
- Superior Trophies
- Mike's Barber Shop
- Marion Welcome Center
- Marion City Hall
- Farmers Bank and Trust



JAPAN

Continued from Page 1

"I really love Japan but also love America," Okamoto said. "I want to share my culture with students here and show how wonderful Japan is."

During her stay in Kentucky, Okamoto will be at both the middle and high schools, working with students in social studies and sharing her own experiences, much like her mother did years ago. Glad to be back with Bearden and having the opportunity to visit the schools and work with students, Okamoto says she is a little nervous. Although her English is clear and she can understand most every word that is said, Bearden says the hardest thing for Okamoto is trying to understand certain sayings and expressions.

"She doesn't understand some of our sayings so it can confuse her sometimes," Bearden said. "Other than that, she can understand everything if we talk to her slowly."

Despite the small language barrier, Okamoto says that she's excited for the opportunity that's she's been given. And if she does happen to have trouble understanding something, Bearden said that she hopes to be right there with her as much as possible.

"I want to be able to help her if she comes across something that she doesn't understand," Bearden said. "Other than that, I'm going to leave everything else up to her."

While at the schools, Okamoto will be showing off some traditional items from Japan, including pictures. Okamoto also brought with



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pearl Bearden's granddaughter, Lauren Miley (left), was three years old when Marina Okamoto and her mother Keiko stayed with Bearden during a visit to Marion in 1993.

her a large stack of origami paper to give to students. She plans on teaching them how to make paper cranes and taking the finished products back with her to Japan.

"The cranes are to help show love and support for those in the tsunami and earthquake," Okamoto said, referring to the earthquake that struck in March, creating a tsunami that destroyed several cities and killed thousands. "I want to bring the cranes back to show Japan Americans' kindness."

Okamoto's last day in Kentucky will be Nov. 23, leaving her a few weeks to squeeze in some sight-seeing as well as working at the schools and catching up on several years worth of happenings with Bearden, who couldn't be happier to see her.

"When she goes back to Japan this time, we're going to do a better job of staying in touch," Bearden said. "She's family and will always be family."

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Halloween Photos

Trick or Treaters can have their pictures in The Crittenden Press after Halloween. Photos will be made Oct. 28 at our office.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Off to a QuickStart

Participants in the 2011 QuickStart Tennis program, established to teach youth the basics of the game, picked up a few lessons through the annual program. Pictured (front row from left) Quinn Templeton, Lily Berry, Luke Young, Colton Gilland, Emma Williams (middle row), Crissy Williams, Macie Young, Jenna Wallace, Trinity Hayes, Staci Belt, (back row) Terry Bunnell and Tammy Wallace. Bunnell is president of The Peoples Bank in Marion while Wallace, Williams and Belt are employees of the bank, which sponsors the annual tennis program.

Crittenden sign ups for low income energy assistance (LIHEAP) Nov. 7

Crittenden County’s Pennyrile Allied Community Services (PACS) office will begin its subsidy program to help low income households in need of energy assistance, or LIHEAP, Nov. 7.

LIHEAP provides heating assistance to eligible households to offset the high cost of energy used to heat homes during fall and winter often times those unusually high heating costs leave homeowners unable to fully meet their bills or purchase sufficient bulk fuel to keep their families safe and warm.

Statewide, more than \$58.3 million in LIHEAP assistance was provided in Kentucky during last year’s subsidy period, helping more than 150,000 stay warm during the winter months. More than one-third of those receiving assistance were the working poor. Last year, PACS was able to assist a total of 5,124 households throughout the nine-county Pennyrile District during the LIHEAP subsidy period.

A local household will be considered eligible for LIHEAP assistance when the household meets the basic eligibility criteria, which follows:

- Makes and completes an

LIHEAP income

Income eligibility for LIHEAP assistance should not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level listed below:

FAMILY SIZE	130 % OF POVERTY
1.....	\$14,157
2.....	\$19,123
3.....	\$24,089
4.....	\$29,055
5.....	\$34,021
6.....	\$38,987
7.....	\$43,953
8.....	\$48,919

application:

- Be responsible for home energy costs, directly or as an undesignated portion of their rent;

- Have a combined household income for the calendar month prior to the month of application not in excess of 130 percent of the federal poverty level as listed in the income eligibility guidelines above;

- Live in Kentucky when the application is made and apply in Crittenden County; and

- Not have liquid resources in excess of \$2,000 or \$3,000 if at least one person in the household is 60

years old or disabled or \$4,000 if resources are being used for living expenses due to catastrophic illness.

Applications will be taken at the PACS office, which also serves as the senior center, at 402 N. Walker St., in Marion. Sign-ups will be accepted from 8 a.m., to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m., weekdays at the office.

For questions or further information about verification and documents you must have to qualify for the program, call 965-4763 or 886-6341.

LIHEAP is a statewide initiative operated by Community Action Kentucky in Partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal government began providing home energy assistance in 1974.

Postal service warns of scam

Marion Postmaster Troy Utley is warning postal customers of a potential scam.

Utley, of Paducah, said some residents are receiving bogus e-mails about a package delivery. The e-mails contain a link that, when opened, installs a virus that can steal personal information.

The e-mails claim to be from the U.S. Postal Service and contain fraudulent information about an attempted intercepted package delivery. You are instructed to click on a link to find out when you can expect your delivery, but postal inspectors warn to not open the link.

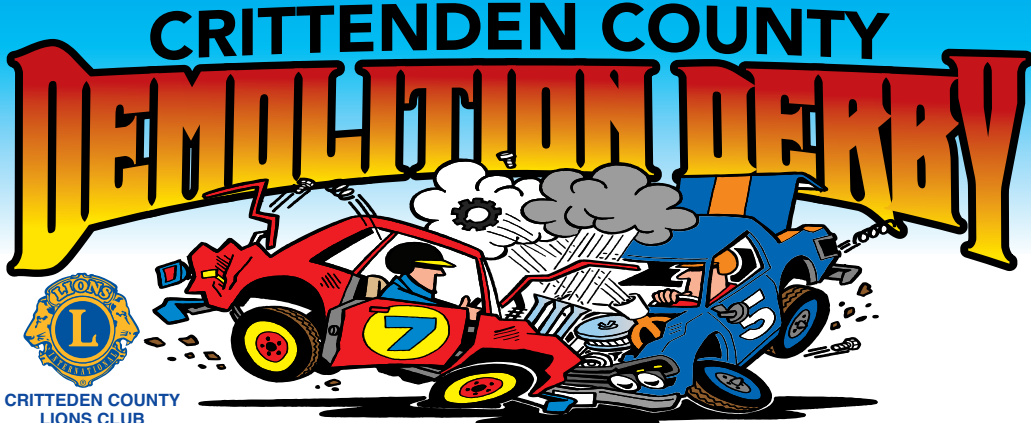
Like most viruses sent by e-mail, clicking on the link will activate a virus that can steal information such as username, password and financial account information.

Utley suggests deleting the message without taking any further action.

PUBLIC MEETING

On October 27th Pennyrile Allied Community Services, Inc. (PACS), will hold a public meeting to discuss and determine the needs of low-income families of Crittenden County. This meeting will be held at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center, 210 North Walker Street, Marion. We, at PACS, need the residents of the community, and/or individuals served by their local PACS Community Office, to attend this meeting. We need to know what they see as the local needs and what their concerns are. This will assist PACS in setting priorities in addressing the needs/concerns of the residents for the upcoming fiscal year 2012-2013.

“This project funded, in part, under a contract with the Cabinet For Health and Family Services with funds from the Community Service Block Grant Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”



OCTOBER 22
7:00 P.M.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Marion, KY

ADMISSION \$7⁰⁰

Gates Open at 3:00 p.m.

Crash-N-Bash Demo Derby Apparel will be selling shirts, hoodies & many other items.

Cheater Video will be filming this derby and taking orders for copies of the show and selling DVDs of other shows from all around the area.

\$35 Entry Fee

\$50 to Top 3 in Each Heat

Big Car Payout:

10 or Less**\$1,000**
11-20**\$1,500**
21 or More**\$2,000**

Trophy to Top 3 & Maddog Award

Compact Car Payout:

10 or Less**\$500**
11-20**\$750**
21 or More**\$1,000**

Trophy to Top 3 & Maddog Award

Trucks Payout:

100% Payback & Trophy to Winner

Lawnmowers: \$20 Entry Fee

10 or Less**\$200**
11-20**\$300**
21 or More**\$400**

Trophy to Top 3 & Maddog Award

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For CCES Students.*

Subtle touches like these can show team spirit without sacrificing style.

Be proactive when caring for trees

Water, mulch help trees withstand harsh winter weather

By CAROLE FELDMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's a rite of fall – green leaves turn red and gold and then fall as trees prepare themselves for winter. It's an excellent time to give your trees a good once over.

Are there dead branches or limbs, or large areas of fungus? Is the tree leaning? Are the roots well-grounded? A local arborist can determine whether there are problems that require immediate action.

Dead branches – or the entire tree – can come down in a storm. Be proactive, arborists say.

"It's a lot cheaper to have the limb cut off than to fix your roof," said Jonathan Hammond, owner of Alpine Tree and Shrub Care in Denver.

And it's not just the dead limbs.

"Pruning your tree can make it better able to withstand the extra weight of ice and snow," the Tree Care Industry Association says on its website Treecaretips.com.

"Branches can be thinned to reduce their surface area and wind resistance."

The U.S. Forest Service has a guide for pruning trees, including dos and don'ts and



Pruning a tree during the fall season can help it withstand extra weight from possible ice and snow.

when trees should be pruned.

But heights and chain saws can be a dangerous combination for amateurs. Sharon Lilly, director of education for

the International Society of Arboriculture, said people should call a certified arborist for pruning large trees. "Homeowners can do the

smaller and lower stuff themselves," she said.

There are other things that can be done to help trees withstand harsh winters.

Give them a "good, long, slow drink," Lilly said. All trees should get that fall watering, but especially young ones planted in the last three years, and evergreens. "You might even do that more than once going into the winter months," she said.

Watering should be done before the ground freezes so the water can reach the roots.

A layer of organic mulch around the tree can help maintain moisture. The mulch also insulates and protects the upper roots, said Tchukki Andersen, staff arborist at the Tree Care Industry Association. And, it will help replenish nutrients in the soil. Think of it as an "early spring snack" for the trees when the area warms up, she said.

Arborists caution against placing mulch right up against the tree trunk. Think of shaping it like a saucer instead of a cone, said Vermont master gardener Ann Sherman: The mulched area should be as wide as possible to cover the underground roots but no deeper than 2 to

4 inches. "The bigger the mulch area, the better the benefit," Lilly said.

Fertilizing trees isn't necessary unless the soil is deficient in certain nutrients. Andersen said that if a tree is unhealthy, adding fertilizer will prompt it to put out new growth at the expense of its defense systems. "Fertilizer is touted as a cure-all or a preventative," she said. "It's basically a substance that brings back a more natural balance of the soil."

For branches that have a weak union, or crotch, cabling is sometimes recommended. Lilly said that should be done by a professional, because there are "a lot of ways to do more harm than good."

A professional also can give you guidance on staking a tree to support it, Andersen said.

In areas where it snows a lot, small, fragile trees can be protected with a support teepee, essentially a tripod of plywood to prevent the snow from accumulating, she said. Also, some smaller trees can be winterized by temporarily tying some of the branches together.

"It's almost an engineering exercise, looking at your trees

and what the potential loads are going to be and how the tree is going to respond," she said.

Hammond said that load can be heaviest during early season snowstorms, when trees still have their leaves. The leaves act like a net to catch the snow. "If we get an early October snow, it can be really devastating to the trees," he said.

Just as snow is a fixture of winter, so is the salt used to melt it on sidewalks and streets. And that can be harmful to trees.

"You will see the result of salt in the spring," Andersen said. "If they leaf out, they will leaf out with brown leaves that will seem burnt."

If you do get salt damage, Lilly said, the best thing is to "water and water it and wash it through the soil."

Arborists advise that people consider salt-tolerant trees for areas likely to be exposed to salt. "A lot of it is planning your yard," Sherman said.

And, there's one more thing: Once the leaves fall, clean up your yard, Sherman said. If the tree was infected with a fungus, the spores can survive the winter and re-infect the tree in the spring, she said.

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Decks keep getting fancier but maintainable

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The deck has gone high tech.

Wood decks are rapidly being replaced by plastic, aluminum and other man-made decking materials, which are prized for their easy maintenance. Builders are making decks into show-pieces, with multiple levels, custom railing and other perks. Even wood is getting an upgrade, with some buyers seeking out rare, tropical hardwoods for their durability.

When Ron Spillers first began building decks in the Seattle area 20 years ago, the average deck was made of cedar and cost less than \$5,000. Now, Spillers' company, West Coast Decks, charges closer to \$20,000. That's partly because 90 percent of his customers choose man-made decking materials, which are 40 percent more expensive.

Spillers, who builds 140 decks a year, said business is booming again after a two-year slump.

"There's a lot of pent-up desire to fix up homes in-

stead of buying new ones," he said. "People aren't afraid to take a risk on a \$20,000 to \$30,000 deck project."

You don't even have to spend that much to have a great deck. A simple cedar deck with no railings or benches can cost around \$15 per square foot, including labor and materials, Spillers said. Man-made materials tack on cost, but you can pay that back over time because you will spend less on sealants and cleaning products. Railings cost around \$35 per foot.

No matter how much you spend, an investment in a new deck will pay dividends. According to Remodeling Magazine's 2010-2011 survey, homeowners who build a deck can get up to 73 percent of their investment back when they sell their home.

Here is a rundown of the various decking materials on the market, their advantages and disadvantages, and how much they cost:

- Wood. Most homeowners still choose wood when they build a deck, for its cost as well as its authentic look,

according to Bill Fields, vice president of lumber sales at Lowe's, the home improvement chain. It's also durable. The undersides of most decks, even plastic ones, are still made of pressure-treated lumber, although steel frames are starting to come into the market.

Pressure-treated pine is the least expensive material, and costs as little as \$10 per square foot including labor (or around \$2 per square foot to buy and build yourself). Cedar and redwood are popular but more expensive options. At the top end are hardwoods like ipe, which is grown in South America and is closer to \$30 per square foot.

There are downsides to wood. It tends to change color, crack and absorb stains. It also requires more maintenance, including cleaning and staining every year or two. And some hardwoods aren't harvested sustainably.

- Composite. Composite decking is made of plastic and wood fiber. Trex was one of the first brands on the

market 15 years ago; TimberTech and Fiburon are other brand names. Composite looks a lot like real wood, but it's less likely to rot or get infested with insects than real wood, and it's less slippery. It's also easier to maintain; it doesn't need staining and it can be washed off occasionally with a deck cleaner.

Because it contains up to 50 percent wood, composite is still more susceptible to stains and mildew than plastic decking, according to Consumer Reports. It will also lose 10 percent to 15 percent of its color over time. It costs around \$18 to \$25 per square foot, including labor, to install composite decking.

Trex's Transcend brand has a limited 25-year fade and stain-resistance warranty.

- Plastic. Plastic, or PVC decking, is newer to the

market and is basically composite without the wood fiber. Azek is one of the major manufacturers. Plastic decking is less likely to stain and fade than composite, and it stays cooler in direct sunlight. It's also more expensive, since it's petroleum-based. Get Decked, a Philadelphia-area deck building company, installs Azek for \$34 per square foot.

When plastic decking first hit the market, it didn't look much like wood, but manufacturers have made a lot of improvements over the last decade, Spillers said.

Azek has a limited lifetime warranty for residential customers, but a 20-year warranty for commercial ones.

Many companies, including Trex, are also now making slightly less expensive "hybrid" decking, with a plastic coating over a composite shell.

- Aluminum. Aluminum

has long been used in deck railings, but is sometimes used for the decks themselves. Aluminum decking is light but tough, slip resistant and lasts a long time. LockDry is one of the major brands on the market. LockDry is built to be waterproof, so it's a good choice for a deck built over a living space. Another manufacturer, Versadeck, promises that its decking won't have the "ping" sound that comes from walking across aluminum. Aluminum decks generally offer limited lifetime warranties.

But the bottom line: Aluminum won't be mistaken for wood. It comes in fewer colors than composite or PVC and doesn't have the warmth of wood. It's also the most expensive option, starting around \$1 to \$2 more per square foot than plastic, according to Consumer Reports.



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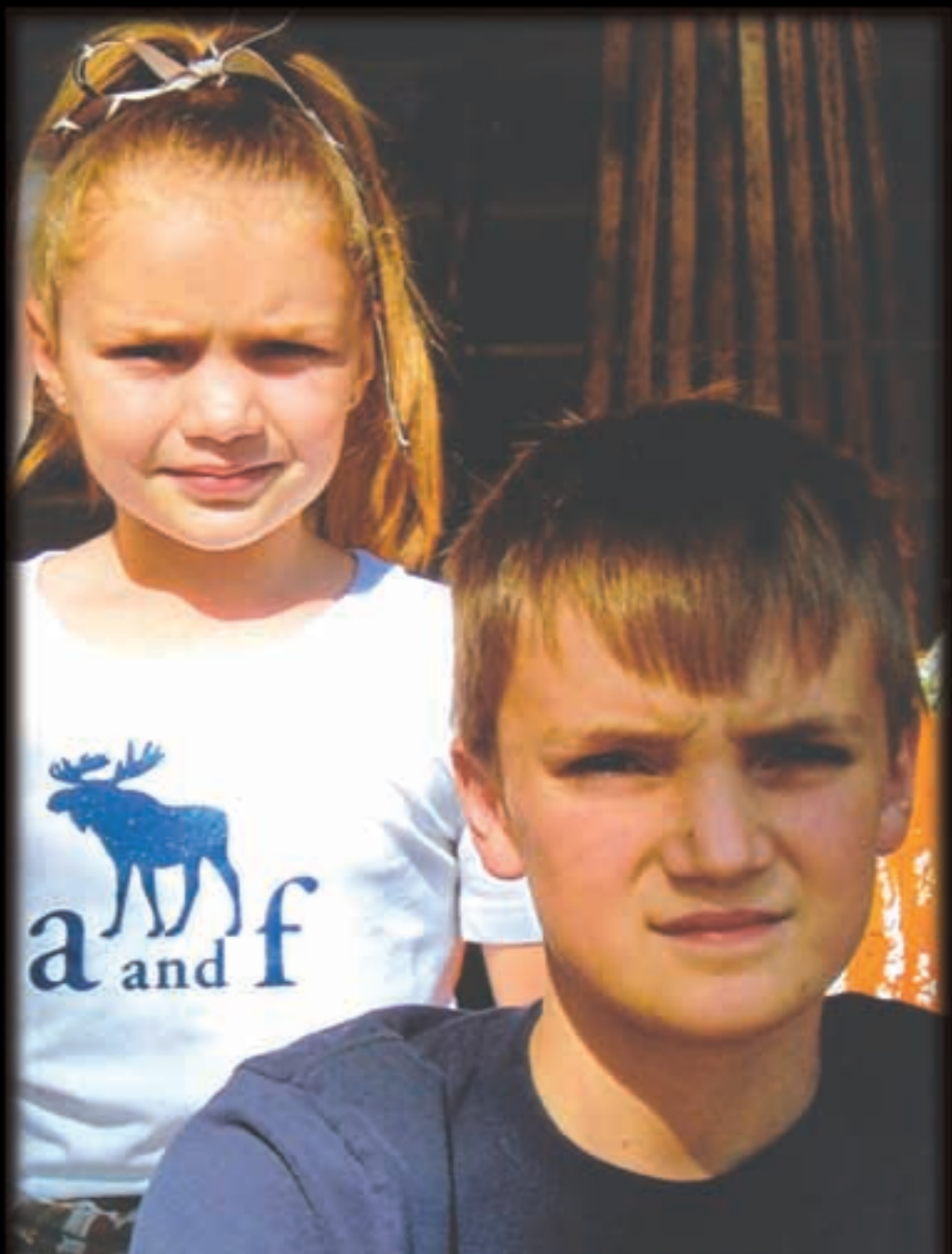


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Carpet: The bolder, the better

BY MELISSA DUTTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

After years of being ripped out and kicked to the curb, carpet is making a comeback. And not just the neutral-toned carpets of recent years, but ones that are boldly colored or patterned.

The softer, cozier feel of wall-to-wall carpet is appealing to homeowners used to treading on tile and wood, said Emily Morrow, director of color, style and design for Shaw Floors, a company in Dalton, Ga., that specializes in carpet, laminate, tile and hard wood flooring.

"They've experienced those

hard surfaces, and they want to surround themselves with the comfort" of carpet, she said.

While hardwood or tile can be great for entryways or other high traffic areas, some rooms – bedrooms, play rooms, studies and family rooms – cry out for carpeting, said Eric Ross, an interior designer in Franklin, Tenn.

"Carpet is really trending up," he said. "You're going to see more and more of it."

Manufacturers have responded by creating carpets with rich colors, patterns and textures designed to be a focal point, rather than just a neu-

tral backdrop. The new choices are available at a variety of price points.

"It has gotten exciting again" after years of playing it safe, Morrow said.

Clients are using carpet to make a statement, agreed Linda Merrill, an interior designer in Duxbury, Mass.

"If carpet is the right choice for a specific space, they feel freer to pick something a little more exciting," she said. "There are a lot of different colors and different options."

More vibrant carpets often create a more customized feel, Merrill said. With the slumping

real estate market, homeowners are indulging their personal tastes and worrying less about how their choices will affect the resale value of their home, she said.

Some of the over-the-top ideas from television shows also have freed people to experiment more with decorating, she said. And the pervasiveness of patterns and bright colors in house wares and home furnishings in recent years has made people more open to color.

"We see so much pattern in so many things," she says. "We're just bombarded with it."

The bold choices signal a shift away from the neutral palette that dominated earlier in the decade, says Annie Elliott, an interior designer in Washington, D.C.

"In the past several years, we've been moving away from subtle muddy tones to brighter colors and bright patterns," Elliott said.

She has found that homeowners sometimes make bold flooring choices because they are less confident decorating their walls. "People don't trust themselves" to buy art, she said. "People are realizing an easier way is using a patterned

carpet to enliven a space without putting pressure on the walls."

Those who are hesitant to choose a patterned carpet often create an impact with a textured one, said Jennifer Bardsley, an interior designer in Hingham, Mass. Those carpets, created by using yarns of different lengths or densities, can spice up a space and add more interest to a room.

Carpets in general make rooms feel warmer, and reduce noise, the designer said.

"It makes it feel comfortable and cozy and inviting," Bardsley said.

Never too early to start preparing home for winter

BY CAROLE FELDMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hot, hazy days of summer are a perfect time to start preparing for winter.

Many must-do projects, such as caulking, cleaning gutters, adding insulation or preparing emergency kits, will make your home more energy-efficient, help prevent weather damage and make things easier should the power go out.

"It is never too early to save energy and save money at home," said Joelle Terry, spokesperson for the Energy Department. "Whether it's choosing energy efficient products, sealing air and duct leaks, or adding insulation, American households could save over 20 percent on their household energy bills by making energy upgrades to their homes."

To start, the department advises people to get an energy audit of their home, or do one themselves "to find out where you are losing energy – and money."

Check with your utility company; some offer free or low-cost energy audits.

An energy audit can help determine if, for example, you have enough insulation, or whether there are leaks around windows or elsewhere that should be sealed.

Many winterizing projects, like caulking, can be done by the homeowner; others, such as checking the heating system, usually require a professional.

Here's a look, alphabetically, at some things experts recommend doing to prepare for winter:

Air Leaks

"Checking for any kind of air leaks is a prime project for this time of year," said Kit Selzer, senior remodeling and projects editor at Better Homes and Gardens.

Caulk can be used to seal leaks around doors or windows, or around pipes or ductwork.

"Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls," the Energy Department advises.

Weather-stripping can be placed at the bottom of a door or in a window sash to help

produce a seal. There are many different types, from felt to vinyl and metal. A professional can advise what is best in each case.

Chimneys

Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.

"You want to make sure there's nothing built up in the chimney or any debris that's worked its way in," Selzer said.

Why?

"Dirty chimneys can be a fire hazard," the Chimney Safety Institute of America says on its website.

Creosote, a residue from wood burning, builds up over time and is combustible.

Make sure the damper is closed, except when using the fireplace.

Also, check to make sure a chimney cap is in place so birds or other wildlife don't make the chimney their home.

Emergency Kits

It's good to have an emergency kit throughout the year, but it can be especially important in the middle of a snowstorm when the power goes out.

"When preparing for emergency situations, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth," the Federal Emergency Management Agency says.

In addition to these basics, the agency also recommends that emergency kits contain a battery-powered radio and flashlight, extra batteries, first aid items, moist towels and a whistle, among other items.

You also might want to have some ice melt on hand to treat icy sidewalks and driveways.

Fans

Ceiling fans circulate air in summer and winter. In winter, you'll want to reverse the fan's direction to eliminate downdraft. In most cases,

you'll want the fan to run clockwise during the winter months.

Gutters

"It's a common thing for clogged gutters to freeze if they don't drain properly," said Pat Sandor, a "How To" expert at Home Depot. "Those can back up and cause damage to the home."

So before winter, clean all debris from gutters and downspouts.

Selzer also advises looking for gaps in the gutter where water can drip through, freeze and cause icy patches.



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Now may be opportunity to refinance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortgage rates have fallen to their lowest levels ever, making this a golden opportunity to refinance.

But many people can't. Homeowners who want to refinance in today's tougher lending environment face hurdles.

Credit scores must be higher than they used to be. Debt loads must be smaller. Employment must be documented.

The biggest obstacle? A lack of home equity. Some people owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. They're considered "underwater." Banks aren't inclined to lend to them.

But for those with stable jobs, extra cash, little debt and some home equity, low rates could allow for sharply reduced mortgage payments.

Barriers to entry

For many homeowners, refinancing is impossible.

The lowest rates are generally reserved for those with credit scores of 720 or more, said Mark Goldman, a Southern California mortgage broker who lectures at San Diego State University. About 40 percent of U.S. homeowners have scores that high.

You'll also typically need at least 10 percent equity in your home. Depending on where your home is, the required equity might be as high as 20 percent.

"It's tough to refinance a loan these days," Goldman said. "Only the select few can qualify."

Roughly 11 million U.S. homeowners – about 23 percent of Americans with a mortgage – are underwater.

Some underwater homeowners with government-backed mortgages might be able to refinance through federal programs, such as the Home Affordable Refinance Program.

But these programs are generally limited to those who have lost no more than 10 percent of their home's equity. In many hard-hit areas, such as Phoenix, Las Vegas and Tampa, Fla., home values have shrunk 60 percent or more.

When to refinance

The rule of thumb has been that it makes sense to refinance if a homeowner can save 1 percentage point on the current rate. Those who haven't refinanced in the past few years and who plan to stay in their home for at least five years are best positioned to

save.

If you've been paying your mortgage for 15 years or more, it's sometimes not wise to refinance. In the latter years of a mortgage, a larger portion of your payment applies to principal. That builds equity. If you refinance late in your loan and don't reduce the loan's duration from, say 30 to 15 years, you'll build less equity.

In some states, you might also face prepayment penalties if you pay off your mortgage early or refinance. In some cases, though, these penalties can be waived.

What you'll need

Homeowners need pay stubs and bank statements to document assets and income. Lenders generally frown on household debt that exceeds 45 percent of a family's gross

income.

A solid credit score of at least 680 is also important, said Mike Anderson, a broker at Essential Mortgage Co. in Baton Rouge, La. That's because lower credit are typically subject to higher extra fees.

"Once you get below 680, it gets dicey," Anderson said. "With all the add-on fees, it may not be worth it."

But the low rates, if they can be had, can produce big savings. A homeowner would have to pay roughly \$1,074 a month for a 30-year, \$200,000 fixed mortgage at 5 percent. If that rate were cut to 4 percent, the payment would drop to \$955. The savings would be \$119 a month, or \$1,428 a year.

What it will cost

Homeowners typically pay a

few thousand in closing costs. An appraisal fee can cost 1 percent of the loan value. Extra costs, sometimes called "garbage fees," include application, inspection, notary and recording fees.

These fees, called points, now average 0.8 point on a 30-year fixed mortgage. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount. That means the 0.8 percent in extra fees on a \$200,000 loan would run \$1,600.

An example of how fees can increase costs: This week's average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage is 3.94 percent. It's the first time it's ever been below 4 percent. But once extra fees are added in, the effective average rate rises to 4.12 percent.

Improve your air quality

STATE POINT

As the weather cools, many homeowners take measures to seal leaky windows and doors in order to conserve energy and guard against environmental pollutants.

But according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), indoor air can be up to five times more polluted than outdoor air, and contains everything from smog and allergens to mold spores and viruses.

"While it might sound simple to get some 'fresh air,' the reality is that it's virtually non-existent in our homes and workplaces," says Chris Gibson, Director of Air Quality Products for Humanscale. "Most of us assume that the indoor air we breathe is clean, but the truth is we're simply not aware of the pollutants in our air and the associated threats to our health."

And in fact, the EPA estimates that most people spend upwards of 80 percent of their time indoors – either at home or at work.

Ofentimes people get headaches or sinus issues

and attribute these symptoms to things such as stress or a change in the weather, when it actually may be the result of what they are breathing in.

Here are several air quality hazards to keep in mind, along with some easy remedies:

■ **Cleaning Supplies:** Harsh chemicals and toxins can be found in most household cleaners. So read the labels before you start scrubbing away. All-natural cleaning supplies or ones meant for home use (not industrial use) are best. Stronger chemicals, such as paints, solvents and industrial-strength cleaning supplies, should be stored in a garage or shed.

■ **Germs:** Between your co-worker sneezing and bacteria lingering on a commonly used item, germs during cold and flu season are just waiting to be caught. Be sure to wash hands frequently and to cough or sneeze into the nook of your elbow to help reduce the spread of these germs.

■ **Allergens:** Regardless of the time of year, dust, pollen

and other allergens are ever present in the air we breathe, often sticking to our clothes and furniture. Air purifiers can help alleviate the symptoms caused by allergies.

Consider using a targeted air purifier that delivers clean air right where you breathe – at the head of your bed, near your computer at work, or by your favorite reading chair. This new approach to air purification

can be far more efficient and effective than traditional room air purifiers, and even less costly.

For more information about improving indoor air quality or to learn about Humanscale's ZON personal air purifier, visit www.humanscale.com.

And remember, the next time you're not feeling the best, it might just be the result of what you've been breathing in.

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Hampers can be a stylish decor item that also doubles as a place to stash dirty laundry at the end of the day.

Hide your dirty laundry stylishly

By KIM COOK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When we were young, "laundry hamper" might have referred to the floor under the bed. A little later, it may have meant a mesh sack kept by the front door, with a pouch full of quarters for the laundromat.

But we are grownups now. An attractive receptacle for the day's castoffs is one of the small civilized gifts we give ourselves. It's generally a modest investment that banishes the chaos, and brings in the calm that is the hallmark of a well-kept home.

For contemporary bath or bedroom suites, consider Bed, Bath & Beyond's sophisticated black faux leather hamper with removable basket, or West Elm's sleek white lacquered cylindrical hamper.

If you've got a luxe bath, you may want to outfit with the Blomus Slice stainless steel hamper, with a sharp black lid; the Vipp receptacle in black or white enamel; or Zack Quadro's Drumpolish, a shiny cylinder that could probably double as an end table.

Hampton Bay has a beautiful tilt-door double hamper

that's really a piece of furniture; it would work as a vanity as well, and comes in white or hazel wood finish.

A nice willow hamper from Seville has a hinged lid, and comes in white or natural.

Seville also makes a professional-looking three-bag rack on a sturdy metal frame, complete with telescoping hanging rack and locking wheels.

Ikea has the Lillangen tall-boy cabinet with portholes for laundry, perfect for a tight narrow space. The Fyllen basket in fire-engine red turns laundry gathering into a colorful exercise.

For the nursery, Southern California designer Nina Selby has a sweet aqua-and-lemon-striped hamper for her Cotton Tale label.

Redmon's Stars and Moon vinyl hamper in white, pink or blue is charming.

Trend Lab's Chibi Zoo hamper has a cute, friendly, zoo-animal print in a trendy blue, green and brown color combo.

Jo Jo Designs has several baby-friendly cotton prints for their nursery hamper, including a graphic circle motif, an animal print, and a brown and pink damask, and a sweet blue-toned argyle.

Proper ventilation reduces chance of mold, mildew

STATE POINT

While most people can tolerate some clutter and dust in their home, a grungy bathroom is another story. Ironically, the room devoted to personal cleanliness is often rife with bacteria, mold and mildew – even if it looks spotless.

Bacteria and mold not only affect the air you breathe, but the structural integrity of your home, say experts. There are several things you can do yourself, as well as efficient home upgrades, to make your bathroom healthier.

■ **Clean your shower.** Not just once a week, but daily. Use a squeegee to wipe down walls, or spray an eco-friendly white vinegar solution after each use. If you use a shower curtain, wash or change it regularly (depending on how "hard" your water is, but usually every one to three months). Cooler, drier air will also reduce mildew in grout between tiles.

■ **Unclog showerheads.** If a showerhead becomes clogged with mineral deposits, fill a plastic bag with undiluted white vinegar and place it over the head and seal tie it off with a rubber band. Soak overnight and then scrub it with a toothbrush.

■ **Circulate clean air.** That musty smell is a sign your bathroom isn't properly ventilated and is ripe with mildew and other airborne mold spores. To control it, try a ventilation fan with a motion and humidity sensor, such as Panasonic's WhisperSense, which turns on when some-

one enters the bathroom and automatically shuts off 20 minutes later. When you shower, a humidity sensor overrides the timer and continues extracting moisture until the humidity is back to a pre-set level. This will help eliminate that musty smell and prevent excess moisture from ruining expensive fixtures and cabinetry.

■ **Keep toothbrushes apart.** Germs can spread from person to person when the heads of toothbrushes touch. Also, make sure you put down the lid whenever you flush the toilet. Bacteria-filled mist can travel several feet, landing on porous surfaces like toothbrush bristles.

■ **Don't let paint blister.** Paint blisters are caused by moisture that helps mold grow. A typical shower adds half a pint of water to the air. Scrape and re-paint blisters. To avoid future growth, replace moist air with dry air by ventilating properly.

"The most important thing you can do to keep mold, bacteria and mildew out of your bathroom, is to properly ventilate it," says Anita So, an executive with the Panasonic Home & Environment Company. "Indoor pollutants are virtually impossible to eliminate completely by just opening a window, creating the need for a second step to improve air quality. A vent fan can remove stale, moist, polluted air and replace it with fresh air."

It's important to make sure bathroom ventilation systems



A cleaner bathroom means a healthier you but also can add value to any home.

are properly installed. Detailed information is available online, on such websites as www.panasonic.com/vent-fans.

By practicing safe bathroom practices, you'll breathe cleaner air and prevent structural problems that can decrease the value of your home.

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Fall landscaping saves time, effort in spring

STATE POINT
Just because the summer garden party season is over, doesn't mean you should neglect your lawn. Autumn is a critical time for lawn care and to get your landscaping ready for winter and spring. Addressing garden and landscaping work now will save you time and effort next spring. After all, who wants to spend the first few glorious days of spring toiling in the yard?

Here are some critical steps you can take in a week-end to make sure your yard is prepped for next year.

Fertilize
Fertilizing is a must to strengthen the lawn's root system and store nutrients needed in the winter months ahead. Pay special attention to areas that may have been worn down by foot traffic and outdoor entertaining. You'll need to replenish the

nutrients that were depleted in the summer months. For an even distribution, spreaders offer a quick and convenient fertilizing solution. Spreaders are available for lawns of every size, in both push-behind designs and tow-behind tractor models.

Prune
Cutting dead or weakened tree branches will keep them from falling and damaging your – or your neighbor's –

property, especially as winter weather sets it. Garden shears are fine for light pruning or trimming hedges, but heavier work such as storm cleanup often requires a chainsaw. When using a chainsaw for yard work, make sure the chain is sharp, as dull chainsaws make work more difficult. Simple add-ons can increase your efficiency. For example, PowerSharp, a chainsaw sharpening system

from Oregon-brand outdoor products, lets chainsaw users sharpen chain on the saw, on the job, in seconds. This helps get yard work done faster and with relative ease, especially when pruning and trimming. To learn more, visit www.power-sharp.com.

Rake and Re-seed
When raking fallen leaves, opt for a lightweight plastic rake, which glides more eas-

ily on grass than metal ones. Also, an open tarp for collecting leaves works better than dragging plastic bags across the yard. You should also clear plant beds of dead foliage, which can smother budding greenery and foster disease. And by reseeding your lawn, you'll help guard against dead patches in the spring. But remember to stay off any re-seeded lawn for at least two weeks.

Think FRESH when selecting colors for the roof

Thinking about a new roof for your home? Then think "FRESH." That's the advice national color expert Kate Smith recommends for homeowners considering a new roof. "The acronym FRESH stands for fixed features, regional colors, environment, style of home and historic colors," says Smith, president of Sensational Color. "Considering these five elements can help you select the perfect roof color."

Fresh approaches include:

- **Fixed Features** – These are the permanent design elements of the home that need to be considered a constant feature of the house, such as the foundation, partial stone or brick facades, pathways and retaining walls. Each feature may be of a different material, but they usually will have a common color or color cast. Once you identify that common color, you can find a roof tile with a similar color or undertone that will work well for the overall home.
- For a home with slate tile walkway in shades of gray, Smith recommends a DaVinci Slate Castle Gray combination of three tones of gray in a slate blend. A predominantly white brick house may look best with a solid slate black Bellaforte roof ... or with a Milano blend of grays with a tinge of purple.

benefit from an Abruzzo color blend of light, medium and dark mountain tones.

- **Environment and Surroundings** – Is your home in a rural setting or a downtown? Are you near the waterfront, a desert or a mountain? Temper the colors to complement your surroundings and the natural colors around you. The goal is to stand out while still fitting in. Consider a Mountain blend of multi-width shake tiles that complement wooded settings or a Chesapeake blend of oceanfront grays for coastal area homes.
- **Style of the Home** – Remember that colors support the home's style and architecture, not the other way around. So, determine your home's style (are you a Ranch? Tudor? Art Deco? Greek Revival?) and then research to determine what colors are most associated with your style of home. For a Craftsman style home, Smith recommends considering a natural looking shake roof in a New Cedar or Weathered Gray color. And, while you can't go wrong with an elegant solid black roof, she recommends softening the appeal of the roof by considering a combination of neutral tones, such as medium tan, dark gray and

light stone to create a warmer roof appearance.

- **Historic Colors** – If you live in a historic district, check for local guidelines and/or restrictions on adding colors to your home.

More traditional colors, such as whites, browns, and shades of blue and green, work well on historical homes. Match them up with a Tahoe blend of shake roofing tiles with five varying

shades of brown and you have a stunning house decor. Smith suggests "playing" online with the free DaVinci Color Design Program to determine the color roof that

works best for your home. There are roofing colors and 28 standard color blends available at www.davinciroofscapes.com to make the roof color decision easy for everyone.

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■ **Regional Colors** – Each region of the country has prevalent colors based on the housing styles, available materials, natural surroundings and the quality of light. Determine the colors in your area (mostly those you see a great deal of on other homes) to stick with regional colors. According to Smith, a southwestern style home in the desert may look best with a slate roof comprised of a Sonora blend of medium and dark terracotta colors gently mixed in with light and dark clay colors. Or, West Coast homeowners seeking the feel of real wooden shakes, but the advantages of fire-resistant polymer shakes, can

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Any home can have fun entertainment spaces

STATE POINT

There's nothing like entertaining friends and family in the comfort of your home. It's not only less expensive, but more enjoyable as you have full control over the food, drinks and guest list.

And fun entertainment spaces can be easily created in any size home, with just a few tweaks, without the need for costly additions or large investments.

"Nowadays you can entertain with professional flair without blowing your home improvement budget," says Todd Hall, President of Glastender, maker of commercial bar and food equipment. "You just need to find the right upgrades."

Game room romp

While rec rooms may be a thing of the past, game rooms are making a comeback. When setting up a game room, include physical activ-



Stylish additions, like wet bars and game rooms, can add stylish flair to any home, fit for entertaining.

ities as well as video games. Billiards, ping pong and darts are all-time favorites with

kids and adults. If you have the space, consider an indoor arcade game.

These days, consoles are available with cabinets that resemble vintage arcade classics, yet feature multiple vintage and modern games. You can also set up "offline" stations with playing cards, board games and other activities for the youngest and oldest family members. It's sure to foster quality time (and friendly competition) with your friends and family.

Wet bar chic

Nothing beats enjoying a nice drink with friends. But instead of opening a six-pack, consider ways to serve guests in style. Home wet bars, such as those made by Glastender, allow you to entertain like a professional bartender. For example, a drop-in cocktail station installs like a kitchen sink and incorporates the same elements as a commercial bar line-up, but in designs intended for the home. And there's no need to con-

fine cocktails to just one area. You can opt for a built-in indoor or outdoor cocktail station that stands alone, like an island or grill. Or you can choose a rolling cocktail cart that lets you take parties outdoors in decent weather. Look for commercial-grade options, such as bottle storage rails, wells for cold beer or soda, ice bins, and drain boards for freshly washed glasses. For more options for creating home cocktail stations, visit www.glastenderhome.com.

Big time flicks

The price of movie tickets is rising, but new flicks are going to DVD often in as little

as three months. Now is a great time to set up or improve your own in-home theater.

Obviously you will need a screen big enough so everyone can see. You may also want to indulge in movie theater seats and a vintage popcorn machine. Or you can go extra comfy with a big fluffy couch, cushions and bean bags.

"Whether you are looking to add a home theater, a wet bar or a cozy seating area choose upgrades that will make guests feel like they're being taken out for a night on the town," says Hall.

Daily maintenance extends hardwood life

Over the years, home interior trends have continued to change. What's popular one year might seem dated the next. Hardwood floors, however, are one popular trend that has managed to maintain its popularity.

Renters and homeowners alike are head over heels for hardwood floors, enjoying their aesthetic appeal and their tendency to never go out of style, particularly when compared to other flooring alternatives. Hardwood floors can also be much easier to maintain. Whereas carpets are susceptible to hard-to-remove stains and dirt that might never go away, hardwood floors can be very easy to clean, maintaining their "good as new" look for years if homeowners take simple steps to keep them clean.

■ Be diligent on a daily basis. Hardwood floors are typically easier to maintain than carpet,

but that doesn't mean homeowners should be lax with regards to hardwood floors. Some daily maintenance can significantly increase the floor's life expectancy. Should any spills occur, clean up after them immediately to avoid warping. In addition, address any scuff marks at night after dinner. When it rains or snows outside, make sure no one wears their shoes around the home inside. Place a mat near the entryway and instruct all family members and guests to remove their shoes before walking on the floor. This will greatly reduce the likelihood of water damage.

■ Sweep or mop on a regular basis. A dry microfiber mop will keep the floor clean and looking good while ensuring there is no water damage. It might not be necessary to mop every day, but homeowners who want to extend their floor's life can use a broom or vacuum to keep

their floor dirt-free.

■ Periodically give the floor a thorough cleaning. It isn't necessary to give the floor a thorough cleaning every night before going to bed. However, every so often thoroughly clean the floor beyond dry mopping or vacuuming. Check with the manufacturer before doing anything, as the type of floor will dictate which is the best approach. Some manufacturers suggest certain polishes or cleaning solutions, while others advise against such options.

If there are no manufacturer instructions or if you're a tenant and the landlord doesn't have the manufacturer's instructions, a damp cloth is almost always a viable way to clean a hardwood floor. Dampen a cloth and scrub the floor but be sure to avoid soaking the cloth. A soaked cloth will likely cause water damage, while a damp cloth will pick up

dirt and debris without harming the floor. Once finished, go over the floor with a dry rag to reduce the risk of water damage.

When purchasing a care kit for wood floors, be careful to read the ingredients first. Some kits contain ingredients that can be very harmful to floors. Renters or homeowners unsure of certain ingredients should consult a wood floor specialist before applying any solutions to their floors. Renters who damage the floor could lose their security deposit if the landlord determines the floors need to be replaced or fixed by a professional.



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Use the right tools for autumn to-do lists

Ask any homeowner and he or she is bound to have a to-do list of little chores around the house that need to get done. These tasks are made much easier with the right tools.

Depending on individual skill level, many homeowners already have basic tools on hand, such as hammers and screwdrivers. Others may have a more extensive collection of tools available for projects, such as saws, sanders and electric drills.

For homeowners who don't have certain tools, there may be no need to purchase new ones for specific projects. Many tools can be rented, such as floor sanders, carpet cleaners, saws and others. Find out if items can be borrowed from friends or family members -- and whether they might want to help with certain tasks.

Before any project is started, homeowners should take inventory of what they

have and what they will need to complete a project. Taking shortcuts can lead to frustration and more money spent fixing mistakes. Make a list and have all of the gear available and ready for use.

Here are some common projects and the tools that will be needed.

Gutter cleaning: Cooler weather means leaves and debris will collect in gutters and downspouts. A sturdy ladder, gloves, garden hose, small shovel, and bucket will be needed to clear out the debris. Be sure the ladder is placed so that it is on level ground.

■ **Cleaning siding:** A rented

power washer can make quick work of cleaning grimy siding and hard-to-reach windows.

■ **Landscape clean-up:** Now may be the time to pull out withered plants and put away lawn furniture. Many homeowners like to prune shrubs and trees before the cold weather sets in. A hedge trimmer can quickly shape shrubbery. An auger can help dig up dead annuals and clean out planting beds. Rent a wood chipper to make mulch out of felled tree branches.

■ **Painting:** When cooler weather arrives, homeowners tend to look inside for projects.

Painting is a popular way to spruce up rooms with little financial investment. Rollers, brushes, paint trays, masking tape, edgers, and drop cloths will be needed for the task.

■ **Flooring:** Perhaps installing a new floor is on the to-do list. Many laminate and vinyl products make it easy for homeowners to do the work themselves. A more extensive project, such as installation of tile or hardwood, can be done by a contractor.

Flooring needs may require a power saw or razor for cutting the flooring -- depending on the material. Other tools include adhesive, spacers, measuring tape, knee pads, eye protection, and clean-up materials.

Lower a home's heating expense

STATE POINT

The average American household spends at least \$2,000 a year on energy bills -- over half of which goes to heating and cooling, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program.

Luckily, there are several ways you can save on your energy bills this season:

■ **Install a programmable thermostat** to help ensure that you do not forget to adjust the temperature in your home throughout the day. Regulating your thermostat can amount to real savings while keeping you warm during the winter months.

■ **When replacing appliances** around your home remember to ask about natural gas models. Natural gas water heaters and other appliances are typically much more efficient than other versions and will help cut energy costs during the winter heating season.

■ **Make sure to have all furnaces, flues and chimneys** in your home or business inspected every year by qualified industry professionals to ensure their efficiency and safety.

■ **Keep the areas around all natural gas appliances** clean and unblocked to allow for proper air flow.

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HOUSE

Continued from page 1B

the first and second floors.

"Before this window was replaced, we called this our waterfall," Keith says, pointing to the beautiful black walnut staircase. "When it rained, water would rush down these steps into the parlor."

The images are difficult to imagine today, as antiques fill every room, which contains evidence of the Matejas' meticulous attention to detail. While a lot of the original hardwood was missing from the home, the Matejas found many unique replacements at antique stores in the region, like the hinges for the back door and hardware for a working transom above an interior door. Stained glass was designed by Keith Mateja and created by the late Will Ed Arlack.

A couple of very unique light switch covers and heating and air registers came from Al Capone's headquarters in Chicago.

"I was up there doing a renovation on 22nd Street and was able to take the registers," Keith said. "I thought, 'someday I'll find a place to use these.'"

Today, the project is about 95 percent complete. Save for new kitchen cabinet doors and minor detail work here and there, the Matejas are nearing an extremely unique journey few would care to trod.



Keith Mateja and Beverly Mateja, with their rescued dog Popeye, stand at the base of their Victorian home's original staircase.

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Understand radon dangers

Radon could cause cancer for individuals living in a household with high concentrations, particularly if radon goes undetected for a while. It's important for every homeowner to learn about radon and how to detect it.

The only way to detect radon is to test for it. Testing is generally inexpensive and can be done with do-it-yourself kits or by a professional service.

A radon level of 4 pCi/L is considered dangerous in the U.S. and should be remedied. Many radon mitigation systems are effective for reducing radon up to 99 percent. Some newer homes are even being built with the goal of reducing the amount of radon that can enter a home.

Simply opening up windows and airing out the home frequently can reduce radon as well. But this is only a temporary fix and a more permanent mitigation method will need to be used.

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