



ELECTION CHANGE IN MATTOON PRECINCT

Voters in the Mattoon area will see a change in their polling place during the fall general election. Due to some digital signal challenges at the longtime polling location at the Mattoon Volunteer Fire Department, the county is moving the voting spot to Repton Baptist Church starting with the Nov. 8 General Election. See page 10 for more election details.

CRITTENDEN RANKS 31ST AMONG COUNTIES WITH OLDEST HOMES

According to U.S. Census data, Crittenden County ranks 31st out of Kentucky's 120 counties when it comes to the median age of homes. The data show the median home in this county was built in 1977. Campbell County ranks No. 1. The median year for homes constructed there is 1968. Livingston's median is 1978 and it ranks 38th among counties with the oldest homes. In Crittenden County, 8.7 of the homes were built in 1939 or earlier while 16.5 percent have been constructed since 2000. Livingston's homes built before 1939 were at 5.2 percent, according to the U.S. Census information, while 14 percent were built since 2000.

COVID AFFECTS LIFE EXPECTANCY RATES

Nationally, life expectancy declined from 78.8 years in 2019 to 77 in 2020, a drop of 1.8 years, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Kentucky's decline was a full two years, from 75.5 to 73.5, according to Kentucky Health News. The Commonwealth's decline in life expectancy tied for 10th largest in the country, with Indiana, Alabama, South Carolina and Michigan. The greatest decline was in New York which saw a three-year drop, followed by the District of Columbia, Louisiana, New Jersey, Arizona, Mississippi, New Mexico, Illinois (2.2 years) and Texas. Kentucky's 2020 life expectancy of 73.5 years ranks 47th in the nation. Below it are Alabama, 73.2; Louisiana, 73.1; West Virginia, 72.8; and Mississippi, 71.9. Among other neighboring states, the 2020 life expectancy is 73.8 in Arkansas and Tennessee, 75 in Indiana, 75.1 in Missouri, 75.3 in Ohio, 76.1 in North Carolina, 76.8 in Illinois and 77.6 in Virginia. Hawaii has the highest life expectancy, 80.7, and had the smallest decline in 2020, only 0.2 years.

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We ♥ Marion Every Gallon Counts

Lake George intake will be explored

STAFF REPORT

City officials continue to point toward a more normal water supply as they begin to adjust planning from a short-term emergency response to a long-term solution.

It has been four months since Marion purposely breeched the levee at one of its two primary raw water sources in order to prevent a catastrophic failure of the dam. Weeks of uneasiness through drought-like conditions during June and July have given way to a more optimistic setting.

"We're still not back to normal, but it's getting closer," said City Administrator Adam Ledford. "Divers will be here this week to look at raising the intake at Lake George."

Lake George, which was drained in late April, is now holding what appears to be nearly a quarter of its original volume. Ledford said that by adding some vertical height to the intake pipe, Marion can draw from Lake George's upper levels, improving the quality of the raw water and making it easier to purify at the nearby plant.

Old City Lake, the town's other raw water source, is about six inches from full after recent rainfall. During August, the water gauge at Marion's treatment plant registered almost 4.5 inches. As of Tuesday, there had been just under one half of an inch measured over the previous week.

Ledford said the availability of raw water and the 144,000 gallons of drinking water the town is getting daily from Crittenden-Livingston Water District is

See **WATER**/page 9



Tricia Boyd loves them all from snakes to pets and wild animals like the town deer she feeds on the front lawn of she and her husband's home less than three blocks from Main Street.

To the Rescue

Critter Care is Boyd's Lifelong Passion

BY KAYLA MAXFIELD
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

When Tricia Boyd was a little girl, her life revolved around rehabilitating any needy critter she and her father could get their hands on. Not much has changed for the wife and mother of two who still gets a rush from providing TLC to animals.

Boyd says her love for creatures can be traced back to around age six when she would sneak into her home needful pets and even wildlife, knowing full well that her newfound "friends" would soon have her in a predicament.

One summer evening after a good rain, she corralled some tiny frogs. Unable to find something designed to keep them in Boyd grabbed the next best thing, a bird cage. Filled with an untold number of amphibians and tucked safely beside her bed, Boyd said she was awakened from a deep slumber the next morning by her mother who was clearly upset. Apparently, sometime in the middle

Rescue Agencies

Crittenden County has two local rescue agencies for domestic animals like cats and dogs. The County Animal Shelter is at 1901 US 60 East and the phone number is 270-969-1054. The Mary Hall Ruddiman Animal Shelter is at 24 Just-A-Mere Road. The number is 270-965-2006. Both accept donations of cash, food and other pet supplies.

of the night one had escaped and her mother had stepped on it in the bathroom floor. When mom turned the light on to see what she had trampled, there were countless other frogs all over the room. Her mother, the late Peggy Rozwalka, immediately knew what was going on. Boyd's father, Rich, helped her mom capture the remaining frogs.

Boyd's father was frequently rescuing animals. At various times in her childhood, Boyd's family had dogs named after local communi-

ties – four in particular, Tolu, Crayne, Midway and Salem. While her mother probably held her breath each time Rich went on a service call for his heating and cooling business, Boyd says it was nothing for her dad to bring a furry friend home. Some of them are still on Boyd's mind, like a litter of opossums whose mother had been killed on the highway. The babies were okay, clinging to the dead mother's back. Rozwalka taught his daughter how to care for little ones in this instance and Boyd says she remembers teaching the opossums how to forage for their food. Soon the four were released into the yard, educated and old enough to fend for themselves.

Nowadays, Boyd is a go-to for all her friends when they find animals in crisis. Her husband jokes, "Don't call Tricia!" because they already have plenty of paws to go around. In all honesty, her husband Brian is quite

Painted Parking

School leaders grant seniors artistic privilege

STAFF REPORT

A little color and a great deal of creativity is coming to the Crittenden County High School parking lot.

Action last week by the Crittenden County Board of Education paves the way for seniors to paint pre-approved artwork in their parking spaces.

Crittenden County School Board

Seniors, who are assigned specific parking spots in the campus lot, had asked school administrators to allow them to paint and personalize the spots. Other nearby schools had already been allowing seniors to do so, some for many years. Nearby, Livingston, Caldwell and Webster county schools allow it.

Students will have to provide their own paint or materials, but no fee will be required. Some area schools charge for the privilege, mostly to benefit art departments or other school programs.

At the end of the school year, 12th-graders will be required to paint over their artwork with heavy black paint, to give the next class a clean palette.

CCHS Principal Dr. Melissa Quertermous will provide time for students to be on campus and paint under adult supervision.

School Board Chairman Chris Cook said it increases school pride and gives students something to look forward to as their final year begins.

In other action last week, the board of education reported 240 students received shoes through the Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet program last week.

•Enrollment in the district is 1,340 as the school year begins.

•The board of education approved the early enrollment for four kindergarten students. Since 2012, the Kentucky Legislature has allowed early enrollment for students whose birthdays are before the Aug. 1 cutoff. Students must be evaluated to ensure they meet multiple measures of a child's readiness for school.

•The 2023 Horizon Club trip to France and Spain in March was approved by the

See **RESCUE**/page 8

See **SCHOOL**/page 10

Deaths

Klutey

Virginia Louise Klutey, 96, of Marion, died Friday, Aug. 26, 2022 at her daughter's home surrounded by friends and family.

She was a member of the Order Of Eastern Star Number 135 since 1965. She was of the Presbyterian faith and wife of a Mason, Shriner and Purple Heart Veteran.

Surviving are a daughter, Arna (Terry) Belt of Marion; a grandson, Duston Hill; three great-grandchildren, Braydon and Haylie Hill and Aidan Tudor; three sisters, Donna (Doug) Winders and Brenda (Earl) Clark, both of Marion, and Fannie Rustin of Fredonia; and a brother, Jerry (Bud) Travis of Marion.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Klutey; her parents, Corbitt and Barbara Travis; two sisters, Shirley Brown and Linda Kirk; and four brothers, Ted Travis, Pap Travis,

Harold Travis and Wendell (Cobb) Travis.

Services were Tuesday, Aug. 30 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Maplevue Cemetery.

Owen

Coy Owen Jr., 89, of Salem, died Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

He enjoyed working on cars, fishing, NASCAR, storytelling, gospel and country music. He built homes and was a United States Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of Pinckneyville Baptist Church. He was a farmer and loved his family dearly.

Surviving are his wife of 20 years, Dorothy Kitchens Butler Owen; two sons, David A. Owen and Coy H. (Sandy) Owen, both of Burna; a daughter; Candace L.

(Mark) Champion of Burna; a step daughter, Jo Ellen Stinnett of Edyville; four grandchildren, Derek (Chasta) Champion of Salem, Andrew Champion of Paducah, Abby Owen of Burna, Rachel Owen (Chip) Birman of Burna; a step grandchild, Robby (Leigh Ann) Maxwell of Princeton; and nine great-grandchildren Jett Champion, Knox Champion, Emma Owen, Brick Owen, C J Birman, Katelyn Birman, Abigail Birman, Drew Birman and Camery Maxwell.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, June Jennings Owen; his parents Coy Owen Sr., and Fada Cook "Smith" Owen; three brothers, Jimmy D. Owen, Harold W. Owen and Thomas B. Owen; a sister, Jeanetta Owen Hardin; and a step son, John "Butch" Butler.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 1 at Old Salem Cemetery with Bro. Ed Clement officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pinckneyville Baptist Church.

Homemakers elect officers, Ford honored

Hometown Proud was the theme of the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Crittenden County Extension Homemaker Association held Aug. 16 at the Lions Club building.

Following refreshments, Sarah Ford, County Homemaker President welcomed members and guests. Retired Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agent Janene Tramble assisted with the presentation of awards.

Debbie Padgett presented the Inspirational "Put on a Smiley Face." Darl Henley led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michelle Crider was the guest speaker sharing about her life and the love of music. She entertained with several songs.

Donna Settle, Pennyryle Area Homemaker President, installed new officers including Darl Henley, county president, and Debbie Padgett, secretary. A framed print was presented to outgoing County President Sarah Ford, who



Donna Settle, Pennyryle Area Homemaker President, attended the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Crittenden County Homemakers and installed new County Homemaker Association officers (from left) Darl Henley, Debbie Padgett, and County Chairmen Brandi Potter, 4-H; and Nancy Lanham, Cultural Arts. Also, pictured is Sarah Ford, Outgoing County President.

was recognized for 50 years of membership. Marge Tinsley was cited for 25 years.

The following first-place club awards were announced:

- Outstanding Club-After Hours
- Club Community Service- After Hours
- County Community Service- Challengers
- Health & Fitness- Challengers
- Go Green/Recycling- Challengers
- Extension & 4-H Support- Challengers
- Perfect Attendance awards were presented to Padgett, Laurie Holcomb, Tabby Tinsley, Henley, Ford, Janice Clark and Sandy Wells.
- Book List awards were presented to Ford, Jerrell James, Henley, Nancy Hunt, Tinsley, Padgett and Nancy Lapp.

First place in the Volunteer Service Unit categories: Top Club, Challengers, 1072 hours.

Individual Awards:

Overall, Sarah Ford, 546 hours; Extension- Sarah Ford; KEHA- Darl Henley; Community, Sarah Ford; Personal, Janet Stevens

REACH Awards:

- Reading, Debbie Padgett; Explore, Darl Henley; Action, Tabby Tinsley; Community, Glenda Chandler; and Homemakers, Nancy Lapp.

Members who participated in the Area and State Cultural Arts contests were recognized, and \$77.50 was raised from a silent auction for the Crittenden County Nancy Hunt Extension Homemaker Scholarship. Alyssa Boseman received the 2022 scholarship.

For more information on Extension Homemakers, call (270) 965-5236.

Tailgate Party in multipurpose room

Lady Rocket Basketball will host its annual Tailgate Party pork chop sale beginning at 5 p.m., Friday in the multipurpose room on the Crittenden

County High School campus.

Tickets can be purchased from any Lady Rocket or at the door.

Pork chop meals, including drink, chips and

dessert are \$7. Pork chops only are \$5.

Hot dogs also will be available.



Swim awards

Marion Stingrays swim team 2022 award winners are (front from left) MVB Grier Crider, Coach's Pick Aliza Maraman, MVP Jordy Byford, MVP Rhodes Crider, Most Improved Russell Vince, (back) Beth Eichelberger, MVP Bode Merrill, Best Finish Eli Eichelberger, Spirit Award Brendan Eichelberger, and MVP Dougie Smith. Not pictured are Outstanding Contributor Charlie Ledford, Most Courageous Birdie Brown, Coach's Pick Mitchell Brown and MVP Noah Byford.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocket Sports

THURSDAY
Soccer at McLean County

FRIDAY
Football hosts Madisonville
Golf at Calvert City vs CFA

SATURDAY
Cross Country at Calloway County

TUESDAY
Golf at Pennyryle vs Dawson Springs
Volleyball hosts Trigg County
Soccer hosts Caldwell County

VOLLEYBALL

Champion on watch list

Jaylee Champion, a junior volleyball player at Crittenden County High School, was listed among others across the state on the Kentucky Volleyball Coach's Association Watch List. Champion is a libero, defensive specialist. Making the Watch List is integral for players being elected to the all-state team.

OUTDOORS

Dove hunting options

There are two public dove hunting fields in Crittenden, both in the northern part of the county. Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area will again have an area set aside for hunting and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has what's called a cooperatoor field on Fishtrap Road northeast of Mattoon off KY 654. In Union County, Higginson-Henry also has some dove hunting opportunities. See the Kentucky Hunting Guide or go to fw.ky.gov for more information.

Hunting Seasons

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

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bullfrog | May 21 - Oct. 31 |
| Fall Squirrel | Aug. 20 - Nov. 11 |
| Dove | Sept. 1 - Oct. 26 |
| Crow | Sept. 1 - Nov. 7 |
| Deer Archery | Sept. 3 - Jan. 16 |
| Turkey Archery | Sept. 3 - Jan. 16 |
| Canada Goose | Sept. 16 - Sept. 30 |
| Deer Crossbow | Sept. 17 - Jan. 16 |
| Wood ducks | Sept. 17 - 21 |
| Teal | Sept. 17 - 25 |
| Turkey Crossbow | Oct. 1-16 |
| Deer Youth | Oct. 8-9 |
| Deer Muzzleloader | Oct. 15-16 |

OFFICIATING

Basketball refs needed

The Basketball Second Region is looking for referees. Officials are paid for each game. If interested, contact Dwaine Crick at 270-399-0703 or via email at dwainecrick@hotmail.com.

GOLF

Winders scores albatross

Braxton Winders of Marion had a rare hole-in-one last weekend on the par-4 fourth hole at The Heritage Golf Course.

Winders hit a driver off the tee box. The hole was playing about 320 yards. Scoring three shots below a hole's par is called an albatross, or sometimes a double eagle. Depending on the data source, the odds of making an albatross are between 6 million to 1 and 1 million to 1. Comparatively, the odds of the average golfer making a hole-in-one on a par-3 hole are 12,500 to 1, according to the National Hole-in-One Registry. It was the first hole-in-one of Winder's golf career.



Shoulders win tournament

Stefanie and Jeremy Shoulders shot 14-under-par last weekend to win the 36-hole Tweeds & Beads Couples Tournament at the The Club at Old Stone in Bowling Green. The Marion golfers shot a 66-64-130 to win by two strokes in a field featuring 67 couples.



Little joy prevails with win at Webster

STAFF REPORT

Two games into the season and coach Gaige Courtney still isn't sure what's under the hood of his football team.

His Rockets beat Webster County 14-7 at Dixon Friday, but there was a sideline full of long faces when the final whistle blew.

"I didn't feel like we were ready to play. No disrespect to Webster County whatsoever. They've gotten a lot better and played hard. Hats off to them," coach Courtney said. "I guess we thought we'd just show up and that would be the game. Hopefully we will learn a lesson from it."

"We can't let this happen again. We can't do what we did tonight or it will be a long year," he added.

Crittenden's offense looked remarkable at times in a season-opening loss at Murray a week earlier, and its defense showed promise in the final pre-season scrimmage when it blanked Calloway County. Yet, despite getting its first victory on the road, Courtney was left kicking the tires, unsure of what to make of Friday's performance.

Senior lineman Zach Counts was equally displeased.

"We didn't come out focused in the first quarter. That's all it is," he said after the game. "We should have been up by a lot, that (score) is not us. That's not Rocket football."

Historically, the Rockets have had little trouble with the Trojans, particularly over the past couple of decades as CCHS has rolled up Webster more than not en route to winning 15 of the last 17 games since 2022 – losing only in 2002 and 2006. Save the two losses, almost every Rocket win had been a blowout.

The Trojans drew first blood after CCHS failed to convert on a fourth-down near midfield on the opening series and surrendered the ball at the visitor's 44. The Rockets trailed by a touchdown after the first quarter.

Two touchdown passes from Crittenden quarterback Micah Newcom to Preston Morgeson in the second period capped the scoring as the second half was played to a stalemate despite Newcom throwing for 226 yards and CCHS piling up 401 yards of offense.

Crittenden started its final drive with just over eight minutes to play, leading



PHOTO BY NATALIE BOONE

Seth Guess (underneath) and Zach Counts made sure this rare (and illegal) catch by a lineman went nowhere during last week's seven-point win at Dixon.

by seven. Good clock management down the stretch was augmented by yellow flags. The Rockets were whistled for seven penalties on that final series, which inadvertently worked against Webster County when the Trojans desperately needed the ball back. The extra time that ran off the clock marching off yard after yard in Rocket penalties prevented the hosts from having anything to work with after recovering a Rocket fumble at the three-yard line with a scarce 15 seconds to go.

Rocket senior lineman Deacon Holliman injured a knee in the game and will likely be out several weeks.

Courtney said his team will have to get better before hosting Madisonville this week.

| | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|
| SCORE BY QUARTERS | | | | |
| Crittenden Co. | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Webster Co. | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SCORING PLAYS | | | | |
| W-Aden Young 7 run (Timothy Catlin kick) 4:24, 1st | | | | |
| C-Preston Morgeson 8 pass from Micah Newcom (Morgeson kick) 1:54, 2nd | | | | |
| C-Morgeson 7 pass from Newcom (Morgeson kick) :06, 2nd | | | | |
| TEAM TOTALS | | | | |
| First Downs: CCHS 15, WCHS 10 | | | | |
| Penalties: CCHS 11-107, WCHS 4-21 | | | | |

Rushing: CCHS 36-175, WCHS 38-74
Passing: CCHS 13-19-0, 226; WCHS 3-4-0, 22
Total Yards: CCHS 401, WCHS 96
Fumbles/Lost: 3-2, WCHS 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing
CCHS: Gattin Travis 7-31, Kaleb Nesbitt 2-(-4), Sammy Impastato 7-52, Levi Piper 7-23, Morgeson 1-13, Newcom 12-60. WCHS: Trent Lieske 5-1, Derek Adams 4-3, Jackson Edens 18-59, Catlin 7-2, Aden Young 5-9.

Passing
CCHS: Newcom 13-19-0, 226 yds. WCHS: Young 2-3-0, 13 yds., Gavin Walker 1-1-0, 9 yds.

Receiving
CCHS: Morgeson 6-81, Briley Berry 1-11, Nesbitt 3-76, Tyler Belt 1-5, Impastato 1-47, Caden Howard 1-6.

Defense
Impastato 4 solos, 2 assists, 3 TFLs; Holliman 2 solos, TFL; C.Gobin 3 solos, assist, TFL; Perkins solo; Nesbitt 4 solos, 2 assists, TFL; Berry 5 solos, 3 assists, 2 TFLs; Morgeson solo; Guess 6 solos, 2 assists, 3 TFLs; Counts solo, assist, TFL; Keller 2 solos; Piper 4 solos, 2 assists; G.Travis solo, 3 assist; Cates solo; Blazina solo, TFL; T.Belt assist; James solo; K.Gobin 2 solos, sack; Lynn 3 solos, assist.

Players of the Game: Offense none. Defense Kaleb Nesbitt, Lineman Travis Blazina, Special Teams Preston Morgeson.

Records: CCHS 1-1, WCHS 0-2

Vball girls out in All A title; can grab 5th driver's seat

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's volleyball team will be looking for a clean sweep of the first round of regular-season Fifth District play on Tuesday when the girls host Trigg County. A win will put CCHS in the driver's seat en route to a top seed for post-season play.

Crittenden opened its district schedule last week with a 3-0 win over Livingston Central, which had already knocked off Trigg County this year.

In the win over Livingston, Katie Perryman had seven kills and Brooke Winstead and Carly Porter six apiece.

Riley Smith had 21 of the team's 24 assists and led the squad with eight service aces.

The Lady Rockets beat Heritage Christian on Saturday at home to advance to the All A Classic championship game against UHA, which was also was played at Rocket Arena. University Heights won the title match 2-1.

Crittenden lost Thursday at home 3-0 to Henderson County and their record was at 5-7 before traveling to Webster County Tuesday. Results of that match were unavailable at press time.



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN

Crittenden Katie Perryman splits two defenders with this shot on Saturday during the All A Classic.

CCHS soccer girls fall in All A championship

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's second straight bid for an All A Classic regional championship was dashed Saturday in a 7-0 loss to Caldwell County, a team that has defeated the Lady Rockets 29 straight times.

The CCHS girls beat Union County last Thursday 7-1 with two goals from Taylor Guess and one each from Lizzie Campbell, Koltar Green, Ella Geary and Lyli Wesmolan. Guess, Geary, Emilee Russelburg, Raven Hayes and Brynn Porter

each had assists. Keeper Hannah Long had three saves.

On Tuesday, the Lady Rockets played Trigg County for their first taste of Fifth District action. The girls lost 4-2 after leading 1-0 at the half. Trigg turned on late.

Guess scored both CCHS goals, one on a penalty kick. Long had 11 saves.

The Lady Rockets are now 3-3-1 overall this season and 0-1 in district play. They play Lyon twice and Trigg once more over the next two weeks in district action.



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN

Crittenden freshman Mollie Blazina collides with a Caldwell County player at the mouth of goal in Saturday's All A match.

Rockets 2nd in big match

Crittenden County golfers finished second in a stacked field on Saturday at the Trigg County Invitational at Boots Randolph.

Rocket junior Jeremiah Foster finished eighth by shooting a 77. Parker Kayse shot 79, Avery Belt 81, Grayson Davidson 84 and Jaxon Hatfield 101 as CCHS finished with a 321 team score behind winner Trigg County at 310.

Josh Thompson of Henderson County shot a 69 to win the 18-hole tournament. Trigg's Hunter Reynolds and Ty Butts had 72s.

There were 21 teams in the event including schools like St. Mary, Madisonville and Daviess, Christian and McCracken counties.



Rocket golfer Avery Belt lines up a putt during a match last week at Marion's Heritage Golf Course.

MARION ARTIST’S
WORK DISPLAYED AT
PADUCAH CAMPUS

The artwork of Marion resident Lexie Millikan is being exhibited this month at the Clemens Fine Art Center on the campus of West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Millikan’s art form is textiles, including quilting materials, and the exhibit is photographs of her work. She is a member of the Community Arts Foundation in Marion and is executive director of the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah.



Millikan

CONCERN FOR HAY
STOCK THIS WINTER

Primary activities for area farmers this week include cutting hay and preparing for the upcoming harvest. Ninety-five percent of Kentucky’s corn crop is in the milk stage while 81 percent of the crop is doughing. Sixty-nine percent of corn is denting at this juncture with 22 percent of the crop mature. The corn harvest has begun with some cutting silage. The harvest will pick up pace in the coming weeks. Corn condition remains fairly steady following drought earlier in the season. Ninety-five percent of soybeans are blooming with 84 percent of the crop setting pods. Twenty-five percent of the beans in the state are coloring. Four percent of beans are now dropping leaves. Soybean condition continues to be mostly fair overall. Pastures remain mostly good, however overall condition has deteriorated slightly as the ground is drying out once again. The condition of harvested hay is mostly good, but there are many reports of low yields.

Recent USDA-NASS crop reports indicate that hay could be in short supply this winter, including in Kentucky. Low hay stocks reflect a carryover from widespread drought conditions during 2021 and reduced 2022 hay production is the result of drought and/or high input costs, including fertilizer and fuel. The effects are showing cumulative negative results in hay stores for parts of the South and Midwest. In Missouri and Kentucky, where drought has not been a great factor, reduced 2022 hay production is likely the result of high fertilizer prices and reduced input use.

Eight of the top ten



hay states are also top ten beef cow states including Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana and Kentucky. These eight states had 15.7 million beef cows on Jan. 1. Meanwhile feeder cattle are trading higher. Last week’s sale at Ledbetter saw feeders going \$3 to \$6 higher while slaughter cows and bulls were trading about \$2 lower.

WATERFOWL HUNTING
GETS ITS OWN SPOT
AT DISCOVERY PARK

Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tenn., has announced the development of an exhibit dedicated to telling the story of waterfowl hunting, conservation and the ecosystem of the Mississippi Flyway. “Duck, Duck, Goose: Waterfowl of the Mississippi Flyway” will open at the museum and heritage park in 2023. Ducks Unlimited, the world’s leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, is the premier sponsor of the exhibit. Other partners in the exhibit include Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Five Oaks Lodge, Final Flight Outfitters, Inc., First Choice Farm and Lawn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation. Additional partners will be announced soon. “This new, permanent exhibit will use a combination of stories, three-dimensional objects, interactive elements and hands-on experiences,” said Scott Williams, Discovery Park’s president and CEO. “While some of our guests who encounter this exhibit will be well acquainted with waterfowl hunting and conservation, many others will be exposed to those topics for the first time.”

LIBRARY TO GET
STUDENT GRANT

Crittenden County Public Library is one of 26 in Kentucky to receive the first round of funding from a grant to help school students improve access to online resources for homework and other research. Kentucky public libraries have received more than \$1.2 million in commitments from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), a federal program to help

schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) fund was authorized by Congress through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to help address the homework gap for those who currently lack necessary Internet access or the devices they need to connect to classrooms or educational resources. For eligible schools and libraries, ECF will cover reasonable costs of laptop and tablet computers; Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students, school staff and library patrons.

FREDONIA’S FAUGHN
STILL GIVING BLOOD

Fredonia’s Dale Faughn has again been recognized by Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville for donating blood, and he’s 97 years old. Faughn was in 2017, officially named to the Guinness World Records for being the oldest active, regular blood donor, giving every eight weeks. Now, years later, he’s still giving of himself. The Madisonville hospital says Faughn has donated 36 gallons of blood through their blood bank. He has been giving blood there since 1975. A former teacher, Faughn is a retired U.S. Marine and a poet.



Faughn

COLLEGE LOAN
FORGIVENESS
IN KENTUCKY

Government forgiveness of student loans, announced last week by President Joe Biden, should benefit thousands of Kentuckians, but the gesture will not cancel all student debt, according to data. According to the Federal Reserve, the average debt for students with college loans is just over \$32,000. The federal student loan program announced by the president would forgive up to \$10,000, or \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients. The student’s income would also be a factor. Anyone that makes less than \$125,000 annually, or \$250,000 for joint-filers, would qualify. The Courier-Journal reported last week that

616,000 Kentuckians hold federal student debt, or about 18 percent of the state’s population older than 18. That debt totals \$20.5 billion in principal and interest, or about \$33,300 per individual. A study by the online lending agent LendingTree found that \$10,000 in loan forgiveness would eliminate student debt for 120,678 Kentucky borrowers, or 33.3%. The state would rank 19th in the nation for the portion of borrowers entirely forgiven, according to LendingTree. “Many people don’t realize that Kentuckians with student debt aren’t just young people,” Ashley Spalding, research director for the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, told the Lexington Herald-Leader last week. “One-third are ages 35-49 and 15 percent are age 50 and over.” Conservative lawmakers have criticized the plan. Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, was among those crying foul. McConnell called the idea “student loan socialism.”

GROUP WILL SEEK
MINIMUM-STAFFED
NURSING HOMES

The agency that handles Medicare and Medicaid says it will propose a rule next spring for minimum levels of staffing in nursing homes, according to Kentucky Health News. Efforts to require minimum levels of nursing-home staffing, which have failed in Kentucky and some other states, are now focused on the federal level, where the Biden administration is working on it. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services says it will issue a draft rule in spring 2023 after studying the issue and gathering opinions of stakeholders. CMS says it has received more than 3,000 comments from “advocacy groups; long-term care ombudsmen; providers; labor unions and organizations; nursing home staff and administrators; industry experts and researchers; family members; and caretakers of nursing-home residents,” reports Bridget Early of Inside Health Policy. “A vast majority of the comments CMS received from families, beneficiary advocates and caretakers of nurs-

ing home residents highlighted deep concerns about unsafe care stemming from a lack of staff,” Early reports. CMS said, “Multiple comments stated that residents will go entire shifts without receiving toileting assistance, leading to falls or increased presence of pressure ulcers.” The nursing-home industry has not rebounded from the pandemic and recruiting is a challenge.

METHODISTS ON
DEADLINE OVER
CHURCH SCHISM

Methodist Churches across Kentucky have been notified that they need to decide soon whether they plan to remain with the United Methodist congregation, split off as an independent or join the new Global Methodist Church. A theological schism over human sexuality is creating much debate among the nation’s third largest religious body with 6.2 million members. So far, several churches have left the congregation and more are expected to exit. In 2020, Methodist bishops and clergy announced a “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation” that allows an orderly exit if churches so desire. There have been and remain questions with regard to portability of church-owned property, health insurance for employees and pension for pastors as individual churches de-

cide to leave the congregation. In Kentucky, churches seeking a ratification vote on disaffiliation at the special called Annual Conference in December must hold a local church conference vote by Sept. 30. The terms of disaffiliation must be fulfilled by Nov. 11. Churches can opt to delay their decision until March 1 of next year. Churches that take no action by then will remain with the United Methodist denomination.

HOSPITAL SURVEY

Livingston Hospital & Healthcare Services is in the process of conducting a community health needs assessment. To take the survey, respondents should use a smartphone to scan the QR code on advertisements appearing in this week’s Crittenden Press, next week’s Early Bird or in a post at The Press Online. A short survey offered in conjunction with the University of Kentucky leads respondents through a series of personal and community health questions. The survey asks about healthcare habits, such as whether respondents receive routine care and where, personal healthcare concerns, eating habits and general healthcare needs of the community. It also seeks to know the types of hospital services received by members of the respondent’s household in the past 12 months. Survey responses are anonymous.

NOTICE

We will be
CLOSED
Monday,
Sept. 5

In
Observance
of Labor
Day

Farmers Bank & Trust
www.farmers247.com

**Fredonia
Valley Bank**
www.fredoniavalleybank.com

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-14 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TAX
LEVY FOR THE YEAR OF 2022

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its
special called meeting held on August 25, 2022, at 12:00 o'clock p.m., gave second
reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances,
which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular called meeting of the City
Council held on August 15, 2022, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as
follows:

**This Ordinance levies an ad valorem tax on each One Hundred Dollar of
Fair Cash value of the below listed property in the City of Marion,
Kentucky:**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| \$.2240 per One Hundred Dollar | Real Property |
| \$.2781 per One Hundred Dollar | Personal Property |
| \$.2240 per One Hundred Dollar | Public Utilities |
| \$.229 per One Hundred Dollar | Motor Vehicles |
| \$.229 per One Hundred Dollar | Motor Boats |

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk in the City
Building, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CITY ATTORNEY
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS -AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
August 25, 2022

The
Crittenden Press
USPS 138-260

125 E. Bellville St. | P.O. Box 191 | Marion, KY 42064
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HOMES

3 Bed 2 Bath - 650 Lewistown Ch Rd. - Princeton\$109,900
3 Bed 1 Bath - 6437 SR 135\$59,500SS
3 Bed 1 Bath - 2722 Mott City Rd.....**SOLD**\$89,900NW
4 Bed 2 Bath - 1071 Claylick Rd**SOLD**\$164,900RP
2 Bed 1 Bath - 116 N Yandell St**SOLD**\$44,900BF
Mobile Home - 237 Cruce Rd\$28,900ML
3 Bed 2 bath Split-Level - 417 College St. **GOING**\$159,900WW
3 Bed 1bath - 212 Leland Ave**SOLD**\$70,000MP
2 Bed 1 Bath - 115 W Graham St., Fredonia**SOLD**\$24,900DW
3 Bed 1 (full) 2(half) Bath on 35+- Acres, 1985 Weldon Rd **SOLD** \$19,900BW
3 Bed 2 Bath - 2070 Vine St., Carrsville.....**SOLD**\$149,000MD

ACREAGE

6.38 +- AC - Weldon Rd.....\$53,900BW
46 +- AC with Small Cabin - Good Springs Rd\$129,900
650+- AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY **SOLD**\$1,300,000
Cave-In-Rock Island - 160+- AC**ACTIVE**\$359,900 AE

COMMERCIAL

Store Front - 110 S Main St.....\$99,900
Engine Repair Shop - 213 W Gum St.....\$98,500GG
Store Front - 1999 SR 70\$24,900PT
The Front Porch.....\$365,000

10x30 STORAGE UNIT • \$100

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PRINCIPAL BROKER Darrin Tabor, (270) 704-0041
www.homesteadauctionrealty.com

Religion

The Crittenden Press

Sharp lines or ragged edges

There are two things that lead us to questionable decisions in life. The first is doing what we want and finding a way to justify it. One of the most egregious might be, “God wants me to be happy, therefore it is o.k. for me to...because it makes me happy.” The second is doing something difficult or unpleasant because circumstances have overwhelmed our usual well-functioning rules.

In the first instance we move beyond clear lines of right and wrong despite what we know to be best. In the second we move beyond clear lines of right and wrong because of what we know to be best. Heart and motivation are the keys to the difference. We often choose the first situations while the second situation chooses us.

Life has a way of pushing us past our limits. Past our limits of what we thought we could tolerate. Past our limits of clarity. Past our limits of knowing what to do. Past the limits of our thinking about God, the world, good and evil. These are the times that give us a chance to grow in compassion and empathy or leave us confused and embittered. Having experienced both, it is worth thinking about the difference.

Those times that have left me worse off I might describe as having sharp

lines. We might call this “black and white” thinking. Right is right and wrong is wrong. We all have this in us, and we all need it. But to fall back on it every time or in the wrong circumstance will prevent us from fully engaging whatever is in front of us.

Sharp lines are easier from a moral or decision-making perspective, but the risk is unnecessarily broken relationships and avoiding real solutions. There is no reason to develop an argument or defense and no nuance is needed even in exceptional circumstances. It is easy to decide who is on the right side or wrong side of the line. All that is needed are clearly executed rules. Staying in those lines keeps us protected (we think) and certain of our righteousness.

Those times that have left me better off I might describe as ragged edges. We might call this informed thinking. Right and wrong still rule the day but compassion and the heart play a greater role. We all have this in us as well. This allows us to

stand firm in our convictions without condemnation of others. This increases the odds of better solutions and survival of important relationships.

Ragged edges can be difficult. This thinking allows us to grow and change without giving up convictions or radical breaks in logic. It makes it possible to be inclusive of others without affirming their behavior. Living in this seam leaves us vulnerable to criticism from both sides of whatever is at stake. Such is the nature of standing in gaps of understanding and seeking solutions. Making this effort is worth the trouble.

The Bible is a witness to a God working with chosen people who were always at the ragged edge. It teaches us clearly what is right – “Love God, love your neighbor as yourself.” “Seek justice.” “Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

The grace of the law was given so that we would know how to do this. There were more laws given because we failed and have hard hearts – think

about the laws concerning divorce (Deut. 24) or divorcing “foreign women.” (Ezra 10). Neither of these would have been necessary if men were faithful to spouse and to God. As a reminder (and I believe a counter to the strangeness of Ezra 10) we have the book of Ruth. Ruth, a woman of Israel’s idolatrous enemy, binds herself to her mother-in-law and lands in the genealogy of Jesus.

There are rules...but, Ruth. There are rules but ...“let the one who is without sin throw the first stone.”

Have courage to live at the ragged edges, knowing that we do not really have a choice. The most important decisions are made at the edges of life. It is important that we be prepared with faith and knowledge. It is important that we have community and boundaries. It is important that we go easy on ourselves when we misstep. Keep a clear conscience and know we have an advocate.

There are sharp edges but...“Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.”

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



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

Jesus is always present with us through the Spirit

Question: Recently, I lost my father. We were very close. I am broken-hearted. Soon thereafter, I lost my close friend due to a job relocation. I feel so alone. I know Jesus promised never to leave us or forsake us. How does He keep that promise when He went back to heaven?

Answer: God is one God who eternally exists as three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just before Jesus’ crucifixion, the resurrection and ascen-

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



sion, He promised to send “another Counselor” (Holy Spirit) (Jn. 14:16). He told His disciples His departure would actually benefit them. “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away, the Counselor will not come to

you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (Jn. 16:7). The Spirit would be with them in a way that Jesus had not been. During His earthly ministry, Jesus worked to carry out His mission in one specific place at a time. However,

the Spirit is different; He moves and works all over the world without concern of time or place to be with us.

The Holy Spirit is God, the Father’s, presence and Jesus, the Son’s, presence with us. We may feel alone at times, but Jesus is with us through indwelling Holy Spirit. Jesus is always present with us in the Person of the Holy Spirit. PRAISE GOD!

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Community Events & News

- A signing ceremony at the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 2. The ceremony celebrates the resumption of in-person student enrollment and all students who have started a journey with Job Corps and those who would like to start their journey.
- Registration is open for the Black Patch Pageant Monday, Sept. 5 at the Fine Arts Building at Caldwell County High School in Princeton. Hosted by Living Hope Christian Coaching and Counsel, the pageant focuses on personality and natural and inner beauty. The pageant begins at 10 a.m., with boys’ division 0-24 months, followed by ages 3-5 and 6-8 years. Girls’ competition is at 11 a.m., beginning with: 0-11 months, 1-2 years at 12:30; 3-5 years at 2 p.m.; 6-8 years 3 p.m.; 9-12 girls 4 p.m.; 13-16 girls 5 p.m. and 17-21 immediately following.
- Virgil Jones VFW Post 12022 will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m, Thursday, Sept. 8 at the VFW Building, 412 North College St. Refreshments will be served.
- Crittenden County Class of 1968 will have its class reunion Saturday, Sept. 10, picnic starting at 1 p.m., at the Crittenden County Lions Club Building. Call Sheila Truitt (270) 965-2490 and (270) 704-3620 for more information.
- The VFW in Marion will be having Bingo starting at 5 p.m. every Tuesday at 412 N. College St., Marion.
- Marion Show and Shine will be the fourth Thursday every month through October, weather permitting. Cars, trucks and motorcycles permitted at Crittenden County Courthouse, 107 S. Main St., Marion. Sponsored by City of Marion Tourism. City of Marion Police Dept. authorized.
- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. For the time being, the Clothes Closet is operated outdoors from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. Please observe social distancing. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

Does your group have something planned? Let us know. We post church notes here at no charge. Email to thepress@the-press.com or call (270) 965-3191

Crittenden Co. Volunteer Fire Department

Four-Person Golf Scramble

Sat., Sept. 10 9 a.m.


DEER LAKES GOLF COURSE Salem, Ky.

\$280 per team, includes one mulligan and skirt per person and lunch.
Cash prizes! Long Drive Prize, Closest to Hole Prizes on all par 3s and par 4s.
Please support your local Volunteer Fire Dept. Proceeds to purchase MUCH needed new equipment.

Contact Chris Cooksey (270) 704-1116
Ric Hughes (270) 988-4653 or
Scott Hurley (254) 247-9222 to enter




EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH



315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.
Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
Follow us on Facebook

Freedom General Baptist Church

Pastor: Ross Atwell




87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion
(about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)

CHURCH TIMES:
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

Pastor: Greg Rushing

PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.

A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

St. William Catholic Church



Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father John Okoro

860 S. Main St.
Marion, Ky.
(270) 965-2477

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232

Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holean

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.


Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian



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

Mexico Baptist Church



175 Mexico Rd.
(270) 965-4059
MexicoBaptist.org

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Tim Burdon
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.


SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064
Sun. School for all ages: 10 a.m.
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.

- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us. -


Marion United Methodist Church



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.
The People of the United Methodist Church

WED: Bible Study 5:30 p.m.
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Bro. James LAIBEN
Worship 10:45 p.m. South College St.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.


"Whatever It Takes" Bro. Jamie Baker
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220

Crayne Community Church




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

Frances Community Church



Bro. Butch Gray
Wed. night prayer meeting & youth service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Worship service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Baptist Church



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

Captured by a vision...

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH




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

Hurricane Church



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

Tolu United Methodist Church



Bro. Alex Kirby, Pastor We invite you to be our guest
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The People of the United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18

PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Pastor Traci Gaudin

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

Unity General Baptist Church


4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.

Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Marion Church of God



334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 10 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.

"Where salvation makes you a member."

Marion Church of Christ



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

Fond memories remain of Piney Fork school house

Hidden from view for many years in the community of Piney Fork is the historic old one-room school house of Piney Fork.

I had been shown years ago where the Piney Fork School was located. In its place now is a nice barn, so I just assumed (always a bad thing to do) that the school had been torn down and the barn had been built with the lumber. This past week I got a real nice surprise and a wonderful visit to the actual school by current owners Tim and Debbie Grimes.

Yes, the school house is still there and was just enclosed inside the barn structure many years ago. The weather board siding is still on the outside of one side of the building with the familiar school boys initials of long ago carved in the soft wood by students.

The inside of the school is still sturdy and solid with the original walls, windows, tight-fitting wood floors, the old chimney flue, where the pot-bellied stove used to sit, and the familiar long chalk board, with its tray at the bottom to hold the chalk and erasers, is still present across the back wall.

Located at the front, was the little coat room for the students to hang their coats and put their lunch sacks or pails before entering the main room. These features sure brought back memories also of my grade school days at the old Crayne School. The walls even still showed the blue/green paint they used long ago to paint the inside of the schools. You could just feel the memories that once filled this country school.

Through the years after the school was closed in 1958, the building had, and still is, seeing useful days, as it once was a feed store. A sliding door had been installed at the front to load the feed into wagons or truck beds. It was once used as a home for someone, and now Tim and his wife use it as a family gathering place for special get togethers. Debbie has a special corner for her to raise chickens in their own enclosed area until they are big enough to go into the outside world.

Some history of the school written in 1983 by former student Willard C. Hunt was shared with Tim.

Piney Fork School Beginning
The Piney Fork School, a one-room, weather-board structure, is located about six miles southeast of Marion on Piney Fork Road. The first school was held in this building in 1896. All eight grades (when required) were taught by one teacher. Some grades were not taught each year as there were not always eligible pupils



The Piney Fork school (above) was closed in 1958. At top right are carved initials on weatherboard plank, and bottom right is a familiar sight , the long blackboard used for most instruction.

for all grades. Reading, writing and arithmetic were the basics taught with emphasis on all three.

In winter time, the building was heated by a pot-bellied wood or coal burning stove in the rear of the room. The older

boys were in charge (on a rotating basis) of keeping the fire burning and carrying in the coal.

Drinking water was carried by the boys and girls from a well that was located about 200 yards away from the school. This was considered a desirable task as it took them away from the classroom for a brief

spell.
A three-holer privy to the left of the building and in the nearby woods was available for the use of the girls. An ample supple of Sears Roebuck catalog leaves substituted for toilet tissue. The boys were not quite so fortunate. They used the woods to the right of the building and leaves from the trees had to make do for the tissue.

A Day of School
Beginning with the first grade, pupils rotated by class to the front row of the room where they were called on to recite their lessons. Others in the room could listen, and if they had missed anything along the way, they could easily pick up what they had missed. For those not engaged in recitation, studying was the requirement. Some substituted looking out the window, throwing paper wads or pulling pig tails of the girls in front when the teacher would not be looking. Discipline was strict. Tomfoolery (when caught) was often rewarded with corporal punishment administered by the teacher. This often resulted in similar punishment when the pupil got home.
At recess in mid-morning and during the noon

hour when the children ate their lunches brought in a lunch box, games such as tag, three-legged relay races, broad and high jump, 50-yard dash, hide and seek and the most popular game of all – town ball, were played. Nearby schools within the county scheduled competition among the school in these sports. These events were looked forward to by all. Town ball was a game similar to softball in that the pitch to the batter was under hand. Catching the ball on first bounce was a called out. Both boys and girls participated in all sports.

A familiar sound denoting the end of play was the teacher or a lucky designated pupil ringing the teacher's hand bell. It was then known that "books had taken up." This hand-rung bell was also the call each morning to let the children know it was time for the school day to begin and they were to line up in front of the school to march inside to start their day of learning.

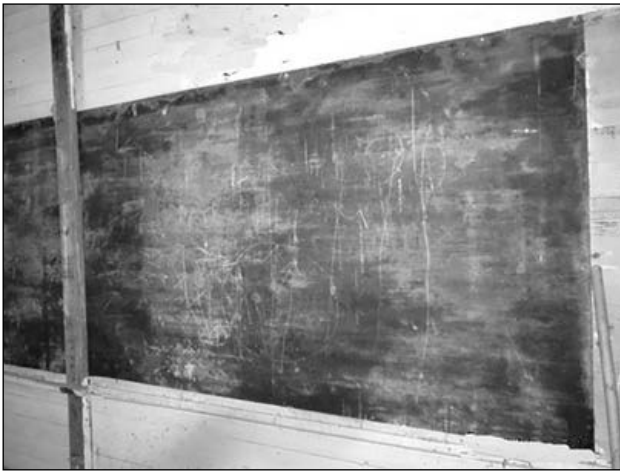
An item in The Crittenden Press from December 1933 tells of student activities. Every pupil has completed a booklet showing his best work in penmanship, letter forms and composition. These booklets are

now on exhibition in the schoolroom. The walls of the room are redecorated each month with classified groups of pictures. The picture study is very helpful in the school work. The pupils of the school are taking a delight in keeping the school room neat and clean.

School Center Of Activities

Prior to WW II, Piney Fork was a close-knit community of many families, many related. The community extended about two miles in all directions. All community activities centered around the school, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Alexander General Store and Grist Mill. Pie suppers, spelling bees, 4-H meetings and Christmas parties were typical activities held at the school. A much anticipated fun activity was the popular Ice Cream Supper. This event would include sandwiches, cold drinks, homemade cakes and pies, and the favorite, ice cream, would be on the menu. All freshly made by the mothers of the school children.

Many attended this one-room school over a span of almost two thirds of a century. Prior to World War II, only a small percentage actu-



ally finished the eighth grade. Very few went on to high school.

Former students represented Piney Fork in all of the conflicts this country was engaged in from World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Four former students are known to have made careers of the Army.

The closing of this school in 1958 ended an era that will long be remembered by many. It

was a sad day for a lot of us when that happened. But fond memories will always remain.

Thank you Tim and Debbie for the walk back in time to visit the old Piney Fork school house.

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



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

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IVA LEATHA BROWN
June 20, 1923 - January 6, 2021

You'll never be forgotten but cherished from year to year. It broke our hearts to lose you but you did not go alone. A part of us went with you The day God called you Home.

With love until we meet again,
Bobby and Sue, Fred and Minnie Lou, Barbara, Ricky and Linda, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

2022 PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION SCHEDULE
CRITTENDEN COUNTY

| | Starting Date | Ending Date |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2% Discount | 10-1-2022 | - 11-01-2022 |
| Face Amount | 11-2-2022 | - 12-31-2022 |
| 5% Penalty | 01-1-2023 | - 01-31-2023 |
| 10% Penalty + 10% Add-On | 02-1-2023 | - 04-15-2023 |

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legal notices

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court Marion, Ky. do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement:
Jane Mills of 107 Boxwood Drive, Franklin, Tn. Personal representative of Linda W. Schumann, deceased.
The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on Oct. 5, 2022, 9 a.m. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once.
Melissa Guill, Clerk
Crittenden District Court (1t-35-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Aug. 24, 2022 Belinda Dempsey of 1095 S.R. 120, Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed administratrix, deceased, whose address was 229 Jarvis Street, Marion, Ky. 42064. Robert B. Frazer, attorney.
All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administratrix before the 24th day of Feb., 2023 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.
All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.
Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-35-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Aug. 24, 2022 Everett Guess of 124 North Clay Street, Marion, Ky. 42064 and Dennis Guess of 117 Willow Street, Fredonia, Ky. 42411 was appointed executors of Carrie E. McClure, deceased, whose address was 2281 Mott City Road, Marion, Ky. 42064. Rebecca J. Johnson, attorney.
All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executors before the 24th day of Feb., 2023 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.
All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.
Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-35-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Aug. 24, 2022 Phyllis O'Neal of 14 Penn Drive, Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed executrix of Lanora M. Metheny, deceased, whose address was 129 S. Yandell Street, Marion, Ky. 42064.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 24th day of Feb., 2023 and all claims not so proven and presented that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.
Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-35-c)

The Crittenden County Extension Service's most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed any time on the Department for Local Government's Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 1534 US Hwy 60 E. Marion, Ky 42064 during our normal office hours of Monday- Friday 8:00am-4:30PM and closed from 12-1 for lunch. This ad was paid for by Crittenden County Extension Service dollars.<http://ky-dlgweb.ky.gov/> Per KRS 65A.080(2) (1t-35-c)

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Here’s a last look at water district’s early days

This is part three of a series about the author’s memories of the early days of the Crittenden-Livingston Water District.

How is your garden doing? I’ve mentioned before that my “garden” consists of two raised beds, each measuring 4x8 feet. I have tomatoes in one bed and green peppers in the other one.

My tomatoes are pretty well finished. The green peppers, however, are still going strong with tons of blooms.

By the way, if you’re planning to sow any late turnips, those need to be planted ASAP. I love those turnips!

Let’s get back to our previous discussion about the Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD). We left off last month talking about the influence of George Patmor regarding the birth of CLWD and the initial installation of the system. The water district started treating



Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

and distributing water around July 1, 1986.

I’ve mentioned before that my dad was also involved in water systems and that he ran the backhoe to install the original water lines in Salem in 1952-53. He ran the backhoe full time for almost 30 years, serving as Salem Water superintendent for many of those years. He was also the substitute rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service Salem routes from 1956 through January 1981. He started carrying the mail full time in February 1981, two months before his 60th birthday. He ran the mail route full time for five years, retiring in early 1986. Soon after he retired, Dad served as an inspector for CLWD while the contractors were installing some of the water lines.

After being away from the water business for five years while serving as a full-time mail carrier, Daddy really enjoyed being involved with water once again in a hands-on way.

Perhaps this is the main reason he was so honored to be asked to serve as a commissioner for CLWD. He served as

a commissioner from September 1993 to April 2013. He was a wonderful source of information for those who served as superintendent of CLWD over the years.

Daddy had a thorough understanding of the physics of water, due to his many years of working with it. I’m guessing that his training in the U.S. Navy probably included some very useful instruction regarding basic water information as he studied to advance in rank during his time of service in World War II.

His rank was Boatswain’s Mate First Class when he was discharged from the Navy following the war, which was as high as he could advance as an enlisted man at that time.

He also had a thorough understanding of the topography of Crittenden and Livingston counties due to his 30 years of running the backhoe and literally digging around all over these two counties. Having grown up in Pinckneyville, he was very familiar with the area around the CLWD water treatment facility, which is located a short distance from the

Cumberland River. He also knew many of the various residents, farms and business endeavors in these two counties, which would all be potential customers for the water district. This wealth of knowledge was very helpful to the CLWD Board of Directors at their monthly meetings, as well as to the superintendent on a daily basis.

Why did I say on a daily basis? Daddy went to the water office almost every day for the last 25-plus years of his life. He loved going out there. He would bring the mail, open each envelope, and sort out the opened envelopes into stacks of various sizes, making things much easier for the office staff to get the checks, make the deposits, etc. He would also visit with those who came in to pay their water bill each month. This was just one more way that Daddy served his fellow man. He absolutely loved to help and serve; it was part of his DNA.

The water service also provided something very necessary for Daddy – a purpose. He had a purpose for every day,

even at age 93.

George Patmor and my Daddy were alike in many ways. They both had very outgoing personalities, they both had wives who could play the piano/organ at church, both had four kids, they both loved Jesus and His church, they both loved to sing, they both loved serving others and they both loved the Crittenden-Livingston Water District.

Finally, they were both forward-thinking individuals who looked ahead of the present reality in order to provide for future needs. With today’s water challenges for Marion, what a blessing it is to have the CLWD during this time. In fact, what a blessing CLWD has been to so many families and businesses in Crittenden and Livingston counties over that past 36 years.

Special thanks to all who serve at the CLWD... your faithful service is greatly appreciated!

Author Chris Clarke grew up in the Salem and Marion area. He has a cowby ministry called Happy Trails.

| Comparing Counties | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATES | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Location | Labor Force | Currently Employed | Currently Unemployed | July 2022 | June 2022 | July 2021 | |
| STATEWIDE | 2,066,393 | 1,980,562 | 85,831 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 5.2% | |
| HENDERSON | 21,226 | 20,394 | 832 | 3.9% | 4.1% | 5.1% | |
| MCLEAN | 4,128 | 3,942 | 186 | 4.5% | 4.7% | 4.8% | |
| OHIO | 9,111 | 8,649 | 462 | 5.1% | 5.1% | 6.1% | |
| UNION | 6,149 | 5,864 | 285 | 4.6% | 4.7% | 5.2% | |
| WEBSTER | 5,344 | 5,122 | 222 | 4.2% | 4.3% | 5.0% | |
| CALDWELL | 5,998 | 5,766 | 232 | 3.9% | 3.9% | 4.7% | |
| CHRISTIAN | 25,195 | 23,832 | 1,363 | 5.4% | 5.4% | 6.5% | |
| CRITTENDEN | 3,820 | 3,649 | 171 | 4.5% | 4.5% | 4.9% | |
| HOPKINS | 18,206 | 17,344 | 862 | 4.7% | 5.0% | 5.6% | |
| LIVINGSTON | 3,609 | 3,431 | 178 | 4.9% | 5.2% | 6.2% | |
| LYON | 3,251 | 3,117 | 134 | 4.1% | 4.3% | 4.8% | |
| TRIGG | 6,169 | 5,882 | 287 | 4.7% | 4.8% | 5.7% | |
| BALLARD | 3,464 | 3,279 | 185 | 5.3% | 5.4% | 5.5% | |
| CALLOWAY | 16,783 | 16,015 | 768 | 4.6% | 4.8% | 5.1% | |
| GRAVES | 15,582 | 14,870 | 712 | 4.6% | 4.7% | 4.9% | |
| MCCRACKEN | 29,510 | 28,228 | 1,282 | 4.3% | 4.6% | 5.5% | |
| MARSHALL | 14,304 | 13,696 | 608 | 4.3% | 4.4% | 4.9% | |
| United States Unemployment Rate for December 2021 | | | | 3.8% | | | |

Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Jobless rates holding firm

Crittenden County’s jobless rate has remained steady this summer. Meanwhile unemployment rates fell in 117 counties between July 2021 and July 2022 and rose in three, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Cumberland and Woodford counties recorded the lowest jobless rates in the commonwealth at 3% each. It was followed by Oldham and Scott counties, 3.2% each; Anderson, Boone and Fayette counties, 3.3% each; Jessamine County, 3.4%; and Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Harrison, Kenton, Marion, Monroe, Pendleton, Todd and Washington counties, 3.5% each.

Magoffin County recorded the state’s highest unemployment rate at 11.2%. It was followed by Breathitt County, 9.1%; Elliott County, 8.9%; Martin County, 8.8%; Carter County, 8.4%; Leslie County, 7.9%; Harlan,

Retail Apprentiship Program

On the eve of Labor Day Weekend, retail employers across the country continue to fight challenges in finding and retaining reliable, qualified workers. The Kentucky Retail Institute (KRI) is offering a new solution to help businesses and employees alike. The Retail Leaders Apprenticeship Program will deliver on-the-job education and training for students and working adults wanting to expand their skillsets and advance their careers. Apprentices will work as paid employees, learning the entire scope of retail operations, including customer service, loss prevention, logistics, merchandising, accounting and more. Contact the KRI for more information.

Lewis and Owsley counties, 7.5% each; and Knott County, 7.2%.

Kentucky’s county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted.

OL’s Wood tailor-made for Cats’ offense

Madison Central offensive lineman Malachi Wood got a Kentucky scholarship offer from UK recruiting coordinator Vince Marrow on May 13, 2021, and verbally committed to the Wildcats in March.

The 6-8, 300-pound Wood is the highest rated Kentucky high school offensive lineman in the 2023 recruiting class and his coach, Mike Holcomb, says being a UK commit has provided extra motivation for his star player.



Larry VAUGHT
UK Sports Columnist
Vaught's Views

“We are so close (to UK) that he was able to be around them in the summer when he was allowed,” Holcomb, who got his 300th win when Madison Central beat Lexington Christian to open the season, said. “They stay in great touch with each other. Being a Kentucky commit has been a huge positive for him.

“He’s a pretty quiet kid all the time. He’s not real outgoing. He just does his business and wants to make sure he is improving.”

Holcomb took over at Madison Central for the 2021 season and says Wood has taken “coaching great” since he arrived.

“He has his body in great shape. His strength has come on unbelievably well because of the work he does. He’s a real student of the game and a very intelligent player,” Holcomb said. “He’s a plus-plus in my book. He’s also still a young kid and should get bigger and stronger at Kentucky.”

Holcomb believes Wood is “tailor-made” for the offense Kentucky has now.

“He has outstanding reach because his length is so good,” the Madison Central coach said. “His foot speed is good. He played basketball growing up before he got out of that last year because of some back spasm issues, so he just decided to concentrate on football and started working out even more.”

Wood is also playing in the defensive line for Madison Central and had four tackles, including two solo stops, against LCA.

“He’s never played on defense before but we really needed him there to help some,” Holcomb said. “His main focus will always be left tackle on offense. But we want him to get some defensive reps. Trying to throw a pass over him with his hands up is not very easy.”

Holcomb won three state championships at Breathitt County in 1995, 1996 and 2002 and his teams had a 42-game win streak from 1995-97. One of his former players is current Boyle County coach Justin Haddix, who threw 58 scoring passes in the 2002 state title season.

Holcomb says Wood is one of the best high school players he’s seen, especially when you talk about athleticism and size.

Kentucky freshman basketball player Chris Livingston hopes to be a star on the court this season for the Wildcats but he will also be part of a star movie production.

A film based on the book, Shooting Stars, about NBA superstar LeBron James is coming to Peacock in 2023 and will document James’ early life in Akron, Ohio, which is also Livingston’s hometown.

“LeBron’s been a mentor and been a real role model ever since I was a kid. Obviously the role model aspect has taken its next step because we have a personal relationship now. He’s been huge in my life and I really appreciate the things he’s done,” Livingston said.

The UK freshman understands how much James has done for youth basketball in Akron and that he was always giving back. He admits he sometimes knew LeBron was around camps he attended when he was growing up.

James wanted Livingston with his Akron roots in the movie and he plays the role of “one of the better players LeBron played

(against)” in a major rivalry in Akron.

Livingston goes against former UK target/Oregon commit Mookie Cookie who plays the role of James.

“It’s great being part of something like this. I even had a couple of lines,” Livingston said.

Livingston understands that people have different opinions about James and even noted that another NBA star, Pau George, is his on-court role model. He wears No. 24 like George. He also said he liked watching Derrick Rose, who played for John Calipari at Memphis.

Those athletic-type players molded Livingston’s game and now he is a unique 6-7, 220-pound college freshman.

“I have a wide variety of what I can do. Obviously, versatility is how you describe it. I really can shoot it, get downhill.”

He says he can make plays passing or off the dribble.

“I have a really really really high motor,” he said.

Livingston was impressive when UK played four games in the Bahamas.

Jeff Drummond, managing editor for Cats Illustrated at Rivals.com, has quickly become a Livingston fan.

“I think Chris Livingston has me more intrigued about a player’s potential than I’ve seen in a long while,” Drummond said after watching him in the Bahamas.

Philadelphia five-star wing player Justin Edwards dropped in the latest 247Sports Top 150 for 2023 but is still third overall in the latest rankings.

"Edwards is headed off to Kentucky next year and makes for a skilled, athletic and versatile wing who can impact the game as a three-level scorer, a defender, rebounder and even as a passer," national recruiting analyst Travis Branham said.

However, Rivals.com moved Edwards up to No. 2, one spot above UK target DJ Wagner.

50 YEARS AGO

September 7, 1972

■ Thomas Tucker and Lewis Boyd, owners of funeral homes in Marion and Salem, announced their intention to cease operating a local ambulance service due to increased federal regulations. Wilbur Hunt, owner of Hunt Funeral Home, assumed the business and vowed to continue operating it until laws forced him out of business.

■ Mike Stone beat his uncle Gene Stone in the Club Tournament at Marion Country Club.

■ The Crittenden County Lions Club planned roadblocks at the intersection of Main and Bellville streets during Lions Candy Days. Club members gave away candy in exchange for donations benefitting their statewide eye foundation.

■ Margaret Thurman and Lee Etta Faith of Mattoon Elementary were elected to appear in the 1972 edition of Outstanding Young Men and Women of America.



They were selected on the basis of distinguished service and leadership.

■ Cruce Mobile Homes was having a “Big ’72 Closeout Sale,” to make room for the 1973 models. Over 60 mobile homes on two lots were available for purchase, including the Windsor, referred to as the “Cadillac of Mobile Homes.”

25 YEARS AGO

September 11, 1997

■ Three Rivers Quarry in Smithland was named the nation’s safest, receiving the Sentinels of Safety Award from the Mine and Safety Administration.

■ The Crittenden County Board of Education approved Saturday school to help students who had fallen behind academically.

Dulcie Hardin, district technology coordinator, led the program.

10 YEARS AGO

September 6, 2012

■ School traffic jams on Autumn Lane was the lead story. Partly to blame was increased enrollment.

■ The Crittenden County Board of Education increased taxes from 45.6 to 46.1 cents per \$100 assessed real and property values.

■ Chad Faughn of Fredonia announced plans to open Coppertop Brick Oven Pizza & BBQ.

■ The Rockets fell to Trigg County 42-21 in gridiron action. Grant Gardner rushed for 106 yards and Travis Gilbert passed for 81.

■ Almost 50 youngsters competed in the Crittenden County Youth Triathlon.

For more local history read Brenda Underdown's Blog Forgotten Passages

RESCUE

Continued from page 1

supportive of her passion. One afternoon while cruising in their Jeep, the couple spotted a hawk standing close to the road. After passing the creature, she noticed something was wrong with it because it did not fly off as the vehicle approached. Boyd phoned a friend who works at Nurture to Nature in Owensboro to inquire on how best to help the bird. Catching it would be the real challenge, but after returning to the site of the first encounter armed with a pair of welding gloves, a blanket and a box, they found and caught the hawk. It was transported to a wildlife center and was treated for an injury. The raptor survived, she said.

In her home, Boyd has four dogs, a 25-year-old African Grey parrot, a Ball python snake and four fish. Outside is another dog. Not counting the fish, eight of 10 of

her animals were rescued from one situation or another. She recently had a Juliana pig, but unfortunately had to rehome it. Turns out she was allergic to the pig.

“It nearly broke my heart. I tested allergic to almost every domesticated animal in my 20’s but I have always developed a tolerance after a few weeks to every animal I’ve ever had, except my sweet piggy.”

Quite frequently Boyd has fostered animals in her home, and currently has two adorable puppies and a tiny kitten with vision problems.

“I’ve always said I want to have a box installed on my house that people can place lost or injured animals in, like the ones found in larger cities for infants at firehouses.”

Boyd tries to find homes for any animal’s need, even if that means acute care. She depends on Nurture to Nature to help with her wildlife rescues. Because she is not certified to keep wildlife, Boyd said she

always turns the animals over to properly trained advocates. She eventually wants to get her own certification to keep and care for injured wildlife.

Boyd encourages people to not disturb wild animals unless there is an obvious medical need.

“A lot of times people think a fawn near their home is abandoned, when in reality it is left in a safe place by the mother and she will return to get them,” she said.

Any time there is a lost or abandoned animal or critter in true need, Boyd has a posse of friends who are always willing to help, including Kristi Beavers, Jae Berg and Stacey Jones.

“They are actively involved with the local shelters and area rescues and do an amazing job at making sure animals are taken care of,” Boyd said of her friends and others in the community who like her, love to love animals.

Slow courthouse process might save money

STAFF REPORT

In the case of Crittenden County's proposed new judicial center, time could be on the taxpayer's side.

Originally announced in April of 2020, the courthouse is still probably two to three years from being open. The existing courthouse will have to be razed sometime next spring or summer then construction would begin. Construction experts have told local leaders to expect two years to build it.

Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers is one of six individuals on the local planning committee that's helping oversee preparations for the new courthouse in Marion. She says labor availability and material prices appear to be heading in a favorable direction for a project that started out somewhere around \$12 million, but many feared could be much higher.

"Construction costs are slowly going down," Rogers said. "Availability of products is still an issue, but I am actually thankful that we are not starting (construction) for another nine months. Maybe prices will get back to something more reasonable and contractor and material availability could improve."

Global construction
forecasters think those



Rogers

things could happen, too. Recently released data show that stability may be returning to the construction material costs as pandemic-driven volatility subsides. Additionally, lumber prices have fallen sharply this summer and are expected to go down again in the third quarter. Yet, professional construction consultants like, Linesight, believe other factors such as rising interest rates, labor shortages and fuel and freight costs will push full consumer recovery until 2023.

That could be just in time for laying a foundation on the judicial center.

"We haven't talked about money at this point. We haven't started the bonding process," Rogers said.

In fact, the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has already taken steps to replace the heating system at the current courthouse because it looks like judicial offices will remain there through the winter. County offices such as the judge-executive, sheriff, county clerk and PVA, will be moving out soon though. Those offices could be gone to the former Marion Ed-Tech Center by Christmas.

Judicial offices, including circuit court clerk staff, will have to move off site when it comes time to tear down the courthouse. Rogers thinks a decision for an off-site, temporary loca-

tion could be made next week the planning committee meets on Tuesday.

Two previously explored locations – Home-town Foods and a spot in Darben Plaza – did not work out so the ACO began negotiating with the City of Marion to rent space at city hall. It's likely that court proceedings will be held in the council chambers while the new judicial center is being built. The circuit court clerk will likely be temporarily located elsewhere in Marion.

"We will have to rent space for the circuit clerk because there isn't enough room at city hall," the judge said.

Circuit Clerk Melissa Guille is concerned about the proximity of what will be her office's temporary space and the provisional courtroom.

"We will have to take our files to court on a push cart," she said. "I am not sure what we will do when it's raining."

The circuit court's case files often fill multiple boxes. Guill said someone her from her office will have to take everything to and from court two or three days a week. Guill said that there has been some discussion of renting mobile office trailers if space cannot be found downtown.

The delay in getting things going perhaps sooner can be blamed on a variety of factors. For starters, planning and designing a structure like this takes time, Rogers said. There are countless details to work through.

Additionally, the AOC has had various other issues to deal with beginning with last winter's tornado that destroyed the Mayfield courthouse and damaged others. Rogers said more eastern Kentucky judicial facilities were damaged in the recent flooding.

"These emergencies just seemed to hit at once," Rogers said.

The local planning committee has continued to meet monthly to work through the project and Rogers believes it will find its legs next spring or early summer when

work could begin to raze the downtown courthouse built in 1961.

"We're not in a hurry to push through this stage. We want to do it right and make sure the public is not inconvenienced any longer than necessary" from the displacement of the judicial offices, Rogers said. "We're willing to be flexible so we can be responsible and reasonable."

The judge believes that once the new justice center is erected, it will provide a new convenience for the public with multiple court-affiliated

groups being housed in one central location. Those will likely include pretrial services, court designated workers, drug court, court-appointed special advocates known by the acronym CASA and perhaps others.

Serving on the local judicial center planning committee are County Judge Newcom, District Judge Daniel Heady, Circuit Clerk Guill, Judge Rogers, local attorney Bart Frazer and citizen member Larry Duvall. County Attorney Rebecca Johnson serves as counsel for the group.



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WATER

Continued from page 1
making things more comfortable. The city is going to bring the hospital back onto its system in the coming days and continue to monitor usage now that school is back in session. Ledford said hopes continue to grow that the Phase 3 Water Conservation Order can be walked back at some point soon.

"Of course, we had hoped that the connection to Sturgis would have been up and going by now so we could add that to the equation," Ledford said.

An effort to link Crittenden-Livingston Water and Sturgis districts near the Tradewater River Bridge on KY 365 have been stymied over the past two weeks due to stumbling blocks at-


tributed to bureaucratic paperwork. State officials had announced a self-imposed Aug. 29 deadline on the project several weeks ago, but to date there has been no physical groundwork on the project.

Division of Water specialists were investigating early this week reports of red or brown water coming from faucets around town. It's unclear if the cloudy water is a result of a dormant system in need of further flushing or something else. The city administrator recommends that customers run their faucets for a short period to see if the water clears up. Chlorine and other chemistry levels continue to be good, according to test results.

Marion's free bottled water distribution center at the former armory will

close Friday. Jason Hurley, the county's emergency management director, has been running the center for several weeks. He said large stores of water will be kept on hand at the armory in case it's needed at a moment's notice. However, routine distribution will end this week.


Ledford said an engineering company has provided Marion with a quote on work needed to explore three possible routes for running a water line to Princeton Water District. City officials in Fredonia have made it clear that a water line coming through that town on the edge of Caldwell County would be subject to a variety of fees or tolls. Ledford said planners are aware of those potential hurdles.



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Timeline for November 8 Election

- Portal to request an excused mail-in absentee ballot is open Sept. 24 through Oct. 25 at GoVote.ky.gov.
- Excused in-person absentee voting inside the county clerk's office is Oct. 26 through Nov. 2 during regular business hours.
- Absentee voters must attest to a reason for being unable to vote in person on Election Day or during Early Voting.
- Early Voting runs 8 a.m., to 4 p.m., on Nov. 3-5 in the law library on the main level of the courthouse.
- Election Day polls are open 6 a.m., to 6 p.m., on Nov. 8.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline to register to vote for the general election is 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 11. You may register in the county clerk's office or online at KyVote.ky.gov.

ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS

- Marion Baptist Church will again serve as a countywide voting center for any voter on Election Day. This will be the only place to vote for city residents.
- Mattoon voters will see their primary polling location moved to Repton Baptist Church. This is because the wireless signal available for the devices that check in voters at Mattoon Fire Department is too weak.
- Mexico Baptist Church will serve as the primary polling location for voters in the two Frances precincts in southern Crittenden County.
- Shady Grove voters will continue to poll at Shady Grove Fire Department as their primary voting location.
- Tolu and Sheridan precincts in District 2 will again vote at Deer Creek Baptist Church as their primary polling location.
- If you have questions about the upcoming election, call the Crittenden County Clerk's office at 270-965-3403.

Local taxing districts formalize 2022 rates

STAFF REPORT

All of the local taxing districts – city, county and special districts – have formally adopted tax rates for 2022. Tax bills will go out next month.

A couple took slight rate increases, adopting what's typically known as a compensating rate or one that makes up for anticipated taxes that were not collected last year due to exonerations. The city lowered its property tax rate this year and the county's stayed the same.

In most cases, taxing authorities must hold a public hearing if they want to levy a tax rate higher than the compensating rate.

Tax rates for Marion and Crittenden County are shown in the accompanying chart. Rates are depicted as cents per \$100 of assessed property value. Some property values increase from year to year during reassessment periods or due to new development. In other words, inflation can raise your home's value and if you build a barn out back, that raises your property value, too.

If you live inside the city, you pay all of the taxes listed in the chart. If you do not live in the city, you do not pay

| YOUR 2021 REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| TAX DISTRICT | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
| City of Marion | 22.1 | 22.2 | 21.9 |
| Crittenden County | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| School District | 49.0 | 48.9 | 48.6 |
| Extension | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.86 |
| Health Tax | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Public Library | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

city taxes. There are a few other minor taxing districts and fees such as for fire acres, the Tradewater River basin and fire departments. You might not pay some of those depending on where your property is located.

To calculate the taxes you will owe, divide the value of your real property by 100, then multiply that number by the tax rate after moving the decimal place two places to the left on the rate.

For instance, calculating the City of Marion property tax rate on a \$50,000 home would go like this: \$50,000 divided by 100, multiplied by .221, equals \$110.50.

SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

school board. Students will have to pay their travel costs of \$4,004 per student.

•School leaders approved an incentive plan to recruit and maintain bus drivers. Any staff member who recruits a CDL-certified driver, which leads to their employment as a bus driver, will receive a \$250 bonus. Additionally, bus drivers with perfect attendance will receive a \$500 stipend at the end of each semester, and bus drivers with near-perfect attendance – less than three absences – will receive a \$250

stipend each semester.

Board members say this is a creative way to help combat the bus driver shortage that is prevalent not only in Crittenden County but around the region and country.

•Approved was an updated COVID-19 protocol, which treats the virus like any other illness such as the flu, strep, etc. Staff and students are asked to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. There will be no contact tracing conducted by the school, and masking is optional.

•The school board approved funds from the

Vince Clark Rocket Foundation for one dual credit class per student. In addition to funding from the Rocket Foundation, the board will utilize proceeds from the sale of alumni plaques and the district's Business of the Month program. Previously the school board paid for half the cost of two college classes; however, that is amended to cover the full cost of one class.

District funds up to \$10,000 are used to assist with half the cost of additional dual credit classes for juniors and seniors participating in the Senior Academy, once all other available scholarships are applied.



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| Mocha | Caramel Latte |
| Hazelnut | Kentucky Bourbon |
| Kahlua | Drunken Caramel |
| S'mores | Apple |
| Mudslide | Vanilla Bourbon |

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