



The Crittenden Press

Volleyball set to defend district reign | Sports Page 8

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

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

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TWO DOLLARS

Homecoming week

Crittenden County High School will host its homecoming festivities this week, including the annual parade and coronation of the queen and king. The parade on Main Street in Marion will be Thursday afternoon at 5 p.m. Crowning of homecoming royalty will begin at 6 p.m., Friday before the Rockets take on Fort Campbell in a district football game.

Fohs Hall projects will get public hearings

There will be two public hearings Tuesday, Oct. 20 on proposed Fohs Hall Park improvements totaling \$910,842. Both hearings will be at Fohs Hall, 201 N. Walker St. in Marion. A 4 p.m. hearing will address a proposed rotunda-style pavilion, followed at 4:30 p.m., by discussion of a walking trail, restrooms and landscaping. The proposed 75-foot-diameter pavilion would anchor the developing park at 130 N. Walker St. Plans include a concrete foundation, brick pavers, brick-wrapped columns, a metal roof, wooden accents, lighting and outdoor fans. The pavilion project is estimated at \$500,000. A proposed Land and Water Conservation Fund application would seek funding for up to half the cost, requiring a \$250,000 match. The trail and amenities project is estimated at \$410,842. A proposed Recreational Trails Program application would seek funding for up to 80% of the cost, requiring a \$82,168.40 match. Residents may comment at the hearings or submit written comments supporting or opposing either project by Oct. 20 by contacting the Pennyriple Area Development District.

Notice to print readers

A production error in last week's Crittenden Press caused one page to appear twice and Page 3 to be omitted from the printed edition. The missing page, containing continued articles, other news and advertising, is published on Page 3 of this week's issue. We apologize for the error and appreciate your understanding. The error last week affected only the printed edition.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Livingston County Conservation District will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at Deer Lakes Golf Course in Salem.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at city hall.
- Marion City Council will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at city hall.

UK dieticians publish review of nutrition considerations

Alpha-gal cases increasing

STAFF REPORT

For Marion chiropractor Johnny Newcom, a squirrel hunt in 2000 marked the beginning of a food allergy that would change his diet and send him into life-threatening reactions.

Newcom remembers returning from an old creek bed covered in ticks shortly before he and his wife, Tracye, left for chiropractic school. Two or three weeks later, he ate a steak. About six hours afterward, he broke out in hives.

Initially, the couple suspected seasoning or something used in processing the meat. Years passed before he received a definitive diagnosis of alpha-gal syndrome.

"I developed it before they had a name for it," Newcom said.

His experience illustrates the challenges addressed in a new University of Kentucky nutrition guide, which offers practical help for people navigating the tick-associated allergy.

According to a University of Kentucky report published by Kentucky Health News, registered dietitians at UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment produced "Nutritional considerations for alpha-gal syndrome: a mini-review," published in Frontiers



Newcom



Lone star tick is Kentucky's biggest alpha-gal spreader.

in Allergy.

Alpha-gal syndrome involves an allergic reaction to a sugar found in most mammals. Certain tick bites, most commonly from the lone star tick in Kentucky, can trigger the condition. Beef, pork, lamb, venison, rabbit and squirrel can cause reactions, along with dairy and other mammal-derived products in some patients.

Unlike many food allergies, symptoms can emerge hours after a meal, making the cause difficult to identify. Reactions

See TICKS/page 10

■ Diagnoses are climbing at some Kentucky clinics. According to a Sept. 29 Kentucky Lantern report, an Owen County physician went from diagnosing no alpha-gal cases in a month to one or two a week during some months this spring and summer.

■ Reported tick-related illness has surged in one Kentucky district. The Three Rivers District Health Department, as reported by the Kentucky Lantern, recorded an increase from 83 cases per 100,000 residents in 2024 to more than 300 in 2025 and 2026 across Carroll, Gallatin, Owen and Pendleton counties. Figures include all tick-related illnesses, with newly required alpha-gal reporting contributing to the jump.

■ Kentucky is a national alpha-gal hot spot. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kentucky was among the five states with the highest rates of suspected alpha-gal cases during 2017-2022. That finding establishes a substantial burden, although it does not quantify the recent statewide increase.

Cases on the Rise

Local grad chairs major UK cancer fundraiser

STAFF REPORT

Natalie Boone, a Marion native and 2023 graduate of Crittenden County High School, is serving as overall chair of DanceBlue for 2026-27, leading the University of Kentucky student organization that raises money and awareness to fight pediatric cancer.

A local effort is also being organized on the high school campus for a marathon dance event here to benefit the program Boone is chair-

ing at UK.

Boone, 21, is majoring in human health sciences on a pre-physician assistant track and minor in health care communication. Her involvement has included serving as a team captain, programming committee member and programming chair before assuming the organization's



Boone

top leadership role.

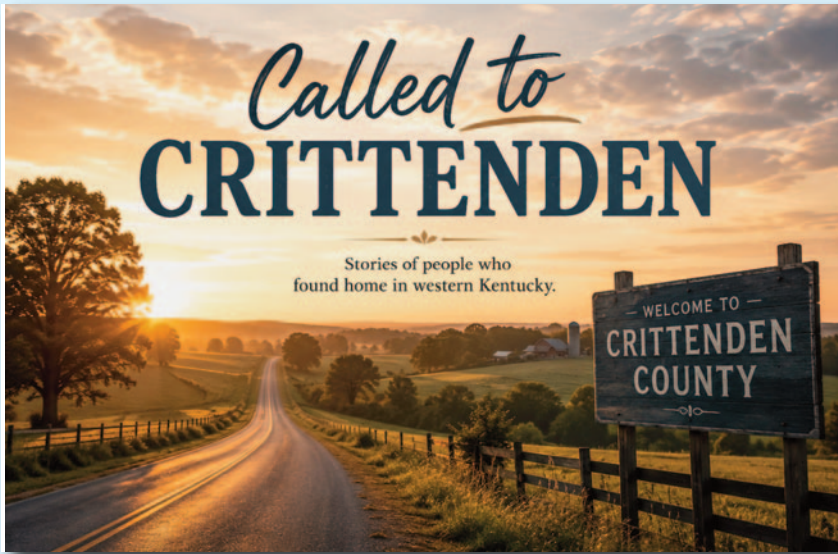
"DanceBlue is a way to spread joy, love, and hope in the hardest times!" Boone said in an organization profile accompanying her announcement. "I've seen first-hand the good DB does in the lives of our clinic kids."

DanceBlue combines year-round fundraising with a 24-hour dance marathon during which participants neither sit nor sleep. The event includes dancing, games, per-

formances and activities supporting children and families affected by cancer. Money raised goes to the Golden Matrix Fund, which supports pediatric oncology research, clinic operations and the patient experience at UK's DanceBlue Hematology/Oncology Clinic.

The effort has grown substantially since its first marathon in 2006. This year's event raised a record

See BLUE/page 9



The Harrisons

Harrisons land in Frances for quieter life

BY JENNY ZIMMER
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

After years of moving among cities for work, Carol and Ron Harrison settled in Crittenden County in 1996, finding a quieter life in the Frances community.

For Ron, the move brought him back to the county his family had left in 1948, when they moved to Evansville, Ind. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, many families left small towns and farming commu-

nities for cities where jobs were available. Several Evansville plants offered good-paying jobs, including Whirlpool, which employed many people from surrounding areas.

After five years in the Evansville area, Ron's family left in 1953 and eventually settled in Detroit. Near there, he later met Carol, who had been born and raised nearby. They met at work and married in 1981.

Both worked for Bechtel,

and their careers took them to Houston; Miami; Athens, Alabama; and Hammond, Indiana, before they moved to Crittenden County.

Although Carol grew up in the city, she found herself well suited to small-town life. She disliked many aspects of big cities and enjoyed the peace and quiet of her new Kentucky home.

Carol said she and Ron are largely homebodies, so

See QUIET/page 11

This is the latest in a series by Jenny Zimmer featuring individuals and families who have made Crittenden County their home. A retired human resources executive, Zimmer returned to her hometown of Marion in 2023 after living in Cincinnati for 53 years. She is a contributing writer for The Crittenden Press.

The Crittenden Press

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Deaths

Belt

Jennifer Diane Belt, 45, of Marion, died Friday, Oct. 9, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on May 27, 1981 to Billy and Diana Watson.



She will be remembered for her sheer grit and determination, as well as her love for her family.

Surviving are her husband, Kyle Belt; a son, Bently Belt; her father, Billy Watson; a sister, Billie Ann (Chad) Hall; her mother-in-law, Sharon (Mike) James; and grandmother-in-law, Vivian Workman; and two nieces, Bailey Vaughn and Brenna Gibbins.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Diana Watson; and a brother, Jeremy Watson. Funeral services were Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Myers Funeral Home. Burial was in Whites Chapel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Amyloidosis Foundation, 7151 N Main Street Suite 2, Clarkson, MI 48346 or amyloidosis.org.

Denton

Mary Aleda (Pearcy) Denton, daughter of Nina (Miller) and Aubra Cline Pearcy, died Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026 in Memphis, Tenn.



Born Feb. 19, 1932, on a farm in Henderson County, she married Elbert Austin

“Shorty” Denton on Dec. 7, 1946, who passed away on May 31, 2001. Surviving are a daughter, Kareen Fay Denton; a son, Alan Wayne Denton and his companion, Deborah McCrady. She lived in Henderson County and Indianapolis, settling with her family on a farm in Livingston County in 1960. In 2014, she moved to Memphis to be closer to her son and daughter. Aleda (her preferred name as she always said there were too many Marys in her family) was a committed Christian, making sure her family grew up as churchgoers too. Once in Memphis, she joined the Ridge-way Baptist Church, but during her long years in Salem, she was a member of Cedar Grove Methodist Church and later Pinckneyville Baptist Church.

Denton was loved dearly by all of her family and friends. She was committed to caring for her husband throughout his life and was an excellent caregiver during his illness. She enjoyed cooking (and was good at it), sewing, quilting, and making hand braided rugs. Funeral services were Friday, Oct. 9 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors. Burial was in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the animal rescue charity of choice. Paid obituary

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call (270) 965-3191 to share your organization's meeting in this free, weekly community calendar.

Thursday, Oct. 15
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
• Crittenden County Friends of the Library will meet at 6 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

Friday, Oct. 16
• There will be a Crittenden Co. FFA career fair starting at noon in Rocket arena.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026
• Crittenden Co. FFA will have a sourdough class starting at noon at Crittenden County High School.

Monday, Oct. 19
• There will be an Extension District Board meeting held at the Crittenden County Extension Office at noon.
• 4-H Cooking Club will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
• WITS Workout begins at noon at the Crittenden Co. Senior Center.
• There will be a regular City Council Meeting starting at 5 p.m. at Marion City Hall.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
• The Community Christmas program class, Stretching Your Dollar, will be from noon-1 p.m. at the

Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Wednesday, Oct. 21
• Positive Employability, a Community Christmas program class will start at 10 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
• Life Skills 101 will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Ex-

tension Annex. This is a mandatory class required for the Community Christmas program.

Thursday, Oct. 22
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
• There will be a public library board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

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I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support and I humbly ask for your vote and support again. Although I would prefer to have the time to knock on every door throughout the county prior to the upcoming election, my duties in fulfilling the requirements of serving you as your Judge Executive and swearing to the oath I have taken to hold this office, limit my time to do so. I perform my duties with utmost dedication, respect, and integrity while understanding this is your expectation. I make myself available to anyone at any time and will continue to be available to those of you who may request my time and attention regarding any subject matter. My door remains open as always!

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Study says Crittenden may need more than 400 homes

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County needed 238 additional homes in 2024, and that shortage could grow to 427 by 2029, according to Kentucky Housing Corp. figures presented at a Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn on housing.

The 2024 estimate included 175 homes for sale and 63 rental units. The projected 2029 gap includes 337 homes for sale and 90 rentals. Statewide, the estimated shortage is expected to grow from 206,207 homes in 2024 to 287,120 in 2029.

Speakers from Caldwell and Fulton counties described what their communities are doing to add housing. Crittenden County leaders attending included Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and Marion Mayor D’Anna Browning.

Caldwell County Judge-Executive Kota Young said having county-specific figures helped officials move from discussing a general shortage to setting



Pictured are Kota Young and Mark Welch, two of the speakers at the Chamber event, and Chamber President Rebecca Woodall.

goals. Caldwell County needed 471 homes in 2024 and is projected to need 748 by 2029, he said.

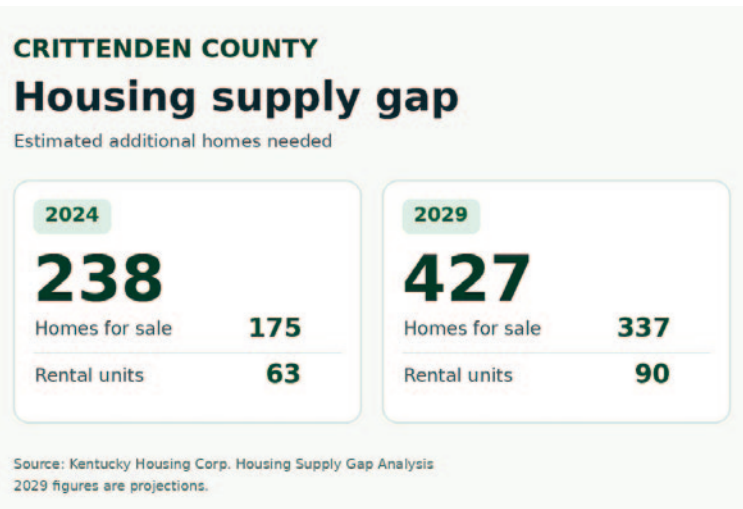
Young described a Princeton program that works with owners to clear deteriorated properties and make the lots available for construction. The city has acquired about 15 to 20 lots through the voluntary

program, and seven new homes have been built on them, he said.

Princeton is also pursuing three developments near downtown. Madison Mills, a 60-unit apartment complex, has been approved, with construction expected to begin in the spring. An application has been submitted for Washington Mills, another apartment project. A third proposal, Lincoln Mills, would add homes for sale. Together, the projects could produce more than 100 units if completed.

Young said investments in drainage and sewer lines can improve existing neighborhoods while helping housing projects qualify for funding.

Mark Welch, president of the Fulton-Hickman Counties Economic Development Partnership, said Fulton County has made housing a priority in its efforts to attract and retain workers. After nearly two decades with little new home construction, local partners



began building workforce housing, he said.

Brenda Weaver of Community Ventures, which is working with Fulton County, said 14 homes there have been built or rehabilitated, with more in progress. Work has also begun on a seven-home development in Cayce.

Weaver said communities need builders, employers, lenders, funding agencies and local governments involved from the start. Available land and utilities are essential, she said, and making new homes affordable often takes several sources of financing.

READER NOTICE: THIS PAGE WAS OMITTED FROM LAST WEEK’S PRINTED EDITION

CRUCE

Continued from page 1
Western District of Kentucky in 2020.

Cruce, a local historian and entertainer, has long been interested in Fohs Hall’s history. Built in 1926 at a cost of \$73,000, the building was a gift to the community from Ferdinand Julius Fohs, a petroleum geologist who grew up in Marion. It later served as Marion High School and is now a venue for performances and community events.

Cruce has performed on its stage many times in his role as bass player with Cutter and Cash and the Kentucky Grass. His first leadership role on the board involved buildings and grounds. He later succeeded Bonita Hatfield as vice chairman, the position he currently holds.

“Fohs Hall is a business and we’ve got to make money, but Julius Fohs’ intent was to bring arts to everyone in Crittenden County. I want to make sure his vision continues,” Cruce said.

Stout said the board’s volunteers remain committed to that purpose. “The Board of directors is composed of all volunteers who donate countless hours and support and remain committed to fulfilling the vision and legacy of Julius Fohs when he donated the building in 1926,” he said.

Maintaining the 100-year-old building will be among Cruce’s priorities. “It costs about \$50,000 annually to keep the lights on and the doors open,” he said. The board sends fundraising letters each year to seek continued support.

“We are conscientious about finances,” Cruce said.

Recent work has included restoring the auditorium’s hardwood floor, replacing the roof and upgrading the heating and cooling, sound and lighting systems.

Stout said raising money to maintain the building can be challenging in a small community. He said visitors

are often surprised to find a facility like Fohs Hall in Marion.

Cruce said he plans to work closely with the board. “We are all in it together. Everyone plays an important role,” he said.

Cruce also praised Leah Keene, who recently became Fohs Hall’s executive director. Keene has updated the organization’s website and introduced card payments for rentals. Her event-planning experience includes work at a Tennessee state park.

“She has brought Fohs Hall into the 21st century,” Cruce said. “Her experience has made for an easy transition.”

“The recent hiring of Leah Keene as Executive Director is very significant, and she is doing excellent work. I feel the future of Fohs Hall is in good hands,” Stout said.

For now, the board is preparing for Fohs Hall’s centennial celebration. A ticketed dinner and ball featuring the Todd Hill Orchestra of Murray is set for Oct. 23. A rededication service open to the public will follow Oct. 24. The events fall exactly 100 years after the building’s original dedication.

“We encourage the community to come out and witness history once again,” Cruce said.

Stout said the celebration will also raise money for Fohs Hall’s endowment. Four pieces of music from the original dedication will be performed under the direction of local musician Corey Crider. Cutter and Cash Singleton and their band also will perform.

Fohs’ grandsons, who remain supporters of the building, are expected to attend the rededication. They will be interviewed by a West Kentucky Film Commission crew documenting the centennial. Stout said the film is expected to air on KET. Organizers are gathering Fohs Hall archives and documents for the project.

FOHS

Continued from page 1
serve as a fundraiser for Fohs Hall. Proceeds will bolster an endowment used to help preserve and maintain a building that, despite its age, remains an active community venue.

“There are a lot of maintenance issues with a 100-year-old building,” Stout said. “But a lot of things don’t last 100 years.”

The celebration shifts to the public Saturday, Oct. 24, with a 2 p.m. rededication ceremony patterned after the one held a century earlier.

Mark Sohn, a grandson of Fohs Hall benefactor Julius Fohs, will deliver the rededication address. He will be joined in Marion by brothers Rick and Ted Sohn, also grandsons of Fohs.

Organizers have the original program from the 1926 dedication and are using it as a guide for the centennial ceremony. Four musical selections performed at the original dedication will be performed again under the direction of Corey Crider.

Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass will also perform two numbers, including a song about the Hudson Mine disaster. That tragedy occurred just two months before Fohs Hall was dedicated in 1926.

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Shea Nickell is among those scheduled to speak.

Unlike Friday’s ticketed ball, Saturday’s ceremony is free and open to everyone.

“If you’ve ever attended school at Fohs Hall, been to an event at Fohs Hall or attended any kind of function there – if Fohs Hall means anything to you – please come to the rededication ceremony,” Stout said.

A documentary film crew will also be in Marion during the centennial weekend, recording the celebration and exploring



The Todd Hill Orchestra will perform at Fohs Hall.

Fohs Hall’s history and the events that have taken place there through the generations.

Julius Fohs built the hall and donated it to the citizens of Marion in 1926. Stout said the total investment was about \$96,000, an extraordinary sum at the time and equivalent to several million dollars today.

The gift came with an important condition.

Fohs wanted Marion to have running water.

The community had suffered devastating fires, and Fohs was concerned about Marion’s ability to protect itself. Stout said development of a municipal water system was a condition of Fohs constructing the building.

“To have the vision to do such a philanthropic act and donate it to the citizens of Marion was remarkable,” Stout said.

Over the decades, Fohs Hall became far more than a monument to that gift. Generations of local residents went to school there, attended performances, dances, meetings and community celebrations inside its walls.

Its survival, however, was not guaranteed.

When the school system built a new Crittenden County Elementary School, a group of residents came together in 1981 because they feared the old building could be abandoned.

Stout was among them.

The group formed Fohs Hall Inc. in December 1981. Among those involved were George Pat-

mor, Paul Mick, Richard Conrad, Ethel Tucker, Ed Runyan and Nancy Hunt. The Crittenden County Board of Education conveyed the property to Fohs Hall Inc., in 1982.

A major renovation followed in the late 1980s, and the non-profit has continued operating the building as a civic center and community auditorium.

Stout and Hunt are the surviving members of that original group.

Now another transition is approaching.

After serving as president of Fohs Hall Inc. for 31 years, Stout plans to step down. Brennan Cruce has agreed to be nominated to succeed him as president. The organization has also hired Leah Keene as executive director, a move Stout believes brings new energy and expertise to operating Fohs Hall as an event venue.

Community support for the centennial has come from the Marion Tourism Commission, Crittenden County Tomorrow Inc., and several other sponsors and supporters.

For Stout, who helped save Fohs Hall more than four decades ago, the centennial is more than a birthday celebration. It is another point in the building’s long history when one generation hands responsibility for it to the next.

“Many things do not last 100 years,” he said. “This has lasted 100 years, and it’s doing well.”



Celebrating Retired Teachers

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom signs a proclamation designating Oct. 19–23 as Retired Teachers Week, joined by retired teachers Linda Brown, Lynann Woodall and Darl Henley. The proclamation recognizes retired educators for their years of service, their lasting contributions to local schools and their continued influence as mentors and community leaders. Newcom encourages residents to express appreciation for teachers who helped prepare generations of students and strengthen the community through their dedication to education.

CALLED

Continued from page 1
Owensboro. She was accustomed to the conveniences of city living. She found the limitations of a small town hard to get used to.

Larry was born and raised in New Hope, Ky., which is close to Bardstown, so he had a better understanding of, and tolerance for, small-town living.

Shortly after they moved to Marion, Fonda went into the store to buy a newspaper and saw only the Early Bird. When she went to the register to pay for it, she was told that it was free. She was surprised that there was no other newspaper available and even more surprised that the one available was free. Based on the lack of newspapers and also on other things she had noticed in her new location, she decided that Marion really must be in the middle of nowhere!

However, she learned how to survive in her new surroundings and soon realized that her life in Marion was neither as busy nor as hectic as it had been in Owensboro. The people she met were nice, and they looked out for each other.

Larry retired in December 2024, but he went back to work in September 2025. He now works for a contractor and is out on jobs several days every week. In November 2017, after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto

Rico, he was sent there to help restore power and ended up being there until July 2018. He and his crew worked seven days a week for those eight months.

Fonda and Larry are active in St. William Catholic Church. In addition to her church activities with the Woman’s Guild, Fonda also meets with a group of women at the Methodist church in town, where they sew receiving blankets as part of their Blanket Ministry. The receiving blankets are donated to various hospitals.

Of their four children, three live in Marion and the other one lives in Owensboro. There are six grandchildren, five girls and one boy, ranging in age from 20 downward; they all live in Marion.

Fonda’s brother moved to this area from Virginia a few years ago.

Fonda and Larry attend a lot of sports events as the grandchildren participate in a variety of activities. Attending the children’s games and family get-togethers make up most of their recreational activities and social life.

Asked if they would recommend Marion and Crittenden County to others who were looking to relocate, they said they definitely would. The primary reason for their recommendation is the quiet area and the nice people.

Fonda and Larry recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

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Mexico Bridge work will begin soon, set to finish in January

A bridge replacement project on Mexico Road in Crittenden County was expected to begin this week, with completion anticipated in early to mid-January, weather permitting.

The new bridge will be built at mile point 2.46, about 2.5 miles northwest of Ky. 70 near Reiters View Road. The county received \$550,000 through the state's County-City Bridge Improvement Program for the project.

Motorists must use alternate routes during construction and should not move or drive around road closure barricades.

Rep. Comer launches new online portal

U.S. Rep. James Comer has launched a new website at Comer.House.gov to help residents of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District contact his office and access constituent services.

The website offers information on seeking assistance with veterans' benefits, Social Security, Medicare, passports, immigration, the Internal Revenue Service and other federal programs. It also includes details on grants, flag requests, Washington tours, internships, service academy nominations and community office hours.

Comer's office said it has assisted more than 6,000 Kentuckians through casework and helped return more than \$6.5 million to constituents.



Riverview Park has 77 stays last month

Riverview Park on the Ohio River in rural Crittenden County recorded 74 RV nights and three tent nights reserved during September, according to its monthly report.

Site revenue totaled \$1,205, including \$1,140 from RV reservations, \$15 from tent reservations and \$50 in cancellation revenue. Total deposits, after fees, taxes and camp credits, were \$1,227.26. Expenses totaled \$1,261.19, exceeding deposits by \$33.93. Financial figures reflect receipts collected during September, which do not necessarily correspond to stays during the month.

The park, formerly known as Dam 50, offers seven concrete RV pads with electricity, water and wastewater hookups, along with primitive tent camping. Amenities include a seasonal dock, restrooms, playground, basketball goal and picnic pavilions. Reservations can be made through crittendencountyky.org.

No parking along Main St. Thursday

Marion Police Department asks motorists to clear all parking spaces along Main Street by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, to accommodate the annual homecoming parade.

Chamber plans forum, small business event

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will host "The Chamber Table," a public forum for chamber-related comments and suggestions, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Crittenden County Office Complex.

Chamber officers and board members will attend to hear ideas about past activities and future plans.

The forum was among items discussed during the chamber's Tuesday morning meeting, along with plans for a social media campaign encouraging residents to shop local during coming holiday season and Small Business Saturday on Thanksgiving weekend.

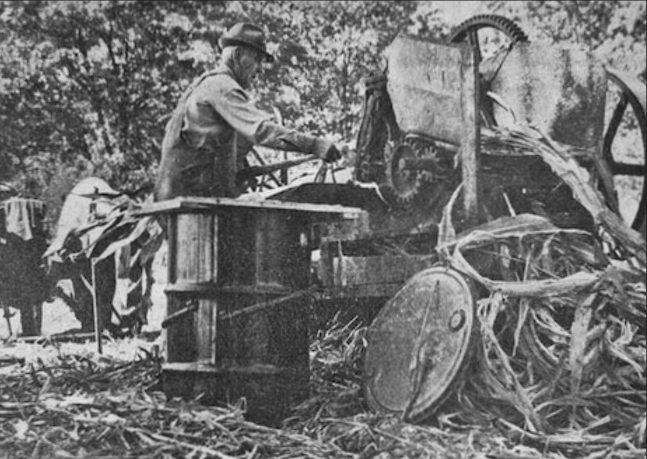
The chamber plans to distribute 100 goodie bags at the H&H Home and Hardware parking lot. Prizes will include \$100 in Chamber Cash redeemable at chamber member businesses, along with other gift cards.

Businesses can participate by contributing items to the bags, which are intended to provide incentives for shopping locally.

Christmas program at Fohs Hall Nov. 9

A Community Christmas Celebration sponsored by Livingston Hospital will be held at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at Fohs Hall in Marion.

The event will feature a catered dinner and a performance by Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass. Tickets are available for dinner and the show, with 100 dinner-and-show tickets offered. Show-only tickets also are available.



50 YEARS AGO – W.E. Arfleck of Marion made sorghum molasses on the family farm near Piney Road in 1976. The traditional fall process involves grinding sorghum cane and boiling its juice into thick, sweet molasses.

50 YEARS AGO

October 15, 1976

■ W.E. Arfleck of Marion was shown making sorghum molasses on the family farm near Piney Road. The traditional process includes grinding sugar cane and boiling the juice into sweet molasses.

■ Ten-year old Marion youth Keith Alan Davis advanced to the regional competition in Ford's Punt, Pass and Kick contest after taking first place honors in his age division. Davis is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Joe Davis.

■ Larry Jones and Charlie McClure won the top two trophies in the final bass tournament of the year sponsored by the Crittenden County Bass Club at Maple Sink. Jones took first place honors on a total catch with 4 lb., 5 oz. Second place went to McClure with 2 lb., 3 oz.

25 YEARS AGO

October 11, 2001

■ Marion native Greg Thurman, a 1987 graduate of Crittenden County High School, was inducted into the Belmont College Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Nashville College.

■ A special cancellation stamp was used by the U.S. Postal Service in Marion Oct. 20 to commemorate the city's Sesquicentennial celebration. Already, 20 people from several states had sent stamped envelopes to the Marion Post Office, requesting their letters be stamped with the commemorative logo.

■ Wheeler's Log Cabin had an open house Oct 17. The cabin was located on Brown School Road off Ky, 91 North.

10 YEARS AGO

October 13, 2016

■ Crittenden County Economic Development Corp (CCEDC) unveiled its new Work Ready Community in Progress sign in front of the Marion Ed-Tech Center. The county received the designation a few weeks earlier and continued working towards full Work Ready status.

■ Pam Larue and Joana Croft, Crittenden County Child Support specialists in County Attorney Rebecca Johnson's office, were recognized along with Johnson in terms of collections as being one of the 20 top performing counties in the state in 2015-16. Larue was also named Field Office Employee of the Month for October in Kentucky.

■ Crittenden County High School students completed a 3.1-mile color run at Marion-Crittenden County Park, signifying October to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month and celebrated by throwing clouds of pink powder high in the air!

Read Brenda Underdown's Forgotten Passages column at The Press Online between newspaper issues.

The upcoming election

One of the greatest privileges of serving as your County Judge-Executive is the opportunity to participate in the democratic election process. It gives citizens the opportunity to examine candidates, question their decisions, evaluate their records, and ultimately determine who they believe should lead their community.

This process is not always easy. Running for public office requires candidates to put themselves, their families, their decisions, and their records before the public. It requires answering difficult questions, defending positions, listening to criticism, and accepting the judgment of voters.

During the primary election, I faced two challengers who made the decision to enter the race, debate and campaign before the people of Crittenden County, and submit themselves to the scrutiny that comes with seeking public office. I respect the democratic process which allowed each of us to make our case to the voters of Crittenden County, and I respect the citizens who took the time to participate in the process. The primary election produced a result, and I am grateful to the people of Crittenden County who placed their confidence in me. I applaud Mr. Todd Campbell and Mr. Nathan Ratley for their willingness to place themselves in the public arena, and for the campaigns they ran, and I respect all voters who voted in the primary election.

Now, with the general election approaching, a write-in candidate has entered the race. A write-in candidate is a lawful part of our electoral system, but it follows a different path. A path which bypasses the same primary contest which was undertaken by Mr. Campbell, Mr. Ratley, and me. Voters should understand the distinction. The right to enter a race does not relieve any candidate of the responsibility to be truthful, transparent, and accountable to the people whose votes they seek.

During 2024, the county considered bids for a roofing project for the purpose of replacing roofs on 13 county owned facilities. The county received bids from three roofing contractors. One company submitted a bid to replace only the metal roofs and was subsequently not considered due to the Fiscal Court determining their desire was to work with only one contractor for the

entire project. One bid submitted was from a contracting company associated with this write-in candidate. The bid from this contractor was \$324,166.67 higher than the bid submitted by the company ultimately selected.

Let's let that number sink in for a moment: \$324,166.67 higher than the bid ultimately selected by the fiscal court. Not only higher than the selected bid, but also \$227,418.74, higher than the insurance adjusters amount determined necessary to replace the 13 hail-damaged roofs.

The county's decision was based on the substantial difference in bids, not personal animosity. As public officials, we have a responsibility to the taxpayers who entrust us with their hard-earned money. We cannot make purchasing decisions based on personal relationships, pressure, or the fear of offending someone. We must make these decisions in the best interest of the county and the citizens we serve.

According to my recollection, and the audio recording of the fiscal court meeting during which the fiscal court awarded this project bid, this write-in candidate responded by yelling at members of the fiscal court, stating our decision would cost the county huge and created an outburst in the fiscal court room, and storming out. However; I can confirm this particular project ended up costing the county taxpayers less than the accepted bid price by \$6,150.00, which helped provide much needed funding for the purpose of providing assistance to other areas of need.

Shortly after awarding the roofing replacement bid, the write-in candidate filed a lawsuit against the county claiming improper bid and award processes which he lost in circuit court and losing again in appeals court after he appealed the circuit court decision. He has since filed a lawsuit against the very county he is seeking your approval to serve, claiming improper response to an open records request involving his false claims of being physically attacked by then County Attorney Bart Frazer. This case was filed over a year ago and remains pending at this time.

I do not recount these incidents to engage in a personal feud or to suggest that anyone who disagrees with the decision of the government then forfeits the right to seek public office. Disagreement is part of public service, and criticism is part of this job. I will not pretend that every decision made during my time in office has pleased every-

one; even myself at times. No administration can honestly make that claim. There will always be disagreements about priorities, spending projects, and the direction of our county. I accept that!

What I cannot accept without a response, is the idea that a decision made to protect taxpayer dollars should be misrepresented as a personal vendetta simply because someone did not get the outcome they wanted. I will not pretend this write-in candidate's actions of filing frivolous lawsuits against our county has not cost our county huge, as this write-in candidate claimed would result.

I am, and always have been, thankful for the opportunity to serve Crittenden County, and I remain committed to carrying out the responsibilities of this office with integrity, fairness, and respect for the people who elected me. While I appreciate being asked to participate in a public forum, Oct. 17, I have kindly declined to do so, and I trust the will of the voters of our beloved county will be done Nov. 3.

Please know, I value each and every one of you; even if you don't support my candidacy. I merely ask everyone to seek the facts and determine what type of person you feel will best represent everyone at every level of government when elected. Someone who has proven their willingness to cost the county huge money and waste time; or me, someone who has proven he will do the very best for our county with the available resources.

Although Judge Newcom periodically writes a piece in the paper under this standard heading, based on the political nature and timing of this column, an advertising fee was charged, and it was paid for by candidate Perry Newcom.

Letters POLICY

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author's name (no multiple names or groups), address, including hometown, phone number and signature. Phone numbers will not be published. They are for our records only in order to authenticate a letter's author. Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words. Letters will be edited for spelling and grammar and The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Writers should limit their letters to no more than one per month. Original copies of submitted letters will be retained in our files. Letters should be emailed to the The Press at thepress@the-press.com. If email is unavailable, they can be presented at our office or sent to P.O. Box 191, Marion, Ky., 42064.

During election cycles, no endorsement or opposing letters will be published in the final newspaper prior to election day.

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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Newsprint is a renewable resource. The Press typically has old newspaper bundles available for free. Check at our office for availability.

I have finally given up donuts!

Well, not entirely. I still enjoy them from time to time, but now I eat two instead of half a dozen. I no longer hunt them down. I can now walk right past those that are marked down at the grocery store. I finally decided that the way I felt after I ate too many was not worth the minute or so (yeah, I eat them too fast) of pleasure experienced.

There are other vices (if eating too many donuts is a vice) that are much

more serious and harmful to others and truly difficult to overcome. Once a habit forms that is connected to a feeling or a thought, it can become nearly impossible to “will” ourselves out of it.

Over the course of life, I have learned that we sometimes need to hear, “Stop it!” Sometimes, if it is said early enough and often enough it will prevent bad habits from forming. Sometimes we hear it and refrain until the one telling us to stop is not around.

There are two sides to making needed positive changes in one’s life and I think that we often get

them backwards. It is one thing to stop doing or saying what hurts others. It is another challenge to become someone who no longer wants to do such things. If it takes someone telling us to “stop it” we are bumping up against law – as in “stop it or else.” If, however, we have something to replace that behavior or thought we are moving into grace.

I understand that to change we must first refrain from

behavior we would like to change but it helps to see a better place first. It is not that I don’t still like donuts, but I can now take them or leave them. That apathy is the first step toward better habits. I don’t think there is a reason for me to give up donuts – yet. But there is good reason for me to give up being unkind. There are good reasons for me to stop being self-righteous, or greedy, or prone to violence or a bad temper.

There is, however, a problem that we encounter when we want other people to change for the better. We cannot control them. We cannot make

anyone change. What we can do, however, is demonstrate a new way – a different way – of approaching life. This different way allows for every personality type. It allows all of us to be who we were meant to be, which may or may not be who we are right now.

It is my goal in life to make every day better than the one before. I don’t mean this in a Pollyannish way. Life is too unpredictable and complicated for that. I do believe however that even on the very bad days, of which I have had a few lately, we can still move toward the goal of growth and maturity. We can still be patient and kind. Doing these on our worst days will do much more to make this world better than only doing it on our best days – anybody can do that.

Here are a few encouragements in the form of proverbial sayings that we can carry with us every day. On those days when we just can’t be our best, maybe we will bump into others who are able. When we see a better path ahead and are encouraged to walk it, those bad habits can begin to fade.

If you have time, take a moment and consider what the world would be like if more of us could live out what is encouraged in these well-known verses from the Bible. (All are

RSV.)
A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Prov. 15:1)

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thess. 5:11)

Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. (James 1:19)

Be merciful, even as your (heavenly) Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)

A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. (Prov. 17:22)

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. (Prov. 16:24)

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. (Col.4:6)

And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (1 Thess. 5:14)

Be the better path for others to see.

Sean is always interested in feedback and conversation. He can be reached at sean.niestrath@outlook.com. He publishes a daily devotional via Substack at seanniestrath.substack.com.



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Faith, History, and Public Life

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EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

Vote
ERIC LARUE
Crittenden County School Board
District 2
Experienced & Responsive
Paid for by Eric Larue

CRITTENDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT		
Date Approved: September 28, 2026		
Working Budget	FY 2027	
OVERVIEW		
General Fund -Fund 1	17,017,502.73	71%
Special Revenue-Fund 2	3,470,569.51	15%
School Activity Fund 21 - 25	388,718.22	2%
Capital Outlay-Fund 310	111,800.00	0%
Building Fund-Fund 320	709,874.00	3%
Construction Fund-Fund 360	-	0%
Food Service-Fund 51	2,172,835.67	9%
Total	23,871,300.13	100%
Debt Service Bond Obligations	799,279.63	
Debt Service On Behalf	306,505.27	
Debt Service Fund-Fund 400	1,102,263.41	
General Fund Revenue Recap		
Local Sources - Taxes, Etc.	3,750,594.22	22%
State Sources - SEEK	6,704,082.00	39%
On Behalf	4,422,956.21	26%
Beginning Balance	2,139,870.30	13%
Total New Revenue	17,017,502.73	100%
General Fund Expenses Recap		
Instruction	8,297,794.72	49%
Student Support Services	1,097,686.02	6%
Instructional Staff Supervision Services	756,270.48	4%
District Administrative Support	1,014,140.68	6%
School Administrative Support	1,074,808.68	6%
Business & Tech Support Services	472,029.36	3%
Plant Operation & Maintenance	1,693,839.86	10%
Student Transportation	1,371,566.79	8%
Debt Service - KISTA & Energy Savings	186,027.26	1%
Contingency	773,718.10	6%
Fund Transfers	279,620.78	2%
Total Expenses	17,017,502.73	100%
Total Expenses	17,017,502.73	
Total Revenue	17,017,502.73	
	0.00	
	-	
Balanced Budget	-	

Wealth can’t buy forgiveness and eternal life

Question: I’ve worked hard and acquired considerable wealth. My money enables me to take care of myself and my family. It gives me freedom to do what I want. It helps me to know I’m a person of value. Why would I want to become a follower of Jesus, when I already have a good life?

Answer:While riches can make our lives easier, it can’t give us peace of mind or peace with God. While it can buy us the best medical care, a house and a car, it cannot buy forgiveness of sins, a relationship with our

Ask the Pastor
By Bob Hardison

Creator, or eternal life in heaven.

Having money can hinder us from receiving God’s grace. Many with money tend to focus on self and they have the religion of “Me.” When wealth becomes a person’s god, everything else takes a backseat, including the one

true God. God has made it clear—He must be first. He demands total allegiance and loyalty.

Wealth isn’t the problem. In 1 Timothy 6:10, the Bible says, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” It’s the love of money that causes problems rather than money itself. It’s the

love of money that gets in the way of receiving God’s grace.

All people have a sin problem (Rom. 3:23). That includes wealthy people, too. The only way to receive God’s forgiveness and grace is by putting one’s faith in Jesus Christ. My personal experience--my life has been greatly enriched through my personal relationship with God, but the greatest benefit is yet to come—eternal life with God and with others forever.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

WORSHIP
with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

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

St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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...

Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown
We invite you to be our guest
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children’s & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman
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.

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

261 Crooked Creek Church Rd.,
P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Pastor, Hank Cayce “Come and Worship with Us”

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace
2 Peter 3:18
PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

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

Marion Church of God

334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
“Where salvation makes you a member.”

Marion General Baptist Church

341 West Bellville St., Marion, KY
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Wesley Lynn
Come Worship With Us!

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Speaker: Greg Rushing
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.

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian

585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

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

Frances Community Church

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

Hurricane Church

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

Unity General Baptist Church

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

Marion Church of Christ

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

Tolu basketball become winners despite no gym

If you see the county road sign on KY 654 N that says Mt. Zion Church Road and wonder where it got its name, here is the history of the old church. The old Mt. Zion Methodist Church was located next to Mt. Zion Cemetery. This is an example of one of our county road signs that help preserve our history.

Annual Cemetery Cleaning Day

From the archives of The Crittenden Press, Sept. 2, 1897, we read of the annual cemetery cleaning day. Truly an almost forgotten custom, cemetery cleanings were very much a part of our past history and equally important before the days of riding lawn mowers.

The people of the area met at Mt. Zion Church for the purpose of cleaning off the cemetery. Annually they have a meeting of this kind, and they have grown to regard this as a sacred duty they owe the dead, and very few fail to attend and take part in the work.

Fully 500 people gathered there and many came from a long distance, having friends resting in this "city of the dead," they were willing to dedicate the day to their memory. The forenoon was spent in the work. At noon, dinner was spread on the ground and there was plenty and some to spare.

In the afternoon, religious services were held and all participated in the prayers and songs. An appropriate address was made by Uncle Highly Gilbert. He assisted in digging the first grave at the cemetery, and has lived to see many more mounds reared in this silent home.

The first grave was made for Mr. Jonathan Beals, who departed this life in September of 1844. Since then, representatives of almost all of the old families in that section have gone thither. Among the pioneers there were Ryland Heath, Col. Wm. Hughes, Chapel Nunn, Chesley Nunn, Dr. M. Bristow, Wm. and Jack Hill and others whose names cannot now be recalled.

Rev. J. A. Wheeler Tells

History
Rev. J. A. Wheeler wrote the following article in 1914 at the close of his four-year service. He was the Methodist preacher for the Shady Grove circuit, and Mt. Zion Church was one of his churches. By doing this, he helped preserve much history of this church.

Mt. Zion Church

The church was organized at Mt. Zion in the year of our Lord 1838 by the Presiding Elder Cain. The log house was built near that date. The charter members were as follows: Ryland Heath and wife, W. M. Hill, wife and son, Dr. Bristow and wife, Wm. Hughes, Ezibel Porter, James Broadfoot and wife, Ingram Lucas, Pastor Hughes, J. B. Hill, James T. Taylor and wife came in later on, old Bro. Ira Nunn and wife were also charter members as services were held in their house, also Dr. Bristow's before the church was built.

When the log house was built, Uncle Highly Gilbert helped to cut down the first tree that was put in the building. He was just a boy at the time, and died a member of that church. The promise is to the faithful. J.W. Hill was a boy of 13 years of age at that time. The names of many more could be given, but as the tree is known by the fruit, we are sure their names are given in the Lamb's Book of Life, and they are remembered by some of the old people that were children when they passed away from this old world.

They say many were the good meetings held in the old log house; and many were brought into the fold of Christ, that were bright and shining lights that were ornaments to the church and community.

Many have gone out from here to build up other churches, so their influence still lives and will live on and on, and will live until time is no more and when Christ comes to gather in His jewels they will walk up to receive their crown and will still



In later years, the building was remodeled, during which time the upper story and bell tower were removed. It was torn down in 1978.

live forever more.

On Jan. 25, 1855, a deed was made to Mt. Zion Church and Masonic fraternity by William Williams and wife, for the sum of \$5 and was recorded in 1864 by Berry S. Young, during the Civil War.

The church had its trials, rises and falls, still souls are being saved at that place, it's a dear sacred spot in the memory of many that still live. The writer has had many seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Bro. Big Truitt was one of the pillows of the church at the time he went out of the church to preach the gospel. He did not live long, but he lived a true Christian life, and many rise up in that day to call "him blessed."

Church Destroyed by Cyclone

On May 17, 1890, the house was blown down by a cyclone; this being the second house, then more land was secured. The deed being made by Robert Heath, in 1901, L. R. Hughes, J. W. Cook and G. P. Wilson, trustees.

There was another new house built and was dedicated by Rev. J. W. Bigham; Rev. Thrash-

er was the preacher in charge at that time, and the church has been wonderfully blessed since. It has been under the care of Revs. Gibbons, Archie, Boggs, Crow, Smithson, Rowling, Love, Smart and Wheeler.

Four years ago the writer was honored with the privilege to come to this sacred place and we worshipped in the old frame house until 1913.

Then by the assistance and help of the brethren, and trust in the Lord to lead us, with Bro. E. L. Nunn as chairman of the board of the building committee, Albert Lucas, James O'Neal, Tom Williams, George Hughes and John Hardin, proceeded to tear away the old church house, and we soon had a new one erected.

I directed in the digging of the ditch and being assisted by Thomas Fowler and others in making the concrete foundation, on which now stands one of the most modern up-to-date church buildings in Crittenden County.

When I came to this pastoral charge, Mt. Zion was said to be dead – only had 33 officiated members, all were female members but three, but now we have 102.



The Mt. Zion Church that was built in 1913. It was a two-story building with the church occupying the bottom and the Masonic Lodge occupying the upper level. Standing on the steps are Ewing and Ethel McDowell, long time members of the church.

The new house was completed and ready for dedication July 12, 1914, and our beloved Presiding Elder, J. B. Adams, preached the dedication sermon. A fine dinner was on the ground, and a great reunion for all, about 1,000 being present.

In the afternoon Bro. Adams proceeded, with the help of the trustees

and the pastor, to dedicate the beautiful structure to the Lord, and we have just recently closed a great revival of which about 25 were saved and as this is the close of my four year's stay and will close by saying as St. Paul said: "Finally my brethren, farewell; be perfect; be of good comfort; be of one mind; live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Amen, J. A. Wheeler

The Mt. Zion Methodist Church was closed in 1965, and the remaining members went to Rosebud. The church building was torn down in 1978. The bell from the church is on display in the Crittenden County Historical Museum. .

(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).



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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 11.65 Acres - \$62,500.00
Versatile Crittenden County tract with an excellent build site, utilities, open ground, timber, creek, pond, trails, and deer and turkey hunting opportunities.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 59.09 Acres - \$645,000.00
Multi-use recreation farm with 3BR home, hunting cabin, horse barn, fenced pasture, stocked ponds, food plots, and quality deer and turkey habitat.

NEW! Livingston County, KY – 98.677 Acres - \$399,000.00
Prime Livingston County hunting tract with food plot areas, excellent trails, diverse timber, heavy deer sign, 60' x 30' pole barn, and gated access.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 0.31 Acre - \$225,000.00
Brick 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Marion, Kentucky with attached 2-car garage, formal living and dining rooms, kitchen island, utility room, and large detached shop. Utilities onsite.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 5.10 Acres - \$274,900.00
This 3BR/2BA country home with finished basement, shop, timber, open ground, and hunting sits on 5.10+/- acres.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 16.41 Acres - \$319,000.00
This 16.41+/- acre near Marion features a 3 bed/2 bath, 1,760 sq. ft. home with new metal roof, open concept, stainless steel appliances, partial covered deck, 3-car garage, two ponds, and pasture and woods mix.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 20.50 Acres - \$97,375.00
This 20.5+/- acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers diverse timber, food plot potential, established trails, and excellent deer and turkey hunting habitat with build site opportunities.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 30.91 Acres - \$146,822.50
This 30.91+/- acres in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers prime deer and turkey hunting with food plot potential, diverse timber, trail system, and build site opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY – 34 Acres - \$135,000.00
Timbered hunting tract with Mill Creek frontage, excellent deer habitat, mature hardwoods, and secluded access in Crittenden County, Kentucky.

Crittenden County, KY – 135.85 Acres - \$750,000.00
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Livingston County, KY – 168.0144 - \$850,000.00
This 168+/- acre tract features 120+/- acres of tillable ground with strong soils, Tennessee River frontage, and a wooded portion with a slough, supporting waterfowl, deer, and turkey hunting.

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Luxury lodge with guest suites, commercial kitchen, shop, and breathtaking balcony views perfect for weddings, reunions, corporate retreats, and private event use.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 11 Acres
Versatile agricultural property within Marion city limits featuring open ground, timber, livestock potential, utilities, and recreational opportunities.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 15.44 Acres
Multi-use farm with a great build site, open acreage, timber, ponds, livestock potential, and quality deer and turkey habitat in Crittenden County.

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Quiet country living with this updated 4BR home on 53 acres of hardwood timber, brushy fields, and a small creek. The property adjoins a 367-acre protected nature preserve for added privacy and views.

SOLD! Livingston County, KY – 91.75 Acres - \$455,000.00
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County Board of Elections will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 in the Office of Crittenden County Clerk, 200 Industrial Dr., Marion, to process excused, mail-in absentee ballots returned for the general election. Ballots will not be scanned until Election Day, Nov. 3, and results of absentee balloting will not be released until after polls close at 6 p.m. that day.

This notice given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

To find out where you may vote on Nov. 3 and to find a sample ballot for your voting precinct

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County Board of Elections will offer excused, in-person absentee voting Oct. 21-28 weekdays 8-4 inside the Office of Crittenden County Clerk, 200 Industrial Dr., Marion, for general election voters who will be unable to vote in person for Early Voting or on the day of the election. Voters must attest to their reason for being unable to vote during Early Voting (Oct. 29-31) or on Election Day (Nov. 3).

This notice given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

For a sample general election ballot

Happy 91st Birthday!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Pennyrile Allied Community Services, Inc. (PACS) will be administering the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the upcoming year.

If you or your company is interested in becoming an approved vendor for the LIHEAP Subsidy and Crisis Components, please contact Pennyrile Allied Community Services, Inc. to request a Vendor Application Packet.

Vendor packets contain the required application, agreement, and information needed to participate as an approved LIHEAP vendor.

For additional information or to request a Vendor Application Packet, please contact:

Pennyrile Allied Community Services, Inc. (PACS)
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
(270) 886-6341
Krista Groves, krista.groves@pacs-ky.org

LIHEAP is federally funded through the Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Families and Children.

Real Estate LISTINGS

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- 3 BR, 2 Bath - 763 Lola Rd - **\$274,900**
- 3 BR, 1 Bath - 599 Levias Rd - **\$249,000**
- 4 BR, 2 Bath - 331 Lily Dale Rd - **\$244,000**
- 3 BR, 3 Bath - 121 E Cruce Ln - **\$289,900**
- 3 BR, 1 Bath - 104 Eagle Eye Ln - **\$144,900**
- 5 BR, 3 Bath on 8 AC
4025 Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd - **\$319,000**
- 3 Bed, 2 Bath- 763 Lola Rd, Salem Ky
\$224,900

ACREAGE

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- 5 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$29,000**
- 6 AC 826 Lonestar Rd **\$69,000**

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yard sale

Annual Fall Yard Sale at St. William Catholic Church from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Oct. 15 and 16 and 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 17. Come shop from a hall full of stuff. (1t-42-p)

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LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578), citizens are afforded the opportunity to express their views concerning the recreational needs of their community. To provide a forum for discussion, Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be hosting an open meeting on:

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 4 p.m. CST/5 p.m. EST
Location: Fohs Hall
Address: 201 North Walker Street, Marion, KY 42064

The specific purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Fohs Hall Park Rotunda Project. This project involves the construction of a rotunda-style pavilion as the anchor point of Fohs Hall Park, a new and developing public outdoor space at 130 North Walker Street in downtown Marion. The pavilion will measure 75 feet in diameter and feature a concrete slab foundation, brick paver base and brick-wrapped columns, with a metal roof and wooden accents. The pavilion will have electric lighting and outdoor fans, connected to a nearby power supply via underground trenching.

The public is invited to review and voice their opinion on the proposed activities and potential impacts of the project. Anyone wishing to support or oppose the proposed project can also submit written comments to Jared Nelson, Projects Coordinator, Pennyrile Area Development District, 300 Hammond Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 or via email at jared.nelson@ky.gov by Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court proposes to develop and renovate recreational resources to provide for the health and wellbeing of the general public, and:

WHEREAS, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court intends to make application to the Department for Local Government for assistance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is limited to funding a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of proposed project costs estimated at a total cost of \$500,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court hold in reserve fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project costs for the purpose of matching the Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court understands that it will sign assurances to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations, especially Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the Judge/Executive or any required staff members are hereby authorized to sign any documents reflecting same.

Judge/Executive

Date

ATTEST:
Notary Public

Date
(Seal)

Recreational Trails Program 2026 Application PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is hosting a public meeting on their Fohs Hall Park Walking Trail Project Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application. The project involves the construction of a walking trail, restroom facilities and landscaping in Fohs Hall Park, located at 130 North Walker St. in Marion. The development of a trail and amenities at the park will provide the opportunity for outdoor recreation and exercise in Marion's cultural corridor for community residents and visitors of all ages.

To provide a forum for discussion, Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be hosting an open meeting on:

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 4:30 p.m. CST/5:30 p.m. EST
Location: Fohs Hall
Address: 201 North Walker Street, Marion, KY 42064

The public is invited to review and voice their opinion on the proposed activities and potential impacts of the project. Anyone wishing to support or oppose the proposed project can also submit written comments to Jared Nelson, Projects Coordinator, Pennyrile Area Development District, 300 Hammond Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 or via email at jared.nelson@ky.gov by Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM 2026 Grant Application RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court proposes to develop recreational resources to provide for the health and well-being of the general public, and

WHEREAS, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court intends to make application to the Department for Local Government for assistance under the Recreational Trails Program, and

WHEREAS, the Recreational Trails Program is limited to funding a maximum of eighty percent (80%) of proposed project costs estimated at a total cost of \$410,842.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court hold in reserve twenty percent (20%) of the proposed project costs for the purpose of matching the Recreational Trails Program assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court understands that it will sign assurances to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations, especially Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the Judge/Executive is hereby appointed to enter into said Agreement and to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the closing of the Agreement.

Judge/Executive

Date

ATTEST:
Notary Public

Date
(Seal)

SportsShorts

VOLLEYBALL

Girls close with Webster win

Crittenden County built a two-set lead before Todd County Central rallied to defeat the Lady Rockets in a five-set volleyball marathon Monday at Marion. CCHS won the opening set 25-14 and edged Todd Central 25-23 in the second to move within one set of victory. The Lady Rebels responded with wins of 25-15 and 25-14 to force a deciding fifth set, then completed the comeback with a 15-6 victory.

The girls beat Webster County Tuesday in straight sets to close out their home schedule. They will be on the road at Christian County Thursday.

The girls finished Tuesday's game against Webster having won five of their last six outings and holding a 14-13 overall record.

The Lady Rockets will next week turn their attention to the Fifth District Tournament, scheduled for Oct. 19-20 at Livingston Central.

UPCOMING GAMES / MATCHES

Crittenden Sports Schedule

Oct. 15 Volleyball at Christian County
Oct. 16 Football vs Fort Campbell
Oct. 19-20 Volleyball District Tournament

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Wildcats jump to No. 15

Kentucky climbed to No. 15 in the Associated Press Top 25 football poll after a 35-34 overtime victory over LSU, earning its highest ranking since reaching No. 13 in 2022.

The Wildcats (5-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) have won four straight games, including three conference contests, under first-year coach Will Stein. Kentucky returned to the rankings after dropping out a week earlier.

Kentucky travels to Norman on Saturday to face Oklahoma, which defeated previously top-ranked Texas 27-24.

Georgia took over the No. 1 spot, followed by Notre Dame. Kentucky is among nine SEC teams in the rankings. LSU dropped from No. 10 to No. 22 following its loss to the Wildcats.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Squirrel	Aug 15 - Nov 13
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Deer Archery	Sept 5 - Jan 18
Turkey Archery	Sept 5 - Jan 18
Deer Crossbow	Sept 19 - Jan 18
Turkey Crossbow	Oct 1-18
Deer Youth	Oct 10-18
Deer Muzzleloader	Oct 17-18
Turkey Gun	Oct 24-30
Deer Gun	Nov 14-29
Turkey Crossbow	Nov 14 - Dec 31
Squirrel	Nov 16 - Feb 28
Dove	Nov 26 - Dec 6
Duck	Nov 26-29
Turkey Gun	Dec 5-11
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Deer Muzzleloader	Dec 12-20
Goose	Nov 26 - Feb 15
Dove	Dec 19 - Jan 10
Deer Youth Free	Dec 26-27
Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct. 31
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

FOLLOW THE ROCKETS AT THE PRESS ONLINE
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Lady Rockets advance to region with win over Lyon

STAFF REPORT

Adri Berry scored all four goals Monday as Crittenden County defeated host Lyon County 4-2 in the Fifth District Tournament opener, securing a regional tournament berth and a spot in the district championship game.

The Lady Rockets lost 3-2 Tuesday to top-seeded Trigg County in the district championship game. Trigg had won both regular-season meetings with Crittenden, 6-2 and 4-1.

The Lady Rockets last won the district crown in 2015.

Monday's victory settled a season

split with the Lady Lyons. Crittenden won the first meeting 5-2 in Marion before losing 2-1 at Lyon County.

The Lady Rockets are making their fifth district championship appearance since 2015. They won the title that year by defeating Trigg County in a penalty-kick shootout and finished as runners-up in 2016, 2022 and 2025.

Crittenden lost to Lyon in the 2016 final and to Trigg in the 2022 and 2025 championship games.

The Second Region Tournament begins Saturday at Henderson. Pairings will be announced Thursday.



Adri Berry scored all four CCHS goals Monday against Lyon and remains among the top 10 scorers in Kentucky. Photo by Brynn Porter.



Crittenden County's cross country team's season is winding down as the runners prepare for the Oct. 24 First Region meet. The squad ran Tuesday at the Paducah Fellowship of Christian Athletes All Comers and will race Thursday at Hopkins Central before turning its full attention to the regional event. Pictured are team members (from left) Coach Nick Martinez, Barrett Brown, Noah Martinez, London McCord, Miles Yates, Presley Potter, CJ Nelson, Addie Nelson, Aiden Musser, Bella Walston, River Rogers, and Head Coach Sandra Martinez. Photo by Misty Tinsley Photography.

Volleyball girls chime in on district hopes

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

With the Fifth District Tournament set for Oct. 19-20 at Livingston Central, the Lady Rockets volleyball team is focused on continuing its winning ways.

Crittenden County completed the regular season unbeaten against district opponents, something it has done every season since 2020. Coach Bayley McDonald said the Lady Rockets have won every district tournament since 2018.

"We take a lot of pride in that accomplishment, and as the years continue it adds more and more pressure to the seasons. We do not take it lightly, and our goal every single season is, no matter what, we run our district. We set other goals, but that one is always number one. A standard we have set for our team," McDonald said.

Despite that dominance, McDonald said competition within the district is growing. The Lady Rockets open play against Trigg County at 7 p.m., Monday. The championship game is scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday at Smithland.

"We enter each season with a target on our back, and I must continue to tell the girls how badly the other teams want our title," she said.

The increasingly competitive nature of local volleyball is something she welcomes.

"As a former player and passionate coach, you can't ask for more," Mc-

Donald said.

This year brought additional pressure with Lyon County joining the Fifth District. McDonald was complimentary of the new opponent from Eddyville.

"Adding Lyon County is just what we needed to even out the district. I'm excited to see a true tournament play out throughout the week," she said.

McDonald isn't the only one looking forward to the tournament. Senior Maeson Martin is mindful of the team's streak and the challenges ahead.

"The fact we haven't lost a district match in so long is one thing I am very conscious of. Yet still one thing I am growing aware of is that the district isn't as much of a guarantee anymore," Martin said.

She said Trigg County has improved and Lyon County plays like it has something to prove. Still, the five-year veteran is optimistic about her team's chances.

"Districts will be more of a competition this year than it has been in years past, but I strongly believe that we will be keeping the title of district champs for many more years to come," Martin said.

Martin and fellow senior Braelyn Merrill are leaders of the Lady Rockets squad and have helped rally their teammates throughout the fall. Both have also reflected on their own growth.

"This season I feel like my attitude towards the sport has gotten a whole lot better," Martin said.

Merrill said her biggest strides have come in confidence and leadership.

"Being a senior, I've learned that being a good teammate is about more than what you do on the court. It's also about encouraging others, keeping a positive attitude, and being someone your teammates can depend on," she said.

Merrill has worked to make those qualities a consistent part of who she is.

"Personally, I want to give everything I have to this team and make the most of every opportunity, especially with this being my senior year," she said.

The program also has emerging leaders such as junior Maddie Hearrell, who shares her teammates' determination to defend the district title.

"Every time I walk into a district match, I remind myself to give it my all, no matter who stands on the opposite side of the net. Our district as a whole has more talent than ever before, but I believe this pushes us as the reigning champs to fight even harder to keep our title," Hearrell said.

Hearrell is committed to bringing positive energy to her team as the Lady Rockets pursue a successful postseason.

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Marion's First United Bank

Par 4 Plastics Manufacturing

Livingston Hospital Deaconess Kentucky

Farmers Bank and Trust Company of Marion

Serena Jent's Full Body Fitness

Barrett Sherer Taxidermy and Barn Reclamation

Curnel Ag Repair

H&H Home and Hardware

C-Plant Federal Credit Union in Marion

Grant Gardner Seal Coating

Gilbert Funeral Home

Hodge's Sports and Apparel

Dr. Johnny Newcom, Chiropractor

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STAFF REPORT

The budget, submitted Sept. 28, shows \$23,871,300 in total spending across all district funds. The general fund accounts for 71% of the overall budget, followed by \$3.47 million in special revenue funds and \$2.17 million for food serv-

Another \$4.42 million, or 26%, is listed as “on behalf” revenue. That is money the state pays directly on behalf of the school district for expenses such as employee retirement, health insurance and other benefits. Although the money generally does not pass through the district’s bank ac-

Instruction remains the district's largest expense at nearly \$8.3 million, or 49% of general fund. Plant operations and maintenance account for \$1.69 million, or 10%, while student

Other major expenses include \$1.1 million for student support services, \$1.07 million for school administrative support and \$1.01 million for district administrative support. The budget also includes \$773,718 in contingency funds and about \$280,000 in fund transfers. The district lists approximately \$799,280 in debt-service bond obligations, plus \$306,505 in debt service paid on its behalf.

For Boone, the connection extends beyond fundraising. In her biography on DanceBlue's website, she described how

Those visits reinforced the purpose behind the organization's work, she wrote, reminding her that every fundraiser, meeting and hour of planning serves real children and fami-

DanceBlue at the University of Kentucky is recognized as the largest student-run philanthropy in the Southeastern

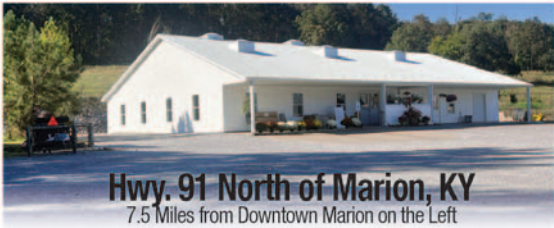
Students plan to raise money before the event and

Brown said she is excited for HOSA, an organization for future health professionals, to become involved in fundraising to fight childhood cancer.

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2026

Young said the project does not include immediate construction of a speculative building. Preparing the pad will allow a company to move more quickly when it is ready to build. It's the second work in the park since 1998.

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A large, ornate black and white graphic of a classical building facade, likely representing FoHS Hall, with the year 1926 inscribed on its pediment.

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City forms IDA with 4

Marion City Council ap-
proved action Tuesday to
address an urgent pump
replacement at the Ky. 91
sanitary sewer lift station
and confirmed four ap-
pointments to an Indus-
trial Development
Authority (IDA) board.

The lift station has only
one operating pump and
no backup, prompting the
special meeting. Council
approved a bid award and
a resolution involving
Straeffer Pump & Supply
Inc. for pump station im-
provements and generator
purchases, subject to state
approval of funding. The
Ky. 91 pump is the priori-
ty, with generators to be
purchased if funding is
available.

The council also con-
firmed Mayor D’Anna
Browning’s appointments
of Todd Riley, Mark
Williams, Alan Stout and
Darrick Myers to three-
year terms on the six-
member IDA.

City Administrator
Adam Ledford said the
board was established by
ordinance in the 1980s
but has never been active.
Its nonprofit status could
help the city qualify for
grants unavailable to
other industrial founda-
tions. Ledford said having
the board in place will pre-
pare the city for future op-
portunities. Members do
not have to live within city
limits, and officials plan to
add more details to the or-
dinance later.

SEPTMBER 2026

Weather Yearbook



Coldest Temp 46.3

Warmest Temp 97.9

Wettest Day 1.62

Mon., Sept. 28

Sat., Sept. 5

Fri., Sept. 11

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Average Temp	76.3	72.1	71.6	70.02	71.3	70.4
Coldest Temp	46.3	46	43	48.9	44.4	46.3
Hottest Temp	97.9	97.6	92.4	88.9	95.8	88.6
Precipitation	2.81	3.4	6.5	2.6	2	2.2
Wettest Day	1.62	2.25	4.49	0.99	0.86	0.84

Hottest temp of year in September

■ Summer held on through much of September in Crittenden County, producing the year’s highest temperature and the warmest September average in the local figures dating to 2016. Kentucky Mesonet data show September’s average temperature was 76.3 degrees, up 4.2 degrees from September 2025. The next-warmest September in the 11-year comparison was 2018, when the average reached 73.7 degrees. The thermometer climbed to 97.9 degrees Sept. 5, topping every monthly high recorded so far in 2026. August’s highest reading was 94.8 de-
grees, while July peaked at 93.7. September recorded 13 days with temperatures reaching at least 90 degrees. Average daily highs were 86.9 degrees, and average lows were 65.6. A late-month cooldown brought a more seasonal feel. Highs stayed in the upper 60s Sept. 22-23, and the month’s lowest temperature, 46.3 degrees, was recorded Sept. 28. Rainfall totaled 2.81 inches, compared with 3.4 inches in September 2025 and 6.5 inches in September 2024. This year’s total was slightly above August’s 2.54 inches but well below July’s 7.59 inches. Much of September’s rain arrived during a brief stretch Sept. 9-11. The wettest day, Sept. 11, delivered 1.62 inches, nearly 58% of the month’s total. Measurable rainfall of at least one-hundredth of an inch was recorded on four days. Through September, the monthly figures show 31.26 inches of precipitation for 2026. July remains the year’s wettest month, while February was the driest with just half an inch.

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of September 2026 to the same month in 2025. The chart also includes the previous month’s totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year’s monthly average.

CATEGORY	SEPTEMBER 2026	September 2025	August 2026	2025 YR TOTALS	2025 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	2,293	3,599	1,687	29,355	2,446.3
Criminal investigations	6	13	16	141	11.8
Domestics	7	11	10	101	8.4
Felony Arrests	5	4	2	39	3.3
Misdemeanor arrests	9	15	11	120	10.0
Non-criminal arrests	25	8	2	99	8.3
DUI arrests	2	0	2	9	0.8
Criminal summons served	7	1	2	29	2.4
Traffic citations	22	13	5	244	20.3
Other citations	30	31	12	278	23.2
Traffic warnings	3	1	2	61	5.1
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	6	5	5	82	6.8
Security checks/alerts	67	69	64	798	66.5
Calls for service	201	210	184	2,524	210.3



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY

QUIET

Continued from page 1
having fewer nearby entertainment op-
tions does not bother them. They enjoy
the quiet and slower pace.

Both are retired but remain busy.
Ron works around their home and
grounds, while Carol participates in
several local groups, including the
Friends of the Crittenden County Public
Library. She is also active in her
church.

Through her work with the Friends

group, Carol has been instrumental in
obtaining a grant for a Little Free Li-
brary installation. The group’s first Li-
tle Free Library is planned for the
Frances community and will likely be
installed sometime in October. Addi-
tional locations are planned, with mem-
bers of the Friends monitoring and
maintaining them.

The Harrisons have become part of
the community, willing to help others
when needed. They said they would re-
commend the area to anyone interested
in living at a slower pace.

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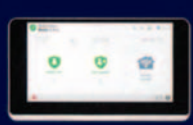
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1508 Iuka Rd.,
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Telehealth visits growing in popularity among providers, patients, students across the area

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Telehealth, or the use of digital information and communication technologies to access health care services and manage health remotely, is not new to the Bluegrass State. First used in 1995, it has evolved as fast as the technology has.

However, it was the pandemic and subsequent shutdowns that really brought telehealth into our mainstream culture. During the throes of the pandemic era, the Kentucky Medical Association reported that approximately 74% of Kentucky physicians utilized telehealth, a 10% increase from pre-pandemic numbers. The growing telehealth movement was later regulated by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2021-22, which established key definitions, security, confidentiality and reporting requirements.

That regulation also included the requirement for the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services to “develop and maintain a Telehealth Provider Directory to assist patients/consumers in locating health care providers utilizing telehealth across the Commonwealth.” According to this directory, 41 providers – including individuals, physician groups and hospitals – are listed as having a physical lo-

cation in Crittenden County. Their contact information, as well as their specialties, is listed as well. Several on the list are mental health providers.

One of the providers listed is nurse practitioner Marcie Ellington. Ellington, a longtime health provider, divides her time between Family Practice Clinic and Crittenden Community Hospital in Marion. She described telehealth as “just trying to meet the needs of our patients to the best of our ability.”

Even though local providers like Ellington “always prefer in-office visits,” she explained that sometimes patients get trapped at work or lack transportation to come to the office or hospital. “We try to meet them halfway,” Ellington said. The convenience and flexibility are among the obvious perks of telehealth, especially in a rural area.

During the telehealth call, Ellington tries to help them with their complaint. However, Ellington sometimes finds herself limited by not being able to physically examine the patient. In those cases,



Ellington

Ellington pivots back to a more traditional office visit. “We say, hey, we can’t manage this with telehealth. We’re gonna need you to come on in,” she explained. Another drawback to telehealth can be the lack of reliable internet service, which is also common in rural areas like Crittenden County.

Ellington also noted that they don’t offer telehealth routinely, but only on a case-by-case basis. “If someone asks specifically and we just can’t make it work otherwise, we’ll do a telehealth visit,” Ellington also stated. The state’s directory also gives a disclaimer that “prior to scheduling a telehealth visit, patients should contact their insurance company to confirm telehealth services are a covered benefit with their chosen insurance plan.”

Another form of local telehealth is for students in school. Ellington explained, “We also have a partnership with the schools so that students whose parents have signed consents can go see the school nurse. She can do a physical exam and share her findings with us.” Ellington added that the communication between school health and local providers “works out really well” and benefits students.



Homemakers Week

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom proclaimed Oct. 11–17 Kentucky Extension Homemakers’ Week, recognizing the local organization’s contributions to education and volunteer service. Pictured, from left, are (front) county Homemakers President Laurie Holcomb and Newcom; (back) Extension agent Rebecca Woodall, Andrea Clement, Tracy Sutton, Darl Henley, past president Brandi Potter and Janet Stevens. The Homemakers held their annual Twilight Walk and soup sampling Monday at the park.

A nice crowd turned out Saturday, Oct. 10 at Crittenden County Public Library for a special preview of “Current: A Descendant’s Journey for Truth.” Hosted by the Crittenden Historical Society, the screening featured a documentary following an enslaved girl’s journey to Kentucky and her descendant’s quest to honor her story. Local residents appear in the film. The film is by Pam Smith, who is the third great-granddaughter of Matilda Threlkeld, who lived on Bellville Street in Marion and claimed to be the daughter of Thomas Jefferson’s nephew.



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