



The Crittenden Press

Volleyball hosts All A opener | Sports Page 8

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

Voter registration deadline is Oct. 5

Voter registration deadline in order to participate in the Nov. 3 general election is Oct. 5. To register visit the county clerk's office with your driver's license or other qualifying identification or go online to GoVote.gov and register electronically.

Planning commission will hear zoning request for Main St.

Marion Planning Commission will consider a request to rezone the former Rocket Tire building at 503 S. Main St. to accommodate American Shield Blast Mats.

The property is currently zoned C-2 General Business District. The applicant is seeking a change to I-2 Light Industrial District.

A public hearing will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24 before the planning commission in the council chambers at Marion City Hall. For more information, call the city at 270-965-2266.

CC school board is changing meeting date

Crittenden County Board of Education is changing the date of its September regular meeting from from Sept. 22 to 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at Rocket Arena.

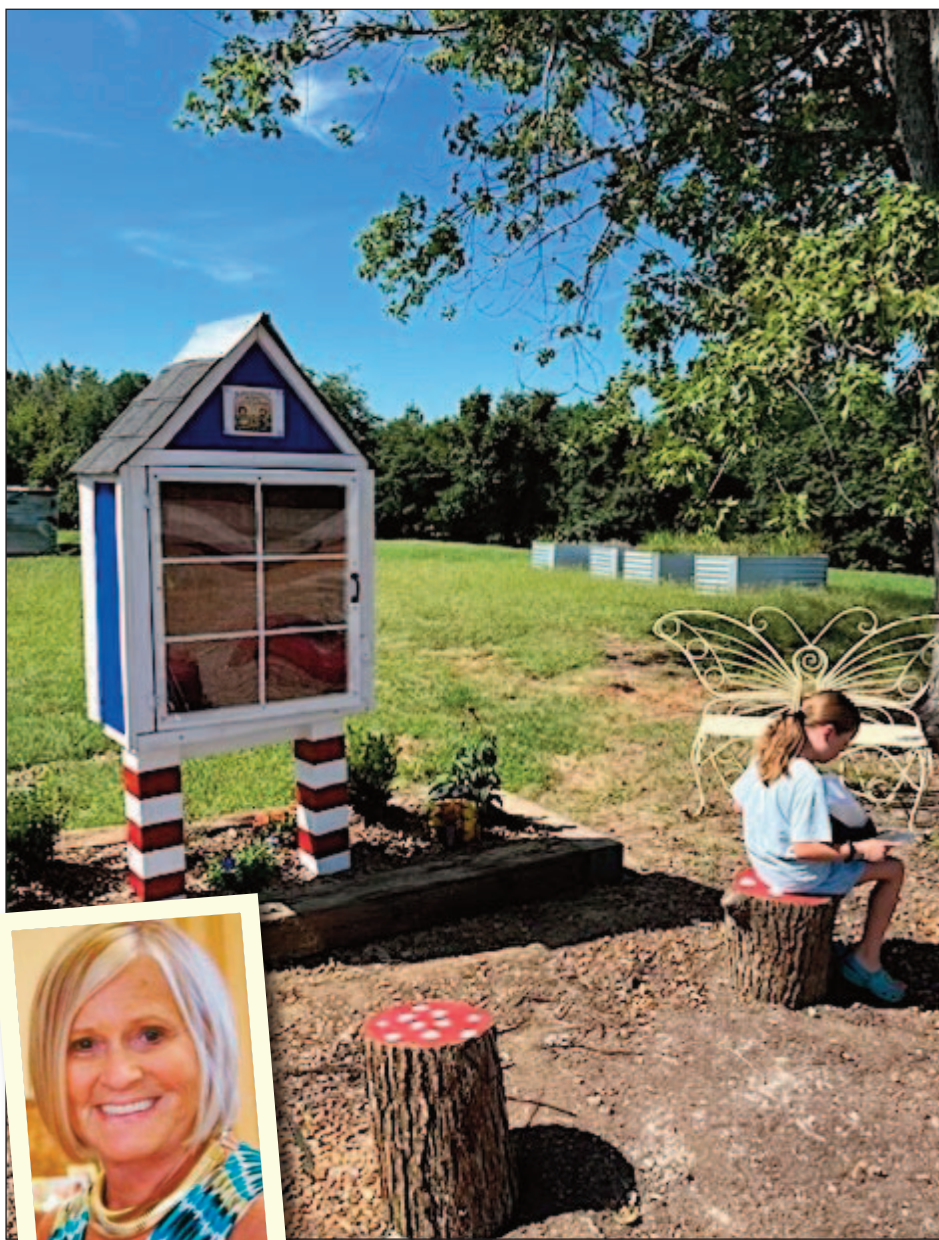


Motorized vehicles are prohibited at park trail

Marion-Crittenden County Park officials are reminding visitors that motorized vehicles are prohibited on the park's 1.25-mile walking trail and 400-meter oval track. This prohibition has been in place for many years. The prohibition includes e-bikes, electric scooters and other motorized devices. Officials say the restriction is intended to protect walkers, runners and other trail users.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will have a special called meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at city hall.
- Livingston County Conservation District will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Deer Lakes Golf Course in Salem.
- City of Marion will meet at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17 at city hall for a special meeting and tax rate hearing.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the county office complex.



Longtime teacher and city leader Phyllis Sykes drowned in her backyard pool in 2022.

Phyllis Sykes Reading Garden

Late teacher inspires memorial

STAFF REPORT

A new reading garden at Crittenden County Elementary School is giving children a place to enjoy books while providing a lasting memorial to longtime first-grade teacher Phyllis Sykes.

The Phyllis Sykes Reading Garden was completed shortly before the beginning of the school year. Located near the school playground, it includes a brightly painted Raggedy

Ann and Andy-themed book box, a bench and plants selected to attract butterflies.

The box operates as a free community library where children may take, leave or share a book. No library card is necessary.

Sykes, who died in an accidental drowning at her backyard pool in Marion on July 27, 2022, taught first grade for many years. She later served on Marion City Council and was a candi-

date for mayor at the time of her death.

Karen Nasser, who taught alongside Sykes for many years, said the idea for a memorial developed shortly after Sykes' death as friends and former students considered how best to honor her.

"How do we honor her in a way that would make her proud?" Nasser recalled. "Phyllis was a longtime,

See **SYKES**/page 3

CEO says fluorspar project is still progressing forward

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
FOR THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

CleanTech Vanadium Mining is moving forward with plans to revive fluorspar mining in Livingston County, with permitting underway and production potentially beginning by 2028 or 2029.

CEO and Executive Chairman John Lee said the proposed Campbell Crotser project could eventually create 30 to 50 highly skilled jobs, many paying six-figure salaries.

Lee first visited the property last spring as his company continued assessing the site for future mining operations.

"We spent three days there," Lee said. During the trip, Lee also visited the Ben

E. Clement Mineral Museum, where he purchased a piece of fluorite — the mineral his company hopes to extract from the Livingston County property.

In addition to touring the mining site, Lee traveled to Paducah, Nashville, Frankfort and Lexington. He also met with officials at the Office of Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to begin discussing permits needed to construct the mine.

"They were verbally supportive," Lee said.

Lee said some states are unreceptive to new mining projects, but he did not encounter that attitude in Kentucky. Discus-

See **SPAR**/page 9

School board okays 0.2 tax rate increase

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Board of Education approved its tax rates during a special-called meeting last Thursday. The district adopted a general fund levy of 51.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real property and 52.3 cents per \$100 on personal property. The real property rate is 0.2 cents higher than last year's rate.

District information indicated that the school taxes are expected to generate

\$2,888,173.76. The board approved the rates without opposition.

City of Marion will be the final local taxing district to approve its rate. The city will hold a special meeting at 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 at city hall.

The city is proposing a real property tax rate of 22.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value, down from 22.9 cents last year. Once the city casts its final vote, the complete schedule of

local property tax rates will be set. Once Marion approves its rate, city property owners will likely have a combined real property tax rate of 145.897 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or about \$1,458.97 on property valued at \$100,000.

The county and other local districts had set their rates earlier and those were detailed in last week's newspaper.

Then and now in Marion, Ky.

I grew up in Marion in the 1940s. Let me tell you what I remember about those years.

Can you imagine Marion with three traffic lights in town? No? Well, when I was growing up here, we had exactly that — one located at Main and Bellville, one at Main and Depot and one at Main and U.S. 60 (Gum Street).

Marion was much different then! It had a busy downtown and lovely big homes with carefully tended lawns, trees and flower beds that lined Main Street both north and south of town. We had two department stores, two drugstores, two grocery stores, two banks, a Western Auto store, a Ben Franklin Five and Dime, Cochran's Hardware, Byford's Variety Store, a Greyhound bus station, a pool hall and a barbershop. We also had a shoe repair shop where the owner, Mr. Brown, would put taps on our shoes for something like 35 cents. (Having taps on your shoes was all the rage, and everyone wanted them.)

There were a couple of beauty shops in town. I especially remember Miss Lily Bradford's shop on Main Street around where Louise's Flowers is now located. I remember that because Miss Bradford had a scary-looking piece of equipment used for permanents. The patron was hooked up to the machine, which heated and set the waves.

More importantly, there was an indoor movie theater right there on Main Street with a popcorn stand next to it. Farmers Bank was in the same location as today, and across Main Street from the bank was the Marion Cafe, where the owner, Cap Cline, stood by the register during open hours, greeting people coming in and thanking people going out. The restaurant had booths along one wall and a long counter with stools on the opposite side. There were tables filling the space between. Each of the booths had a small jukebox mounted at the end of the table where you could play one song for a nickel, but you could get six songs for a quarter!

The post office was in the same place as now. We had at least three doctors in town, and the Press office occupied what I believe is the same spot as today. There was a small service station where Five Star is now, and there were at least two other stations in town. There were also several office locations in town that housed lawyers, insurance agents and businesses of that type. Other businesses, such as the feed store and the icehouse, were located just off Bellville Street, on the outskirts of town.

The Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches were all in their same spots as today. And, like today, there were several other smaller churches in and around Marion.

The best part was that on Saturday morning, everyone went to town. My job on Saturday mornings was to polish shoes for every member of our family. Mama would wash our hair and get us all spruced up. Families would get to town early so that they would have a good parking place. There were parking places around the courthouse square, but on the back side of the square, there were rails for tying one's horse and buggy in the shade.

Kids would get out of the car and wander around with

See **MARION**/page 3



Jenny ZIMMER
Point of View

Deaths

Jacobs

Roy “Jeff” Jeffry Jacobs, 53, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at his home.

He was born on Feb. 10, 1973 in Marion to the late Roy Douglas and Sandra Kay Millikan Jacobs. He was a beloved medication tech at Princeton Health and Rehabilitation.



Surviving are his wife, Ashely Jacobs; two sons, Shane and Thomas “TJ” Jacobs of Crittenden County; a brother, Michael (Teresa) Jacobs of Union County; and three sisters, Jackie (Buddy) Chandler, Cathy (Ricky) Poindexter and Teresa (Scott) Price all of Crittenden County.

Gilbert Funeal Home is in charge of arrangements.

McReynolds

Peggy Oelan McReynolds, 88, of Marion, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2026 at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Prior to retirement, she had worked as a quality control inspector.

Surviving are a daughter, Cynthia Rena Neira of Demotte, Ind.; two sons, Michael Dale Belt and Terry Dwayne Belt, both of Marion; a brother, Tony Eugene Fletcher of Sturgis; eight grandchildren, Chelsea and P.J.;,Michael Jason and Ashley, Jason and Rebecca and Cody and Bianca; seven great-grandchildren, Hunter, Corbin, Emma,

Joesephine “JoJo”, Camden, William and SolMarie.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cavit and Mellie Gilland Fletcher; two sisters, Jean Palestine Hahn and Lois Izetta Farmer; and two brothers, Creed Oliver Fletcher and James C. Fletcher.

Graveside services were Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Mapleview Cemetery.

Myers Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Fritts

Aaron Thomas Fritts, 47, of Marion died Sept. 3, 2026 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville.

He was employed as a carpenter and coal miner.



Surviving are his wife, Kayla Fritts; sons, Wesley (Kaylee) Fritts, Ethan Rhodes, Jase (Fritts) Asbridge, Waylon Fritts; granddaughter, Kenleigh Fritts; brothers, David Harrison (Shellee) Fritts; Dale (Rena’ Huffines) Fritts; sister, Tammy Balmear; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, David Randall Friits; mother, Debbie Kay Brown; and sister, Shannon Graham.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at Myers Funeral Home with burial in Sugar Grove Cemetery. Visitation begins at 10 a.m., and continues until the service time.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Sept. 10

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building at 412 North College St. Refreshments will be served.
- New Era Homemakers Club will meet from 5:30-7 p.m. at Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Saturday, Sept. 12

- Crittenden County Genealogy meeting will be from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

Monday, Sept. 14

- A Life Skills class will begin at 7 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. This is a mandatory class required for the Community Christmas program.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

- Life Skills 101 will be from 9-10 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. This is a mandatory classes required for the Community Christmas program.
- Code Red - Universal Safety Plan begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. This is one of the classes for the Community Christmas program. Registration is required. For more information call (270) 965-5236.

Thursday, Sept. 17

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Friends of the Library will meet from 6-7 p.m. at the Crittenden County Library.

Monday, Sept. 21

- WITS Workout begins

at noon at the Crittenden County Senior Center. Sponsored by the Crittenden County Extension Office, led by FCS Agent Rebecca Woodall. For more information call 270-965-5236.

- Homemakers Leader Training will start at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office. Planning Thrifty & Healthy Holiday Meals will be led by Joni Phelps.
- Th Marion City Council meeting will be from 5-6 p.m. at Marion City Hall.
- Code Red - Universal Safety Plan is one of the classes for the Community Christmas Program will be from 6-7 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. For more information call (270) 965-5236.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

- Hooks & Needles Homemakers Club will meet from noon-1 pm. at the Crittenden County Public Library. Anyone who is interested in sewing, quilting, crocheting or knitting is invited to join.

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IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY FROM 5-8 P.M.

ON THE BLOODMOBILE

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ALLISON BALL

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Perry Newcom, Crittenden County Judge/Executive
Members of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances – Regulatory Basis of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances – regulatory basis of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, or the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Fiscal Court Audit Guide* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Crittenden County Fiscal Court on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. This includes determining that the regulatory basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement (Continued)

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court. The Budgetary Comparison Schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement; however, they are required to be presented in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws.

The accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statement as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in this report. The other information is comprised of the schedule of capital assets but does not include the financial statement and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2026, on our consideration of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

2025-001 The Crittenden County Fiscal Court Failed To Implement Effective Internal Controls Over Disbursements

2025-002 The Crittenden County Fiscal Court’s Financial Statement For the Public Properties Corporation Was Materially Misstated

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

May 15, 2026

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts’ website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D

The home belonged to Daniel Haire. Residents were in the house when the blaze began but were able to get out unharmed. The structure was a total loss.

Maddux said Sykes remained a special influence long after she left

Brennan Cruse designed and constructed the book box with help from Maddux. Cruse and Katie Keene also helped install it. Maddux and Nasserli credited Cruse with turning an idea discussed for nearly four years into a finished project.

Organizers hope the project will continue to grow. One goal is to add an awning over nearby picnic tables, giving children a shaded place to read during hot weather.

Children's books may be donated at CCES through Mollie McGowan or placed in a donation box at Marion and Co. Books should be appropriate for young readers.

The garden's message is simple: Take a book, share a book, inspire a young heart... and continue the love of reading that Sykes spent much of her life encouraging.

Additional testing by the pathologist is still required, and final autopsy results are expected in four to 12 weeks.

Grades nine through 12 were held in the city high school building until the new consolidated high school opened in the very early 1950s. The new school brought kids from all over Crittenden County into one

Small towns are not able to offer the same range of entertainment choices as larger communities. Not only young people but adults also find themselves driving 20 or more miles one way just to attend a movie, bowl a few games or even eat in a nice restaurant. The same applies to attending plays or concerts, playing a game of golf or enjoying an amusement park. Even shopping for most things, groceries included, means a drive to another, larger town.

Jenny Zimmer is a retired Human Resources Executive who, after living in Cincinnati for 53 years, moved back to Marion, her home town, in 2023.



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School leaders approve esports

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
FOR THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Crittenden County Board of Education met in a special-called meeting last Thursday and among its actions, the board revised the salary schedule for the lead mechanic position, which is currently unfilled. Superintendent Tonya Driver said there was a certified candidate, but the district was “trying to meet him in the middle” concerning his salary. She added, “If we do this, he’ll start on Sept. 15.” The board passed the amendment without opposition.

The board also approved establishing esports, or competitive video gaming, as a club and revising the extracurricular service supplements to give the newly established club \$1,200. Board member Bill Asbridge and Driver concurred that starting as a club to gauge interest was a good plan.

Also approved was the addition of a \$3,600 yearly stipend for the career and technical education coordinator at the high school. Driver called the responsibilities of the coordinator “a huge undertaking.”

The coordinator role is currently held by Principal Josh Cook. The board questioned whether Cook had time to complete the requirements, and Driver confirmed that he had done the job since July.

Not addressed by the board were requests from its previous meeting by CCHS bookkeeper Bree Brown for a stipend, and changes to financial plans for volleyball and cheerleading.

The board tabled a motion to consider an agreement with the Community Foundation of West Kentucky concerning the administration of the Vince Clark Rocket Foundation Endowment. Chairman Chris Cook noted that he expected an agreement at the regular session later this month and considered the Community Foundation “a specialized team” that could help the district navigate how to care for these funds. This money is specifically earmarked for high school students taking college classes and earning industry certifications, as well as for scholarships. Board members also discussed potential ways to encourage new investors.

After new legislation changed the way school districts communicate about finances, Driver

CRITTENDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

noted that the September board meeting date would need to be changed. The meeting is now Sept. 28. This gives board members the required two weeks to look at the working budget. They are expected to receive that information Sept. 14. Chairman Chris Cook stated that he was looking for trend data from last year’s budget, and Director of Finance Diane Winters concurred. She is also now giving the board monthly financial trends.

The board spent considerable time discussing data from the beginning-of-school survey that was sent through ParentSquare. The survey yielded overall positive results, especially concerning the later start to the school year. Of more than 200 respondents, 56.1% said they liked the later start time. In the comment section of the survey, respondents noted that vacations, summer activities, weather and personal preference were the main reasons. Driver didn’t read the five pages of comments aloud but told the board, “I read every single comment.”

Board members Tim Grau, Ryan McDaniel and Asbridge also discussed their perspectives on serving on the district’s calendar committee, the multi-member stakeholder group that decides the school calendar. Driver added that she purposefully does not attend calendar committee meetings so as to “not push what she wants or doesn’t want.”

The lone community member in attendance was Ric Carder. He addressed the board about the late start to the school year at the August meeting and again at the special-called meeting. Carder said “his heart hurt” that so few people from the community responded to the survey. He was grateful to know the “why.” Driver was undeterred by the small number of survey responses, noting that 200 respondents were far more than anticipated. Chairman Cook liked the targeted surveys, and there was discussion of how short surveys in the future could encourage more community participation.

The board also heard from Driver about the district’s plans with Studer Education Consultants. The district currently has a

two-year contract with Studer and will focus on achievement, staff rounding, a staff performance curve plan and an engagement survey. After a lengthy discussion by Cook and other board members, the engagement survey was changed from students to staff. “Given what we have heard from the community and staff, this needs to be our focus for a while,” Cook said of the change in the survey audience.

Driver presented “unplanned expenses” to the board, including the cost of drug testing, pressure washing and sprinkler repairs made in August. These “unplanned expense” reports will be presented to the board every month. Driver also reported a small enrollment increase. She also included a report of her visits to various schools since classes resumed. This was a particular objective the board had asked Driver to meet. The superintendent reported that she had been in nine classrooms, taken on morning and afternoon supervision duties and visited bus drivers since the last meeting.

A brief conversation concerned district administrators substituting in classrooms. After a prompt from a former teacher, board members approached the idea with cautious optimism, discussing what that would look like in Crittenden County Schools.

“It’s not a bad idea, and would save a ton of money,” Asbridge stated. Driver stated that because there were only five certified teachers in the central office, it might save only \$1,000 if they each substituted twice. Everyone agreed that larger school districts have more opportunities to make such an initiative work.

Grau suggested that instead of substituting, Driver and district leaders could help in classrooms in an effort to strengthen relationships.

Financial officer Diane Winters added that the substituting arrangement might put a strain on the central office, particularly with answering the phone and the door. Board member Eric Larue said that the central office likely gets more than 200 calls a day, and Winters thought that was a reasonable estimate.



Throwback Thursday From 2016

The water feature centerpiece of the Imogene Stout Market on Main was installed and tested. The two-ring water fountain shoots water high above the 650-gallon pool that adorns the new farmers and outdoor market. Pictured are Marion Tourism Commissioner Darrick Myers (back) and Joe Firth of Water Feature Pros in Louisville. The water feature was recently damaged by vandalism and has not been working. Repairs are not expected to be completed before winter.

50 YEARS AGO

September 11, 1976

■ The Women’s Club of Marion celebrated its 56th anniversary with a luncheon and state officers were on hand to help celebrate the beginning of a new club year. Pictured were Mrs. A.C. LaFollett, First District Governor, and Mrs. James W. Davis, President of the Kentucky Federation of Women’s Clubs. Pictured in The Press were Mrs. Chyron Wallen, Aide to the President, Miss Nelda Phillips, club Vice-President, and Mrs. Ralph Moore, club President.

■ The Crittenden County football coaching staff named senior Van Hunt as the player of the week following the 13-6 victory over Webster County. Hunt, who doubled as a halfback on offense and a linebacker on defense, turned in an outstanding game going both ways against the Trojans.

■ The father-son duo of Willard Stone and Danny Stone captured the Labor Day two-man scramble tournament played at the Marion Country Club. The Stones were awarded the first place honors after edging out Buck Travis and Sam Smith in the tie breaking process. A total of 20 teams were entered in the one-day event.

25 YEARS AGO

September 6, 2001

■ James “Dude” Ford had no idea what he’d end up with when he planted his tomato plant early in the summer. But what he would up with was a 10-foot, 9-inch plant that reached above the roof of his home on Fords Ferry Road. He and his wife ate many tomatoes off the vine, the only problem being it took a ladder to reach some of them.

■ Crittenden County High School honored seniors Natalie Fletcher and Corey Long for perfect attendance. Fletcher enjoys four-wheeler riding, shopping, and hanging out with friends. Long enjoys playing basketball, cheerleading, and collecting telephones.

10 YEARS AGO

September 8, 2016

■ Crittenden County Farm Bureau recently made a monetary donation to the Backpack Program in Crittenden County, which provides microwavable foods, granola bars and meals handled easily by children on the weekend. Accepting the donation from Farm Bureau president Stephen Hill was Holly White, FRYSC coordinator for Crittenden County Schools.

■ The two-ring water fountain centerpiece at the Imogene Stout Market on Main was installed and tested. LED lights at the local fountain will be able to shine a range of 256,000 colors on the water.

■ CCES recognized six students – one from each grade level and six staff members, for random acts of kindness and general compassion toward others. The assembly honored staff members Jerry McDonald, Suzanne Brown, Laura Poindexter, Tiffany Deboe, Johnna Fitch, Barbara Hunt and Savannah Jenkins. Students honored were Sarah Grau, Grace Vinson, Gohan Butts, Abigail Martin, Braelynn Pate and Caden Deboe.

Livingston Hospital will host ‘time capsule’ type beam signing

Livingston Hospital is inviting the public to sign a structural beam that will become part of its new facility.

Hospital staff, board members, medical staff and community members placed the first signatures on the beam Wednesday during a ceremony marking a milestone in the hospital’s \$78 million expansion project.

The public may sign the beam during regular business hours through noon Monday, Sept. 14, at the Livingston Hospital Foundation Community Center, 729 Main St. in Salem.

Carlson out of city race

Marion City Council candidate Jayden K. Carlson has withdrawn from the race, leaving seven candidates vying for the six seats on the city’s legislative body. Carlson has moved out of state.

However, Carlson’s name will still appear on the ballot for city voters, since the Notice of Candidate Withdrawal was filed after the Aug. 24 certification deadline. However, a notice will be conspicuously displayed during polling to advise voters of the withdrawal and that any votes cast for the withdrawn candidate will not be tabulated or recorded. All city voters who cast a ballot in person will vote at the County Office Complex both for Early Voting (Oct. 29–31) and on Election Day (Nov. 3).

Scholarship to honor Coyle is raising money

A fundraising campaign honoring the late Crittenden County sheriff’s deputy Rick Coyle has surpassed its initial goal of \$1,000.

Money raised through the Deputy Rick Coyle Legacy Award Fund will provide a scholarship to a Crittenden County High School senior planning to attend



a two- or four-year college, trade school or technical training program.

Organizers said donations continue to arrive, and the fundraiser will remain open as additional fundraising opportunities are planned. The scholarship was established to preserve Coyle’s legacy while helping a local student pursue education and career opportunities after high school.

Withrow meets terms of deferred sentencing, case is now dismissed

A misdemeanor false-reporting case against Kent Withrow, who recently filed as a candidate for Crittenden County judge-executive, has been dismissed.

Special prosecutor Lee Riddle said Withrow met all conditions of a plea agreement entered Sept. 3, 2025, and the court dismissed the case Wednesday under the terms of that original agreement.

Withrow entered an Alford plea last year to falsely reporting an incident to law enforcement. An Alford plea allows a defendant to maintain innocence while acknowledging that prosecutors have sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction. A guilty verdict was entered by the court.

Special District Judge Brandon Knoth of Eddyville presided over the case, with Riddle, of Madisonville, representing the Commonwealth as a special prosecutor. Withrow appeared in court Sept. 2 with his attorney when the case was formally dismissed.

Kentucky State Police charged Withrow in March 2025 after investigating his claim that Crittenden County Attorney Bart Frazer grabbed him by the neck during an encounter at the Crit-

tenden County Office Complex in December 2024.

At the same time last year, Withrow also faced charges of criminal coercion, harassing communications and harassment without physical contact involving another man and woman. Court records show that prosecution of those charges was deferred for two years as part of the September 2025 agreement. A June 30, 2027 review date has been set by the court on those three charges.

Withrow has used the social media identity “Jebediah Yoder” to criticize local officials, government and other individuals. He publicly connected himself to that identity when the account announced that Kent Withrow, “Jeb Yoder,” had filed as a write-in candidate.

KY 654 has reopened

KY 654 in Crittenden County reopened Wednesday morning following replacement of the bridge over Mattoon Creek.

The road had been closed since early June at mile point 4.18, southeast of U.S. 60 at Mattoon. Motorists should use caution because the new bridge deck and approaches remain compacted gravel. Paving will be scheduled later and will require another temporary closure.

Collins named to 4-H board

Stuart Collins of Crittenden County has been elected to the Kentucky 4-H Foundation Board of Directors, representing western Kentucky. Collins was elected during the foundation’s annual business meeting Aug. 21 at the Kentucky State Fair. His involvement with 4-H began as a youth, when he served as Kentucky 4-H state treasurer in 1984. He has remained active in 4-H and Cooperative Extension, serving on the local 4-H Council and Extension District Board. His two children also participated in 4-H, and a grandchild is approaching Cloverbud age. Kentucky 4-H Foundation raises money for programs, scholarships, leadership and more.

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Faith, character, and the work of being human

The greatness of America is her people. It rests in those who worked under awful conditions to leave the place better than they found it for their children. It rests in those who lived through wars, depressions, pandemics, and social unrest and just kept going to work and to church or synagogue. Not politically apathetic, just too busy making ends meet and minding their own business to interfere with issues three states away.

These are people that, if an immigrant ended up on their doorstep, they would provide as they could for them. These are people



who would feed their hungry neighbor and still preserve their dignity. They did not need to be told or taxed to do the right thing – they just did it. This may sound sentimental, and it is. However, it is based on who we aspire to be as a nation.

It is good to remember the things that we are all for. The trend in the past few decades has been for political opponents to take a line, an event, or a change in view (some would call that learning) out of context, and exaggerate it. Then say, “You don’t want to vote for that, do you!” This has delivered us to a place of being just as likely

to vote against something as for something. What an awful position to be in. When it happens to us personally, we can, with effort, see the path that got us there. It is a little harder with 350,000,000 or so people, but it has much to do with whom most of us decide to listen to.

Here is a thought. Rather than taking our cues from those who do and say things to be heard, let’s take them from those who are doing and saying things to make the world better. What is amazing about that second group of people is that what they do and say resonates with who we aspire to be. We are drawn to them, not by party or denomination, but by their humanity informed by faith. They can be themselves and the rest of us cheer them on and support them. These are folks that would be writing or making music wheth-

er they were paid for it or not. They do it because it is who they are and what they were called to do.

We lost two such people recently. They are so firmly attached to their heritage and the land that it is impossible to encounter them without knowing where they come from. They are rooted deep in the soil, firmly planted, and yet expansive in reach. They were both ambitious and brilliant, but it was aligned with who they were. Too many of us today listen to people who have sold their soul for influence and a paycheck.

I am no expert on either Wendell Berry or Dolly Parton. I have read Wendell Berry. I listened to and watched Dolly’s music and movies. However, I will leave it to others who know them better than I to comment and analyze. What I believe to be true about both is that they did

not compromise who they were to gain attention – and that is the reason that we love them so much.

They both had political views – perhaps Berry’s was a little more obvious – but politics was not their identity. Their politics were not party-driven. They were character and conscience driven. Their actions were based on taking care of creation and taking care of each other. It is hard to argue with either of those things. They kept the main things, the main things. It was seen in their craft and their lives.

I wonder what the world would look like if we understood that it is people like Wendell and Dolly who are truly our leaders. I wonder what the world would look like if we understood (or maybe remembered) that those who are our elected servants are there to manage our resources for the benefit

of all. True leaders do not pander toward populism. They set a course, explain themselves, and lead.

History has shown that populist leaders (of any stripe) have feet of clay and their collapse is sudden and often catastrophic. I believe that we will get through this – we have before. I believe that we will turn to all those people who are more like Wendell and Dolly, eventually. In the meantime, Rochester, New York will look out over “Lake America” and the people in little Pink Houses will vacation at the Gulf of America. God give us wisdom, forgiveness, and mercy.

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.

Don’t lose sight of God’s goodness

Question: I’ve had a severe case of pneumonia that has slowed me down. My job at the plant has been terminated, AI and automated robots have taken my job. My wife fusses because I lay round the house depressed. My faith in God is waning. What can I do to get back on track?

Answer: In hard times, it is especially important to stop and remember blessings in the past. Make a list of events in your life when you felt certain God was at work. Then apply some lessons learned to

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

your present situation. We should never lose sight of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

Choose a Bible verse that helps you remember. One that is encourages me is God’s promise to Joshua as he was tasking him to lead the Israelites into battles with the pagans possessing the land

that would be theirs. God promised him, “I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you” (Josh. 1:5). Read it each day for a week and commit it to memory for daily encouragement.

After the Israelites crossed the Jordon River at flood stage, they took

large stones from the bottom of the river to make a memorial to help them remember God’s provision for them. He told them, “This is so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD’S hand is strong, and so that you may always fear the LORD your God” (Josh. 4:24). God is faithful and He is strong. He is fully able to meet your needs if you’ll turn to Him for help. Never lose sight of His goodness and faithfulness.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Organ donation encouraged

More than two decades after an organ donation saved her life, Kentucky native Brooklyn Dotson will marry the brother of the boy whose donated liver made her survival possible.

Dotson was a toddler in 2003 when a rare liver condition left her with only days to live. After 10-year-old Michael Waters of Ohio died in an accident, his family honored his wish to become an organ donor.

The families later connected and remained close. As they grew old-

er, Dotson and Michael’s brother, Noah Waters, developed a friendship that eventually became a romance. They plan to marry Sept. 26 in Kentucky.

“Brooklyn’s story is an extraordinary example of the lasting impact one person’s decision can have,” Crittenden Circuit Court Clerk Melissa Guill said.

More than 1,000 Kentucky children and adults are awaiting lifesaving transplants. Information about organ, tissue and eye donation is available at DonateLifeKY.org.

Livestock producers invited to grazing school

The University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton will host the Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School Sept. 23-24.

The two-day program will combine classroom instruction, farm tours

and hands-on demonstrations for livestock producers. Topics will include electric fencing, portable water and shade systems, assessing forage availability, plant identification, tall fescue management and frost-seeding clover.

The school will begin at 8 a.m. Sept. 23 and conclude at 5 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, 348 University Drive.

Registration costs \$60 and includes lunches, snacks and educational materials. Participants

are responsible for lodging. Registration is available online through the Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program or by contacting Katy Trimble at 270-625-5366 or katy.trimble@uky.edu.

Religious Outreach

■ A blessing box containing non-perishable food and household goods is located on the Bellville Street entrance of Marion United Methodist Church.

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

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.

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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 a.m. • 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.

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Pastor: Ross Atwell

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

CHURCH TIMES:
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.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.
"Come and Worship with Us"

Crayne Community Church

Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.

Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
"Whatever It Takes"
Bro. Jamie Baker
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Phone: (270) 965-2220

Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.
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Pastor: David Brown

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Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.

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growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18

PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem

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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."

The evolution of family photographs

Do you have any old family photographs where a regular picture has been glued or mounted on a heavy piece of cardboard? Sometimes difficult to handle if you just wanted the picture to use and not the board it was attached to. These were usually 8x10 in size. The smaller ones were known as Cartes de visites. Usually a post card. These were popular during the 1850s to early 1900s.

Cabinet Cards

Doing some research I found these such photographs were known as “cabinet cards.” Cabinet cards were popular in the late 1880s to early 1920s, and are easy to recognize because they are mounted on cardstock, sometimes with an imprint of the photographer and location just below the photo. The cabinet card got its name from its suitability for display in parlors, especially in cabinets, and also on side tables and mantles, and they were very popular for family portraits.

Postcard size

The smaller postcard size was known as Cartes de visite, and was French for visiting card, these were popular for the smaller picture cards. They were used for many purposes, including identification cards for soldiers, trade cards for businesses and also as family photos.

These old photos were treasured and many were placed in elaborate photo albums made especially for this size photo card. The sad thing about these old albums is that even those the pictures were treasured, no one took the time to identify the people and over time, as no one knew who they were, they were discarded.

Post-mortem Photographs

Somewhere in your family's old photo collection, there might be one that feels... off. The person is lying down. Eyes closed. Hands folded. Everyone around them looks stiff, formal. You might be looking at a post-mortem photograph.

Before you recoil in horror, understand this: taking photographs of the recently deceased wasn't some Victorian horror show. It was an act of love. Between 1839 and the 1930s, commissioning a post-mortem portrait was a normal part of American and European culture. Photographers openly advertised the service. Families displayed these images in their homes.

And here's the part that'll make you pause: for many families, especially those who lost children, this wasn't just a photograph. It was the only photograph. The last chance to prove that small life existed

at all. This wasn't morbid. This was desperate love meeting impossible grief, with a camera as the only witness.

Death Lived in Your Living Room

Hospitals didn't exist like they do now. Death happened at home. Your great-great-grandmother didn't call 911 when someone got sick. She nursed them in the bedroom, watched them decline, and when they passed, she prepared the body. Not a stranger in scrubs. – Her.

Families weren't just acquainted with death—they were on a first-name basis. So when a child died (and they often did), there was no photo album to flip through. No birthday party pictures. No school portraits. Nothing. Just memories that would fade faster than anyone wanted to admit.

The Camera Was a Miracle Machine

When Louis Daguerre unveiled the daguerreotype in 1839, he accidentally democratized grief. Before photography, only wealthy families could afford painted portraits. A memorial painting cost what a working-class family did in months. The rich got to remember. Everyone else just... forgot.

Then suddenly, for a few dollars—later, just 25 cents—you could “secure the shadow ere the substance fade.” That phrase wasn't poetic marketing. It was literal. The photograph was the shadow,



This is a cabinet photograph of the Barnes family that lived in the house where Rebecca Johnson's law office is now located.

the only proof of existence you'd have left.

They Weren't Trying to Creep You Out

The most common pose? “The Last Sleep.” Children tucked into bed, looking peaceful. Adults arranged on sofas as if napping. This wasn't denial—it was theology.

Victorians believed in the “Good Death.” Death wasn't an ending; it was a peaceful transition. A rest stop before heaven. These photographs were visual proof of that doctrine. See? Great-Aunt Martha is just sleeping. She'll wake up in paradise.

For parents losing children at catastrophic rates, this wasn't just comforting—it was necessary.

Some photographers went further. They'd pose the deceased sitting up, eyes propped open, or paint pupils onto closed eyelids. Add a rosy tint to gray cheeks. Surround them with toys or siblings.

Creating the illusion of life was the photographer's art. And families paid extra for it.

It Was a Booming Business

Photographers advertised this service openly. No hushed tones, no back-alley shame.

“Post-mortem photography—Amazing Results!” read the ads.

Studios competed for the work. Some built entire businesses around it. The photographer would rush to your home “within an hour” of death, be-



This is a post-mortem photograph of my great-great-grandfather, James Harvey Travis. He was 92 years old.

cause timing mattered. This was before embalming became standard. You had a window.

And it cost more than a regular portrait, because you couldn't come to the studio. The photographer came to you, lugging equipment, setting up lights, posing your loved one like they were simply asleep.

By the 1870s, when tintype photos cost a nickel, the practice became accessible to working-class families. Which is exactly when it hit its peak popularity.

Three things killed post-mortem photography. First: hospitals. Death moved out of the home and into institutions. Strangers—doctors, nurses, morticians—took over. The intimacy vanished.

Second: the Kodak Brownie camera (1900). For one dollar, families could take snapshots whenever they wanted. The “last chance” emergency was solved. Kids now had dozens of photos. No need to photograph them dead.

Third: shame. By the mid-20th century, we'd made death taboo. Those once-treasured portraits became embarrassing. Families ripped them out of albums, threw them away, or hid them in attic boxes. Which is probably why these images feel so strange to us now—we've lost the cultural context that made them meaningful.

How to Spot One in Your Family Photos

Not all post-mortem photos are obvious. But once you know what to look for, you can't unsee it.

The deceased is too sharp. Living people in 19th-century photos often have slight blur from breathing or micro-movements. The dead? Crystal clear.

Awkward poses. Propped on chairs at unnatural angles. Lying in bed while everyone stands around them. Symbolic clues. A downward-pointing rose meant a life cut short. Morning glories (which bloom and die in one day) symbolized brevity. A watch might show the exact time of death.

These weren't just photos. They were coded obituaries.

The Circle Closes

Because here's the truth those Victorians understood that we've tried to forget: when someone you love dies, you'll do anything to hold onto them. A photograph isn't morbid. It's proof they existed. It's a shadow you can keep when the substance is gone.

Your ancestors weren't strange for taking these photos. They were human. Unbearably, achingly human. And that photo you found in the family album? It's not creepy. It's love, frozen in silver and grief, refusing to let go..

(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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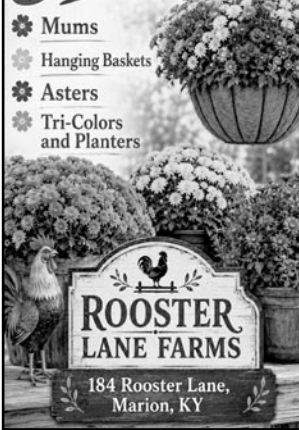
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NEW! Livingston County, KY – 91.75 Acres - \$455,000.00
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REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 0.31 Acre - \$273,000.00
Brick 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Marion, Kentucky with attached 2-car garage, formal 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+/- acres 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 – 70 Acres - \$244,900.00
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden County, KY – 135.85 Acres - \$750,000.00
This 135.85± acre hunting farm includes a mobile home, shop, equipment shed, food plots, creek frontage, and quality deer and turkey habitat in Crittenden County.

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.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 93.274 Acres
Hunting tract with a 4BR, 2BA cabin, food plots, box blinds, creek frontage, and quality deer and turkey habitat in an area known for mature whitetails.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 1,600 Acres
With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity!

PENDING! Livingston County, KY – 53 Acres
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! Crittenden County, KY – 5 Acres
Well-kept Marion, Kentucky home on 5 acres featuring an unfinished basement, 2-car garage, open layout, pool, covered deck, fireplace, and beautiful country views.



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notice

Donations for the upkeep of Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery, % Colleen Harbour, 246 Cotton Patch Rd., Marion, KY 42064 (1t-p)

Advertise your job opening, event, items for sale, auction etc. in this newspaper plus 83 other Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), The Sturgis News, The (Princeton) Times Leader, The (Providence) Journal-Enterprise, The Union County Advocate, The Henderson Gleaner, The Livingston Ledger and The (Madisonville) Messenger and for only \$250. Save time and money by making one call for all! For more information, contact the classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at advertising@the-press.com.

legal notice

Notice is hereby given that on September 2, 2026 Carla Burton of 280 Sycamore Loop, Campbellsville, KY 42718 was appointed executrix of Francis Lou Crockett, deceased, whose address was 308 Shady Grove Rd., Marion, KY 42064. Vance Cook, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, KY 42445, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 2nd day of March, 2027 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately, Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-37-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 25-CI-00077
FARMERS BANK & TRUST COMPANY
PLAINTIFF
v.
AARON WILLIAM BLAINE, et al.
UNKNOWN TENANTS/OCCUPANTS
OF 402 WEST DEPOT STREET,
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:10 a.m., Tuesday September 22, 2026, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive (the Crittenden County Courthouse being under construction), Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 402 West Depot Street, Marion, Kentucky, 42064
PARCEL NO.: 058-20-02-015.00
A certain lot or parcel of land on West Depot Street in Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, and is bounded as follows: viz BEGINNING on West Depot

on line of new street opened by Mrs. Florence Yandell, etc., which is running north and south; thence with said West Depot Street a west course 77 feet to a post; thence south 250 feet to T.J. Wring's line; thence east 77 feet to said new street; thence north with said new street 250 feet to the beginning.
LESS AND EXCEPT, that certain lot or parcel of land conveyed to Marvin G. Hamilton and his wife, Lillian G. Hamilton, by James D. Carnahan et ux, by Deed dated April 24, 1953 of record in Deed Book 83, at Page 138, lying and being on the West side of South Yandell Street in the town of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, fronting 60 feet on the West side of South Yandell Street and running back 77 feet and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin on the West side of South Yandell Street corner to F.O. Belmear and being his North East corner; thence West with Belmear's line 77 feet to an iron pin corner to John H. Williams; thence North with Williams 60 feet to an iron pin; thence East or nearly so with an agreed line this day established between first and second parties, 77 feet to an iron pin on the West side of Yandell Street; thence in a Southern direction with West line of said street, 60 feet to the point of beginning.
LESS AND EXCEPT, that certain small lot or parcel of land conveyed to Mervin G. Hamilton and his wife, Lillian Hamilton, by James D. Carnahan, by Deed dated May 13, 1959, of record in Deed Book 90, at Page 273, lying and being on the West side of South Yandell Street in the Town of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky adjoining the North end of lot now owned by second parties, front 7 feet on Yandell street and running back 77 feet and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake on the West side of South Yandell Street, corner to lot now owned by second parties, and being the Northeast corner of said lot and the Southeast corner of the lot conveyed by this Deed, thence in a western direction with second parties line 77 feet to a stake in John H. Williams line; thence North or nearly so with Williams line 7 feet to a stake, an agreed corner to first parties and in said Williams line; thence in an Eastern direction parallel with first mentioned line 77 feet to a stake on the west side of South Yandell Street, another agreed corner to first parties; thence in a South direction with West line of said street 7 feet to the point of beginning.
SOURCE OF TITLE: This being the same property conveyed to Aaron Blaine, and his wife, Victoria Ann Blaine, by Misty L. Hicks, a single person, by Deed dated June 7, 2022 and recorded in Deed Book 245, at Page 771, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.
ALL REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE.
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS
Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 6% from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is one of the parties, they shall be allowed a credit against the purchase price of their pro rata interest and pay over to the Master Commissioner the balance and any costs of sale apportioned to their interest in the property. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem

taxes for the year 2026 and subsequent years. No written bids are allowed and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption.
The Master Commissioner does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.

Dated this the 26th Day of August, 2026.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (2t-38-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00121
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC
PLAINTIFF
v.
REILLY B ANDREWS, CRITTENDEN COUNTY AND CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:00 a.m., Tuesday September 22, 2026, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive (the Crittenden County Courthouse being under construction), Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 112 N. Walker Street, Marion, Kentucky, 42064
PARCEL NO.: 058-20-42-026.00
SITUATE IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, TO-WIT: A CERTAIN HOUSE AND LOT IN THE TOWN OF MARION, CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT
HEREBY CONVEYED AND AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE

SUSAN E. PARIS LOT AND IN EAST LINE OF WALKER STREET;
RUNNING THENCE A NORTH COURSE WITH LINE OF SAID WALKER STREET 74 FEET MORE OR LESS TO A STAKE; THENCE S 89 E 110 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE A SOUTH COURSE 74 FEET MORE OR LESS TO CORNER OF SAID PARIS; THENCE N 89 W 110 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED BY THE ESTATE OF SHEILA M. SIGLER BY AND THROUGH CO-EXECUTORS ZENITH CHARLES OSENBAUGH AND NICHOLAS SIGLER, TO REILLY B. ANDREWS, A SINGLE PERSON, DATED NOVEMBER 28, 2022 AND RECORDED NOVEMBER 30, 2022 IN BOOK 247 PAGE 46 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.
ALL REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS
Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is



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not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 6.5% from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is one of the parties, they shall be allowed a credit against the purchase price of their pro rata interest and pay over to the Master Commissioner the balance and any costs of sale apportioned to their interest in the property. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2026 and subsequent years. No written bids are allowed unless provided for in the judgment and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. To the extent applica-

ble, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption.
The Master Commissioner does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.
Dated this the 26th day of August, 2026.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (1t-37-c)



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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ‘ANIMALS WITHIN CITY LIMITS’ CHAPTER OF THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ALLOW FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH BY THE CALDWELL COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fredonia (hereinafter “Council”) passed Ordinance 09-15-2025-01 to establish the ‘Animals Within City Limits’ Chapter (hereinafter “Chapter”) of the City’s Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, said Chapter establishes regulations for the keeping and management of animals within the city limits, and provides a penalty for the violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to amend said Chapter to provide for the enforcement of the regulations contained therein by the Caldwell County Sheriff’s Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky as follows:

- I. The ‘Animals Within City Limits’ Chapter of the City’s Code of Ordinances, enacted pursuant to Ordinance 09-15-2025-01, shall be amended to read as follows:

CITY OF FREDONIA *Animals Within City Limits*

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Definitions
2. Barking, etc.
3. Animals at large; Prohibited
4. Act constituting violation: Ignorance no defense
5. Rabies vaccination required
6. Seizure of strays
7. Boarding fees
8. Penalty
9. [Enforcement]

ENFORCEMENT

- a. The regulations contained herein may be enforced by the Caldwell County Sheriff’s Department or by any other sworn law enforcement officer with jurisdiction.]
- II. The remaining provisions of the Chapter shall remain in full force and effect.
- III. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication.

So passed on first reading this 20th day of July 2026.

So passed on second reading this 17th day of August 2026.

Jimmy Don Seibert
Mayor of Fredonia, Ky

ATTEST:
Rachael Vickery
City Clerk of Fredonia, Ky

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SportsShorts

SOCCKER

State's top scorer Berry is injured

The Lady Rockets took the Bravettes of Union County to the woodshed on Tuesday at City-County Park, scoring eight goals in a shutout victory, but leading scorer Adri Berry was injured in the match and will miss about another week of play due the mishap. Kylie Bloodworth had three goals and three assists, and Berry had four goals and one assist. Ruby Peek also found the back of the net. Jade Hughes had an assist. Macibelle Hardesty had two saves in the contest.

As of late last week, Berry was the top scorer in the state and Bloodworth was No. 2 in assists.

The Lady Rockets lost 2-1 at Lyon County last Thursday. CCHS had defeat their district foe in the teams' first meeting earlier this season. Bloodworth had the lone Rocket goal, and Aliza Maraman had an assist. Hardesty had seven saves. The girls moved to 4-2-2 on the season.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Young Rockets beat Madisonville squad

Crittenden County Middle School improved to 3-2 on the season Thursday with a 28-0 shutout of Madisonville's Browning Springs. Quarterback Brady Polk and running back Kevin Little each scored rushing touchdowns for the Rockets. Polk also threw two touchdown passes, connecting with Noah Moss and Bode Merrill. Little turned in a strong all-around performance, making an impact on defense and special teams in addition to his rushing touchdown. The Rocket defense kept Browning Springs off the scoreboard and forced multiple turnovers. Conley Palmer and Gabe Belt each had an interception. Crittenden has won three of its last four games, including shutout victories over South Hopkins and Browning Springs.

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Rockets host Lyon in All A

The Lady Rockets will host Lyon County Friday in the opening round of the All A Classic Second Region Volleyball Tournament. The final rounds of the tournament will be hosted by University Heights. CCHS played Lyon Tuesday in a regular-season district match, but results were not available at press time. The Lyons are first-year team in the district.

Crittenden's dominance of the Fifth District continued last week at Smithland with a five-set victory 8-25, 25-16, 22-25, 25-20, and 15-9. Macandliss Chittenden and Braelyn Merrill each had nine kills in the contest, and Grayson Travis had seven. Ava Tabor had a big night on defense with 18 digs against the Cardinals. Chittenden, Travis, Merrill and Maeson Martin also combined for seven blocks.

The Lady Rockets travelled to Todd County on Thursday, dropping the contest in three sets 23-25, 13-25, 19-25. Merrill led with six kills in the contest against the Lady Rebels, scoring one-third of the team's total. Tabor put up a valiant defensive effort, scoring 21 digs on the night. Emery Pollard had eleven. Martin's four blocks contributed to the defense as well. CCHS began play this week with a 7-6 record.

CROSS COUNTRY

Boys run 4th in hot Paducah race

The Rockets raced in the McCracken County Invitational Saturday. The boys' team finished fourth in the meet, despite the team facing several challenges aside from the heat, including a runner having to drop from the race. CJ Nelson was the top Rocket runner, placing eighth. Noah Martinez was 11th. Two Lady Rockets ran in the event, Addie Nelson and London McCord. Nelson was the top finisher Crittenden. Complete results were not available.

GOLF

Livingston hands CCHS home loss

Crittenden County's boys' and girls' golf teams suffered narrow losses to Livingston Central on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Marion Country Club. The Rockets lost by three strokes. Livingston's Clay Calender earned medalist honors in a playoff. He tied with Crittenden's Mitchell Brown with a 43, followed by Bentley Rushing at 46, Hudson at 49, Cameron Nesbitt at 50, Cash Singleton at 45, Levi Quertermous at 55, Cutler Hunt at 61 and Dawson Johnson at 62. Carter Tyner shot 43 for CCHS, but was not in the designated varsity lineup. Crittenden's match record fell to 5-4 on the season. The Lady Rockets lost 116-118. Crittenden's Abby Korzenborn was medalist with a 49, while Katelynn Scott shot 69.

Crittenden Sports Schedule

Sept. 10 Soccer vs Caldwell County
Sept. 10 Volleyball vs Christian County
Sept. 11 Football at Union City, Tenn.
Sept. 12 Cross country at Owensboro Invitational
Sept. 14 Volleyball vs Ballard County
Sept. 15 CCMS football vs Henderson South
Sept. 15 Soccer at Trigg County
Sept. 15 Volleyball vs University Heights

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
Canada Goose West Zone	Sept 1-15
Deer Archery	Sept 5 - Jan 18
Turkey Archery	Sept 5 - Jan 18
Deer Crossbow	Sept 19 - Jan 18

Rockets break through with first victory

STAFF REPORT

A little offensive improvisation and a whole lot of Webster County generosity opened the gate for Crittenden County's first victory of the season Friday night.

The Rockets capitalized on turnovers and outstanding field position to blank the Trojans 49-0, snapping a two-game skid and triggering a running clock in the third quarter.

Crittenden scored on all seven of its eight varsity possessions that began in Webster territory. Four first-half scoring drives started on the Trojans' side of midfield, including two inside the red zone, as the Rockets built a 28-0 half-time lead.

Hayden Hughes and Camden Nash recovered first-half fumbles, and Webster's most promising drive ended with another turnover at the Crittenden 8-yard line. Nash gathered in another fumble in the second half and Caden Blazina got one, too.

Quarterback Conner Poindexter directed an offense that traded its familiar spread formations for a more ground-oriented, power approach in the first half. The junior completed 8-of-9 passes for 60 yards and two touchdowns while rushing eight times for 107 yards and two more scores.

Poindexter broke loose for touchdown runs of 26 and 35 yards and threw scoring passes of five yards



All-purpose back Hayden Hughes looks for a place to run during Friday's win at Webster County.

to Hughes and 10 yards to Noah Byford.

Eli Lovell scored twice on short runs and caught three passes for a team-high 30 yards. Blazina capped the scoring with a 10-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Kicker Mitchell Brown was perfect on seven extra-point attempts.

Crittenden rushed for 179 yards and finished with 239 yards of offense despite running only 39 plays. The Rocket defense limited Webster's ground-oriented Wing-T and single-wing attack to 60 yards and five first downs. The Trojans did not attempt a pass.

"It feels good to get on the winning side of things. That was kind of the story from tonight," sixth-year head coach Gaige Court-

ney said.

"We took care of business. There were some times early that I thought we had come out slow, but the second half we came out and played, especially the younger guys."

The victory was just what Crittenden needed after coming within one play of winning each of its first two games. The Rockets improved to 1-2 while Webster fell to 0-3 after previously losing 56-14 to Calloway County and 63-0 to Muhlenberg County.

Crittenden makes a long road trip next week to face Union City, Tenn.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Crittenden County	14	14	14	7
Webster County	0	0	0	0

SCORING PLAYS

C-Eli Lovell 2 run (Mitchell Brown kick) 7:16, 1st
C-Conner Poindexter 26 run ((Brown

kick) 3:16, 1st
C-Hayden Hughes 5 pass from Poindexter (Brown kick) 4:00, 2nd
C-Lovell 1 run (Brown kick) 3:23, 2nd
C-Noah Byford 10 pass from Poindexter (Brown kick) 10:27, 3rd
C-Poindexter 35 run (Brown kick) 5:18, 3rd
C-Caden Blazina 10 run (Brown kick) 4:19, 4th

TEAM TOTALS

First Downs: CCHS 7, WCHS 5
Penalties: CCHS 8-65, WCHS 6-65
Rushing: CCHS 30-179, WCHS 32-60

Passing: CCHS 8-9-0, 60; WCHS none

Total Yards: WCHS 239, WCHS 60

Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 2-0, WCHS 4-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

CCHS: Poindexter 8-107, Joel Bumpus 6-24, Byford 1-1, Lovell 5-26, Blazina 4-11, Troy Daniel 3-12, Hayden Hughes 1-(-1), Alex Hewitt 1-(-1). WCHS: Christopher Newman 8-32, Wes Alexander 2-14, Aydin Claybrooke 5-12.

Passing

CCHS: Poindexter 8-9-0, 60. WCHS none.

Receiving

CCHS: Lovell 3-30, Byford 2-15, Davis Perryman 2-10, Hughes 1-5.

Defense

Byford 4 solos, assist; Murray solo, TFL, caused fumble; Nolan solo; Perryman 2 solos, roach; J.Rich 2 assists; Blazina solo, assist, caused fumble, fumble recovery; Curnel 3 solos, 2 assists, TFL, roach; Lovell 3 solos. TFL; Nash 3 solos, 2 assists, 3 TFLs, 2 fumble recoveries; A.Rich 2 solos, 4 assists, TFL, roach; Bumpus 5 solos, assist, TFL; Burns solo, roach; Hughes 3 solos, 3 assists, TFL; Farmer solo.

Players of the Game: Offense Conner Poindexter; Defense Camden Nash; Special Teams Mitchell Brown; Lineman Jake Rich.

Records: CCHS 1-2, WCHS 0-3..



Crittenden County Middle School's fall softball team includes (from left) coach Chad Nelson, Elizabeth Greenwell, Catelynn Maddux, London McCord, Braelyn Brown, Aly Williams, Mattie Moss, Addie McMackin, Emma Shea Holland, Chloe Cates, Addie Nelson, Hadlee Henager, Blaklee Gardner, Danielle Farmer, Kora Penn, Callie Hildebrand, Aubry Odom, Aria Kinnis, Kaylynn Little, Cadie Buchanan, Mela Penn and coach Stephanie Galusha.

CCMS 4-7 in fall fast-pitch season

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Middle School defeated host Lyon County 11-6 last Thursday, improving its season record to 4-7. The Lady Rockets collected 12 hits, led by London McCord with three. Mattie Moss homered and drove in two runs, while Mela Penn

added two hits and two RBIs. Blaklee Gardner pitched all four innings, allowing six hits and four earned runs while striking out four.

Crittenden County Middle School's girls have had several hot bats through the first 11 games of the season. Aria Kinnis leads the team

with a .577 batting average. Aubry Odom is close behind at .526, while Addie Nelson is hitting an even .500. Blaklee Gardner and Mela Penn are both hitting over .400. Gardner and Odom have handled the team's pitching chores so far this season.



PHOTOS BY GREG PERRYMAN



In CCHS softball action recently, Grayson Travis (at top) sends the ball over the net between defenders. At directly above McCandless Chittenden makes a play at the net.

CCMS baseball tryouts this month

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Middle School baseball tryouts for students in grades six through eight will be held Sept. 20-21 at Gordon Guess Field.

Tryouts will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, and 5-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21. Players should bring cleats, a bat and glove and must have an updated sports physical.

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SPAR

Continued from page 1

sions with state officials included potential collaboration and the environmental effects of renewed fluorspar mining.

Lee, who was born in Taiwan, emphasized that CleanTech is not affiliated with China.

“America first,” Lee said of the company’s focus.

Lee graduated with honors from Rice University, earning bachelor’s degrees in economics and engineering. He divides his time among CleanTech projects in the United States and abroad and visits Taiwan, where his mother lives.

CleanTech is headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, and is listed on a Canadian stock exchange. Lee said the company also has headquarters in Nevada.

Lee said worldwide demand for fluorspar is strong. The mineral is used in steel production, refrigerants, insulating foams and lithium-ion batteries. Lee said it has recently attracted interest from industrialized countries, including Japan and South Korea, as well as Qatar.

That demand is encouraging CleanTech to continue the permitting process and prepare for possible construction at the Livingston County site. Construction could begin within the next year if the necessary permits are approved.

He hopes production can begin in 2028 or 2029. Although that timeline may appear lengthy locally, Lee said

the project is advancing quickly, by mining standards.

Lee said CleanTech intends to operate transparently and responsibly throughout the project.

“We want to leave the place better than it was when we came,” he said.

He said his guiding principles include the rule of law, logic and relationships. During his March visit, Lee met with property owners to discuss surface rights. CleanTech holds mineral rights to approximately 17,000 acres in the area.

As Lee and his team traveled along the Ohio River in Livingston County, they found fluorite outcroppings along the riverbank. The discovery increased their confidence in the project’s potential.

Based on the company’s previous mining experience in Nevada, Lee believes CleanTech can meet federal requirements and move efficiently through the regulatory process.

Historical drilling indicates an abundant fluorspar deposit at Campbell Crotser, but Lee said additional drilling will be conducted before construction begins.

He said CleanTech wants to approach the project “like a surgeon” by minimizing unnecessary work and disruption.

Information from approximately 740 historical drill holes will be used as the company analyzes the deposit and designs the proposed operation.

CleanTech also plans to upgrade the mined material to commercial

grade through a flotation process. Lee said the process is neither toxic nor acid-based and would not harm water resources. He said state officials responded positively to that information.

Once production begins, the operation is expected to employ between 30 and 50 highly skilled workers. Some would operate mechanized mining equipment, while others would handle logistics and related duties.

Lee said the company intends to hire locally and expects many of the positions to pay six-figure salaries.

“You are not going to see Chinese guys working,” Lee reiterated.

Lee compared the Livingston County countryside to parts of Italy and said the area’s hospitality strengthened his commitment to the project.

“I could really live here, the hospitality is first rate,” he said.

Lee said his positive experience caused him to “redouble his commitment and promise” to make the Livingston County fluorspar project successful.

A CleanTech delegation that included Lee returned to the Campbell Crotser property in August as planning intensified.

“Activity is picking up,” Lee said of the latest visit.

The delegation worked on the project’s configuration, considered where various mining operations could be located and continued discussions with surface-rights owners.



To immerse yourself in the area’s rich mineral and mining heritage, visit the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum next to historic Fohs Hall in Marion. The museum traces the community’s deep connection to the fluorspar mining industry through extensive mineral collections, mining artifacts and historical exhibits.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING		
Pursuant to KRS 132.027, the City of Marion will hold a public hearing, Thursday, September 17 th , 2026, at 4:45 PM CT/5:45 PM ET, City Hall, 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky, to hear comments from the public regarding proposed 2026 Tax Rates on Real Property.		
As required by state law, this notice includes the following information:		
	<i>Tax Rate Per \$100 Assessed Valuation</i>	
1. Prior Year Tax Rate and Revenue Produced from Real Property	<u>0.2290</u>	<u>\$249,234</u>
2. Tax Rate Proposed for Current Year And Expected Revenue from Real Property	<u>0.2270</u>	<u>\$257,433</u>
3. Compensating Tax Rate and Expected Revenue from Real Property	<u>0.2198</u>	<u>\$249,268</u>
4. Revenue Expected from New Property	<u>0.2270</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>
5. Prior Year Tax Rate and Revenue Produced from Personal Property	<u>0.2710</u>	<u>\$36,118</u>
6. Tax Rate Proposed for Current Year and Revenue Produced from Personal Property	<u>0.2900</u>	<u>\$36,696</u>
7. Compensating Tax Rate and Expected Revenue from Personal Property	<u>0.2857</u>	<u>\$36,156</u>
Revenues in excess of the revenue produced in the preceding year will be spent in the general areas of City Government.		

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Local 4-Hers enjoyed a big time at the Kentucky State Fair and brought home plenty of awards. Pictured are some of the participants from Crittenden County. They are (front from left) Annalese Maraman and Layton Herrin, (middle) Presley Herrin, Phillip Barnes, Koltyn Woodall, Bradie Hackney, Ellie Binkley, London McCord, (back) Luke Binkley and Cabot Sutton.



Kentucky Farm Bureau and agent Brodi Sutton (middle) received the Friend of Crittenden County 4-H for their support over the past year. Pictured with Sutton are 4-H Agent Leslea Barnes and 4-H Council President Willa Suggs.

4-H fair awards, more wrap up busy season

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County 4-H members brought home several top honors from the Kentucky State Fair, capping a busy summer for the local youth development program.

Leslea Barnes, University of Kentucky Extension agent for 4-H Youth Development, said 41 Crittenden County youths entered about 140 exhibits in Cloverville, the State Fair area dedicated to 4-H projects. Twelve local exhibits were named class champions, meaning they were judged best in their respective classes.

Among the class champions were Brandy Hackney in arts, Marlee Sosh in cake, Gracie Freeman in vegetables, Grayson Pritchett in electricity and Phillip Barnes in photography. Russell Vince also earned honors for both photography and geology, while Sadie Young and Emma Guess also had winning photography exhibits.

Crittenden County competitors also performed well in the State Fair's country ham contest, which featured about 1,100 hams and an equal



Crittenden County 4-H has moved to online registration for the new program year at v2.4honline.com. Families of returning members should not create a new account. Instead, call the Crittenden County Extension office at 270-965-5236 to confirm the email associated with an existing account.

number of 4-H members delivering speeches.

Freeman won first place with her ham, while Brooklyn Lovell placed second with hers. Vince earned second place in the speech competition.

Barnes joked that local 4-H supporter Curt Buntin had offered to donate Freeman's ham if someone would contribute half of the \$10 million paid for

the State Fair's grand champion ham.

They might even take 10%, Barnes admitted with a laugh.

Local 4-H members also earned recognition in other statewide competitions this summer. Those honors were doled out during the recent awards banquet and ceremony. Vince won first place with his speech at the state communications contest. His sister, Charlotte Vince, received a blue ribbon for her first demonstration. The Vinces are fourth-generation 4-H members whose grandmother, Nancy Hunt, was a longtime Extension agent.

London McCord was named grand champion in the written communications contest for her public service announcement.

Barnes said the county's shooting sports program has experienced renewed growth under volunteer leader A.J. Wessel. Cooper Rich, Colt Hayes and Miley Hayes are expected to compete in the state shoot later this month.

Crittenden County currently offers trap shooting through

the program. The range on KY 91 north of Marion is owned by the Crittenden County Extension District Board. It is the former Crittenden County Gun Club. Barnes said an upcoming shooting sports certification course will provide opportunities for volunteers interested in helping the county add other disciplines, including rifle and archery.

Several additional activities are planned in the coming months. Local youths will travel to Land Between the Lakes for a forestry event Friday, where they will learn tree identification and how to determine the age of trees.

Registration remains open for an aerospace day camp Sept. 18 in at the Madisonville Airport. The camp is open to students in grades six through 12 and allows participants to take the controls of an airplane with a pilot alongside them.

Barnes said the program has had a lasting influence on local participants. Jansen Croft and Paul Combs attended the camp when they were younger and later pursued aerospace careers.

Registration is also underway for Camp Jekyll, an environmental 4-H camp planned for April at Jekyll Island, Ga. Open to students currently in grades 7 through 12, the multi-county trip will include beach ecology, ocean-netting activities and exploration of the island's maritime forest.

The program took one charter bus to Camp Jekyll three years ago and plans to take two buses this time. Barnes said several previous participants have already registered to return.

Both the aerospace camp and Camp Jekyll have limited space and registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Crittenden County 4-H is also moving from paper enrollment forms to online registration this year. Families interested in joining should watch the Crittenden County Extension Service's Facebook page or call the Extension office to ensure the correct email address is associated with their account and receive registration instructions.

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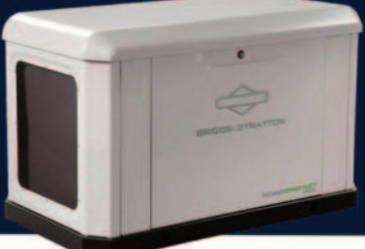
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