



The Crittenden Press

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

Jailer Hayes resigns

Crittenden County Jailer Athena Hayes announced her resignation during Thursday night's Crittenden County Fiscal Court meeting. Hayes' resignation will be effective Sept. 30, ending her tenure about three months before completion of the four-year term to which she was elected in 2022.

Hayes was elected jailer in November 2022 and took office in January 2023. She had sought a second term, but was defeated by former jailer Robbie Kirk in the May Republican primary. Hayes and Kirk were the two Republican candidates who filed for the office and there is no Democratic opposition in the Nov. 3 election. Her resignation will create a vacancy in the county office for the remainder of the current term. Hayes said she did not want to comment further. Under Kentucky law, the county judge-executive appoints the person who fills a vacancy in the office of jailer. No announcement has been made about an appointment.



Hayes

Just around the corner

Western Kentucky's Highway 60 Yard Sale will be held Oct. 1-4 along a 200-mile route through eight counties. The event stretches through Meade, Breckinridge, Hancock, Daviess, Henderson, Union, Crittenden and Livingston counties. Indoor and outdoor sales will generally be open from dawn to dusk.



Burning restrictions for fall

Kentucky's fall forest fire hazard season begins on Oct. 1 and runs through Dec. 15, during which state law strictly prohibits open burning within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Planning and Zoning 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.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at the library.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, in the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28 at Rocket Arena.
- Community Prayer will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Marion Commons in front of city hall. Residents are encouraged to attend.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board meets at 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 13 at city hall.
- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Rocket Arena.



Architectural rendering of the completed justice center in Marion.

Deep dive into Marion's new centerpiece

Who is paying for it?

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Crittenden County will own the new justice center being built in downtown Marion, but local tax revenue is not paying its nearly \$20 million construction cost. The project is being financed through bonds issued locally and repaid with money appropriated by the Kentucky General Assembly to the state judicial branch. Because the building will be occupied entirely by the Court of Justice, the Administrative Office of the Courts is expected to pay all approved construction debt and eligible operating expenses. Circuit Court Judge Brandi Rogers said the distinction between county

TWO-PART SERIES

This is the second of a two-part series examining Crittenden County's new justice center in downtown Marion. Part Two explores the funding, price tag, operational costs and other long- and short-term financial obligations once it is occupied.

government and the judicial branch has caused confusion about who is paying for the facility. "This is a branch of the government separate and apart from county government," Rogers said. "County government has its own budget. Judicial services, including circuit and district courts and



Circuit Judge Brandi Rogers

family court are part of the judicial branch of state government and separate from county government." Kentucky courthouse projects are partnerships between counties and the state Court of Justice. After lawmakers authorize a project and establish its maximum annual use allowance, the county or a local public-properties cor-

See **PAY**/page 3

Ice skating rink part of holiday plans



STAFF REPORT

A skating rink will be among the attractions at Marion's Christmas on Carlisle celebration Dec. 5 as plans continue to come together for the downtown holiday event. Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission last week approved spending just over \$5,000 to rent a 35-by-35-foot skating rink for the celebration. Christmas on Carlisle will be an addition to the annual Marion Christmas parade

that evening. Additional activities are still being organized and most will be centered around Carlisle Street, which will be closed to traffic. Mayor D'Anna Browning has encouraged local businesses, organizations and individuals to become involved by sponsoring activities, conducting fundraisers or helping provide attractions during the event. Among the ideas being

See **HOLIDAY**/page 9

All property taxes in county now final

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's property tax rates are now final for 2026, with the combined bill on a home assessed at \$100,000 totaling over \$800 outside Marion and over \$1,000 inside the city. Marion City Council gave final approval Monday to a real property tax rate of 22.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value, down from 22.9 cents last year. At the new rate, the city tax on a \$100,000 home will be \$227. The combined rate for a \$100,000 property outside Marion is \$861. Property within Marion would also be subject to the city's \$227 levy, bringing the combined amount to \$1,088. Those figures do not account for the state homestead exemption available to qualifying homeowners or other exemptions that may reduce a property's

See **TAX**/page 9

Property Tax Distribution

The following shows what each taxing entity will receive from a property assessed at \$100,000 before any exemptions or discounts:

Taxing Entity	Tax Rate (in cents)	Amount from \$100,000 Assessment
State of Kentucky	10.3	\$103
City of Marion	22.7	\$227
Crittenden County	11.4	\$114
Crittenden County School District	51.8	\$518
Cooperative Extension Service	4.6	\$46
Crittenden County Health Department	3	\$30
Crittenden County Public Library	5	\$50

Evolution of Local Property Tax Rates

TAX DISTRICT	Change from '25	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
State of Kentucky	(-0.3)	10.3	10.6	10.9	11.4	11.5
City of Marion	(-0.2)	22.7	22.9	22.9	22.5	22.4
Crittenden County	-0-	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.8	11.6
School District	+0.2	51.8	51.6	51.4	51.6	49.0
Extension	+0.1	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1
Health Tax	-0-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Public Library	-0-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Tradewater	+0.807	37.097	36.29	34.9	33.6	33.7

*Proposed Rates. Values are shown as cents per \$100 of assessed value

Chaos is cheap!

Earlier this month, 13 journalists at the Lexington Herald-Leader learned that their jobs were being eliminated. The layoffs wiped out a majority of the newspaper's reporting staff, including journalists covering city government, state government, eastern Kentucky, sports and other important beats. One is a good friend who I worked with many years ago. Kentucky lost more than employees that day. It lost trained observers, experienced questioners and watchdogs who knew the institutions and people they covered. That loss should concern every Kentuckian. It comes at a time when communities are being flooded with more information – and misinformation – than ever before. Social media allows anyone to become a publisher, but it does not require anyone to become a journalist. Chaos is cheap. It requires no reporting, no public records, no firsthand knowledge and no accountability. It takes only a keyboard, a social-media account and a willingness to sow doubt. An accusation can be posted in seconds. A rumor can travel across the county before anyone pauses to ask whether it is true. A complicated issue involving taxes, schools, courts or local government can be reduced to a few inflammatory sentences stripped of facts and context. Questions are sometimes posed not because someone wants answers, but because the questions themselves create suspicion. Could this have happened? What are they hiding? Why isn't anyone talking about this? Never mind that the premise may be false. Never mind that public records, meeting minutes or firsthand witnesses may provide a clear answer. Once doubt is planted, the author moves to the next accusation while others are left to sort through the wreckage. That is not journalism. That is not professional. It is chaos, and chaos is cheap. Real journalism costs something. It requires trained people to attend meetings, read budgets, examine records, interview sources and verify what they are told. It requires journalists to distinguish between fact, opinion, allegation and evidence. Most importantly, professional journalism requires accountability. When a newspaper publishes something, its name is attached to it. So is the reporter's. Readers know where to call, write or walk through the door when they have a question or believe something is wrong. If we make a factual mistake, we are expected to correct it publicly. Social media rarely operates by those rules. A person can post an accusation, imply wrongdoing and encourage an audience to draw the worst possible conclusion without offering evidence. If the claim is disproved, the correction seldom travels as far as the original falsehood. Sometimes there is no correction – only another post, another insinuation and another manufactured controversy. The volume of a claim does not determine its truth. Repetition does not transform rumor into fact. Anger is not evidence, and suspicion is not proof. Local journalism is not perfect because journalists are human.



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

See **CHAOS**/page 4

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Bebout

Shelby V. (Vaughnel) Bebout, 87, of Fredonia passed away on Sept. 19, 2026 at the Linda E. White Hospice House, Evansville.

Born on June 13, 1939 in Marion, she will be remembered for her love of God, her family, and her little dog Jazz. She enjoyed tending to her home and yard and spending time with family and friends.



Surviving are her brother Rocky Hornback; a son, Chris (Karen) Flaherty; a daughter-in-law, Lisa Flahardy; stepdaughters Paula Oliver (JC) May, Patricia (Jay) Johns, and Phyllis (Kent) Martin; grandchildren, Bethany Turner, Faith Humphrey, Hope Weber, Kara Gates, Karissa Gates, Patrick Flaherty, Zak Oliver, Darrah Crawford, Damon Brown, Daniel Brown, Chad Faughn, Heath Faughn, Stephanie Nesler, Dallas Bebout and Sydney Jenkins; and several great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by husband William Douglas Bebout; a son, Brian Flahardy; a stepson, Stephen Bebout; brothers, Glen Davidson and Roper Hornback; sisters, Jackie Hornback and Linda Ramage; and parents Murray Davidson and Alfreda Hornback.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m., at Boyd Funeral Home in Salem with Roger Jones officiating. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. Burial will follow the service at Union Cemetery, Marion. Food and fellowship will follow at Pentecostals of West Kentucky Church in Fredonia.

Shuecraft

Grant Shuecraft, 32, of Salem passed away Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026.

He enjoyed the simple things in life. He had a special interest in tractors, heavy equipment, and welding, and he loved tinkering with cars. He also enjoyed deer hunting and spending time outdoors watching wildlife. Some of his most treasured moments were spent with his dad, whether they were working on something together, enjoying the outdoors, or simply spending time with one another.

He loved his family dearly and held a special place in the hearts of his nieces and nephews, who proudly knew him as their favorite uncle. His love for his family and the many memories they shared will always be cherished.

Surviving are his father, David Shuecraft of Salem; two sisters, Chassity (Travis) McDonald of Joy and Whitney (Cody) Russell of Salem; and his nieces and nephews, Sadler McDonald, Tripp McDonald, Zayna Russell and Atley Russell.



He was preceded in death by his mother, Teresa Faye Shuecraft.

All services will be private.

Condolences may also be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

Vaughn

Jerry Wayne Vaughn was called to his heavenly home on September 3, 2026.

Jerry was born at the home of his parent's, Kenneth E. and Marie Vaughn, in Clay, Ky. on Sept. 23, 1945. Jerry's dad preceded him in death and his mother survives him.

Jerry grew up on farms in his home state of Ky. and was active in the 4H club showing Black Angus Cattle.

In 1964 Jerry married and shortly thereafter moved to Elkhart, Ind. where he resided until his death. Jerry welcomed three daughters into his life at a young age. Sarah (Vaughn) Amos in 1964. Sally (Vaughn) Holloman in 1967. Susan Vaughn in 1969. Jerry is survived by his daughters.



Shortly after moving to Indiana Jerry worked at Bayer prior to being hired on at Elkhart City Fire Department where he would spend 35 years and 7 months of honorable service to the City of Elkhart. What Jerry Vaughn did in that time is nothing short of a legacy. At the young age of 26 years, Jerry embarked on a career where his impact can still be seen in many of the programs and practices that he was involved in. Jerry Vaughn's legacy is detailed below, courtesy of the Elkhart City Fire Department Family that also mourns their fallen brother.

Chief Vaughn was hired by the Elkhart Fire Department on October 16, 1971, beginning a career that would span more than 35 years. His early assignments included Truck 1 and Engine 6 before becoming involved in what was then the developing paramedic program. By 1973, he was assigned to Medic 1, and in 1975 he became Captain of Medic 2 when the unit was placed into service on the south side.

In 1980, Vaughn was appointed Chief Paramedic. After returning to the line as a Lieutenant in 1982, he again assumed leadership of the paramedic program in 1986. During his years as Chief Paramedic, Vaughn played an important role in the development and modernization of EMS within the Elkhart Fire Department. His work included improvements to ambulance and medical equipment, communications with the hospital, pediatric and trauma care capabilities, water rescue equipment, and first responder training throughout the department. In 1987, under his leadership, the Elkhart Fire Department was recognized as the Indiana Paramedic Provider of the Year.

From the early 1990s through 1999, Vaughn served as a Lieutenant in the Suppression Division, including several years assigned to A Shift at Station 2. His personnel file also reflects the type of firefighter he continued to be during this period. While off duty in 1996, Vaughn stopped at a serious injury accident and assisted an engine company by maintaining spinal stabilization of an unconscious patient until an ambulance became available.

Vaughn was appointed Fire Chief in 2000 and served in that position through 2002. He later served as a Division Chief with responsibilities that included coordinating fire and EMS training, maintaining EMS compliance, and serving as the department's liaison with the EMS Commission and Elkhart General Hospital.

During the final years of his career, Vaughn continued serving the department in training and inspection roles before retiring on May 31, 2007, with 35 years and 7 months of service to the City of Elkhart.

Chief Vaughn's career covered several generations of the Elkhart Fire Department. From helping establish and develop the department's early paramedic program, to serving on a suppression company, leading the department as Fire Chief, and continuing to serve in training and inspection roles his impact can still be seen in many of the programs and practices that followed.

Please keep Chief Vaughn's Mother, his surviving family members, and the Elkhart City Fire Department Family that served alongside him in your prayers as they mourns the loss of Jerry Vaughn Vaughn.

Hedrick

Carol Lee Hedrick, 81, of Steelville, Mo., died Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026 at Steelville Senior Living. She was born Feb. 28, 1945 in Marion to Orvel Lee Richardson (1910-1982) and Velma Ruth Richardson, nee Etheridge (1918-2011). Hedrick moved from Kentucky to Missouri around age 12. She later married Frederick E. Sanders, and together they had two children, Vickie and Frederick R.

Hedrick worked for most of her life as a friendly and popular waitress in California (Denny's), Kentucky (Druthers and Marion Coffee Shop), and Missouri (Spare Rib Inn in Steelville and Voss Truck Stop in Cuba). With her outgoing personality and fun spirit, she brought a sense of welcome and hospitality to all. She also had other jobs, including an early career as a model with the Ford Agency in Palm Springs and being owner and operator of the first video store in Marion (Curve Inn Video).

She loved music and going to concerts, but she especially loved country life, and was a bit of a homesteader. She enjoyed spending time outdoors,

landscaping her flowers and garden, planting and weeding and keeping everything in beautiful order. She foraged for native plants in the woods, and enjoyed canning and natural medicines.

She was a constant caregiver to beloved pets of all kinds. Strays found her or she found them, and she had a special way of getting along with cats, dogs, rabbits, parrots, ducks, goats and mules.

She was a Christian with deep faith who described Jesus as her best friend. She listened to Bible teaching and read devotional books, and attended Center Point Baptist Church in Steelville and Living Word Church in Leasburg. Most of all, Hedrick loved her family, her animals, and the simple peace and solitude she found at home.

Surviving are her loving children, Vickie (Terry) Moutray of Steelville, Mo., and Frederick R. (Susan) Sanders of La Mirada, Calif.; two grandchildren, Freddy Sanders of Pomona, Calif., and Phoebe Sanders of La Mirada, Calif.; three sisters, Betty McDowell, Shelby Collins and Shelia Richardson, all of Marion; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation is from 5-6 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 24 at Hutson's Funeral Home in Steelville, Mo. A Celebration of Life will follow with Pastor Jimmy Delcaourt officiating. The family chose cremation, and will hold a graveside service at her parents' burial place at Mapleview Cemetery in Marion at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 followed by a reception at 11:30 a.m., in Salem at the Livingston Hospital Foundation Community Center. Myers Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements. In her memory, the family asks for donations to be made to a local charity that helps keep pets with their owners in times of crisis: Let's Stay Together Pets 1279 Farris Road, Bourbon MO 65441; Venmo: @ LetsStayTogetherPets.

Towery

Ellis E. "Fuzz" Towery, 86, of Negley, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026, at Crandall Medical Center in Sebring, Ohio.



Ellis "Fuzz" Towery was born at home in Princeton on Dec. 12, 1939, the son of the late Elvin and Viola (Andrews) Towery.

Fuzz proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Army with Battery C, 321st Artillery, where he also served as a Paratrooper. Following his military service, he worked as a boilermaker for Pittsburgh Des Moines, traveling throughout the United States with his crew building water towers, some reaching heights of 350 feet.

Fuzz was a proud lifetime member of American Legion Post 290 in Columbiana, Ohio, where he served as Adjutant for several years. He faithfully volunteered his time every Friday to help with the Legion's Fish Fry and enjoyed not only being part of the many events, but also the friendships and camaraderie he shared with his fellow members. He was also a member of the Lake Tomahawk Sportsman's Club and enjoyed participating in the many events held at the lake.

In his later years, Fuzz found peace in the simple

pleasures of life at Lake Tomahawk. He enjoyed his daily walks around the lake, always taking the time to say hello and visit with his neighbors. He loved a good old Western movie and was an avid reader of military history, with the Civil War being among his favorite subjects. During retirement, he and his beloved wife, Lorraine, purchased a camper and set out to explore the beauty and wonder of the American West, creating many treasured memories along the way. Above all else, Fuzz cherished the time he spent with his family. The moments shared together, whether big or small, meant the most to him and will remain treasured memories for those who loved him.

Ellis is preceded in death by a son, Jonny E. Towery; a daughter, Lynn Haldiman; grandson, Kyle Maite; brother, Vernon "Lefty" Towery; and an infant sister.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 59 years, Lorraine (Dayton) Towery, whom he married on Dec. 17, 1966; 2 daughters, Lisa Mitchell and her husband, Andrew, and Kimberly Tolin and her fiancé, Bob Rich; seven grandchildren, Jason Rowland, Keri Tasker, Caitlin Tasker, Kylie Shortt, Michael Haldiman, Jenny Santana, and Matthew Haldiman; 22 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; his sister, Claudena Travis; two brothers, Samuel W. Towery and his wife Penny and Hinkle "Buddy" Towery; and many nieces and nephews.





Crittenden County Animal Clinic

SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Crittenden County Animal Clinic performs surgical procedures including spays, neuters, a variety of small animal surgeries castrations, enucleations, lacerations, dentals and extractions.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Maddux • Dr. Michelle Hughes
3841 US Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY 42064
(270) 965-2257

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Visit us online at gilbertfunerals.com

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

TRICK or TREAT on Main



Friday, Oct. 30 3:30-5 p.m.

BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING CONTACT THE MARION TOURISM OFFICE TEXT OR CALL (270) 965-5015 OR EMAIL MICHELE@MARIONKENTUCKY.ORG



Sponsored by
Marion Tourism Commission

ORDINANCE 08-17-2026-01

City of Fredonia, Kentucky

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR TAX YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Fredonia City Council annually establishes the ad valorem tax rates for real and personal property situated within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, pursuant to KRS Chapter 132.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Fredonia City Council as follows:

Section 1. The tax rate for the tax year 2026 is hereby fixed at the rate of 29.7 cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) worth of taxable real property, including franchises; said taxes are hereby levied on all real property situated within the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, belonging to persons, partnerships, corporations and/or fiduciaries, and shall be divided as follows: the 29.7 cents levy shall be paid into the city General Fund for city purposes.

Section 2. The tax rate for the tax year 2026 is hereby fixed at the rate of 29.7 cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) worth of taxable personal property, including franchises; said taxes are hereby levied on all personal property situated within the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, belonging to persons, partnerships, corporations and/or fiduciaries, and shall be divided as follows: the 29.7 cents levy shall be paid into the city General Fund for city purposes.

Section 3. All city property taxes for the 2026 tax year shall be due by and subject to the discounts and penalties as provided for in KRS 134.015 and all other applicable state law.

Section 4. All ad valorem city taxes for 2026 shall be collected by the Caldwell County Sheriff.

Section 5. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, and this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon the required readings, passage and publication.

So passed upon first reading this 17th day of August 2026.

So passed upon second reading this 9th day of September 2026.

Jimmy Don Seibert
Mayor, City of Fredonia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former county judge weighs in on election

Voter says county has one choice for judge

To the editor:

I have lived in this community my entire life, except for the years I spent serving in the U.S. Army. I also have had the privilege of serving this community as a county magistrate, judge-executive and city council member. For many years, my wife and I have been active in organizing the Crittenden County Food Bank.

Although my health prevents me from being as active in the community as I once was, I continue to keep up with what is happening. I have followed the current election cycle, and I have serious concerns about the future of our community.

Crittenden County has been through some very difficult times in recent years, including the pandemic, inflation and challenging economic conditions here at home. Through it all, I believe Perry Newcom has worked hard to keep the county financially sound. Considering the difficult hand he has been dealt, I believe he has done an excellent job as judge-executive.

Newcom has the experience and knowledge necessary to lead the county for another four years.

He won the Republican nomination and now faces opposition from a write-in candidate who regularly posts about county issues on social media. While I agree with some of the points the candidate makes, I believe his posts often leave out important context. In my view, he has not demonstrated the experience or understanding of government needed to work effectively with federal, state and local officials.

Decisions made by county government can have lasting consequences, and poor decisions could place this community's future in jeopardy.

This election is important to Crittenden County's future. I encourage everyone to take it seriously and vote Nov. 3. I will be supporting Perry Newcom, and I hope you will, too.

Fred Brown
Crittenden Judge-Executive Retired
Marion, Ky.

To the editor:

I want to address my fellow voters of Crittenden County. We have another vote coming up in our county soon. I want to say how I think and feel about this.

We have a great county judge-executive and magistrates in office at this time trying to balance the budget. We have had a large problem with the Crittenden County Detention Center not being run efficiently. We have fixed that problem as voters and have got Robbie Kirk going back to the jail to help correct the shortcomings.

We do have other issues in our county that officials are working on and trying to address and find the right solutions. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and his administration are the right choice for these issues at a critical time.

I have noticed we have a write-in candidate running for this office that I do not believe he knows anything about. He is someone who makes untrue statements about things and people he disagrees with. He has made what I believe to be inaccurate statements about matters of other county officials that should be none of his concern, and they appear only to cause hurt.

He is also someone who is hiding behind an assumed name "Jebediah Yoder" on social media to trash people and the reputations they carry.

I believe these actions show he lacks honesty and integrity. He is not someone who I want in any office in my community.

So ask yourselves this question: Who will get your vote?

I know who will be getting mine.

This individual doesn't need an elected seat in our county now, or ever.

Perry Newcom is the perfect and only choice at this time to ensure that this county keeps going strong. He is the right person at the right time.

I am a sincerely concerned voter and long-time resident of Crittenden County.

Monty Riley
Marion, Ky.

MARION POLICE activity report

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

CATEGORY	AUGUST 2026	August 2025	June 2026	2025 YR TOTALS	2025 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	1,687	3,392	2,015	29,355	2,446.3
Criminal investigations	16	6	14	141	11.8
Domestics	10	8	9	101	8.4
Felony Arrests	2	6	10	39	3.3
Misdemeanor arrests	11	5	7	120	10.0
Non-criminal arrests	2	8	10	99	8.3
DUI arrests	2	0	0	9	0.8
Criminal summons served	2	1	1	29	2.4
Traffic citations	5	26	22	244	20.3
Other citations	12	14	29	278	23.2
Traffic warnings	2	9	7	61	5.1
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	5	9	4	82	6.8
Security checks/alarms	64	71	66	798	66.5
Calls for service	184	196	223	2,524	210.3



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY

Crittenden County Detention Center



DETENTION CENTER REPORT

AUGUST 16, 2026

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count is an average for last month.

- Federal Inmates \$57 Per diem
- State Inmates \$35.34 Per diem
- Lyon County Inmates \$36.00
- Other County Inmates \$40.00

LAST MONTH CASH FLOW

Total Receipts \$266,872.97

Disbursements \$267,740.06

JAIL CENSUS	Aug. 2026 Avg	July 2026 Avg	Monthly Avg 2025
State Inmates	52.9	52.5	75.81
Federal Inmates	66.7	68.4	58.12
Other County Inmates	16.9	15	24.95
Crittenden County Inmates	10	12.6	17.96
TOTAL INMATES	146.5	148.5	176.84
Highest Daily Count	159	157	187.50
Lowest Daily Count	144	141	170.7

Last Month REVENUE	Aug. 2026 Avg	July 2026	Monthly Average 2025
State Housing Payments	\$57,992.94	\$57,533.52	\$81,465.77
Federal Housing Payments	\$117,933.00	\$120,840.00	\$100,553.70
Federal Transport Payments	\$8,169.56	\$11,777.64	\$9,689.27
Lyon Co. Housing Payments	\$17,460.00	\$16,488.00	\$24,840.00
Other County Housing Payments	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,980.00
Weekend/Work Release	\$560.00	\$280.00	\$712.00
TOTAL HOUSING	\$203,115.50	\$206,919.16	\$219,243.57

Last Month ANALYSIS			
Cost of Crittenden Inmates	\$12,400.00	\$15,600.00	\$21,948.00
Numbers of Co. Housing Days	310	390	548.7
County Daily Housing Rate	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates	10	12.6	17.916

eSUB

1 YEAR

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Leaders will study another month on e-bike safety plans

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council has delayed action on a proposed ordinance or ordinance amendment regulating electric bicycles or other motorized street bikes or scooters, opting to continue studying the issue before considering a final plan in October.

Councilman Cutter Singleton said during Monday's monthly meeting he is concerned about the number of close calls involving e-bikes around town and wants the city to do everything possible to protect riders and the pub-

MARION CITY COUNCIL

lic. Councilman Bobby Belt said there is no solution that will satisfy everyone and cautioned against eliminating places where young riders can use the bikes.

"We can't take away everything," Belt said. "They do need somewhere to ride instead of just in the grass in the yard."

Mayor D'Anna Browning said the city does not want to burden children and families with excessive regulations or licens-

small water-jetting system and will supplement the city's existing leaf-collection equipment. Its primary purpose will be street sweeping. The city's older leaf machine will remain in service.

The purchase was included in the city's capital improvement budget.

City Administrator Adam Ledford said the city can purchase the equipment through Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing program also used by Kentucky and Crittenden County Fiscal Court. The free program allows the city to

compare competitively bid cooperative prices with state-contract pricing and provides access to vendors that may not participate in the state system.

City officials hope the new machine will be delivered in time to help with fall leaf abatement. The current leaf collector is currently operational. However, it has been problematic due to age over the past few years.

The city reported rising incidence of manganese in the water due to seasonal conditions. They hope looming cooler weather will help.

PAY

Continued from page 1

poration generally issues tax-exempt bonds to finance construction, as in this case.

The county owns the building, but AOC uses money appropriated to the judicial branch to make the debt-service payments. State law generally assumes the bonds will be retired over 20 years after the Court of Justice occupies the building, although AOC can approve a term of up to 25 years under certain circumstances.

The arrangement resembles a lease, but AOC's principal payment is a use allowance dedicated to retiring the construction debt rather than conventional commercial rent.

The bonds may appear on financial documents connected to the county or its public-properties corporation because the local entity is technically the issuer. However, the debt is supported by the state's use-allowance payments rather than ordinary county tax revenue.

Judicial center bonds do not count against a county's bonding capacity because the state pays the debt service.

The amount paid by AOC is based on how much of a facility is occupied by the court system. For judicial center projects authorized since 2000, the state pays the portion of construction attributable to court use. If county offices occupy part of a building, the county is responsible for that portion.

That will not be the case in Marion. No county government offices will be inside the new justice center.

"Because this building is going to be 100% judicial, then anything that's paid will be paid from the judicial branch," Rogers said.

The arrangement differs from the former Crittenden County Courthouse, which housed both court operations and county offices. The judicial branch reimbursed approximately 55% of eligible expenses at the old building based on the amount of space it occupied.

With the new facility devoted entirely to judicial functions, that percentage becomes 100% for approved court-related construction, maintenance and operational costs.

Rogers said the county has not paid any of the building's construction cost and is not expected to pay its bonded debt.

"I don't know of anything the county has had to pay toward this building," she said.

Asked directly whether Crittenden County taxpayers had paid any local construction money toward it, Rogers answered, "Nothing."

Crittenden County residents contribute to the project in the same manner as other Kentuckians – through taxes paid to the state. However, the funds appropriated for the justice center could not have been redirected by local officials to streets, county roads, water lines, vehicles or other local needs, the judge said.

The money was authorized for a judicial branch capital project and could be used only for that purpose. Had Crittenden County's project not been approved, the appropriation could have gone to a courthouse project elsewhere in Kentucky, she said.

"This is money from the state of Kentucky to build courthouses," Rogers said. "It wasn't handed to the county, and the county decided to build a big building. That's not how this works."

Rogers said county officials could not have rejected the

courthouse and requested that the state give the county an equivalent amount for local infrastructure or equipment.

"Unequivocally, no," she said. "I mean, there's no room for conversation in that."

The judicial branch must include payments for outstanding courthouse bonds in the budget request it submits to the General Assembly every two years. Those requests cover projects across Kentucky, not only the Crittenden County facility.

Because lawmakers appropriate the judicial branch's budget biennially, questions have been raised about what would happen if the state failed to provide money for the bond payments. Rogers said the local Project Development Board specifically investigated that possibility.

"Has it ever happened, where the bonds have ever fallen back on the county? It has never happened," Rogers said. "They make sure this is a top priority for their budget requests to the legislators, and they understand the magnitude of what they have been doing for years and years across all 120 counties."

Crittenden County will continue to own the justice center after the bonds are retired. Ownership will not automatically transfer to the state, but the county will not have unrestricted use of the property while it remains a court facility.

The county also will have an administrative role in maintaining the building. Local government may arrange janitorial services, utilities, insurance and repairs because county officials are in a better position to handle those needs locally. AOC will reimburse approved expenses attributable to judicial use.

Larger repairs, replace-

ments or improvements generally must receive AOC approval before work begins for the county to be assured of reimbursement.

If Crittenden County wants to hire a maintenance crew, which most of the judicial centers have, the county would be the one to do that, Rogers explains. Once approved, the AOC would pay the county for those costs.

She said the judicial branch will pay for the building's maintenance, repairs, furnishings and ordinary supplies.

"AOC buys every piece of furniture," Rogers said. "It is hard to get our head wrapped around, but it's a different – that's my underlying statement – a different branch of government. We haven't had a strictly judicial branch building here before."

Courthouse security will operate under a somewhat different arrangement. The sheriff's department will be responsible for providing bailiffs and security personnel, while the state will reimburse the county at a state-established rate, currently \$15 an hour.

If the county chooses to compensate security officers at a higher rate, the difference would be a local expense. The county also must account for payroll taxes, equipment and other employment-related costs within or above the reimbursement.

Preliminary staffing recommendations have suggested the building could require eight or nine full-time officers or as many as 15 part-time employees. Rogers said those figures represent an ideal maximum rather than the number necessarily required at all times.

"That's a max. That's not a minimum," she said.

Actual staffing will vary based on court schedules, the

number of courtrooms in use and the types of proceedings being conducted. Judges Rogers, Daniel Heady and Ben Leonard serve Crittenden, Union and Webster counties and generally are not all in the same courthouse simultaneously.

The judges provide schedules in advance so security needs can be coordinated with the sheriff's department. Rogers said smaller counties throughout the circuit have faced similar staffing challenges and adjusted their operations accordingly.

The new justice center will require more security than the former courthouse because all visitors will pass through screening at a controlled entrance. Officers also will be needed at the public entrance, near the circuit clerk's office and in courtrooms when court is in session.

Rogers acknowledged that the financing system can be difficult to understand because the county owns the building and handles some transactions even though state judicial funds ultimately pay the approved costs.

"This is not the same pot of money," she said. "Can't be, because of the separation of the powers."

For Crittenden County, Rogers said, the result will be a modern justice center offering safer courtrooms and expanded services without diverting local tax money from roads, emergency services or other county responsibilities.

"This is a building that our citizens are going to benefit from at no additional expense than what they already pay for their state income taxes," Rogers said, "because if it wasn't coming here, it was going up someplace else."

Marion man taken into custody after brief standoff

A Marion man was arrested Friday night after police said he barricaded himself inside a Red Bird Court residence where officers later found firearms and illegal drugs.

Marion police responded to 124 Red Bird Court, Lot 8, after a woman reported that she had been confronted by 40-year-old Rickey Loomis, who allegedly pointed a handgun at her. Police said Loomis also had active warrants.



Loomis

Loomis initially refused to come outside and barricaded himself and four other people inside the home, including a 17-year-old girl, police said. Officers obtained a search warrant, forced open the door and arrested Loomis.

During a search of the home, officers allegedly found two handguns matching those described by the complaining witness, along with methamphetamine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Loomis is a convicted felon and is listed on the Kentucky Sex Offender Registry.

Marion Police Chief Bobby West said charges against him include first-degree wanton endangerment, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, firearm-enhanced possession of methamphetamine and marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting arrest, unlawful transaction with a minor, possession of a legend drug, possession of a prescription drug outside its original container and a couple of charges for failure to appear.

The Crittenden County Sheriff's Department and Kentucky State Police assisted Marion police.

Plans getting under way for Trick or Treat on Main in Marion

The annual Halloween event Trick-or-Treat on Main Street is once again being planned for downtown Marion. It will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 20. Halloween is actually the next day, on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Businesses that are interested in being part of the downtown program should contact Marion Tourism Commission.

Grants helping CLWD meet rising cost of big expansion plan

Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) was featured last Thursday, Sept. 17 during Gov. Andy Beshear's Team Kentucky Update, highlighting a grant that will help the district install a filtration system to remove PFAS from its public water supply.

District Superintendent Abbie Adamson, who was interviewed for the video segment, credited the Kentucky Division of Water with helping the district develop the project. PFAS are a group of long-lasting manufactured chemicals that can persist in water and the environment.

The filtration project will be incorporated into the second phase of a much larger renovation and expansion of the district's water treatment and distribution systems. The three-phase project is now expected to cost about twice its projected cost when it was conceived



about three years ago.

The district serves 3,751 retail customers in Crittenden and Livingston counties. It also sells water wholesale to Marion, Salem, Smithland, Ledbetter and Grand Rivers.

Phase 1 is funded through a \$4.5 million package. Part of that work has already been completed, including construction of a 300,000-gallon clearwell that doubled the amount of treated water the district can store at its plant. The final part of that phase will be a replacement line connecting CLWD to North Marshall Water District.

Phase 3 is also fully funded through a loan-and-grant package totaling about \$38 million. That phase will include distribution system improvements, including new water lines from the treatment plant at Pinckneyville on the Cumberland River to Salem, Marion and other areas of Crittenden County. Distribution lines in southern Livingston County will also be upgraded.

Just over \$24 million of the Phase 3 package will come from grants and forgivable loans. The district will be responsible for repaying about \$13.6 million over 20 years.

Phase 2 is the largest portion of the plan, estimated at approximately \$42 million. It calls for replacing the existing Pinckneyville treatment plant and doubling its production capacity from 2 million gallons per day to 4 million gallons per day.

The PFAS filtration system announced during the Team Kentucky Update will be included in that phase. However, funding and financing for the remainder of Phase 2 have not yet been finalized.

The district's appearance in the YouTube video begins about 23 minutes into the Sept. 17 Team Kentucky Update.

Court sets dismissal hearing in Withrow lawsuit vs. county

A lawsuit filed by Kent Withrow against Crittenden County over an open-records request could be dismissed after more than a year without activity recorded in the case, according to a court docket alert last week.

Crittenden Circuit Court issued a notice Wednesday, Sept. 17, stating that the case is subject to dismissal for lack of prosecution. A hearing is scheduled for Nov. 12 before Circuit Judge Daniel Heady.

Withrow filed the lawsuit March 26, 2025, alleging the county willfully violated Kentucky's Open Records Act by failing to provide requested surveillance video within the period required by law. His request sought footage from 29 cameras at county facilities between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 19, 2024, amounting to approximately 232 hours of video.

The requested period included the time of a brief verbal exchange between Withrow and County Attorney Bart Frazer at the county office complex. Withrow alleged that Frazer grabbed him by the neck and reported the incident to Kentucky State Police. Police later charged Withrow with filing a false report.

Withrow entered an Alford plea in September 2025 under an agreement that effectively placed him on a deferral period

for one year. An Alford plea allows a defendant to maintain innocence while acknowledging that prosecutors possess sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction. The criminal charge was dismissed earlier this month after a special prosecutor reported that Withrow had fulfilled the conditions of the plea agreement.

In the civil case against the county, Withrow is seeking attorney fees, court costs and statutory penalties of up to \$25 for each day he claims he was denied access to the records.

In an April 2025 motion for summary judgment, the county denied willfully withholding the footage. The county maintained that the volume of video required time to review for privacy and security concerns and that it offered Withrow and his attorneys opportunities to inspect the footage.

The county said it notified Withrow before the lawsuit was filed that copies would be prepared after he paid for the necessary storage devices. According to the county's motion, Withrow paid March 31, received part of the footage shortly afterward and received the remaining footage April 7.

Crittenden County's lawyer Stacey Blankenship argued that production of the records made the lawsuit moot and that Withrow was not entitled to fees or penalties because the county had not acted willfully or in bad faith. The motion asked that the case be dismissed with prejudice.

That motion was withdrawn May 5, 2025, before its scheduled hearing, and the court did not rule on the arguments.

The last activity reflected on the docket before last week's dismissal notice occurred Aug. 26, 2025, when Withrow's attorneys filed a notice related to a deposition.

The new notice does not dismiss the lawsuit or decide the merits of either side's claims. It gives the parties an opportunity to show why the case should remain pending.

Martin retires from Providence police

Providence Police Department Assistant Chief Heath Martin has retired from law enforcement. His last day on the job was Sept. 18. Martin, who had served with the PPD for almost four years, began his law enforcement career in Marion. His total tenure in the field spans nearly 13 years. While he doesn't have any big trips or bucket list items planned for retirement, he does plan on staying busy. Martin is the pastor of Cave Springs General Baptist Church in Marion, and he will continue serving in that role. He also wants to help his father in his construction and handyman business.

Hunter Ed course slated for Oct. 3

A Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources certified Hunter Education Course will be held starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Crittenden County Extension Park, formerly the Gun Club and 4-H Shooting Sports facility at 2264 KY 91 North in Marion.

Kentucky hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, who are at least 12 years old must complete an approved hunter education course and attend an in-person range day to receive a hunter education card. The range certification will be included in this course.



50 YEARS AGO

September 24, 1976

■ Six young men headed to Murray for the zone competition in Ford Motor Co.'s Punt, Pass and Kick contest. The first-place winners from the various age divisions earned the right to advance by taking top honors Sept. 11. Pictured that day were Denis Christopher Hodge, 8-year-old winner; Johnnie Chandler, 9-year-old winner; Keith Alan Davis, 10-year-old winner; Billy Mills, 11-year-old winner; Mark B. Stone, 12-year-old winner; and Ellis Simmons, 13-year-old winner. The contest was sponsored locally by Crittenden Motor Co.

■ Representatives of the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce planned to be in Nashville for a meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials concerning the proposed Dam 50 recreational area in Crittenden County. Arrangements for the meeting were made by Chamber President Jim Hatfield. The delegation was to talk with recreational engineers and real estate planners from the Corps concerning the project. Hatfield was hopeful that as many as eight people from the county would be able to make the trip. The Chamber had voiced its support for the Corps' proposal to develop the land at Dam 50 into a recreational area when the dam was no longer needed.

■ The Rocket Marching Band placed fourth in street and field competition at the Central City Festival. Drum major Sandra Boone was awarded the first-place trophy for "Most Outstanding Drum Major."

25 YEARS AGO

September 20, 2001

■ J.D. Orr was assisted by R.C. Hamilton as the local American Legion placed U.S. flags along Marion's city streets after New York City and Washington, D.C., suffered devastating terrorist attacks.

■ Retired Marion Police Officer Jim Brown received a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Mick Alexander for his nearly 14 years of dedicated service to the Marion Police Department.

■ Katie Stout earned the high school cheerleading squad's spirit award for a game against Ballard Memorial. Middle school cheerleaders Kellye Crider and Julia Adams were named spirit leaders for recent football games.

10 YEARS AGO

September 22, 2016

■ Chamber of Commerce leaders were very pleased with the turnout and success of the first-ever Farm to Table dinner featuring meat and produce grown locally. Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce President Randa Berry said 49 people were served, just one ticket short of a sell-out. Since this was the inaugural event, Chamber leaders limited the number of meals they would serve, opting to focus on quality instead of quantity. The Chamber intended to make this an annual event.

■ Crittenden County's fifth- and sixth-grade Rockets beat Webster County 33-20 in their home opener at Rocket Stadium. Preston Morgeson scored three touchdowns on runs of 16, 38 and 36 yards. Sam Impastato scored a 55-yard touchdown, and Kaleb Nesbitt tacked on the other touchdown on a 2-yard run. Seth Guess, Nesbitt and Impastato also scored on conversion runs.

■ Two high-ranking officials from Frankfort paid a visit to Crittenden County's largest employer, capping a trip to western Kentucky to promote manufacturing in the Bluegrass State. Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, Labor Secretary Derrick Ramsey and officials with the Labor Cabinet took time to meet with Siemens officials in Marion to discuss opportunities associated with the newly announced "Kentucky Trained, Kentucky Built" apprenticeship program.

NOTICE

CITY PROPERTY TAX OWNERS

2026 PROPERTY TAX BILLS
ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2026

INTEREST AND PENALTIES WILL ACCRUE
AFTER THIS DATE.

CITY OF MARION
217 S. MAIN STREET
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
(270) 965-4177

CHAOS

Continued from page 1
But responsible journalism follows a process designed to get as close to the truth as possible. We verify. We attribute. We seek responses from the people involved. We provide context. We sign our work with our own name and stand behind it.

That process may not always produce the answer someone wants. Facts have an inconvenient habit of refusing to conform to political loyalties, personal grudges or social-media narratives.

A community cannot make sound decisions when it is constantly fed half-truths, baseless accusations and carefully framed questions intended only to create mistrust. Chaos may generate attention, but it does not build roads, improve schools, balance budgets or solve community problems.

It merely divides neighbors and weakens confidence in every institution it touches.

The loss of 13 journalists in Lexington is not merely a Lexington problem. It is another warning about what communities stand to lose when professional

journalists disappear and unverified social-media content rushes in to fill the void.

Truth takes work. Context takes time. Accountability takes courage.

Chaos requires none of those things.

Chaos is cheap. Journalism is an investment – and an informed community cannot afford to lose it.

Chris Evans, a newspaperman since 1979, has been editor of The Press for more than 30 years and is the author of South of the Mouth of Sandy, a true story about crime along the Tennessee River. You can find it on Amazon or wherever books are sold.

The Crittenden Press

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www.the-press.com
thepress@the-press.com

Chris Evans, editor & publisher Allison Mick-Evans, advertising
Alaina Barnes, creative design / office manager

Kim Jent, administrative assistant David Drennan, contributing writer
Jenny Zimmer, contributing writer Jamie Pigg, delivery

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How we feel and how we work

I am not a fan of rhetoric. However, that doesn't stop me from using it when I speak. I am pulling things apart to clarify something when everybody knows they belong together; for example, salvation and judgment, or gift and obligation. Rhetoric, by its nature exaggerates, overstates, and oversimplifies.

I spend more time than I should trying to sort out political rhetoric on a national scale. I tend to take it too literally. Done well it motivates us or angers us. In the political realm it is used to help us identify which "camp" we are most comfortable in joining. These are not real places. They are places of ideas, and we become convinced that the people in the tents next to us think the same way about most things.

Rhetoric forms communities that cause us to feel a certain way about people who think differently than we do. In its more dangerous form, it will draw lines based on ethnicity, language, religion, income, or education. I can't think of a politician on the national stage that has not stumbled into a gaffe that goes a little, or a lot, too far.

National rhetoric is how we decide, as a nation, our



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Faith, History, and Public Life

presentation to the rest of the world. Because we are such a large and diverse nation, there will nearly always be a sizable minority (sometimes a majority) of us who are either angry or embarrassed by our national leaders. I have been through enough election cycles to feel good, just o.k., or embarrassed by leaders from both parties.

We frequently hear how political speech has gotten so bad lately, but I am not convinced that this is anything new. Ever read what the Romans said about each other? Topics change. The form of communication changes – and the speed, but both parties for at least the past thirty years have made their money and gained their power with exactly the same argument, "Political dialogue is worse than it has ever been, and it's their fault." Followed by, "I (or we) can fix this."

Don't forget that this nation was born in a chaotic violence that involved at least three (probably four) continents and dozens of nations – many of which were divided amongst themselves. The people involved were from Europe, from Africa, and indigenous people that

were already here. The rhetoric was biting, often personal and vicious – not to mention the actual violence of war and dissent.

Thomas Jefferson hired a journalist hitman, James Callendar, to destroy the reputation and character of John Adams. It led to one of the most famous personal attacks in American political history. The best sources I have locate it in an April 1802 edition of the Richmond Recorder (or Examiner), in which he writes, "He [Adams] was a hideous hermaphroditical character, which has neither the force and firmness of a man, nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman. His administration was one continued tempest of folly, of imbecility, and of injustice."

Callendar thought Jefferson was going to reward him with a job after the election. However, there was no job forthcoming. Callendar's response was to write an expose of Jefferson and his relationship with Sally Hemmings. For his trouble Callendar was prosecuted for sedition, jailed, and later died under suspicious circumstances.

Rhetoric heated in the years leading up to the Civil War. The years after the stock market crash of 1929 led to the rhetorical description of slums as "Hoovervilles". The speech around issues such as war, abortion, the death penalty, gun rights, and immigration has become

nearly a staple in the past few decades.

National rhetoric evokes emotion. It leads us to choose the party or leader that most matches the way we feel. That is why it can be hard sorting through the policies. It can be done, but it will not normally be covered by national news.

Local politics are different. Yes, it can get heated and personal. However, at the end of the day, we all see each other in the grocery store and at football games. We share the same spaces and use the same facilities. We go to church or synagogue on Sunday and if we are not in the same building for worship, we might share space at a restaurant.

Local and state politicians do not have access to a money printing machine. It is our council members, school board members, mayors, and judge executives that must balance budgets, keep infrastructure working, and business moving forward.

National politics often reflects how America feels. Local politics is how America gets things done. I respect those who enter that field of play. I just sometimes wish we could be a little more civil.

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

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Religious Outreach
■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
■ Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.
■ 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.

White Chapel Church & Cemetery
will have its annual meeting
Sunday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m.
Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 64, Marion, KY 42064
Cemetery and church are solely operated by donations only. All donations will be appreciated. Everyone welcome, please attend.

WORSHIP
with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Freedom General Baptist Church
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.
Pastor: Ross Atwell

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

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"
Pastor, Hank Cayce

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

growing in grace
PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.
2 Peter 3:18

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

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

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Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.
Speaker: Greg Rushing
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Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future

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 Discipler
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.
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

Old Bells Mines re-opened after many years shut-down

The history about the once little coal mining community of Bells Mines has almost faded away into the past, with more and more of its history being forgotten ever year. Many now do not even know or care that there was once a coal mine operated in Crittenden County, much less how it got its name and how it got started. But thanks to the archives of The Crittenden Press, we can still read about those days. This article in from the Feb. 2, 1923 edition.

Old Bells Mines Re-Opened After Many Years Shut-Down

The Bell Coal and Coke Co., a corporation composed of St. Louis capitalists, have recently purchased the coal rights on all the land in Crittenden County from the Heath Mountain to the mouth of Tradewater River, containing several thousand acres, and is now re-opening the old Bell Mines, which were the first coal mines to be operated this side of Pittsburgh.

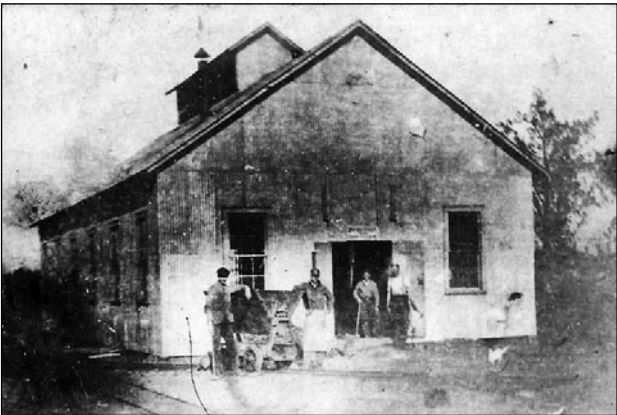
These mines were first opened more than 100 (1820s) years ago by John Bell, a Tennessee politician who once ran for president against Abraham Lincoln. The mines have been closed since about 1860.

The enterprise will doubtless be a big thing for Crittenden County. The company, it is said, will build a railroad from the mines to the Ohio River at Cedar Point and build a tipple there. They now have a road and a tipple on Tradewater. There will be several openings in operation at the mines.

It is said by geologists who profess to know such things that there is an abundance of coal lying buried under the ground thereabout, and the enterprise promises to be one of the biggest mining booms Crittenden County has had for many years.

What Was Happening in 1923

To one familiar with the hills of Crittenden County adjacent to Sturgis as they were a year ago and as they are today, one must agree that the time of miracle working is not all confined to the pages of history and mythology but that a good share remains for the present generation. The old hills are covered



The newly built washer plant at Bells Mine in 1923 was one of the improvements for the newly reopened mine.

with boulders, black jack and oak, all but abandoned farms, indeed the old tramway used for getting coal to the river in the days of Robert E. Lee and the Natchez; are now covered for miles with score of busy men, teamsters, engineers, machinists, electricians, miners, carpenters – a center of industry has spring into being within the year a good sized town of at least 20 dwellings are cozily housing men and their families who are reaping the reward of industry, taking a fortune from the treasure cove of the earth.

It seems impossible that all of this could be accomplished in a year and without steam of even a passable country road. Nevertheless, it is true and nothing but a visit to the works of the Bell Coal & Navigation company will make the size of the accomplishment comprehensible. It is stupendous. It is remarkable and every scrap of the hundreds of tons of massive machinery and equipment has gone through Sturgis

Mines Reopening

Another evidence of miracle working attention is called to No. 4 mine and it must certainly be visited when next you go over. Foreman Davis of this mine started in at the grass roots last October. They are in more than 300 feet, the entrance being through sold rock, and they are hauling coal out as fast as they can get out from a five-foot vein, the light from the entrance being almost sufficient. Air drills and mining machines are used effectively, and a large patent electric coal loader is in the mine

which will do the work for several men. Before this article can be printed, an electric hoist will take the place of “old beck” at this opening.

Poles and wiring are being put into place along the many mills of track already laid and the cars will soon be moved by electric engines. At present a Fordson engine takes all the cars from the various mines and dumps them at the river tipple, and Mr. Herbert says that in the case as others, it “takes them there and brings them back.”

Washer Plant And Other Improvements

The washer plant is a house full of wonderful machinery and devices which if would be impossible to explain by any save an expert, B. J. Roberts has this in charge. It is of his own development. The Bell Coal & Navigation Co., wanting everything right, not only brought the plant from the factory but they brought the manager of the factory, Mr. Roberts, to come here, put it up and run it as well. Roberts is a mining engineer of wide experience and was the first to take up the washer and complete it after others had given up the work started. He stayed with it until it proved to be a success and the saving in coal is said to be enormous by the operation.

The washer is located in the mining area with a row of miners’ dwellings, which were formerly officers quarters during the war. These houses were knocked down at the TNT plant (U.S. Government smokeless gun powder plant) at Nashville and brought here for erection. They are comfortable houses, and others are being put up at different quarters throughout the territory owned by the corporation.

A new public road has been graded and crowned by the company, no charge being made to Crittenden County for this



This railroad track ran from the mines to Tradewater River so coal could be unloaded from the cars onto barges.

service. The road is well made, wide, above high water and will form one of the links of Kavanaugh Drive later on. This drive takes one up to Kavanaugh Lake, the source of the water supply for the industry. A dam fully half a mile across has been built of concrete and there is at present about 18 feet of water backed up over a wide expanse of the valley.

A first class machine shop is not the least among the assets of this company. Gigantic lathes, small lathes, everything needed by the machinists for repairing the various machines and keeping them in order are to be found in this building. The hardware-storeroom is full and completed. Nothing has been omitted in any part of the Bell outfit to conduct a first class mining property.

The office building is modern in every particular and is presided over by Edwin Deitze. All the office furniture and appointments, filing systems, etc., are the very latest word in accounting room efficiency. In this building is the private office of Mr Herbert and the engineering equipment. A modern switch-board has been installed for the telephone system and also housed in this stucco structure.

The clubhouse is a dream of perfection and the meals served by Mrs. Barnes are all that hungry men desire. This is a real home like structure, which Mr. Hervert and his official family who have not homes over there, in Sturgis reside. It is two-story and has an 8-foot basement. Latest conveniences with regard to bath accommodations, etc., are among the building’s desirable features. It is built high on a hill and is a pleasant spot to sit at the close of the day’s toil and complicate the future.

Railroad built to Tradewater

While all of this is going on at the mine itself,



Pictured are my late father, Billie Travis, and a cousin standing next to the wooden structure that was built for the train tracks.

use their barges all the year practically, employment conditions should be good in this section through the year.

The Bells Coal Mine, a part of Crittenden County’s earliest history, in the far northern part of the county, is almost forgotten and lost in time. (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).

Real Estate LISTINGS

HOMES

- 2 BR, 1 bath - 118 E Elm St - **\$84,900**
- 3 BR, 2 Bath - 763 Lola Rd - **\$274,900**
- 3 BR, 1 Bath - 599 Levias Rd - **\$249,000**
- 4 BR, 2 Bath - 331 Lily Dale Rd - **\$244,000**
- 3 BR, 3 Bath - 121 E Cruce Ln - **\$289,900**
- 3 BR, 1 Bath - 104 Eagle Eye Ln - **\$144,900**
- 5 BR, 3 Bath on 8 AC
4025 Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd - **\$319,000**
- 3 Bed, 2 Bath- 763 Lola Rd, Salem Ky
\$224,900

ACREAGE

- 95 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$435,900**
- 5 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$29,000**
- 6 AC 826 Lonestar Rd **\$69,000**

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How to vote!

Crittenden County

IN-PERSON
ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Polls are open 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Countywide Voting Center
Crittenden County Office Complex
200 Industrial Dr., Marion
Any Voter

Repton Baptist Church
6280 U.S. Hwy. 60 E., Marion
A101 Mattoon

Deer Creek Baptist Church
69 Deer Creek Road, Marion
B101 Sheridan

Mexico Baptist Church
175 Mexico Road, Marion
E101 Mexico + C101 Frances

Shady Grove Fire Department
35 Providence Road, Marion
F101 Shady Grove

IN-PERSON
EARLY VOTING

Thursday, Oct. 29
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 30
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

County Office Complex
200 Industrial Dr., Marion
Inside fiscal court meeting room

IN-PERSON EXCUSED
ABSENTEE VOTING

Oct. 21-23, 26-28
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Crittenden County Clerk
200 Industrial Dr., Ste. B, Marion

NO VOTING MONDAY, NOV. 2

Voter requirements to be absentee-eligible:

Per KRS 117.085, eligible voters must meet one of the requirements:

- Student who resides temporarily outside of his/her county
- Voter or voter’s spouse who has surgery/ hospitalization scheduled during Early Voting and Election Day
- Uniformed service member confined to a military base during Early Voting and Election Day and is not eligible for a mail-in ballot
- Voter in last trimester of pregnancy
- Voter who temporarily resides outside the state but is still eligible to vote in Kentucky.
- Voter who due to age, disability or illness will be unable to visit Early Voting or Election Day polling sites.
- Voters who will be out of the county during Early Voting or on Election Day.

EXCUSED ABSENTEE
MAIL-IN BALLOT

Eligible voters may request a mail-in absentee ballot by visiting **GoVote.ky.gov** or by calling 270-965-3403

Request Sept. 19-Oct. 20

To find out if you are an eligible voter, visit GoVote.ky.gov or call 270-965-3403

Process to request mail-In absentee ballot

- Make application on the State Board of Elections’ online portal at GoVote.ky.gov or call 270-965-3403.
- Your ballot will be sent via U.S. Mail.
- Follow the instructions completely to ensure your ballot is accepted!

BE SURE TO SIGN BOTH ENVELOPES!

- You may mail it back or use our drop box inside Crittenden County Office Complex.

CHECK REGISTRATION, FIND YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT AND VOTING LOCATION ALL AT

GoVote.ky.gov

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 5

REGISTER AT

GoVote.ky.gov

PROCESS FOR ALL IN-PERSON VOTING

- Bring your required photo identification.
- Have your ID ready. Driver’s licenses are the most efficient method to scan.
- Election officers verify your identity, and you will be issued a paper ballot.
- Be sure to ask about write-in candidates and candidate withdrawals.
- You will mark your BOTH SIDES of the ballot and cast your vote!

Classifieds *The Crittenden Press*

The Press Online
CrittendenPress.Blogspot.com



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It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS 5 P.M., MONDAY

If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at (270) 965-3191.

All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

for sale

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services

Do you need a job done? Big or small, give us a call: 270-704-1888. Better Built Home Solutions: Wood Decks, Pressure washing, window washing, Roofing, painting, tree trimming/cutting, seal-coating, general maintenance jobs and much more! If you need a job done, Give me a call 270-704-1888. Free estimates. (41-40-p)

CONCRETE WORK: Parking lots, garages, steel buildings, walls, sidewalks, driveways, room additions, rock driveways, clean ditches. Call for quote (270) 724-4672, Joe Mattingly Concrete Construction. (121-44-p)

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. (15t-p)

bid notice

NOTICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court has authorized the sale of certain items of surplus property. Items can be found at purplewave.com, an online auction platform. Bidders may go to their website prior to the date of sale, which is October 13, 2026, and register to bid on 4 surplus ambulances as listed and one Army surplus loader as listed. Once registered, simply login and search Crittenden County to view all items available.

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The Crittenden Press

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JUSTIN MASON, AGENT: 270.439.8019

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SECTION 00010 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for “Zone Meter and Commercial Meter Installations” for the City of Marion, will be received by the **City of Marion, 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064** until **11:00 a.m.** (local time) on **October 21, 2026**, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

The scope of work includes the installation of approximately 110 zone and commercial AMI water meters which have been pre-purchased by the city of Marion. The work shall include the removal of the old meters and proper installation of the new meters. Work required will vary and will include complete new meter boxes/services, removing concrete and replacing, removing dirt/mud from boxes to access meters, etc. Zone meter installations shall include excavation, purchase and installation of pre-cast vaults, and piping, valves, and meter installation.

The Bid Form and Specification may be examined at the following:

Eclipse Engineers, PLLC 113 West Mt. Vernon Street Somerset, KY 42501 (606) 451-0959	City of Marion 217 South Main Street Marion, Kentucky 42064 (270) 965-2266
---	---

Copies of the BID Package may be obtained by contacting Eclipse Engineers listed above. Partial sets of documents will not be provided.

The OWNER reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

No BIDDER may withdraw Bid within ninety (90) consecutive calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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CURRENT KENTUCKY LISTINGS

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

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 50.09 Acres - \$645,000.00
Multi-use recreation farm with 3BR home, hunting cabin, horse barn, fenced pasture, stocked ponds, food plots, and quality deer and turkey habitat.

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

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

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

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 16.41 Acres - \$319,000.00
This 16.41+/- 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 – 34 Acres - \$135,000.00
Timbered hunting tract with Mill Creek frontage, excellent deer habitat, mature hardwoods, and secluded access in Crittenden County, Kentucky.

Crittenden County, KY – 135.85 Acres - \$750,000.00
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 – 5.36 Acres
Luxury lodge with guest suites, commercial kitchen, shop, and breathtaking balcony views perfect for weddings, reunions, corporate retreats, and private event use.

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

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

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 70 Acres
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.

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!

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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! Livingston County, KY – 91.75 Acres - \$455,000.00
Diverse hunting tract with open ground, build site, creek, and excellent deer and turkey habitat near the Cumberland River in Livingston County.

The MW Land Team
Land Sales & Brokerage
122 Madison St, Nashville, TN 37203
Derek Parker, Broker
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Marion, KY

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NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 26-16 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR PART-TIME CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on September 21, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular called meeting of the City Council held on August 17, 2026, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the position of PT Office Clerk from \$15.00 an hour to \$15.45; PT Operator-Water/Sewer from \$21.50 an hour to \$22.15; and creates the position of PT Park and Streets Laborer at \$16.00 an hour.

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

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
LEGAL SERVICES OFFICER
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
September 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-05 ESTABLISHING PAYMENTS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL BUSINESS LICENSE TAX BY PERSONS CONDUCTING OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF SALEM, KENTUCKY SHALL BE QUARTERLY AND PERSONS RECEIVING 1099 SHALL BE ANNUALLY.

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Salem, Kentucky, at a special called meeting held on September 18, 2026, at 8:20 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Salem Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the City Commission held on September 15, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

Payments of the Occupational Business License Tax shall be made to the City of Salem quarterly for the periods ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. Others who earn compensation which is reflected on a 1099 shall remit payment annually by April 15 following the preceding calendar year.

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

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CITY ATTORNEY
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
September 18, 2026

SportsShorts

SOCCER Girls are on the road this week

The Lady Rockets continue to struggle without the offensive prowess of junior Adri Berry. In last week's district contest, the girls lost at Trigg County 4-1. Ruby Peek scored Crittenden's only goal. Macibelle Hardesty had 16 saves in the contest.

A scheduled contest for last Thursday against Webster County was canceled due to lack of available players and the rising heat.

The Lady Rockets had a rematch Tuesday at Marion, but results were not available at press time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL Crittenden opens MS playoffs

Crittenden County Middle School closed the regular season Tuesday at Union County, but results were not available at press time. The team picked up a pair of decisive victories last week and will open postseason play Saturday against Henderson North.

The Rockets defeated Ballard County 34-8 Thursday. Noah Moss scored on a rushing touchdown, while quarterback Brady Polk threw two touchdown passes to Bode Merrill and one each to Kevin Little and Conley Palmer.

CCMS shut out Henderson South 46-0 Sept. 15. Eli Taylor and Moss each returned an interception for a touchdown. Moss also caught a touchdown pass, Polk rushed for two scores and Little added a rushing touchdown.

The Rockets finished as the league's No. 3 seed and will face second-seeded Henderson North in the opening round. The championship game will be played Oct. 1 at Henderson South.

VOLLEYBALL Lady Rockets fall in three straight

The Lady Rockets' busy volleyball week started last Monday, when the team hosted Ballard Memorial, losing in straight sets 10-25, 13-25, 23-25. Braelyn Merrill led offensively for CCHS with six kills. Grayson Travis also had four kills in the contest. Ava Tabor had a big night on defense with 20 digs. Emerye Pollard had 16 of her own. The Lady Rockets hosted University Heights Tuesday, losing in three sets: 18-25, 21-25, 15-25. On Wednesday, the Lady Rockets hosted Henderson County, losing in straight sets 18-25, 19-25, 19-25. At Marshall County Friday, Crittenden lost in straight sets 15-25, 21-25, 18-25.

CROSS COUNTRY Nelson, Rogers medal at St. Mary

Crittenden County cross country athletes ran at the St. Mary's Invitational in Paducah last weekend and the eighth-grade duo of Addie Nelson and London McCord were Crittenden's only girl runners. Nelson placed 47th, running her race in 26:37.58. McCord placed 72nd, finishing in 30:46.68. The boys had four runners competing. CJ Nelson had the best time, completing his race in 18:41.07 and earning 16th place in a very crowded field. River Rogers placed 23rd at 19:07.59. Both medaled. Behind him was Noah Martinez in 32nd place at 19:42.35. Eighth-grader Barrett Brown rounded out Crittenden County's runners at 28:20.81.

GOLF Rocket golfers beat Caldwell Co.

Crittenden County's boys golf team defeated Caldwell County 182-202 at home Sept. 15. Mitchell Brown earned medalist honors with a 40, followed by Hudson Stokes at 47, Jaxton Duncan at 47 and Bentley Rushing at 48. In girls play, Abby Korzenborn finished with a 57.

FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL CCMS wraps up fall season

Crittenden County Middle School softball wrapped up its season last week, finishing with a 5-12 record after playing three games in four days. The Lady Rockets lost 6-2 at Webster County on Tuesday, Sept. 15, despite collecting five hits. Mela Penn doubled and drove in a run, while Aria Kinnis, Addie Nelson, Aubry Odom and London McCord each had a hit. Crittenden bounced back Thursday with a 6-5 victory over Dawson Springs. The Lady Rockets had seven hits, and the offense was led by Blaklee Gardner, Hadlee Henager, McCord and Penn. The season ended Friday with a 13-5 loss to Caldwell County. Crittenden again finished with seven hits. Penn went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, while Nelson, Odom and Gardner each doubled. Odom, Gardner and Henager handled the pitching duties in all three games last week.

Crittenden Sports Schedule

- Sept. 25 Football vs Trigg County
- Sept. 26 Cross country at Marshall Co.
- Sept. 26 CCMS football playoffs
- Sept. 28 Soccer vs Mayfield
- Sept. 28 Volleyball vs Livingston
- Sept. 29 Soccer at Union County
- Sept. 29 Volleyball vs Union County



Rocket golfer Mitchell Brown shot 8-over to advance in the state golf playoffs.

Brown earns berth in KHSAA state tourney

STAFF REPORT

Mitchell Brown shot an 8-over-par 80 Monday in the First Region Golf Tournament at Rolling Hills Country Club in Paducah to earn a berth in the first round of the KHSAA State Golf Tournament.

Brown, who averaged 42 for nine holes during the season, led Crittenden County to a sixth-place finish among 16 teams. McCracken County, Marshall County, Graves County, Paducah Tilghman and Lyon County occupied the top five spots.

Brown will compete in the state tournament's first round Sept. 28-30 at Bardstown Country Club.

Brown's round included a birdie, eight pars and nine bogeys, with no double bogeys or worse. He shot a 2-over 38 on the front nine and a 6-over 42 on the back.

Other Rocket scores were Cash Singleton and Jaxton Duncan, 89 each; Bentley Rushing, 95; and Hudson Stokes, 99. Crittenden County finished the season with an 8-7 record.

Bardstown Country Club is a par-72 championship layout that blends traditional and links-style golf, stretches beyond 7,200 yards from its back tees and regularly hosts PGA section events and state amateur championships.

Rockets rolled by mighty Mayfield

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County ran headlong into Mayfield's big-play machine Friday, allowing more than 55 points for just the 19th time ever in a 56-7 setback at Rocket Stadium.

Mayfield scored on every possession by its varsity offense and added two touchdowns during mop-up duty. The Cardinals built a 28-0 lead in the first quarter and were ahead 42-0 by halftime.

The loss was Crittenden County's second straight by a wide margin, dropping the Rockets to 1-4 at the midpoint of their 10-game schedule.

Compounding the loss was a knee injury to quarterback Conner Poindexter. The junior was hurt while being sacked with 4:29 remaining in the first quarter. He returned for another series but was removed by medical personnel before halftime and did not return. He was scheduled to undergo an MRI.

Freshman Chase Walters also was helped from the field with an injury.

Mayfield frequently worked with a short field and rarely failed to cash in. Josiah England rushed five times for 68 yards and two touchdowns, breaking scoring runs of 26 and 38 yards.

Cardinals quarterback Gray Robbins completed five of six passes for 176 yards as Mayfield's quick, sure-handed receivers hauled in almost everything thrown their way. The Cardinals finished with 352 yards, including 247 through the air.

Crittenden County



Rocket running back Eli Lovell looks for an opening against Mayfield's defense during Friday's district opener at Rocket Stadium.

avoided the shutout on its final possession when backup quarterback Hayden Hughes connected with Eli Lovell for a 42-yard touchdown. Mitchell Brown kicked the extra point. Hughes passed for 50 yards and rushed for 23, while Joel Bumpus led the Rockets on the ground with 25 yards.

Mayfield (4-1), a 13-time state champion playing under first-year coach Stephen Hatchell, remains a favorite to win the Class 2A First District.

Coach Gaige Courtney's message afterward was simple: Put this one away and move forward.

The Rockets have two important district games before their fall-break open date, hosting Trigg County this Friday before traveling to Todd Central next week. Both are games Crittenden

believes it can win.

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mayfield	28	14	7	7	
Crittenden	0	0	0	7	

SCORING PLAYS

M-Christopher Hollingsworth 27 pass from Gray Robbins (Carson Herbst) 6:15, 1st

M-Karsen Neely 25 pass from Robbins (kick) 4:58, 1st

M-Josiah England 26 run (kick) 3:18, 1st

M-England 38 run (kick) 2:01, 1st

M-Ashton Flint 30 pass from Robbins (kick) 9:52, 2nd

M-5 29 pass from Robbins (kick) 4:39, 2nd

M-McNeely 46 pass from Robbins (kick) 8:06, 3rd

M-#4 24 pass from Carson Price (kick) 10:27, 4th

C-Eli Lovell 42 pass from Hayden Hughes (Mitchell Brown kick) 4:02, 4th

TEAM TOTALS	
First Downs:	CCHS 5, MHS 7
Penalties:	CCHS 5, MHS 7
Rushing:	CCHS 26-98, MHS 14-

105

Passing: CCHS 2-9-2, 50; MHS 8-9-0, 247

Total Yards: CCHS 148, MHS 352

Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 1-1, MHS 1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

CCHS: Joel Bumpus 5-25, Logan Nolan 4-17, Lovell 5-17, Hughes 6-23, Conner Poindexter 6-16. MHS: England 5-68.

Passing

CCHS: Poindexter 0-3-1; Hughes 2-6-1, 50. MHS: Robbins 5-6-0, 176.

Receiving

CCHS: Lovell 1-41, Davis Perryman 1-9.

Defense

Byford solo; Perryman 2 solos; Murray roach; J.Rich roach; Blazina assist; Curnel 3 solos, assist, roach; Lovell 3 solos; Nash assist; A.Rich solo, assist; Bumpus 5 solos, assist, 2 roaches; Burns solo; Counts solo; Herrington solo; Hughes 2 solos; Sherer roach.

Players of the Game: Lineman Jake Rich, Special Teams Mitchell Brown, Defense Joel Bumpus.

Records: CCHS 1-4, Mayfield 4-1



Rocket cross country CJ Nelson led the way for CCHS last weekend at the St. Mary Invitational.



CCHS's Maeson Martin blocks a shot at the net against UHA last week.

Photo by Greg Perryman

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TAX

Continued from page 1 taxable value.

The Lower Tradewater River Watershed District rate was excluded from the comparison because it applies only to property within the district's flood-prone area. Crittenden Fiscal Court last week took no action on the district's proposed 2026 rate of 37.097 cents per \$100, but the rate will still take effect.

Only 75 Crittenden County properties were taxed by the Tradewater district in 2025. Those properties had a combined assessment of roughly \$750,000, generating \$2,831.45 in taxes if all bills were collected at face value.

HOLIDAY

Continued from page 1 considered are a live Nativity, perhaps horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas carolers and holiday photo locations.

Organizers are also encouraging vendors to offer hot chocolate, warm apple cider, sandwiches, sweets and other items. Downtown businesses and offices may make space available for vendors.

Browning said East Carlisle Street will be closed to accommodate vendors, who may also arrange space in front of downtown businesses with permission from the business owner.

Additional details about Christmas on Carlisle activities, the parade and other events are expected to be announced as plans are finalized.

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4-H winners are (from left) Katrina Scott, London McCord, Owen Flahardy, Grayson Pritchett and Phillip Barnes. Not pictured are winners Caleb Carmack and Elinor Carmack.

One dozen local 4-H members are rewarded by LBL forestry program

STAFF REPORT

Twelve local 4-H members recently tested their forestry skills during a competition at the Woodlands Nature Station at Land Between the Lakes.

Participants competed in tree measurement, tree identification, compass and pacing, and other forestry-related activities.

Katrina Scott placed first overall in the senior division, followed by Elinor Carmack in second and London McCord in third. All three tied for first place in compass and pacing.

Scott also won tree measurement,

followed by Carmack in second and McCord in third. Scott, Carmack and McCord tied for first in tree identification, while Luke Binkley placed third.

In the junior division, Phillip Barnes tied for first in compass and pacing. Grayson Pritchett placed second in tree identification, while Caleb Carmack and Owen Flahardy tied for third.

The event was supported by the Woodlands Nature Station, Kentucky Division of Forestry and University of Kentucky 4-H and forestry programs.

AUGUST 2025

Activity Report

Here is Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head's monthly activity report for his department.

	AUG	2025 Avg
Collisions Investigated	4	6.08
Complaints	37	40.50
Papers Served	40	40.67
Service Attempts	9	8.25
Total Service Attempts	64	82.08
Transports	2	3.75
Special Detail	12	72.17
Training Hours	66.25	101.29
Verbal Warning	12	11.75
Courtesy Notice	—	2.67
Criminal Citation	6	12.17
Officer Assist	11	8.75
Building Checks	96	57.25
Total Manhours	808.50	810.75
Bailiff Court Hours	98.5	111.25
Cases Opened	5	4.50
Felony Arrests	1	5.92
Followup Investigations	3	12.67
Misdemeanor Arrests	4	5.75
Motorist Assists	6	3.92
DUIs	0	0.50
Traffic Citations	1	6.08
General Policing	255	197.83
Call for Service	22	41.42
Vehicle Inspections	52	62.08

SHERIFF

★

EVAN HEAD

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5:30-7 p.m.

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Mowing, jail discussed

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County officials will seek prices to lease or purchase a 120-horsepower tractor after equipment failures has left the road department with only one mowing tractor.

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said the county previously reduced its mowing fleet to two tractors with another serving as a backup. The backup broke down several weeks ago, and one of the primary tractors, a Farmall purchased about six years ago, remains at a Case IH shop with an undiagnosed fuel problem.

Newcom said this summer's favorable growing conditions have made it difficult to control johnsongrass, weeds and other vegetation along county roads. Magistrate Dave Belt said tall grass has been one of the county's most frequent complaints this summer. "We can do it with two tractors," Newcom said. "We tried it."

So, he asked the court to consider approval of buying or leasing a new tractor.

One tractor under consideration would cost about \$99,000 to purchase. A lease-purchase agreement could cost about \$21,000 annually, which Newcom said could be covered by the county's equipment budget.

Magistrates approved a motion to obtain lease and purchase prices from multiple dealers. The fiscal court expects to decide at its next meeting. Newcom said the county should place an order soon because delivery could be delayed until spring.

In other business, the county heard a cash-flow report on the jail. The projection shows the detention center account could finish September



Johnsongrass is one of the biggest problems along roadsides. It grows fast in late summer.

nearly \$5,000 in the red even if more than \$113,000 in anticipated state and federal receipts arrive.

The account had an actual cash balance of \$89,382.37 after receiving \$155,317.09 in deposits since Sept. 1 and a \$25,000 transfer from the General Fund. Disbursements during the period totaled \$92,255.53.

Upcoming obligations listed on the report include \$71,319.27 in claims, \$41,970.26 in lease and bond payments, approximately \$70,000 for payroll and \$24,622.50 in other expenses.

Those expenses would produce a projected deficit of \$118,529.66 before anticipated receipts are considered. The revenue was expected to be received within a few days from the court meeting.

The report shows \$113,608.14 awaiting deposit from state housing, federal housing and federal transportation billings. If all of those funds are received, the account would still have a projected \$4,921.52 deficit at the end of September.

Magistrates, like they have for several months now, agreed that recur-

ring jail bills will not be paid until adequate funding is available.

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?

Sept. 21, 2026



Grant Rogers
Financial Advisor

Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It's about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it's saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16% of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, "Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment." Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32%),

often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51%), however, fall in the middle - the financially conflicted.

They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning \$175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, "What do financially fulfilled people do differently?" Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently

among the financially fulfilled, and they're simple steps you can take, too.

- Build an emergency fund (98% of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.

- Create a financial plan for retirement (91% of financially fulfilled have one). It's hard to feel in control if you don't know where you're going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you'll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life's unexpected cur-

veballs.

- Save intentionally for major milestones (87% of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child's education don't have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.

- Put an estate plan in place (66% of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you've worked for still reflects your wishes after you're gone.

- Work with a financial advisor (60% of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes

from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn't happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

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