



The Crittenden Press

Rocket Alumnus Back to Skipper Hoops « Page 8

10 PAGES | VOLUME 144 | NUMBER 14
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

By the Numbers

Tornadoes are on rise in Bluegrass State

Last week's outbreak of storms across the region whipped up more than 250 tornado warnings in western Kentucky and other nearby states.

Kentucky has experienced one of the steepest rises in high-intensity tornadoes in the nation over the last two decades, according to a new study by captainexperiences.com.

The Bluegrass State ranked fifth in the U.S. for the increase in EF2 or stronger tornadoes from 2004 to 2023, recording 158 such storms – 67 more than the previous 20-year period. Those tornadoes resulted in 113 deaths, more than 1,100 injuries and an average of \$29 million in annual damages, adjusted for inflation. As tornado season continues, Kentucky remains at high risk, with researchers noting the traditional Tornado Alley has shifted eastward into the Midwest and Southeast.

What did yours say?

An historic amount of rain fell on the area late last week and weekend. Higher totals were reported in the southern part of the Crittenden County and into Caldwell and Lyon counties. Around Frances, reports of 12.5 inches or more were common while at the Kentucky Mesonet weather center near Mattoon, the gauge showed 8.8 inches from last Wednesday through Saturday. Caldwell had 13.3 inches and Union County 8.7. Saturday was the wettest day with more than 3 inches across the region. The Mesonet weather center's rain total is the amount officially used by record-keepers, so it didn't eclipse the county record of 9.45 inches over a four-day period in 1910.



Ferry idled by high water

Cave-In-Rock Ferry temporarily closed Monday due to rising water on the Ohio River. Based on hydrologic forecasts, the river will crest around April 15. Typically, the river falls much more rapidly than it rises. The Ohio is projected to crest at just over 53 feet. The ferry cannot operate when the river reaches a stage of about 40.5 or 41 feet. When the river gets to 52 feet, a few homes near Tolu are subject to flooding.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion City Council meets at 5 p.m., Monday, April 21 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, April 21 at city hall.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 15 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 17 at the county office complex.

Local Music Legends



HOF MEMBERS

Crittenden County Music Hall of Fame was created in 2019 and has regularly inducted new members, except during the pandemic years.

Member	Year Inducted
Bill Marvel	2019
Little Jack Little	2019
Franklin Hamilton	2022
Linda Brown	2023
Richard Maxfield	2024
JD Orr	2024
Leon Walker	2025
Corey Crider	2025



Leon Walker (above) along with Corey Crider (pictured third from left at right) were recently inducted into the local music hall of fame. Alongside Crider are (from left) Cash Singleton, Brennan Cruce and Cutter Singleton.



Walker, Crider inducted into hall of fame

STAFF REPORT

Two men with deep ties to the local music scene and equally deep roots in Crittenden County have been named to the Crittenden County Music Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

The hall of fame, established in 2019 by a group of local musicians led by the widely successful bluegrass group Cutter and Cash and the Kentucky Grass, has honored local talent each year since its inception – except during the pandemic period. This year's inductees include world-traveled opera baritone Corey Crider and late rhythm guitarist Leon Walker.

Enshrinement of the new members was conducted during the recent Old Kentucky Hayride at Fohs Hall.

Crider, a Marion native, has become one of the most accomplished vocal performers to ever come from Crittenden County. His career has spanned across the country and abroad, with credits including performances with The Toledo Opera, The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, The Paducah Symphony, The Gulfshore Opera, The Dallas Opera and The Lyric Opera of Chicago. His international appearances include stages in Beijing and Italy.

Though his resume is global, Crider remains grounded in his hometown values and continues to invest in local youth through Crider Performing Arts Studio. Cutter Singleton, of Cutter and Cash and the Kentucky Grass, called Crider a "good ole boy from right here at home" and praised his contributions to the county's music scene while announcing the honor on behalf of the community. Joining Crider in the 2025 class is Leon Walker, a local guitar player whose musical journey began on the front porches of Crittenden.

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Ambulance Tax Questions County backs up, exploring options

STAFF REPORT

About 20 people attended Monday's special meeting of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court aimed at discussing a possible new tax to pay for the ambulance service and free up other money that could be directed toward the underfunded E-911 service.

About a quarter of the attendees had some connection to Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and virtually all public comment supported a new tax to fund the ambulance service. Primary discussion re-

volved around the potential establishment of an ambulance tax district to address increasing operational costs and maintain adequate EMS services, particularly buying new ambulances to replace those in an aging fleet. EMS workers testified that ambulances are subject to breaking down, and they fear unreliable equipment could lead to life-threatening problems.

A variety of perspectives were shared dur-

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Farm dream realized

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Robert Friel always dreamed of farming. It took decades and a full career in manufacturing to get there, but today he's managing a thriving regenerative cattle operation on the west side of KY 855 in Crittenden County, not far from what locals call Kirk's Bluff.

A few days ago, Crittenden County Conservation District honored Friel with its most distinguished honor, the Master Conservationist award.

Friel, 81, was born in northern Illinois and spent 15 years with Truswal Systems, a manufacturing company he followed south in 1996 when it opened the first industrial plant in Princeton's industrial park. He served as plant manager until retiring in 2007.

Two years later, he



Robert Friel was recognized at the recent Conservation District annual awards banquet. Tyler Guess, a district director, made the presentation.

bought the 160-acre farm that had once belonged to Billy Howard, a man known for raising beagles and keeping rabbits to train the dogs. Friel and his wife, Linda, had already owned the Birdsville Campground on the Ohio River in Livingston County since 2005. They ran the riverside desti-

nation and hosted Native American powwows there until 2015, juggling both ventures for several years after Friel purchased the farm.

"I had to hustle back and forth," he recalled.

Friel began learning about

See AWARD/page 10

A thought to augment tax collection

Earlier this week, Crittenden County magistrates balked at the idea of creating a new taxing district to rescue spending demands of ambulance and E-911 services. Faced with rising operational costs and inflationary pressure, the court ultimately shied away – for now – from asking taxpayers for more money.

Perhaps there is an opportunity to look elsewhere to solve this problem.

Like the citizens it serves, local government is feeling the financial squeeze. In times like these, it's tempting to look for low-hanging fruit. Yet, the ripest grapes are often on the highest limbs. Reaching them requires effort and ingenuity. Sometimes, tools are already in our hands, we just have to pick them up and use them.

Crittenden County already has tools in place to generate new revenue through its existing occupational tax. These are not new levies. They're long-standing ordinances that require businesses operating in the county to file and pay their fair share based on wages paid and profits earned.

But here's the problem, while these taxes are legally required, compliance is lacking. Many responsible businesses report and remit what they owe. Others, however, do not. Some fly under the radar entirely, operating without reporting or paying. In effect, those who follow the law are subsidizing those who don't, and the county is leaving revenue on the table.

Taxpaying is not voluntary. It never has been. But in the absence of enforcement, it might as well be. If Crittenden County wants to avoid adding new tax burdens and still fund critical services like ambulance replacement and 911 center maintenance, it must first ensure that everyone already subject to its tax ordinances is complying. Right now, they are not.

The fix is straightforward. The county can charge one person – maybe even part-time – with identifying and contacting businesses that are slipping through the cracks. This can be done through social media, utility accounts, signage, advertising or simply being deliberately observant. This due diligence might go a long way toward solving revenue woes.

Just as importantly, the county could annually publish a list of businesses that *do* file and pay their taxes. This public record would not only recognize those doing the right thing, it could help crowd-source oversight by prompting questions about businesses that are conspicuously absent.

Part of the answer to the county's financial challenges may not lie in new taxation, but in fair enforcement of what's already required.

The grapes are certainly there. Tools are available, or could be quite readily. Now is the time to gather all of the existing fruit.

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.



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

Deaths

Conway

Donald C. Conway, 91, of Fredonia, passed peacefully at Lourdes Hospital on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

Surviving are two sons, Donnie (Lori) Conway of Fredonia and Michael (Britney) Conway of Fredonia; six grandchildren, Sarah Conway of Princeton, Tyler Conway of Minnesota, Bailee and Carah Taylor of Fredonia and Sydney and Ethan Filbeck of Benton; two great-grandchildren Keiara and Bellamy; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Conway; and several nieces and nephews.



He was preceded in death by his parents, William Benny Conway and Sarah Louise Rice Conway; two brothers, Henry and Joe; and a sister, Carolyn.

The family would like to send a big thank you to caregivers Stephanie Cotton, Betty Sharp, Donna Vinson and Sindy Walker.

Visitation is from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, April 10 at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m., Friday, April 11 at Fredonia Cemetery with Rev. Presley Lamm officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial c/o Fredonia Valley Heritage Society P.O. Box 256 Fredonia Ky 42411.

Paid obituary

Rudd

Maurice Ray Rudd, 84, of Smithland, died Monday, April 7, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, fishing, traveling and was a veteran of the US Navy.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Nancy "Jones" Rudd; two daughters, Cheryl A. Rudd of Mass., and Stacey L. Sears of North Carolina; a brother, David T. (Cherie) Rudd of Ledbetter; six grandchildren, Jason Rudd, Nicole Rudd, Kimberly Longe, Zachery Sears, Nathan Sears and Isabella Sears; and five great-grandchildren, Cameron Rudd, Kaleigh Rudd, Jason Rudd Jr., Aaliyah Price and Anthony Price.

He was preceded by his parents, Luther Houston and Helen Christine (Braswell) Rudd; two sisters, Frances Sims and Jo Kelley; and a brother, Don Rudd.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 12 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Justin Rowland officiating.

Burial will follow at Scotts Chapel Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 9 a.m., Saturday until the funeral hour at the funeral home.



Take action if you see the signs of child abuse

I recently conducted a very informal survey of a handful of adults in the community. I asked them two questions: 1. What is the symbol for child abuse prevention? and 2. Who in Kentucky is legally obligated to report suspected child abuse? The answers to these two questions were not as common knowledge as I thought. Only one person I asked had any clue that blue pinwheels are the symbol of child abuse prevention. The idea is that just as pinwheels spin freely in the wind, all children should be free to experience a carefree and happy childhood without the threat of abuse or neglect. You can pick up a pinwheel to show your support for happy childhoods from the Crittenden County Extension Office, Crittenden Community Hospital, Crittenden County Public

Library, Troy's Auto Collision and In Touch Massage Therapy.

When I asked who was a mandated reporter, the answers I heard were "teachers and social workers." While that is true, they are not the only mandated reporters. Mandated reporting refers to the legal requirement for certain individuals — often professionals working with children — to report any suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. This includes teachers, doctors, social workers and other professionals who regularly interact with children. However, Kentucky takes this a step further by making every adult in the state a mandated reporter, regardless of their professional background. Did you know that YOU



Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

are a mandated reporter? If you suspect child abuse, you are legally obligated to report it. You can report child abuse by calling 1-877-597-2331.

Child abuse isn't always obvious. It encompasses a range of behaviors that can harm a child physically, emotionally or psychologically. In Kentucky, child abuse can include:

■ Physical abuse: Hitting, beating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child

■ Emotional abuse: Behavior that negatively affects a child's emotional development or self-worth

■ Sexual abuse: Any sexual act between an adult and a child or any inappropriate sexual behavior

■ Neglect: Failing to provide necessary care, supervision or guardianship, resulting in harm to the child

Again, if you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, it's crucial to act quickly. In Kentucky, you can report suspected abuse by con-

tacting the Kentucky Department for Community-Based Services (DCBS) at 1-877-597-2331. You can make a report anonymously, and the information you provide will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

Taking action when you see the signs of child abuse is crucial. Children often lack the ability or means to voice their own needs or concerns regarding their safety. By reporting suspected abuse, you are becoming a vital part of the solution — potentially saving a child from further harm and contributing to their long-term well-being.

In Kentucky, the mandate for all adults to act as reporters for child abuse highlights the importance of community, vigilance and responsibility. By remaining aware of the signs of abuse and understanding how to report suspicions, every adult can contribute to the safety and protection of the children in our communities.

Livingston looking for new superintendent

STAFF REPORT

Livingston County Board of Education has begun its search for a new superintendent to replace Dr. David Meinschein, who will leave the district June 30 to assume the top leadership position at Murray Independent Schools.

According to a letter issued by the board, the selection process will be "thorough and transparent" as officials work to identify a strong leader

to guide the district forward.

A screening committee will be formed in the coming weeks to review candidates and make recommendations to the board. As required by Kentucky law, the committee will include a board member, two educators, one parent, one classified employee and one principal. Because the district's minority enrollment is 11.26%, a minority parent will also

be added if no minority member is selected from the initial groups.

Each committee member will be selected by individuals from their respective role groups. The board appointed Terry Watson as its representative to the screening committee during a special called meeting March 27.

To gather community input on the traits desired in the next superin-

tendent, the board is also conducting a survey open to all Livingston County stakeholders. The online form will remain available through April 30 at <https://forms.gle/GgZwYuXiyamHGLTp8>.

The district plans to keep the public informed by updating its website with news and a timeline for the superintendent search.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, April 10

- The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the VFW building at 412 N. College St. Refreshments will be served.
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Friday, April 11

- The homeschool club Rocket Launch meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Fairgrounds.

Saturday, April 12

- The Child Abuse Prevention walk will start at 9 a.m. at the City-County Park.
- There will be a benefit meal and silent auction for Melissa Tinsley from 5-8 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church-Christian Life Center, 209 Highland St.

Monday, April 14

- WITS Workout will be at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.
- Marion's VFW will serve breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. at 412 N. College St. Cost is \$8 or make a donation.
- Friends Forever will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Tuesday, April 15

- A Spring Basket Garden event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Wednesday, April 16

- Walk and Talk with Serena will be at 8 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- Aces & Ten 4 will be at 10 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- A Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.
- Horse Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- Livestock Club meets at 4:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

“Eureka Highway” bridge lane restriction sheduled

A daytime lane restriction is scheduled this week on the U.S. 62 Cumberland River “Eureka Highway” Bridge for inspections, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

On Wednesday, April 9, an under-bridge inspection vehicle will be used from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with traffic reduced to one lane and flaggers directing vehicles.

On Thursday, April 10, a team of climbers will conduct a hands-on inspection starting at 8 a.m., again limiting the bridge to one lane with alternating traffic. Both lanes are expected to re-open by 3 p.m.

The bridge, also known as the Blue Bridge, carries U.S. 62 and U.S. 641 at the Livingston-Lyon

County Line below Barkley Dam. It sees an average of 5,700 vehicles per day.

Motorists are urged to use caution in the work zone.



Crittenden County
Animal Clinic

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April made even better by Easter

As I pen (type) these words on March 29, I know that April is literally just around the corner! April is one of my very favorite months. I have many wonderful memories specifically tied to April – such as love, farming and baseball – in no particular order. One of my very special April memories is our wedding day, April 24, 1977. That was a very special day for me; hopefully it was just as special for my beloved. So when we turn the calendar to April, something clicks inside my head and I begin to feel a little weird in a goofy, romantic sort of way.

If you're pretty good at math, then you have already figured out that my beloved and I will be celebrating our 48th anniversary this year – amazing!

For some, February is the “love month” as we celebrate Valentine’s Day. (Love is literally “in the air” in mid-February as noted by the fragrant aroma of Mr. and Mrs. Skunk wafting through the air!) For others, it seems that love is more special in June, leading many of you ladies to choose June for the date of your wedding.

So is June really the most popular month for weddings? Be that as it may, our small April wedding was perfect; I wouldn’t change a thing – except for the monsoon we experienced on our special day.

In fact, it even rained for two solid days and nights prior to our wedding, in addition to the torrential rainfall we experienced on the day we tied the knot.

While we typically experience two or three 80-degree days in March, 80-degree days are much more common in April, signaling to all of nature that the winter dormant season is over and it's time to get going once again.

While we have enjoyed the beauty of the Bradford pear trees, other fruit trees, and redbuds for the past few weeks, April is the cue for the dogwood trees to get in on the blooming action, followed quickly by the greening up of the deciduous hardwood trees.

By the end of April, the trees and grasses will be in full “grow mode,” which of course means that we'll have to fire up the lawn mowers once again. It also means that it is time for the soil in the fields and your gardens to warm up and dry out.

Back in my farming days, I loved the opportunities April provided to get busy with the tractors in the field and also get in the garden to plant some of our tasty goodies – especially tomatoes!

April is also the signal for the end of hoops action and America’s favorite pastime to get underway. Area high schools are already in full swing with their various baseball and softball games on the diamond.

As a kid, this was a much-welcomed change to having to be inside during the cold, wet winter months. Not only did the warm weather of April signal that it was time to play our commu-

nity games with all the gang, but it was also time for Major League Baseball to get underway – especially my beloved St. Louis Cardinals. If you're a fan of MLB games, then you probably already know that the MLB season actually got underway March 27, much to the delight of baseball fans nationwide.

I want to mention one more very special event that usually occurs in April – Easter Sunday. In fact, Easter Sunday occurs in the month of April 80 percent of the time; the other 20 percent of the time, Easter occurs between March 22 and March 31.

There is something very special about an outdoor Easter Sunday sunrise service as we commemorate once again the fact that death and the grave could not hold the Lord Jesus. When Sunday morning came – on the third day following his death – and Mary and her friends went to the tomb at daybreak to finish preparing the body of Jesus for burial, Jesus was gone – as in no longer in the tomb – just like he said when he foretold his death.

And that, my friends, is what we call resurrection power, and it's my very favorite event this month as we once again celebrate the glorious resurrection. If you don't know the Jesus of the resurrection, then I challenge you to seek him out. He will change your life forever.

You ask me how I know he lives – He lives within my heart!

Chris Clarke grew up in Livingston and Crittenden counties and currently has an equestrian ministry, Happy Trails.



Leon Walker is pictured in his Army days directly above and with his band at top. At right is his daughter, Sandy Walker, who accepted his induction into the Hall of Fame, presented by Cash Singleton, Brennan Cruce and Cutter Singleton.



HALL

Continued from page 1

den County before the Korean War. Known for his rhythmic flattop guitar style, Walker's talent earned him a spot in the U.S. Army Staff Band during the war. When he returned home, he performed locally with J.D. Orr and his Lonesome Valley Boys, a group that included Orr and Bill Marvel, both fellow Hall of Fame members.

Despite stepping back from semi-professional music to prioritize family life,

Walker never stopped refining his craft. His legacy now finds a permanent place in the county's musical history. His daughter, Sandy Walker, accepted the posthumous award on his behalf during the induction ceremony.

Both men exemplify the spirit and musical tradition of Crittenden County, one through his continuing influence in the arts and the other through a lifetime of humble, heartfelt musicianship that helped shape the community sound.



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Matt Fletcher, APRN
Grand Lakes Clinic



Samantha Samuels, APRN, FNP-BC
Jessica Sigler, PMHNP
Jennifer Johnson, APRN, FNP-BC
Family Clinic



Theresa White, APRN
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Marion Baptist
Easter Egg Hunt

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The Egg hunt will begin at 10AM!



19 April
10AM



**Crittenden County
Lions Club
Fairgrounds**

Wigginton is advancing on stairs climb

Jim Wigginton, a native of the county's Piney Fork community, has completed his 49th stair climb in the 49th state, putting him one step away from scaling the tallest building in every U.S. state.



Wigginton

Wigginton, a 1966 graduate of Crittenden County High School, is pursuing the feat to raise awareness and support for Folds of Honor, a nonprofit that has provided more than 59,000 scholarships over the past 18 years to families of fallen military and first responders. His effort marks his ninth world record on behalf of the organization.

He also climbs in support of his wife's Punya Thyroid Cancer Foundation. That foundation has helped fund research that has extended the lives of over 5,000 stage 4 thyroid cancer patients by up to fivefold thanks to treatment protocols developed at the University of Michigan over the past 11 years.

Wigginton's final climb, the new 104-story World Trade Center in New York, is set for June 1, capping off an eight-year journey.

County offices will close for Good Friday

In observance of the Good Friday holiday, the offices at Crittenden County Office Complex, including the judge-executive, county clerk, PVA and sheriff's offices and Crittenden County Road Department, Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter, will be closed Friday and Saturday, April 18 and April 19.

Guill recognizes Donate for Life

Crittenden County Circuit Court Clerk Melissa Guill is joining others across the state in recognizing National Donate Life Month this April, highlighting the lifesaving power of organ, eye and tissue donation.

In 2023, 320 lives were saved through transplants at the University of Kentucky and UofL Jewish Hospitals, including 192 organs donated by registered



donors, according to Donate Life Kentucky Trust.

"These numbers are extraordinary," Guill said. "That's 192 people who made a selfless decision during their lifetime — one that became a miracle for someone else."

Guill praised the work of Donate Life Kentucky Trust, which has advocated for donation since 1992. She emphasized that registering in advance brings clarity to families and increases the chances of saving lives.

This year marks a step forward in accessibility, as the MyChart Patient Portal now links directly to the National Donate Life Registry, allowing patients to register with a few clicks.

The 2025 Donate Life Month theme is "Let Life Sing!" and features bird-inspired artwork symbolizing hope and renewal.

Events this month include Blue & Green Spirit Week April 5-12, National Donate Life Blue & Green Day on April 11 and National Pediatric Transplant Week April 20-26.

To register as a donor, visit a Kentucky driver's license office, go to RegisterMe.org, or use the iPhone Health app.

Free hearing tests Apr. 22

Crittenden Countians will have an opportunity to receive free hearing tests on Tuesday, April 22 at Marion Baptist Church. The KY HEARS event will run from 9 a.m., to 2 p.m., and offer full diagnostic hearing tests, quick five-minute screenings using hearing test machines, and hearing healthcare navigation services. The service is provided at no cost, thanks to coordination by Crittenden County Circuit Court. For more information, call (800) 958-9610.

Iuka Road is closed for work

Kentucky highway 453 (Iuka Road) in Livingston County is closed at the 11.5 MP due to a collapsed box culvert. This is located southeast of Smithland between KY 937 (Cut-off Road) and Cothron Road. Estimate for completion is around the end of April,

weather permitting.

Cozart brings initiative to west Kentucky

Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF), founded by Marion native David Cozart, is bringing its statewide mission closer to home this month with a new format for its annual event. Instead of hosting a single summit in one location, CCFF is launching a series of regional gatherings, the first will be in Hopkinsville.

The Regional Fatherhood Symposium will be held Thursday, April 25, 2025, at the James E. Bruce Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This one-day event is designed to unite leaders, advocates, service providers and community members around the importance of engaged, responsible fatherhood. Attendees can expect opportunities to build partnerships with local and statewide organizations, explore funding streams and available resources, learn from national experts in the field of fatherhood engagement, hear from a panel of fathers with lived experience and attend breakout sessions focused on protective factors, emerging practices and the intersection of fatherhood and human trafficking prevention.

Cozart, a member of the Campbellsville University Board of Directors and a Crittenden County High School Distinguished Alum-

nus, will be among those leading the seminar. One of his Crittenden County classmates, Sean McKinney of Henderson, is the foundation's regional liason.

Exhibitor space is available but limited, and organizers encourage early sign-up. A special conference rate is available at the on-site hotel.

For the past six years, CCFF has hosted a statewide Fatherhood Summit. This year, the organization is expanding its reach so more families across the Commonwealth can be reached directly.

The Regional Fatherhood Symposium is a collaborative effort supported by Team Kentucky, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Community Collaboration for Children.

To learn more, register or sign up as an exhibitor, visit ccffky.org or find the Regional Fatherhood Symposium event page.

Sprague earns D.C. degree

Emma Sprague of Henshaw, Ky., has graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Between Printed Editions Tune in to The Press Online for breaking news. We also ask that you subscribe to our YouTube Channel. It's a Free Service to Our Readers!



10 YEARS AGO

April 9, 2015

■ Crittenden County High School students Katie Wheeler and Audrey Smith were accepted into the acclaimed Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead University. ■ Crittenden County native Mikka Crabtree helped pave the way to public service for women in our area as the new deputy sheriff of Trigg County. ■ Crittenden County Elementary students Allie Beard and Dawson Jones were recognized for their outstanding creativity as winners of the annual Easter coloring contest put on by WMJL and Food Giant. ■ Adam Driver, a Crittenden County senior, struck out 10 players in one game against Caldwell County, securing a win for the Rockets. ■ Ten-year-old Colton Gilland finished second at the Mid-America Arenacross Series in Sturgis, with a top five win in every race in the series.

25 YEARS AGO

April 13, 2000

■ Crittenden County High School students Jeremy Binkley, Eric Watson, and Scott Taylor, all secured top three placements at the West Kentucky Technology Association Challenge. Binkley came home with a 1st place, Watson with a 3rd, and Taylor at 2nd. ■ Crittenden County Rockets baseball was dominant in the district. Led by starting pitcher Brad Guess and coach Denis Hodge, the Rockets blew Lyon County out of the water with a 9-3 win. ■ Larry and Casey Jones took home 3rd place from the Anglers Choice bass fishing tournament at Rend Lake, winning a \$365 prize.

50 YEARS AGO

April 10, 1975

■ Mrs Cindy Moore was elected to be the Marion Women's Club president, and presided over the acceptance of 17 new members. ■ Heath Watson, Al Simmons and Micheal Coleman were the top three finishers of the Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby at Marion Junior High, and went on to compete at districts that May. ■ Crittenden County FBLA attended the Region 1 competition day, and came back with four top three placements. Cindy McDowell at 1st, went on to compete at state, while other competitors Nadine Johnson, Glenn Conger, and Micheal Tinsley were awarded for their 3rd place finishes. ■ The Kentucky Division of Forestry honored Doyle Sherer with the Kentucky Forest Services Western District award for his continuous work with the trees on his land. ■ Three Crittenden County High School Lady Rockets earned a spot on the Three Rivers Conference All-District team. Markeata Brown, Mary Ann Green, and Jeanne Hinchee were all selected for the 12-person team. Other Lady Rockets Cindy Brookshire, Julie Barnes, and Debbie York were recognized as honorable mentions.

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

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8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

PUBLIC NOTICE
EPAD Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held during the regular session of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 8:30 am.

This public hearing is to obtain citizen comment regarding the proposed Ordinance related to the establishment of an Energy Project Assessment District (EPAD) Program.

A second reading of the Ordinance will occur following the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance maybe obtained by contacting the Judge Executive Office at (270) 965-5251 or emailing cct@crittendencountyky.org.

Crittenden Press
USPS 138-260

125 E. Bellville St. | P.O. Box 191 | Marion, KY 42064
270.965.3191 | www.the-press.com
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Alaina Barnes, creative design
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Tanya Schultz, advertising

The Crittenden Press (USPS 138-260) is published weekly by The Crittenden Press Inc., P.O. Box 191, 125 E. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064. Periodicals postage paid at Marion, KY and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions \$45 to \$86 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Crittenden Press, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064.

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Practice ability to do nothing

There is a story in the Gospel of John in which Jesus is teaching in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. He had spent the night before at the Mount of Olives, presumably praying. It is early in the morning and a group of men (scribes and Pharisees) appear, dragging a woman who may have just been yanked out of bed and accuse her of adultery.

We are told that they are doing this to test him. I suspect there was at least some commotion. They present a legal case to Jesus. The law of Moses said, according to them, that she was to be stoned. The pressure is on – a woman’s life hangs in the balance. Surely something must be done! Jesus, in his wisdom, surprises all of them by doing . . . nothing. He calmly tells them to think about their own sin. If one was to be stoned in the ancient world it was usual for everyone to pick up a rock. This type of “nothing” was not really nothing. It was a calculated response to slow everyone down enough to come to their senses because the religious leaders seem to have lost theirs.

Nations occasionally convulse for various reasons. Sometimes it is important to act. Other

times it is best to be still and wait for more clarity. We are not good judges of just how bad things are or may be. Sometimes they are much worse than they seem. Sometimes they are not as bad. Even more interesting is that the same event or circumstance is perceived differently by people of different backgrounds and beliefs.

I am a believer that when we resort to law, we are giving evidence

of character failure and fear. This was the case with those who presented this “problem” to Jesus. However, in a twist, it was not her failure that was being shown to everyone – it was theirs! They had dehumanized the woman. She was no more to them than a tool in their scheme to denounce a powerful teacher whom they feared. Using exaggeration, half-truths, and labelling people to make a point or as an excuse to pass a law is an abhorrent practice. Yet, we still fall for it – often.

The Bible has clear teaching that we are to pursue justice. There is clear teaching about how we are to treat foreigners in our land. There is clear teaching that says, “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”

– Which is not, “We are going to do to them what they do to us.”

There is strength in doing things out of conviction that they are the right thing to do – even though others are not doing it; or even doing the opposite.

The world rarely changes by doing more of what is already not working or saying what is already untrue, even louder. Acting from fretting and fear lead us down a path of poor choices that can exacerbate the very thing we are fretting about. Psalm 37:7-8 says,

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way,

over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!

Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.”

We need much less talking, name-calling, and twisting each other’s words and motives. Even if someone has bad motives, twisting their words only makes things worse and speaks about the character of the one twisting the words. Proverbs 11:11-14 is a reminder to be careful with our words,

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,

but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing hidden.

Where there is no guidance, a people falls; but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”

It takes courage to be silent or still long enough for the motives of some leaders to be revealed. It may mean being faced with a dire circumstance that forces them to act on their words or realize their folly. Pray for the latter and be prepared to act if it is the former.

In the meantime, remember that the Psalmists words,

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult. [Selah]

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge. [Selah] (Psalm 46:1-3; 10-11)

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

We can know the love of God because of Jesus’ sacrifice

Question: I just don’t seem to be able to get my life together. I try to be a worthy person. I try to do good deeds and to stay out of trouble. No matter how much I try, my actions turn out badly. Can God possibly love me and help me?

Answer: When we are realistic about ourselves, we all need mercy and grace, not justice. God’s grace is not in short supply. From John 1:16 we learn, “From

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison

the fullness of (God’s) grace we have all received one blessing after another.” It’s His loving grace that pulls us out of the muck of self-righteous striving and into His restful presence.

World religions are about stop messing up, straighten

up, try to be worthy and do right things. Becoming a follower of Christ is not self-improvement and trying harder, but it’s about accepting God’s grace through faith in Jesus who shed His blood on the cross to cover our sins (Eph. 2:8). Christianity is about believing in and following Jesus who does all the saving.

God is the initiator of love. If Jesus came into the world when we got our act together,

He would have never come. That takes the pressure off us to try to do better. Jesus came into this sinful, fallen world because He loved us when we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8). Jesus came not just for the good, but also for the rest of us who struggle to get our act together. The wonderful, good news is God loves everyone, everywhere—warts and all.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Promote your church’s

EASTER SERVICES

in The Crittenden Press

Invite newcomers & share information about special Easter services.

Cost varies dependent on ad size. Deadline is Monday, April 14.

(270) 965-3191

MEXICO CEMETERY

Mexico Cemetery Association

will have its annual meeting

Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m.

at Mexico Baptist Church

Donations for helping with the upkeep of the cemetery may be sent to

Mexico Cemetery Association

6001 Mott City Rd.

Marion, KY 42064

ENON

General Baptist Church

invites you to join us as we

WALK THROUGH CALVARY

Visit the scriptures that Jesus experienced each night before Easter.

April 16 - April 19, 7 nightly

April 20

Visit the Blessed site of the Empty Tomb

Easter Services start at 7 a.m.

Everyone welcome!!

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Bro Michael Stewart, Pastor

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor
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emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

Marion Church of God

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

PINEY FORK

School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.
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Cumberland Presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.
Reverend Greg Cain 270-245-4013
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
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
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
Sun. School, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, 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 -

Reminders of Main Street business in 1943

Recently acquiring an old Marion postcard that had the postmark date of 1943 gave me the inspiration to recall some of the local business that lined Main Street during this time period, give or take a few years. These are only a few of the stores that made Marion a destination for shopping. Not mentioned are the barbers shops, eating places, several department stores, and other places of business that lined the streets.

Hunt's Department Store

In 1947, Hillis and Iva Hunt bought the department store on the corner of Main and East Bellville streets, and it became known as Hunt's Department Store.

They had a well-stocked department store that carried such brands as Florsheim and International shoes, Walker Working Boots, Arrow Shirts, Campus brand Sports Wear and Curlee Clothes.

You could also have tailor-made suits ordered from their store. A representative from the Globe Tailoring Co., from Cincinnati would come to town twice a year with his samples of materials and take measurements. If you could afford a tailor-made suit, it showed you were a successful business person.

City Drug Store

The city Drug Company is owned and managed by two of Marion's youngest businessmen, Ted Frazer and G. N. Rankin, both of them born and reared in Marion. At least two reasons may be assigned as to why the City Drug Store has so quickly taken its place in the foremost ranks of local business establishments. First, the store itself, attractive and well lighted, is modern in every respect, from its up-to-date fountain, its line of drug sundries and novelties to a complete prescription department with a graduate, registered pharmacist in charge; second the modern business method and progressive ideas of the owners, who identify themselves with every movement for civic betterment and community progress.

The City Drug Store occupies two floors of the Flanary building on Main Street. On the first is located the soda fountain, the prescription department, and well stocked cases of cosmetics, toiletries and novelties. The wallpaper, paint and glass department is located on the second floor. Here they have two complete lines of wallpaper on display at a price range of five cents per roll up.

Ben Franklin Five and Dime Store

The popular Ben Franklin Store owned and run by Joe Jones was a favorite shopping place for the whole family, known for its variety of merchandise and very reasonable prices.

T. H. Cochran & Company

T. H. Cochran and Company, the hardware kings, sell everything from kitchen pots and pans to harness rings. They will



This postcard picture was an inspiration for writing about some of the businesses that lined Main Street in the 1940s. Farmers Bank and Trust Company is the only one of these original businesses still active today in the same location.

sell you stoves, both coal and wood. Anything you buy there is bound to be good. They will sell you a wagon, with or without wheels, and carry a line of the best automobiles. They are called the Quality Store and we really don't think we need say more except in conclusion we do declare you can't beat them when buying any kind of hardware.

Moore and Pickens

An attractive line of ladies ready-to-wear and military is on display at all times in the store on Moore and Pickens on Carlisle Street. This store was

stared a number of years ago by Miss Mildred Moore and Miss Elvah Pickens, now Mrs. Weems Croft and Mrs. Frank Bennett. Since the establishment of the business, these two young ladies have had a satisfactory business due to the kind of merchandise they handle and to the personality they put into the management of their business. Moore and Pickens store is neatly and attractively arranged at all times and is artistically decorated. Both Mrs. Croft and Mrs. Bennett are actively identified with local women's organizations.

Home Owned Grocery

One of the biggest grocery businesses in Crittenden County is done by C. W. Grady at his store on South Main, where he has been in business since coming to Marion 10 years ago from Weston, where he formerly operated a general merchandise business.

Associated with Mr. Grady in the business are Aubrey Grady, Theodore Grady, Henry Mayes, Miss Orzilla Farmer, Miss Hazel Ward, Thomas Rushing, Duke Glore, Orville Grady and Delmar Mayes.

Grady's store is busy at all hours with their large volume of business. Mr. Grady consistently advertises high-grade merchandise at a low price range.

Farmers Bank and Trust Company

Marion and Crittenden County as well as the communities in adjoining counties who are in Mar-

ion's trade territory are fortunate in having as their chief financial institution a bank of the kind, type and character of the Farmers Bank and Trust Company.

The Farmers Bank and Trust was organized in 1899. It has always been regarded as conservative, and it has always adhered strictly to fundamental, tried and clearly defined principles and practices of banking. Its management has always been of the best and it has made money in times of prosperity and in times of depression.

Stewart-Gugenheim's Store

The Federated Stores of America, of which Stewart-Gugehneim's store is a member, is an association of home owned dry goods stores. This modern store, which has items comparable to those of most metropolitan stores, is a real credit to our business district, and convenience to those shoppers who have hitherto felt that they must go out of town if they wanted the best and latest fashions.

Tucker & Franklin

Tucker & Franklin are opening a huge display room tomorrow and ask everyone to visit the establishment on that day and register in a place provided therefor.

The display room, modern in all respects,

is one of the largest and most attractive in the state and so designed as to fully and completely allow free access to each and every article of furniture in the room. Inspection is invited and comparison of prices one of the slogans of the firm.

Walls are attractively hung with drapes, rugs, and other similar articles and all lighting indirect. The building is entered by a large door from the present store and has convenient outlets for removing and installation of furniture. In addition, the huge heating plant makes severe weather conditions negligible. A complete line of modern furniture of nationally advertised manufactures is carried.

Red Front Cash and Carry Store

The Red Front Cash and Carry Store will open Saturday with complete new equipment throughout. The establishment is located in the Stone & Fowler building at the intersection of Main and Bellville streets. Bill Stout has been placed in charge, and he will employ six assistants regularly with others to be added.

The store is the largest, most modern and best arranged of the entire group of 45 Red Front stores. Mr. Stout states that the refrigeration is the best obtainable and all other equip-

illumination and lighting is unsurpassed. The best quality of foods and meats at extremely low prices will be offered to customers

Western Auto Store

Woodrow Alderdice of the Western Auto Store announces the new location of its store. Beginning Monday it will be in the building located on W. Bellville Street across from the courthouse. Always a favorite place to shop, bicycles, wagons and guns are just a few of the popular items available.

The Marion of long ago, so much history lost to 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).

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New! Crittenden County, KY – 70 Acres – \$244,900.00
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

New! Crittenden County, KY – 80.92 Acres – \$307,500.00
With plenty of edge and transition cover, areas of dense bedding and security cover, and numerous funnels and pinch points, this property is tailored for successful hunting!

Reduced! Crittenden County, KY – 19.6 Acres – \$82,124.00
This property offers an exceptional blend of features tailored for deer and turkey hunting enthusiasts. The landscape is marked by areas of exposed rock that add a rugged charm and unique character.

Reduced! Crittenden County, KY – 29.5 Acres – \$123,605.00
This diverse hunting property offers an exceptional blend of varied terrain and habitat types, made even more unique by its history as an old quarry.

Crittenden County, KY – 2.06 Acres – \$69,000.00
Three contiguous lots in the beautiful Hillcrest Estates #2 Subdivision offer the ideal build site!

Crittenden County, KY – 193 Acres – \$799,000.00
Whether you're a seasoned hunter or looking for a tranquil retreat, this diverse tract delivers a perfect balance of functionality and natural beauty. Includes 32+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,690 Acres – \$21,500,000.00
With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and multiple lodges with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity! A part of this listing is under contract – contact agent.

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres – \$303,600.00
Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$375,375.00
Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres – \$548,550.00
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres – \$575,575.00
These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 117 Acres – \$575,000.00
This phenomenal hunting property offers outstanding opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl enthusiasts, making it a must-see for the avid outdoorsman. Includes 44+/- acres of open ground!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 18.96 Acres – \$375,000.00
This beautiful 3-bed, 2-bath home offers an open-concept layout, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, vaulted ceilings, and an attached garage. The expansive 18.96-acre property includes a large detached foam-insulated building with a lean-to.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 64.3284 Acres – \$241,231.50
Nestled in a tranquil rural area, this scenic hunting tract offers a diverse blend of habitat types and topography, making it a perfect retreat for outdoor enthusiasts. Features an ideal build site!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 71.46 Acres – \$232,250.00
Situated in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 119 Acres – \$699,000.00
Nestled in a picturesque setting, this diverse hunting property offers not only prime outdoor opportunities but also the comforts of a 4-bedroom, 2-bath lodge. Includes 7+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 83 Acres – \$259,900.00
Nestled along the picturesque Piney Creek, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 38.14 Acres – \$129,900.00
This unique offering combines a timbered hunting tract with a scenic lakefront lot on Maple Lake, providing exceptional recreational and development opportunities.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 37.184 Acres - \$164,900.00
Situated in an area renowned for big bucks, this property offers the perfect habitat for deer and turkey hunting, plus the added convenience of a cozy cabin!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 17.3541 Acres - \$169,000.00
Nestled within the embrace of tranquil countryside, this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers the perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. Includes a 32' x 48' metal barn.

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Creekside
General Baptist
Church

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 20
6:30 a.m.
Everyone is invited to attend
7971 U.S. Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY

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Prepaid ads of 20 words or less are \$6 for one week, with a 10-cent charge for each word over the initial 20. Run the same ad for consecutive issues for only \$4 each week. Now, all regular classified ads are placed on our Web site, www.the-press.com, at no extra charge. You can also reach more than one million readers with one call! Contact the classified department for more information about placing a 25-word classified in 70 newspapers for only \$250. 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. 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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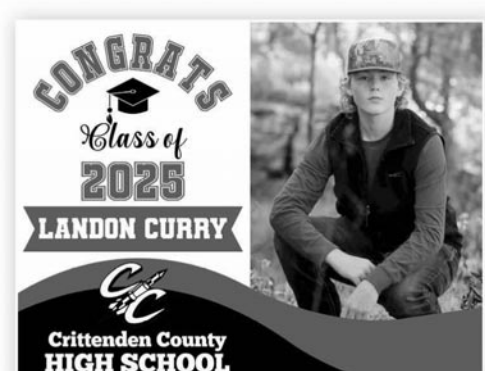
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Upcoming events

THURSDAY
CCHS softball at Henderson County
CCHS baseball All A at UHA, 7:30pm
FRIDAY
LCHS softball at Evansville North
LCHS softball vs Crown Point
CCHS baseball hosts Ballard Mem.
LCHS baseball at Mayfield
SATURDAY
CCHS baseball at Todd Central
LCHS at Bowling Green Tournament
CCHS track at Logan County
MONDAY
CCHS softball hosts Caldwell County
TUESDAY
CCHS softball at Lyon County
LCHS softball hosts McCracken Co.
CCHS baseball hosts Trigg County
LCHS baseball at Lyon County
CCHS track at Ballard Memorial

Rain affects schedules

Last weekend's track and field meet scheduled for Calloway County was rained out. The track team will be at Logan County this weekend and at Ballard Memorial on Tuesday. The softball and baseball Class A Tournaments were to have kicked off Monday, but those were pushed later into the week. At press time, it appeared that Crittenden would be taking on Livingston at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday to open the softball tournament. The Rocket baseball team has a first-round bye and will play either University Heights or Dawson Springs in the semifinal round at 7:30 p.m., Thursday at UHA.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Coyote Night (lights)	Dec. 1 - March 31
Goose Conservation	Feb. 16 - March 31
Wild Turkey	April 12 - May 4
Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct. 31
Squirrel	May 17 - June 15
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

Reciprocal deal on hold

Reciprocal hunting and fishing agreements between Kentucky and its bordering states have expired. Until further notice, anglers who fish on bordering waters must hold a valid fishing license and follow the regulations of the state in which they are fishing. Also, waterfowl hunters who hunt along the Kentucky border with Indiana and Ohio must hold a valid hunting license and follow the regulations of the state in which they are hunting. Efforts are underway to update these reciprocal agreements as soon as possible; however, this will take time as it requires KDFWR Commission approval and legislative review. The Commission late last month approved creation of new regulations that would reinstate reciprocal agreements. For the latest information, including maps detailing the affected bodies of water, go online to Reciprocal Hunting and Fishing Agreements page at KDFWR website.

FOLLOW THE ROCKETS AT THE PRESS ONLINE
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Jackson home to guide Rocket hoops

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County native Kenny Jackson is returning home to lead the Rocket basketball program, becoming the team's fourth head coach in six seasons. Jackson replaces Matt Fralix, who stepped down a few weeks ago after a winless 0-26 campaign in 2025. The Rockets went 3-25 the previous season in Fralix's first year as head coach, and have struggled in recent years, with records of 11-18 in 2023, 14-17 in 2022, and 13-10 in a COVID-shortened 2021, which was its last winning season. The new coach brings a strong foundation of fundamentals, sportsmanship and conditioning to the court, values he says will be critical in turning the program around. "We have to be in great shape and play

with a lot of heart and intensity," said Jackson. "I believe in teaching discipline on and off the court." A 1993 graduate of Crittenden County High School, Jackson was a Rocket himself before beginning his coaching career in Mayfield. At Northside Baptist Christian Church, he spent seven seasons building a successful program that produced a state championship, two state runner-up finishes and three trips to the Elite 8 of the Kentucky Christian School Champion series. "My goals are simple, to have a successful program, win games, boost confidence and build relationships with the community," Jackson said. Married to his wife, Susan, for 28 years, Jackson has two sons, Tanner, 25, and Alex, 21, and three grandchild-

dren. He enjoys watching Kentucky basketball, playing golf and spending time with his family. Now, he's focused on the future of Rocket basketball. "I am looking forward to leading the boys basketball program to many successful seasons," Jackson said. "And I'm excited to become involved again with the community." Jackson is expected to begin duties soon, as summer league play begins in June for high school basketball. The community is invited to meet him Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at Rocket Arena.



Jackson

Rocket Basketball PostSeason Awards

Pictured are (front from left) Junior Cowsert, 5 Pillars Award; Jayden Jones, 5 Pillars Award; Klayton Murray, Hustle Award; Logan Martin, Rocket Award; Brayden Poindexter, Highest 2-Point Field Goal Percentage, Rebounding and Most Valuable Player awards; (back) Conner Poindexter, 5 Pillars Award; Hudson Stokes, Hustle Award; Emmitt Ellington, Most Improved; Jack Porter, Assist Award; Brady Dayberry, 5 Pillars Award; Andrew Candelario, Rocket Award; and Coby LaRue, Highest Field Goal Percentage Award. Not pictured: Jay Stevenson, 5 Pillars Award and Drake Young, Highest 3-Point Field Goal Percentage.



PHOTOS BY GRACIE ORR AND ALLISON EVANS

Rocket shortstop Quinn Summers (above left) let the throw go through from outfielder Jaxton Duncan to third baseman Drake Young on a play to catch a runner during a recent game in Marion. Clockwise from there, Davis Perryman makes a catch in the outfield; Young takes a swing at the plate; Rocket softball shortstop Andrea Federico makes a throw from the hole next to third baseman Caroline Martin; Martin centers up a pitch at the plate; and Lady Rocket Macibelle Hardesty gets home safely after getting into a pickle against against Hardin County, Ill.

TOP5 BATTING LEADERS	
CCHS Softball	
Elliot Evans	.636
Anna Boone	.560
Morgan Piper	.444
Andrea Federico	.386
Elle McDaniel	.286
Minimum 10 ABs, through 8 games	

TOP5 RBI LEADERS	
CCHS Softball	
Andrea Federico	9
Hannah Jent	7
A.Boone M.Piper	5
E.McDaniel E.Evans	3
Minimum 10 ABs, through 8 games	

TOP5 RBI LEADERS	
Rocket Baseball	
Chase Conyer	10
Quinn Summers	10
Jaxton Duncan	7
Zack Rustin	6
D.Young H.Stokes	5
Minimum 20 ABs, through 16 games	

TOP5 BATTING LEADERS	
Rocket Baseball	
Quinn Summers	.462
Chase Conyer	.381
Eli Lovell	.370
Hudson Stokes	.357
Keegan Pierson	.357
Minimum 20 ABs, through 16 games	

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Area Vietnam War veterans honored

BY PAM FAUGHN

Vietnam War veterans were honored in a special service to commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Day on March 29, 2025. Sponsored by the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society and Fredonia American Legion Post 103, the service – originally scheduled to be held at the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial – was moved to Coleman Hall of First Baptist Church of Fredonia due to inclement weather.

The service began with the Pledge to the American Flag led by Fredonia American Legion Post 103 Commander Tony Harper. The national anthem was led by Navy veteran Bro. Presley Lamm.

Pam Faughn, president of the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society, welcomed those in attendance, explaining that in 2017 the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. March 29 is a fitting choice to honor Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity because March 29, 1973 was the day the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was disestablished and the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, on that same day, Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all nine million veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location, and their families. The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are between six and seven million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad, along with millions of family members of those who served during this timeframe. No distinction is made between veterans who served in-country, in-theater or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve, and none could self-determine where they would serve. Each person who served during this period earned and rightly deserves our profound thanks.



Twenty-two Vietnam War veterans attended the event in Fredonia. They are (front from left) J. T. Travis, Clifton McGregor, Rudy Fowler, Gary Bailey, Charles Parrent, Orville Truitt, Donald Belt, Joseph Lanham, James Rowland, Billy Baker, (back) Robert Gilkey, Fred McConnell, Denny Crisp, Robert Stoneburner, George Ballard, Larry Rustin, Ron Harrison, Albert Brunelle, Gerald Veal, Jim Estes, Thomas Brasher and Otis McCormick.

The initiative to go forward with this service was provided by the General John Caldwell Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Their organization, under the leadership of Regent-elect Carolyn Traum, was planning to put together a supplement to a local newspaper containing information about Vietnam War veterans. They were seeking information about Fredonia veterans and contacted DAR members in Fredonia. The decision for the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society and Fredonia American Legion Post 103 to sponsor this event was the result of that project.

Nancy Clement, chaplain-elect of the DAR, spoke about their efforts and project to honor Vietnam veterans, thanking the Heritage Society and American Legion for going further by providing a service to honor the veterans. The several-page newspaper supplement the DAR compiled was given to the present veterans or family members of veterans featured within the supplement, namely Steve Prowell, Jimmy Baker, Leon Fraliex, Larry Fraliex, Glen Keel and Larry Rustin.

Keynote speaker was J.T. Travis. Travis is a combat veteran who served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was first a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and later a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army. He retired as platoon sergeant of the National Guard in Marion. He said it was an honor to speak to the veterans – people he fought with. He stated that

they were like family, and it made a world of difference knowing they had your back in harm's way. He said it was hard, but freedom and liberty were important.

Next, the Vietnam War veterans were honored. Faughn stated the gathering was for three key reasons. The first was to honor those who gave all. She read the names of those from Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon counties who are counted among the 58,281 men and women whose names are engraved in the polished black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, also known as "The Wall", in Washington, D.C. They are Cpl. Ralph Michael Hooks, LCPL Donald Wayne Mitchell, Sgt. Richard Morris Seymore, AN Kerry Dean Wisdom, PFC Johnny Warner Lindsay, Sp4 Leon Beard, Maj. Billy Joe Williams, Charles Leonard Doom and Sp4 Ernst Riley.

The second reason was to recognize those who served and came home but are no longer among us, as well as their families. Many family members, who endured untold sacrifices in supporting their loved one's service to our country, were present and recognized.

And the third important reason was to recognize and honor the 22 Vietnam War veterans in attendance from Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon counties and other areas. Once standing, they received lengthy applause, cheering and a standing ovation, acknowledging them in the way they so richly deserved. Their families

were also commended for the sacrifices they endured for our country.

Twenty-two Vietnam War veterans attended the event. All of them are pictured above.

Bro. Presley Lamm, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fredonia and a member of both the Heritage Society and the American Legion, presented each veteran with a beautiful challenge coin from the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society. The coins feature the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial. They are a great tribute to all the work and dedication from so many people to make the dream of the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial a reality. It was explained that the coins are also for sale and that each coin purchased makes it possible to give them freely to veterans.

In addition, Andrea Clement presented each veteran with a free admission to the Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, plus a gift card from H & H Home and Hardware in Marion. R.J. Oliver, veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, also presented each veteran with a vial of sand from Iwo Jima.

Due to the generosity of several donors, the following were given away in a drawing: brick to be engraved for the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial, donated by the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society – Tommy Brasher; "Veterans of the Fredonia Valley" book, donated by the Heritage Society – Gary Bailey; bicycle, donated by Akridge Farm Supply – Jim Estes; two \$25 Akridge gift certificates, donated by Fredonia

Valley Bank – Rudy Fowler and Donald Belt; \$25 gift certificate donated by Coon Dog Inn – Ron Harrison; four plates from Coppertop BBQ – J.T. Travis, Gerald Veal, Orville Truitt and Robert Gilkey; and four Front Porch Restaurant coupons – Otis McCormick, James Rowland, Clifton McGregor and Robert Stoneburner.

Faughn offered special thanks to members of the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society and the Fredonia American Legion for always helping with community projects. She also thanked Bro. Presley Lamm for his work on the challenge coin project, among many other things he does too numerous to mention. She thanked Todd Phelps for his help in organizing events and for always being behind the scenes making great suggestions and helping with the organization of these events for veterans. Phelps and his family donated the land upon which the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial is located in memory of his cousin, Stephen Prowell, U.S. Air Force, who died in the line of duty.

"Veterans, we want to say to you that your service to our country is a debt we can never fully repay, but one for which we will be eternally thankful. You and your fellow veterans are the best of us, and you will always have our respect, our support and our admiration. Your bravery, dedication and selflessness are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for your service and for being a true hero. Your sacrifices will never be forgotten," Faughn said.

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AWARD

Continued from page 1
regenerative agriculture in 2010, attending seminars and focusing on natural grazing techniques.
“We do a lot of rotational grazing and holistic management to protect waterways and stop erosion, and to raise animals in a healthy way, to produce grass-fed meat,” he said.
The farm had 100 acres of timber when Friel acquired it. He has since converted about 35 of those into silvopasture – a mixture of 30 percent trees and 70 percent pasture – seeded

with native warm-season grasses. Today, Friel raises South Poll cattle, a breed developed in 1986 with the help of Teddy Gentry of the band Alabama. Known for being heat-tolerant, disease-resistant and docile, the mid-sized cattle thrive on grass alone.
“This year I was able to stockpile grass and graze until three weeks ago,” Friel said. “They do really good on grass.”
Friel’s current herd includes 82 head of cattle, including calves, cows, bulls and heifers. He previously raised sheep but stopped this year due to marketing challenges and limited nearby buyers.

Chickens on the farm provide eggs for the couple.
He originally tried retailing his meat but found the marketing side of the business wasn’t for him.
“Now I sell to those who enjoy the marketing part,” he said.
For the past three years, he’s worked with Bob Guess and Cindy Jenkins through the CAIP program at Crittenden County Conservation District, which provides cost-share assistance for agriculture improvements.
Though he’s managed the farm mostly on his own, this year marked a first as he asked for help from his two

sons, who traveled from the Carolinas to assist during cattle banding season.
“Last year it took me a long time. I decided I needed some help,” he said.
Friel’s passion for agriculture began young, working summers for local farmers and his uncle to earn money for school clothes. After graduating in 1961, with no land or farming relatives to help him get started, he went into manufacturing. Still, the farming dream never faded.
“When you enjoy what you’re doing, you never have to go to work,” he said.

TAX

Continued from page 1
ing the meeting. Paul Beard voiced concerns about simply “grabbing money” and stressed the need to explore alternative solutions before resorting to a new tax.
Bobby Woolsey, director of ComCare, which handles local EMS services, pointed out that the fleet of ambulances is aging, with an average age of over 13 years and one ambulance clocking over 280,000 miles. Woolsey highlighted the 1,250 calls the community handles annually, noting the critical need for a more reliable fleet.
The county has been charging a \$36 fee to each county dwelling in

order to pay for emergency dispatching services. County leaders say that fee needs to be raised to around \$50 to balance the budget. Creating a special property tax, some leaders have proposed, would cast a broader net and capture more funding. Landowners, particularly those who live outside the area, would contribute if the fee was changed to a tax. A tax, however, could cost many dwelling owners much more.
Jason Hurley, the county’s emergency management director and an EMS employee, raised concerns about the county’s financial commitment to EMS, pointing out that the court is behind on replacing am-

bulances.
“If I have to worry if a truck will make it to a call, that’s a problem,” Hurley said.
Others echoed Hurley’s remarks. Kenneth Davenport, a longtime EMS paramedic, voiced strong support for the ambulance tax, noting his experience in Lyon and Union counties, where similar taxes help maintain good equipment and facilities. Davenport emphasized that while taxes are unpopular, the safety and security of residents should take priority.
Magistrate Dave Belt acknowledged that Crittenden County doesn’t have the same financial resources as other counties with quarries or large businesses. Belt reflected

on how far the county has come in EMS services, recalling a time when emergencies were dealt with by hearses.
After hearing comments for about 30 minutes, magistrates chose not to further pursue the idea of a new tax, at least for now. Instead, they posed the idea of perhaps raising the rate on the occu-

pational tax, which is currently one-half of 1 percent on payroll and net profits.
When the county’s occupational tax was put into place more than 10 years ago, it was heralded as a way to pay for the ambulance service, county employee insurance costs, senior citizen services and park expenses. It

currently generates around \$400,000 annually. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom will put together figures regarding a possible hike in the occupational taxes and allow magistrates to digest those during the April 17 regular meeting, which convenes at 8:30 a.m., at the county complex.

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13 APRIL

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2

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APRIL 12-18

All eggs must be turned in to our Marion Banking Center by 4:00 pm on April 18, 2025.



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