

## Resurfacing of KY 70 from Frances to D’burg will take much of May

A contractor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet started a resurfacing project along KY 70 in southern Crittenden County on Tuesday, prompting daytime lane restrictions between Dycusburg and Frances. The work zone will be 5.4 miles and include milling and paving, permanent striping and installation of edge-line rumble strips. Crews will work in smaller sections, and traffic will be reduced to one lane with alternating flow managed by flaggers. Motorists are advised to slow down, be alert for signage and use caution when traveling through the area. The project is scheduled to be completed by May 23, weather permitting.

## Bridge replacements on KY 654 and KY 2123 big part of KyTC’s plan

Crittenden County is set to receive \$1.26 million in rural secondary road funds for the 2025–26 fiscal year, according to a presentation from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s District 1 office at last week’s fiscal court meeting. After accounting for a carryover of \$132,882 from the previous year and allotting funds for traffic maintenance and administrative costs, the county has \$912,001 available for road improvements. Two bridges are among the prioritized projects. Those bridge replacements will be on KY 654 at mile point 4.18, with an estimated cost of \$420,089 and on KY 2123 at mile point 1.63, projected at \$300,574. The plan also includes \$189,434 in flex funds for county use at its discretion.


## Delinquent tax options

Delinquent property tax bills from 2024 are now payable with penalty. Sheriff Evan Head last week transferred 207 unpaid bills totaling \$81,983.99 in taxes, penalties and interest to the county clerk’s office. The sheriff collected payments on more than 6,550 bills mailed out last fall. Delinquent tax bills not paid by July 23 will be subject to sale to third-party purchasers, who can file a lien on the property and charge significant penalties. Payments may be made to the county clerk in the form of cash, cashier’s check, money order or charge card. Personal and business checks will not be accepted. A service fee applies to card payments. Delinquent 911 service fees must be paid separately to the Crittenden County Treasurer.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Public Library Board meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24 at the library.
- Crittenden–Livingston Water District meets at 4 p.m., Monday, April 28 at Deer Lakes meeting room.

The Early Bird Shoppers Guide has taken new flight. Details on page 3.



# County calls for tripling payroll, profit levees | Decision Tuesday Tax hike gets initial okay

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County Fiscal Court last Thursday gave initial approval to the county’s first occupational tax increase since the levy was enacted in 2012, moving forward a measure aimed at stabilizing funding for the ambulance service and shoring up the county’s E-911 budget. Magistrates unanimously approved first reading of an ordinance that would raise the payroll and net profits tax from 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent, a full percentage point hike. The minimum license fee would also double from \$25 to \$50. If adopted on second reading, the new rates would take effect July 1.

Judge-Executive Perry

### Comparing Counties

Existing occupational tax rates from area counties.	
Crittenden	0.5%
Caldwell	1.5%
Lyon	None
Livingston	1.0
Union	0.5%
Webster	None

Newcom said the proposed increase would generate around \$800,000 in new revenue, though he acknowledged income from net profits is difficult to predict and typically yields a modest return. There are two parts to the Crittenden County Occupational Tax: Net Profits Tax and Payroll Tax. Payroll tax is more predictable. An

estimated \$14,000 would be expected under the new license fee rate (which is the minimum charge for operating a business and is deductible from the Net Profits Tax). By ordinance, revenue from the occupational tax is earmarked to support ambulance operations, employee health insurance, county parks and senior center. In recent years, escalating costs have made it difficult to cover those obligations, the judge said. Newcom said the county’s health insurance premium has risen from \$61,000 to \$221,000 annually over the past 13 years, and the ambulance contract alone costs

See **TAX**/page 9

School resource officer Rick Coyle (left) and Sheriff Evan Head were among local law enforcement and community leaders who met last week with school officials, including Superintendent Tonya Driver and CCHS principal Josh Cook, to learn more about an advanced school security system.



## TOUCHING ALARM BUTTONS Schools seek community help to buy security system

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County School District is seeking community financial support to implement a new early warning system that would significantly improve emergency response times and school safety. At a luncheon held Tuesday, April 15, district leaders presented their plan to purchase the Centegix CrisisAlert system, which would

replace the district’s current visitor check-in system and equip staff with an advanced tool for handling threats, medical emergencies and other urgent situations. Superintendent Tonya Driver emphasized the district’s top priority as it works to develop tighter security at all three campuses. “Students need to be safe before they can learn,” she said, pointing out that vio-

lence on campuses happens all too often and that every layer of protection is paramount to shielding students from wrongdoers. The system provides wearable push-button badges for all staff, including teachers, bus drivers and administrators. A touch of the button can alert designated responders, escalating based on the

See **BUTTON**/page 10



Frederick

## CCMS promotes 4th gen educator

**STAFF REPORT**  
Ashley Frederick, a fourth-generation educator and third-generation principal, has been named the next principal at Crittenden County Middle School. The appointment was announced earlier this week, and she will officially step into the role on July 1.

Currently serving as the curriculum coach at CCMS, Frederick brings 17 years of experience to the position. She began her teaching career at Crittenden County Elementary School, where she spent nine years in the classroom before

See **PRINCIPAL**/page 10

## Free youth play runs three nights

**STAFF REPORT**  
Community Arts Foundation will present The Music Man Jr. on May 1-3 at historic Fohs Hall in Marion. Showtime is 7 p.m. each night, with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Directed by Corey Crider, with assistance from Michelle Crider and choreography by Presta Walker, this youth production of Meredith Willson’s classic musical promises a lively and entertaining show for all ages. Jodi Napier and Melissa Brown are serving as stage managers. Cale Tabor will lead the cast as the charming Harold Hill, with Katie Beth James as Marian Paroo and Zak Smith as Mayor Shinn. Other title roles include Willabeth

HEREDITH WILLSON'S  
**THE MUSIC MAN JR.**  
MAY 1, 2 & 3, 2025 7PM SHOWTIME  
HISTORIC FOHS HALL • MARION, KY

Brown as Mrs. Paroo, Rhodes Crider as Winthrop, and Holley Curnel as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn. The cast includes nearly 30 local students who began rehearsals in February, dedicating multiple nights a week to prepare for the three-night run. The Music Man Jr. is set in the bustling town of River City, Iowa, and tells the story of Harold Hill, a fast-talking traveling salesman who sets out to con the townspeople into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys’ band he never plans to organize.

However, Harold’s plan hits a high note of complication when he meets Marian, the town’s prim and proper librarian, whose belief in Harold’s potential could change his life forever. This timeless story is brimming with bold characters, good old-fashioned romance, and iconic songs like “Seventy-Six Trombones,” “Till There Was You” and “Shipoopee.” Admission is free, but tickets are required due to limited seating. Reservations can be made at [buytickets.at/communityartsfoundation/1630256](http://buytickets.at/communityartsfoundation/1630256). Seating is first-come, first-served. The production is supported in part by a grant from the City of Marion Tourism Commission.

## Time is heartless, abrasive, chronicled

Time is a dimension we travel through but cannot control. Learned that from a blizzard of pop-up reels that skate across my YouTube channel from astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson. Time is measurable in hindsight, yet never within our full grasp for the future. Have you ever flipped back into months gone by on a calendar? Do those pages feel hollow or heavy? Are you certain about what tomorrow will bring?

Time we cannot slow down. We might be able to alter its effects a bit with today’s decisions, but ultimately it’s well beyond our control. We cannot stop it, stretch it out or revisit it. Despite our advancements of modern science, there is no understood way to revisit a past moment or peer into the future. (Well, unless we can travel at the speed of light. Humans can’t do that. At this time, experts believe that only massless particles can do that, per Mr. Tyson). Time, it seems, is a one-way street with no turn-arounds and no exit ramps. Sometime it feels full of roundabouts. A smile emoji would go good right there.

Where, then, is time archived? Not in some vast external vault, but within us, locked in our fragile circuits of memory. Our minds are the only true record-keepers of what has been. When we die, those memories seem to disappear, right? Entire worlds vanish with each passing soul whether it be the sound of a voice, those cranial recordings of personal conversations or even our personal feelings like the kindness of the sun on a warm spring afternoon. Gone in a moment, never to return.

For most of my adult life, and some years before that, I’ve been writing the history of my world one day or week at a time. Started newspapering in 1979, chronicling events, recording names, inking stories before they faded. This effort has not been without meaning, but I must admit, it came at a cost. Time spent preserving the present often meant forfeiting it. While I was busy documenting accounts and lives of others, mine was also slipping by – quietly, irreversibly.

Now, as friends grow older and family members depart this world, I feel an increasing pull toward a reflection on time itself. Perhaps that’s merely human nature, but we must avoid a temptation to turn inward, to dwell on what was lost, what might have been or what never came to pass. Even introspection can become its own form of distraction – another way time escapes us. The act of thinking about time can consume the very minutes we long to preserve.

Time, after all, does not sympathize. It has the feelings of a fence post. It does not yield to sentiment or slow for pain or sorrow. It presses forward with an indifference that’s quite repulsive. Time is abrasive as heck. It has the ability to wear us down without effort, to whittle the sharpness off

See **TIME**/page 9



# Deaths

## Hodge

Kathy McNeely Hodge, 73, of Murray, died Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

Hodge was born in Marion, on Dec. 8, 1951, to the late Barney Clark McNeely and Elizabeth Ann (Olive) McNeely. She retired as the Public Relations Director for the Murray Calloway County Hospital after 25 years of service. Following her retirement from the hospital, she held the position as the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Calloway County. She was a member and Elder of the Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are her husband, William H. "Bud" Hodge of Murray, whom she married on June 13, 1971, in Marion; and a daughter, Lee Ellen Stacey of Richmond Hill, Ga.

Services were Wednesday, April 23, at J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to the Humane Society of Calloway County, 607 Poplar Street, Suite A1, Murray, KY 42071.

Online condolences can be made at [www.jhchurchill.com](http://www.jhchurchill.com)



## Martin

William Edward "Junior" Martin, Jr., 77, of Marion, died Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. He was a member of Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church and retired from the Kentucky National Guard.

Martin never met a stranger. Whether in the grocery store, at the gas station or in a restaurant, he had a gift for turning a simple hello into a heartfelt conversation. He remembered everyone's name, everyone's story, and somehow knew everyone's family – often better than they knew themselves. His joy was found in people, and his legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched.

Surviving are his children, Tammy (Brett) Owen of Marion and Scott Martin of Salem, KY; a stepson, Josh (Amber) Jackson of Irvington; seven grandchildren, Mariah, Aaron, Chris, Jamie, Finn, Jack and Natalie, six great-grandchildren, Carter, Ellie, Anna Kate, Jemma, Molly and Brooklyn; and a sister, Phyllis Dority.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Edward and Mary Jane Martin.

Services were Monday, April 21 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Mapleview Cemetery.

Memorial donations be made to Piney Fork Cemetery, c/o Sara Ford, 220 S. Weldon St., Marion, KY 42064.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." —Matthew 25:23

Paid obituary



### Winter Reading Program participants

The Crittenden County Public Library held its Friends of the Library sponsored 2025 Adult Winter Reading Program Challenge which required each "Book Nerd" who signed up to read 13 books between January and the end of March. Eight participants completed the challenge. The winners (from left) are Barb Gross, Jenny Zimmer, Carol Harrison, Shawnee Pace and Melissa Guill. Not pictured are Audra Hunt, Andrea Duncan and Reg Hodge. The Friends of the Library are in the process of planning a summer reading challenge.



### 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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### Blue Knights secure Checkmate Cup

On Saturday, April 19 at McCracken County High School, the Crittenden County Blue Knights Chess Team secured the Checkmate Cup in the K5 and K8 sections. On left are K5 team members Ryker Bryant, Aria Ford and Russell Vince. K8 team member Mason Gibson is pictured at right.



## Community Calendar

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

#### Thursday, April 24

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Crochet class starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- Beef quality and care assurance begins at 6 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Service.

#### Monday, April 28

- WITS workout begins at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

#### Tuesday, April 29

- Preschool screenings will be held at Crittenden County Elementary School every Friday starting April 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. Children must be 3 years old before Aug. 1. Please call to schedule screening, (270) 965-2243.
- EH leader lesson training starts at 10 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office.
- Learn about Butterfly Gardens starting at 5:30

- p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- Aces & Ten 4 Class will be at 6 p.m., at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. This is a Community Christmas credit program.

#### Wednesday, April 30

- Walk in the Park at 3 p.m. at City-County Park.

#### Saturday, May 10

- Crittenden County Extension Homemakers will hold a bake sale at H&H Home and Hardware from 8 a.m.-1 pm. There will be cakes, pies and other goodies for Mother's Day.
- The VFW located at 412 N. College St., Marion will have a ceremony for all veterans who served during Nov. 1, 1955-May 15, 1975. This will include a pinning ceremony and a certificate will be presented. The event is sponsored by the American Revolution Paducah Chapter. David LeNeave will be the keynote speaker and Lacey Duncan will perform the National Anthem.

### NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 25-02:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 01-23, TO CHANGE ZONING STATUS OF Parcel at Corner of Adam Street and Old Morganfield Road, PVA Parcel Numbers 070-00-00-013.05 and 070-00-00-013.09

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2025, at 5 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 its regular meeting of the City Council held on March 17, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends Ordinance No. 01-23 such that the property located at the Corner of Adam Street and Old Morganfield Road, PVA Parcel Numbers 070-00-00-013.05 and 070-00-00-013.09 is amended from AG-Agricultural District to C2- General Business District.

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  
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY  
P.O. BOX 364  
MARION, KY 42064  
270/965-4600  
April 21, 2025



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## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### How should you respond to tariffs?

April 24, 2025

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Grant Rogers  
Financial Advisor

The Trump Administration has announced tariffs on trade with other countries. While there has been a lot of uncertainty as to how these policies will evolve, it's generally agreed that tariffs can be inflationary, and they have also sparked volatility in the financial markets. How should you respond to tariffs - as a consumer and an investor?

As a consumer...  
•Review your budget. If you're worried that higher prices will put stress on your cash flow, look for ways to cut costs, perhaps by eating out less often or eliminating streaming services you no longer use. Look for items that could easily be swapped for cheaper alternatives, like generics for brand names. You may even be able to get a better deal from your cable or internet providers, just by asking.  
•Build or replenish an emergency fund. It's

typically a good idea to have an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Usually, you'd want this fund available to meet large, unexpected expenses, such as a medical bill or a new furnace. But with the possibility of tariffs causing inflation in some sectors, you might also want your emergency fund ready to handle price increases in items such as car parts.

•Accelerate large purchases susceptible to tariffs. If you're already planning on making a large purchase, and you think the price may be affected by tariffs, you might want to act now, if you can afford to do so. Some items that may be susceptible to tariffs include automobiles, smartphones and computers.

As an investor...  
•Diversify. Tariffs may affect some industries, such as automobiles and consumer electronics, more than others, such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals. But rather than making hasty "buy" and "sell" decisions based on tariffs and their possible effects, try to build and maintain a diversified portfolio containing a mix of stocks, bonds and other securities. Diversification is the best defense against the market volatility caused by tariffs - or, for that matter, caused by any other factor. While diversification cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, but at any given time, some

asset classes may be up, or not hit as hard as others. And if your portfolio is heavily invested in an asset going through a downturn, you'll likely take a much bigger hit than if your dollars were spread across the wide array of available investment types.  
•Keep following a long-term strategy. Right now, tariffs are certainly in the headlines as a potentially disruptive force in the financial markets. But there have always been such forces - wars, natural disasters, political turmoil, and so on - and while they have caused volatility for a while, the markets regained its footing, sooner or later. And the most successful investors were the ones who stayed the course

throughout the disruptive events, rather than jumping out of the market until things cooled down. This doesn't mean you should never make changes in response to market conditions - at times, you may need to adjust your portfolio somewhat. But by following a long-term strategy based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals, you'll be better equipped to cope with market gyrations.  
Tariffs can lead to uncertainties in the financial world. But by thinking carefully about how you might respond, you can bring more clarity to your own situation.

## LAND AUCTION



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# Early Bird gains broader wings starting next week

STAFF REPORT

A familiar staple in local mailboxes is changing course. Beginning Monday, April 28, The Crittenden Press will debut a fully digital version of The Early Bird, its long-running advertising publication – completely free and now more dynamic than ever.

After nearly five decades in print, the Bird is evolving to meet the demands of modern readers and advertisers. No longer arriving by U.S. Mail on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, the publication will instead be delivered Mondays via Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), The-Press



Online and email free to subscribers throughout Crittenden, Union, Webster, Caldwell, Lyon and Livingston counties in Kentucky and Hardin and

Pope counties in southern Illinois.

Publisher Chris Evans said the decision reflects a new era in community engagement.

“Time has come to meet demands of a new market, a consumer who looks to digital media for information,” said Evans. “We’re going full-blown digital with the Bird to give our readers and advertisers a better, faster and more interactive experience.”

The digital transformation brings several benefits. Advertisers will enjoy lower rates – starting at just \$10 per week – without print or postage costs.

Hyperlinked ads will connect readers directly to websites and social media, allowing for real-time interaction and measurable impact. The digital format also enables businesses to run timely, eye-catching promotions designed by The Press’s creative team. There will be no up-charge for color promotional.

For readers, subscribing by email guarantees delivery straight to their inbox in a reliable, timely fashion, and forwarding the Bird to others is encouraged. Subscribing and unsubscribing are both simple. Freed from space con-

straints, the new Early Bird will also offer expanded and more timely content from across the region, giving communities broader visibility and a louder voice.

The move comes as mailing and delivery costs continue to rise. By shifting fully to digital, The Crittenden Press is ensuring that The Early Bird can continue to serve as a reliable platform for regional marketing – now with greater reach and convenience.

To subscribe or advertise, email [advertising@the-press.com](mailto:advertising@the-press.com) or call (270) 965-3191.

Philip Sharp of Marion was recognized recently with Crittenden County Conservation District’s Friend of Wildlife Award. The presentation was made during the district’s annual awards dinner. Making the presentation was Bob Glinke, a member of the district’s board of directors. Sharp, has worked alongside the conservation district staff for many years as a former biologist for Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and now as a private wildlife habitat consultant for Superior Whitetail Habitats located in Marion.



## East back in pulpit at Caldwell Springs

By CHIP HUTCHESON KENTUCKY TODAY

John East is a living testimony that God can use you regardless of your age, and He will bless you as you seek to serve Him.

East, who pastored for 20 years and then retired after 36 years as an associational mission strategist (previously called director of missions), has been serving as transitional pastor of Caldwell Springs Missionary Baptist Church for the past 18 months. And those months have been fruitful times for the church.

“The prospects are endless,” said East, who previously led the Ohio River Baptist Association and Ohio Valley Baptist Association. “I get excited to know how the Lord can use a person of my age,” said East, noting he is closing in on his 84th birthday. “The Lord has really blessed me, and I want to do all I can for Him in the days I have left.”

Caldwell Springs has a strong legacy. It was organized in 1844 by mem-

bers of New Bethel Baptist Church in Lyon County, and its current building is the fourth to house the church.

East recalls he preached at Caldwell Springs several Sundays when the previous pastor, Darell Eldridge, was ill. Eldridge died in September 2023 and the church called East to be the transitional pastor.

“The church had declined numerically, down to 10 to 13 people,” East recalls. “I saw there was a real work needed. I had been an interim when the church was much stronger, but so many people had passed away.”

East agreed to take the position, and the church immediately started reaching new families. “The people we have reached live within a few miles of the church. I’ve baptized six people and we have had about seven



John East

or so join by letter. The Lord has really blessed; we are in the 20s in Sunday school and about 40 in worship.”

When East was called as the transitional pastor, the only weekly services were Sunday school and Sunday morning worship. But the ministry has grown.

“It’s really been amazing what has occurred there,” East said. “We now have a unique children’s ministry on Wednesday nights with about 16-19 children and young people coming. They are learning the books of the Bible and doing Bible drills. I started an adult class on Wednesday nights, and we have about eight to 10 people attending. It’s for people who can come, but we have some who work late and cannot attend.”

East said pastoring the church has been “really a great opportunity. “It’s amazing,” he added, saying there are a number of people who have been attending and he is hopeful they will join.

## Fiscal court approves EPAD for CCH

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court last Thursday approved an ordinance establishing an Energy Project Assessment District (EPAD), creating a new economic development tool aimed at improving energy and water efficiency in private-sector buildings.

While the program is intended for broad use by local businesses, officials say the measure was adopted primarily at the request of Crittenden Community Hospital, which plans to apply for EPAD financing to upgrade its HVAC system for improved energy effi-

ciency.

Under the ordinance, qualifying property owners can secure funding for approved projects through long-term financing repaid via assessments added to their property tax bills. Energize Kentucky, LLC was designated as the assessment collector, and an interlocal agreement will govern the program’s administration.

•In other business, the court approved offering Crittenden Community Hospital \$1,000 for rent of the EMS headquarters, which has been on the hospital campus for years without paying

rent. At one time, the hospital was contractually responsible for providing EMS, but it no longer does.

The hospital approached the county about paying \$7,000 in monthly rent, but the county balked at that price. After negotiations, magistrates agreed to offer \$1,000 plus pay for utilities, which run about \$575 a month. Its formal offer will be sent to the hospital.

•The court approved a measure to surplus a large military style loader it has had for several years.

## Housing market bounce; ag land prices climbing

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky’s housing market bounced back in March with over \$1 billion in total sales volume, and local trends suggest Crittenden County is also seeing sustained strength – particularly in land sales.

According to data from Kentucky REALTORS, March saw a 21.7% jump in total statewide sales volume from February, with 3,525 properties sold and a median sales price rising to \$265,000. While year-over-year sales are still lagging, leaders in the real estate industry remain optimistic.

“The month-over-month increases in total sales volume and new listings paired with the month-over-month decrease in days on the market shows an overall increase in demand,” said Barb Curtis, president of Kentucky REALTORS®. Homes spent an average of 25 days on the market, down nearly 39% from February, and new listings surged

nearly 29%.

Josh Summers, CEO of Kentucky REALTORS, said the rise in new listings is “a great sign for buyers seeking more options as we get further into 2025.”

Locally, real estate agent Mark Williams of Whitetail Properties says interest in Crittenden County property remains robust. He reports that tillable farmland is commanding prices rarely seen in this area, more than \$5,000 an acre in some instances. Recreational tracts have remained steady around \$3,250 to \$4,000 per acre, while heavily timbered or clear-cut land typically sells for less than \$3,000 per acre.

“Interest in land is strong,” Williams said.

Williams added that demand for hunting leases remains healthy, too, with rates starting around \$20 per acre and climbing depending on property features.

### Crittenden County Detention Center



#### DETENTION CENTER REPORT

April 17, 2025

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

#### MARCH CASH FLOW

Total Receipts \$314,110.85  
Disbursements \$283,149.36

JAIL CENSUS	March 2025 Avg	Feb. 2025 Avg	Monthly Average 2024
State Inmates	67	74.1	75.38
Federal Inmates	67.4	67.3	67.69
Other County Inmates	22.5	20.6	21.82
Crittenden County Inmates	21.7	24.7	19.86
<b>TOTAL INMATES</b>	<b>178.6</b>	<b>186.7</b>	<b>184.75</b>
Highest Daily Count	190	195	195.67
Lowest Daily Count	174	181	178.75

Last Month <b>REVENUE</b>	March 2025	February 2025	Monthly Average 2024
State Housing Payments	\$73,401.18	\$73,365.84	\$81,220.16
Federal Housing Payments	\$119,073.00	\$107,331.00	\$116,235.25
Federal Transport Payments	\$13,038.10	\$8,147.10	\$13,566.71
Lyon Co. Housing Payments	\$20,808.00	\$17,460.00	\$21,399.00
Other County Housing Payments	\$3,720.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,802.17
Weekend/Work Release	\$1,080.00	\$840.00	\$477.33
<b>TOTAL HOUSING</b>	<b>\$231,120.28</b>	<b>\$210,023.94</b>	<b>\$234,709.79</b>

Last Month <b>ANALYSIS</b>	26840	\$27,640.00	\$19,290.67
Cost of Crittenden Inmates			
Numbers of Co. Housing Days	671	691	602.83
County Daily Housing Rate	40	\$40.00	\$32.00
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates	21.7	24.7	19.86

## Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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## Preschool screening to begin on Fridays

Preschool screenings for the upcoming Crittenden County school year will begin April 18 and will be held every Friday through May 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Crittenden County Elementary School. An additional screening will be offered Tuesday, April 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. Parents or guardians must call 270-965-2243 to schedule an appointment. Children must be 3 years old by Aug. 1 to be eligible. Required documents include proof of income, proof of residency, birth certificate, immunization records, and a well-child physical exam.

## Livingston Hospital firing up for park 5K

The Livingston Hospital Foundation will host a 5K and 1-mile run on Saturday, May 17 at Crittenden County Park in Marion, with proceeds supporting the nonprofit's mission to aid individuals in need of health and wellness assistance. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the race starts at 9 a.m. Entry fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for the 1-mile run. Participants who register by May 1 will receive a T-shirt. The race will incorporate the park's quarter-mile track and walking trail. Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers. Forms can be mailed to Tiffany Roberts at 121 Hospital Drive, Salem, KY 42078. For more information, call or text 270-704-1360.

## Junior Pro Cheer is registering in May

Crittenden County Jr. Pro Cheer is gearing up for the 2025 season with registration set for three Saturdays this spring. Sign-ups will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on May 3, May 17 and May 31 at the Crittenden County Armory (lower level) on Rochester Avenue. Registration will close May 31. Organizers encourage both new and returning participants to attend. The program, designed to build confidence, teamwork and leadership among young athletes, will also include fundraising opportunities to help offset costs for families. For more information, contact Summer Gardner at (270) 704-9999 or Brittney Buell-Schneider at (270) 969-1721.

## Horseback adventures for youth age 7-18 here

Camp Olaf Returns for 2025 with Horseback and Outdoor Adventures Jus Chillin Farm in Marion will once again host Camp Olaf Horseback Adventure, a summer day camp offering a mix of equestrian and outdoor activities for youth ages 7 to 18. The 2025 camp will feature horseback riding, water fun, arts and crafts, fishing, boating, and more. Three sessions are available this summer, running June 24-27, July 29-Aug. 1, and Aug. 12-15. Camp runs daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with lunch included in the \$200 registration fee. For more information, contact Amy at (352) 214-7444.

## MCC offering hands-on summer training in babysitting and more

Madisonville Community College Workforce Solutions is offering three hands-on summer programs designed to prepare middle and high school students for real-world success. Students 16 and older can enroll in the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Certification, which begins June 2. The four-week course meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m. and costs \$699. It includes instruction, a textbook and one test, with group dis-



counts available. Classes will be held in Health Campus Rooms 201 and 202 and taught by an Advanced EMT instructor. For younger students in grades 7-9, a Babysitting Basics Certification course is set for June 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The \$45 class includes lunch and a certificate, providing a foundation for safe and confident child care. High schoolers in grades 9-12 can join the Life Skills IRL: How to Not Fail at Adulting camp on June 25-26. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, students will learn essential skills like car care, laundry, budgeting and time management. The \$99 fee includes lunch, a certificate and a professional headshot for use in college or job applications. For details or to register, call (270) 824-8658 or visit the Madisonville Community College Workforce Solutions website. Additional information is available by contacting Melanie Tapp at (270) 824-8661 or melanie.tapp@kctcs.edu.

## Friends selling books at county's public library

The Friends of the Crittenden County Public Library will host a book sale later this week, with a special Preview Night for members from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24. Those who are not members may join at the door before shopping. The sale continues Friday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

## Local students earn selective program honors for summer

Three Crittenden County High School students have earned prestigious academic honors through selective summer programs designed to foster leadership and academic excellence. Elle McDaniel has been accepted into the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs, a competitive program that equips students with the tools to launch business ideas and develop innovative thinking. Madison Walker was selected for both the Governor's Scholars Program and the Commonwealth Honors Academy, recognizing her outstanding academic achievement and leadership potential. The dual honors reflect her dedication and broad academic strengths. Aubrey Grau was also chosen for the Governor's Scholars Program, a highly regarded five-week residential experience for rising high school seniors in Kentucky.

## Animal shelter offers monthly animal report

Crittenden County Animal Shelter experienced a productive March, marked by strong adoption numbers and numerous dogs transferred to rescue organizations. As of March 31, the shelter reported 32 dogs in-house, with 41 more in foster homes. A total of 28 dogs were taken in during the month, while 27 were sent to rescues. Shelter officials also noted that 13 dogs were adopted and six were reclaimed by their owners. No dogs escaped or died from medical issues during the reporting period, although one dog was euthanized. On the financial side, the shelter received \$1,155 in revenue for the month. Pet adop-

tions accounted for \$1,005 of that total, with an additional \$150 received in donations. No dog license fees, reclaim fees or sponsorships were recorded in March. Shelter staff continue to urge the community to consider adoption, fostering, or donations to support their mission of caring for local animals.

## Riverview Park expects lower summer activity

Riverview Park experienced an uptick in activity during March 2025 as warmer weather brought more visitors back to the campground, but county leaders expect figures to remain below normal for the rest of summer. Bridge replacement on the main route from Ky. 91 to the campground will keep the highway closed until August, based on state highway department projections. "I expect camp use to decline over the summer due to bridge replacement," Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said. "I hope they can get the work finished before the end of summer."

The park recorded 43 RV nights and 13 tent nights in March, marking the busiest month since October and signaling the start of the spring camping season. The highway closed the first week of April, and motorists pulling recreational vehicles to the area are now required to take a longer route that is more difficult to traverse with a camper or watercraft. Revenue rebounded significantly in March with RV site income totaling \$1,510 and tent site revenue adding \$75. Additional deposits from fees, taxes and a small amount of cancellation revenue brought total receipts for the month to \$1,842.88. After covering expenses of \$1,118.40, the park finished with a net income of \$724.48 — its first monthly profit since November 2024 and its best financial performance in several months. This improvement follows a challenging winter season that included consecutive losses in January and February. Riverview Park offers affordable camping with tent sites at \$5 per night and RV sites at \$30 per night with full amenities, including power, water and wastewater hookups. Reservations are typically available through CrittendenCountyKy.org, but the website now prompts visitors to call in order to make reservations so they can be informed of travel issues related to the bridge outage.

## Local educators are recognized for work

Three Crittenden County educators were recognized last week with the Regional Education Partnership Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by Madisonville Community College. Becky Bryant, a science teacher at Crittenden County Middle School; Howard Suggs, a social studies teacher at Crittenden County High School; and Mandy Hunt, a physical education teacher at Crittenden County Elementary School, were honored during a reception held at the MCC campus. The award celebrates excellence in teaching and highlights educators who embody core values such as student-first focus, relationship building, tradition, safety, and academic excellence. The school district praised the trio as exemplary models within the Rocket family.

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!



## 50 YEARS AGO

### April 24, 1975

Members of Nelson's Pharmacy men's bowling league were crowned champions at Rainbow Lanes. Team members were Randy Davidson, Darrell Walker, Buck Travis and Pippi Hardin. This marked the first time in the league's 15-year history that the team winning the first half also claimed the second-half title. Sureway and Turner's Ice Cream tied for second and were set to play a tiebreaker match. Travis led the league with a 174 average, followed by Hardin at 168, Jim Byrnes at 164 and Bruce Heady at 162. Hardin posted the highest series of the year at 616, with Travis next at 584 for three games. CCHS catcher Bill Adams was pictured taking a throw at home as a Livingston Central baserunner approached during a game. David Hamilton, described as resembling the Yankees' "Catfish" Hunter, delivered a pitch during the action. Livingston scored four runs on six hits to defeat the Rockets 4-1. Livingston Central High School's drama and choral department were finalizing their production of High Button Shoes. The play starred Chris Clarke as a New Jersey con man and Harold Monroe as his sidekick. Kathy Harris was the pianist, and choral director Mrs. Pauline Stringer led the production. Cast members included Guy Hall, Steven Berry, Jennifer Williams, Mark Hall, Marsha Hosick, Joe Blaylock, David Simpkins, Steve Lee, Donnie Armstrong, Steven Wheeler, Jesse Rogers, Joel Culver, Diane Knight, Jayne Vailes, Dean Gerding, Lynn Rushing, Kenny Tolley, Ivus Crouch and Ronnie Mitchell. Townspeople were portrayed by Rhonda Gordon, Janie Stegall, Janie Rogers, Carolyn Watson, Becky Williams, June Black, Lisa Conner, Bonnie Shelton, Debbie Driskill, Jo Ann Threlkeld and Darlene Dailey. Bathing beauties were Pam Barnes, Tandy Clarke, Lisa Dickerson, Debbie McCracken, Felicia Rhea, Mel Conyer, Regina Belt, Shiral Manhart, Jeanne Mitchell, Paula Gilland and Lisa McDonald. The Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked rainbow trout in Claylick Creek in Crittenden County, releasing 1,000 fish from a bridge on Ky. 855 near Emmaus Church. It was the second stocking of the year, with four more planned for the summer. The catch limit was eight trout of any size per day, but anglers needed a trout stamp on their license.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### April 20, 2000

Marion native Ginger Orr, Miss Jeffersontown, was actively campaigning against child abuse during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Orr, a second-year law student at the University of Louisville, had been advocating for child abuse survivors for more than four years. She volunteered with the Center for Women and Families, the Youth Development Corporation of America, The Nest in Lexington and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky. She also visited schools to educate students and collected teddy bears to donate to agencies that assist abused children. Rocket basketball cheerleaders honored at the boys' basketball banquet were Katie Stout, Teena Rozwalka, Chrystal Campbell, Stephanie Tinsley, Kari Powell, Leigh Browning, Stacy Wagoner, Tiffany Wilson, Jeanne Johnson, Dani Harrison, Amy West, Amy Graham, Brandi Travis, Jodi Martin and Rhiannon Jenkins. Lady Rocket cheerleaders receiving awards during the girls' banquet at Crittenden County High School included Lyndsey Taylor, Angela Crowell, Keri Kemper, Ashley Myers and Dusty Witherspoon. Salem's sidewalks received a much-needed facelift, thanks to efforts by Mayor Brian McDaniel and the Salem City Council. The repairs, funded by a \$10,000 state municipal aid contract approved in mid-1999, were completed along U.S. 60 in the business district.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### April 23, 2015

Crittenden County Animal Shelter volunteers spent one Saturday each month holding pet adoption drives at PetSmart in Paducah. Volunteer Destiny Todd, daughter of Animal Control Officer Timmy Todd, was pictured holding a 3-year-old English shepherd during an event. Crittenden County High School's Rocket basketball team held its annual awards banquet at the home of Coach Denis Hodge. Honorees included Landon Young, Varsity Player of the Year, Team Captain, Most 3-Pointers, Best Free Throw Percentage, Most Points, Most Assists and Most Steals; Colby Watson, Best Teammate, Most Rebounds, Most Blocked Shots; Noah Dickerson, Most Hustle, Most Offensive Rebounds; Dylan Hollis, Challenge Award and JV Player of the Year; Noah Hadfield, Sixth Man Award and Overall Most Improved; Jake Greenwell, Best Scout Team Player; Tyson Steele, High T Award; Dylan Hicks, Best 3-Point Percentage; Dakota Watson, Best Field Goal Percentage; Logan Belt, Rookie of the Year; Jared Lundy, JV Most Improved; and Bobby Glen Stephens, Best Teammate JV. Lettermen were Young, Hicks, Hollis, Dakota Watson, Colby Watson, Hadfield, Dickerson and Adam Driver. Crittenden County Elementary School announced its Rocket Role Models for March. Honorees included Caleb Riley, Jake Rich, Anna Boone, Levi Quertermous, Bella Williams, Logan Shaffer, Colton Wilson, Braelyn Merrill, Morgan Piper, Dalton Murray, Gracie Orr, Hayden Hildabrand, Braylynn Ennis, Taylor Haire, Jenna Maxfield, Aria Kirk, Sierra Patrick, Shayla Jones, Riley Smith, Lizzie Campbell, Kaylob Newcom, Skyler Sullivan, Isaac Sarles, Grace Robert, Hanna Collins, Maggie Blazina, Hannah Herrington, Brilee Conyer, Caden Riely and Luke Crider.

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





# We will face fear and doubt

It's the war in Ukraine! (Remember that?) It's deporting protestors! It's the stock market! It's the measles outbreak! It's D.O.G.E.! The constant stream of what we are to fear and about which we express outrage is like drinking poison from a fire hose. What is so odd is that so many of us willingly do it.

It is easy to accept the agendas set by others and argue with those who are our friends and family. Some are so captivated that their reality shifts into a world that is strange to their families and those who care about them. It is easy to forget that it is not the storms we see coming that get us. It is the ones we don't see. The ones we see may do great damage but in time recovery is possible. The ones that we do not see have the capability to truly destroy us.

We are in an unsettled time. The first thing to understand is that we have created it – all of us – regardless of who one votes for or which way one leans politically or religiously. As soon as we say, “not my fault” we have removed ourselves from being a potentially stabilizing influence. There are those who seem rather certain of the root of our problems and the solutions necessary. They are everywhere, pointing

in different directions.

I know that these distractions do not impress many people – maybe even most. However, there are enough of us captured by them that it affects the mood and atmosphere in which we live. There is something that happened two millennia ago that generated fear and doubt. Perhaps beyond any that had been experienced before.

It is that event which, for believers, is the touchstone of our lives. The power that was shown on resurrection morning is an awesome reminder of Jesus' warning to his disciples when he sent them out into a world looking in the wrong direction for salvation. He told them, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28). That power was shown in the family of Jairus, the ruler of a synagogue whose daughter had died while Jesus was delayed for a moment by the bold action of a sick woman. While he was still speaking to the woman, we read, “There came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the

synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

When that creative power was unleashed at the beginning, Genesis tells us that, “It was very good.” That same creative power rolled back the stone of a sepulcher, shed a death shroud, folded it up, and walked out. This time, however, when a shocked humanity was confronted with such a life-giving force responded with fear and doubt. Matthew even tells us of a conspiracy to lie about what happened.

Before we are too harsh on the apostles and the women who were courageous enough to go to the tomb as soon as they could, we might take some time to reflect. This was an event that was too much even for those who had witnessed what Jesus did to easily believe.

The response of fear was almost unanimous. There is an exception in the Gospel of John when the “disciple whom Jesus loved” saw what was not there and believed. The response of doubt is surprisingly still present at the end of Matthew as Jesus delivers his last words in that account. We are all familiar with Thomas who doubted and set up the powerful proclamation, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!”

In the decades that followed, there were massive struggles for those who believed. There were challenges accepting “outsiders.” There were arguments over how much to engage with the secular and religious cultures of the day. There was persecution, usually sporadic and inconsistent, but the threat was ever-present.

This is clear at the end of Mark, where the very last word of the gospel (in 16:8) is “afraid.” Believers had a choice to make. Would they believe this thing that confirmed looking at the world through the eyes of the one who created it or not? Would they accept the social and ethical standards that such belief demanded of them? This is still the question for us today.

Rejoice, rejoice, because he is risen! But with that rejoicing comes an obligation that, for those who take it seriously, will bring us face to face occasionally with fear and doubt. It brings us into contact with the one who has power over life and death. Don't be distracted.

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



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist  
Guest Columnist

## Christ can give you peace

**Question:** I am troubled over our fragmented and polarized country. People on both ends of the political spectrum use fear tactics to try to get what they want. I worry about the long-term stability of our nation. How can I have peace of mind amidst our political chaos?

**Answer:** It seems people in America have not been as polarized as they are now since the slavery issue causing the Civil War. Falsehoods and darkness travel freely and openly over social media. Many modern Americans are filled with greed and race prejudice.

But, there's good news! Most people of our great country are good people who are willing to help others and are willing to work to make this country stable and strong. Instead of wringing our hands in worry, we should pray for our leaders to make good choices so America is strong

### ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison



for generations to come. Ultimately, we will not have true peace of mind until we put our trust in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). In Him, we can experience peace when the entire world seems to be falling apart. In a time of great stress for His disciples, Jesus announced, “Take heart! I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33). His strength to overcome the world is our strength to overcome it, too. The old saying is true. “When Jesus is all you have, it is then that you discover He is all you need.” Our Savior puts our lives together so we can have balance and serenity in trying times. Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

## Religious Outreach

■ Mainstreet Missionary Baptist Church will have Revival starting at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 4 with guest speaker Bro. Jim Wring, followed by a meal at noon and music by David Conyer at 1 p.m. Services continue at 7 p.m., Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6 with guest music by Adam Guess both evenings. The church is located at 718 S. Main St. in Marion. ■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.



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315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.  
Rodney Phelps, Pastor  
(270) 704-2400  
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 Holeman  
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.  
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

### Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

### Crayne Community Church

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

### FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

### growing in grace

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

### Marion Church of God

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

### PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.  
School 10 a.m.  
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  
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 -

# Pleasant outing to Weston, legend of the Ohio

This exciting trip back in time is titled “A Pleasant Outing.” It shares with us a trip to the town of Weston on the Ohio River, and the Legend of the word O-hi-o. From the archives of The Crittenden Press, Nov. 4, 1897.

### Visit to Weston

One morning about two weeks ago when the sun shone bright, the sky was blue, and air was balmy and laden with sweet autumn odors; all things inviting to a day’s outing, a small party, of whom the writer was one, started on a pleasure excursion to see the sandbars on the Ohio at Weston.

The place of general rendezvous was Ira C. Hughes’ on the Morganfield Road. Here the line of march was formed starting with Mr. Ira C. Hughes, his wife, Millie, and their two children, Virgil and Camilla, Henry Agee, Miss Mary Thomas, of Carthage, Tenn., Jim Henry Paris, and his wife, Mrs. Eliza Paris and their three children, Louis, Clarence and Willie, Mrs. Sallie Powell, Miss Cora Fritts, W. J. L. Hughes, Miss Maud Hughes and Roy Hughes.

Mr. Henry Agee and Miss Mary Thomas were in a buggy and the rest of us were divided up and packed in two two-horse wagons. At Post Oak school house, we were joined by a surrey containing Mr. Ed Farley and his wife, Mrs. Annie Farley and their two bright-eyed children, Miss Myrtle and Master Clyde. These completed the list and we now numbered exactly 20. I give every name because, like the Knights of the Famous Round Table, we abhor distinctions.

Then we started, the buggies gently buzzing, and the dust flying high. We passed Mattoon and turned into the old Flynn’s Ferry Road,” over which many an emigrant wagon with its wooden axletree, old fashioned lynch pin, sky scraping end bows, with tar bucket hung to the coupling pole, rolled, and lumbered and bumped over the black-jack stumps in the early days of the present century, when this country was a wilderness, and George Flynn conducted the first ferry that was ever established across the Ohio

River where Weston now stands.

After a merry jolly trip of a little over two hours, we reached Weston at a little after 10 o’clock. It was a complete surprise; we

took the town without firing a gun, and the people surrendering at discretion.

We unharnessed our teams and established ourselves in the shade of the trees on the bank of the river at the mouth of Camp Creek, overlooking the fifteen miles stretch of river from Weston to Elizabethtown.



**Brenda Underdown**  
County Historian

### Forgotten Passages

### Beauties of the Ohio River

In fact and fiction, in song and story, in the finest and grandest products of the painter, the beauties of this river have been celebrated.

Away up in the Alleghenies, a tiny streamlet starts rolling, and tumbling, and foaming over rocks, leaping over toy cascades, gathering the water from a thousand ravines and gulches till it becomes a roaring mountain torrent; and still sweeping on, now skirting a rich meadow of bottom land, and now passing beneath the shadow of towering bluffs and beetling crags, it becomes a beautiful and romantic little river and meets another stream that rises within the hearing of the awful thunders of Niagara. After receiving many a sportive branch and rippling rill and foaming creek and watering many a farm and garden in Western New York and Pennsylvania it, too, reaches the magnitude of a river. These are the Monongahela and Allegheny. Like two merry, rocking, romping children they unite their



After a two-hour wagon ride from Marion, this party arrived at the river town of Weston and set up camp for the day, ready to enjoy camping and boat rides on the Ohio River.



The beautiful Ohio River as seen from the bluff on the Illinois side.

destinies and form the beautiful Ohio. This from busy, bustling smokey Pittsburg, the New Castle of America, starts on its tortuous course to the “father of waters,” bearing upon its crystal bosom the commerce of the most enlightened, happy people on earth passing through a country whose fertility of soil is not equaled by that of any other region of like extent in the world, a region embracing many commonwealths, each of which would rival in grandeur and magnificence the greatest of the ancient empires. Along its banks are thriving towns and populous and opulent cities like gems of gold on a string of silver.

How did this river get its name, and what does the name signify? What do we understand by the word Ohio?”

### Here is the Legend

An Indian chief of the Miami tribe then occupying the shores of Lake Michigan, with a small band of his tribe, wan-

dered southward on a hunting excursion. A few miles from the Ohio they startled a deer from his cover and despite all their wiley maneuvering, the wary animal eluded the hunters, frequently in sight but always escaping the winged shafts sent after him.

The deer led the hunting party southward till late in the afternoon when they suddenly emerged from the dense forest into an open spot on a high piece of ground overlooking the river. About the middle of the stream was the deer, bravely swimming for the Kentucky shore, and safely beyond the reach of its pursuers’ arrows, but all thought of the deer was lost in contemplation of the exquisite beauties of the scene before them.

For five miles above and 10 below, the majestic stream was in full view. Kentucky, then an unbroken wilderness, presented a landscape of undulating hills and fertile valleys, all clothes in the rich, green

foliage of May, that looked like a land of enchantment.

The sun was setting and a roseate radiance beautified land and water; far down the river was a small island covered with green trees that appeared to spring up from the limpid element itself and looked like an emerald setting in a sea of opal.

Whatever fault the savage may possess, he rarely fails to appreciate the beauties of nature, and in the plenitude of his wonder, admiration and amazement, the chief uttered the ejaculation, “O-high-O” meaning great river. And the chief had unconsciously given to the noble river a name that was destined to go with it through untold centuries.

At a later day, the French came to this territory and explored the river from Pittsburgh to Cairo, and reveled in its beauties. They called it “La Belle Rivire” meaning Beautiful River.

We have seen the Ohio at Weston many times and at all seasons of the year, but we never before saw such a display of sand bars as at present.

After looking at the river for a while, we spread our dinner on the river bank; the exercises of the morning had whetted everybody’s appetites, and ample justice was done to the repast.

After dinner we chartered two skiffs, and Ira Hughes and Henry Agee to man one of them and my friend Eli Swansey

and myself to handle the oars of the other, with Eli as chief pilot of the expedition.

By dexterous manipulation through swift waters, and once being caught aground on a sandbar, we maneuvered across the river and landed and beached our barges on the Illinois side. We climbed the bank and stood on the shore and looked up and down the river. We were in agreement with the Indian chief and the Frenchmen, the Ohio was truly a beautiful sight.

The sun was now sinking low in the West we remarked, and the unfavorable conditions of navigation being reversed we made the return trip in about five minutes.

Then voting the day a fine success we hitched up our horses, and with grateful feelings to the good people of that quiet little village for the civilities shown us, we left them to a much needed rest, and started home.

If you have never seen the view of the Ohio from high atop the bluff from the Weston Cemetery on the Kentucky side, or from the top of the bluff on the Cave-In-Rock, Ill., side, you have missed a beautiful sight. Truly one of Crittenden County’s treasures.

(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](http://OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com)).



FOHS HALL

MARION, KY



[fohshall.org](http://fohshall.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1-3

7 p.m.

*The Music Man Junior*

MAY 10

7:30 p.m.

*Amanda Edmonds Locke Foundation featuring An Evening with The Todd Hill Orchestra*

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## NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

### RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan (“2025 Plan”). (Collectively, KU’s Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU’s “tariff filing.”) If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU’s tariff filing at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.



Classifieds

The Crittenden Press

The Crittenden Press

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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](http://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.

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First-ever Crittenden County Hwy. 641 Community Yard Sale for homes between 1380-1980 U.S. 641 including Norman Road, Penn Drive, Coleman Road and Higgins Road. Will begin at 8 a.m. each day, May 9-10. (5t-18-c)

**services**

PAINTING: Interior and exterior, licensed and insured. Call Mr. Paint for an estimate, (270) 454-4088. (8t-17-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. (12t-16-p)

**notices**

Donations for the upkeep of Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery, % Colleen Harbour, 246 Cotton Patch Rd., Marion, KY 42064. (1t-16-p)

Advertise your job opening, event, items for sale, auction etc. in this newspaper plus 83 other Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), The Sturgis News, The (Princeton) Times Leader, The (Providence) Journal-Enterprise, The Union County

Advocate, The Henderson Gleaner, The Livingston Ledger and The (Madisonville) Messenger and for only \$250. Save time and money by making one call for all! For more information, contact the classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at [advertising@the-press.com](mailto:advertising@the-press.com).

**legal notice**

Notice is hereby given that on April 16, 2025 Melinda Deboe of 2270 Briarfield Rd., Princeton, KY 42445 was appointed administratrix of Timothy Grimes, deceased, whose address was 8903 S.R. 70, Marion, KY 42064. Marc Wells, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administratrix on or before the 16th day of October, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crit-

tenden District Court  
Melissa Guill, Clerk  
(1t-16-c)

**bid notices**

The Crittenden County Board of Education invites you to submit sealed bids for the 2025-2026 year-book and school pictures. Please submit bids to: Crittenden County Board of Education, 601 West Elm Street, Marion, KY 42064. Bids will be accepted until May 9, 2025 at 1 p.m., at which time they will be opened. Any interested party may attend; however, no immediate decision will be made. For bid specifications, please contact Bridgette Porter at 270-965-3525. Crittenden County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. (2t-17-c)

The Crittenden County Board of Education will be accepting sealed bids for pest control services for the 2025-2026

- plumbing
- septic tanks
- dirt work

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270-994-3143

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on January 21, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on May 13, 2025, at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2024-00326. This is an examination of the Electronic 2024 Joint Integrated Resource Plan of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov).

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov).

Louisville Gas and Electric Company and  
Kentucky Utilities Company  
2701 Eastpoint Parkway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40223

NOTICE OF PASSAGE  
AND  
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

25-O-002: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY PROJECT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT (EPAD) PROGRAM PURSUANT TO KRS 65.205 TO 65.209 TO ADVANCE THE CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES WITHIN CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY BY ALLOWING FOR ENERGY PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED BY ASSESSMENTS IMPOSED UPON THE REAL PROPERTY BEING IMPROVED THROUGH THE ENERGY PROJECTS; PROVISION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM; THE STATEMENT OF THE INTENTION THAT ASSESSMENTS WILL BE UTILIZED TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR ENERGY PROJECTS; THE DESIGNATION OF THE EPAD AND ITS BOUNDARIES; THE PROVISION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EPAD PROGRAM; THE DETERMINATION OF THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY MAY PETITION THE COUNTY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; THE DESIGNATION OF ENERGIZE KENTUCKY, LLC AS THE COLLECTOR OF THE ASSESSMENT; AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on April 17, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a special called meeting of the Fiscal Court held on April 7, 2025, at 6 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:  
**This Ordinance authorizes the establishment of an Energy Project Assessment District to advance conservation and efficient use of energy and water resources in the private sector.**  
The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Courthouse, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:  
/s/ Robert B. Frazer  
ROBERT B. FRAZER  
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY  
P.O. BOX 364  
MARION, KY 42064  
270/965-4600  
April 17, 2025

school year. Please submit sealed bids to: Crittenden County Board of Education, 601 West Elm, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Bridgette Porter. Bids will be received until May 9, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., at which time they will be opened. Any interested party may

attend; however, no immediate decisions will be made. Please contact Bridgette Porter with any questions regarding bid specifications at 270-965-3525. Crittenden County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. (2t-17-c)

NOW  
HIRING!

The Crittenden County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Sheriff.

Salary ranges from \$45,760 to \$52,000  
and salary does not include \$4,429 KLEPPF incentive pay.

MINIMUM  
QUALIFICATIONS:

- 21 years of age at the time of graduation from KY DOC/JT Academy
- High School Diploma or GED Equivalent
- Valid KY Operators License
- Legally Possess a Firearm within State and Federal Laws
- No Prior Felony Convictions or Pending Felony Charges
- No Emergency Protective Orders or Domestic Violence Orders
- Honorable Discharge or General Discharge with Honorable Conditions if Prior Military
- Pass the KY Peace Officers Professional Standards Examination,

BENEFITS:

- Take Home Cruiser Program
- All Equipment Furnished
- Paid Overtime or Comp Time
- Paid Court Time
- Paid Vacation Time
- Paid Sick Time
- Paid Holidays
- Health Insurance
- Dental and Vision Insurance Offerings
- Deferred Compensation Plan
- County Employee Retirement Plan

APPLICATIONS  
CAN BE PICKED  
UP AT THE  
Crittenden County  
Sheriff's Office  
200 Industrial Drive  
Suite D, Marion KY  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

The Crittenden County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer.

PHYSICAL AGILITY

- Bench Press (% of body weight – conversion)
- Sit up Test (1 minute time limit)
- 300 Meter Run
- Push up Test (2-minute time limit)
- 1.5 Mile Run
- Drug Screen, Polygraph and Background Examination.

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NEW! Livingston County, KY – 147.7043 - \$565,000

This exceptional hunting tract serves as a main travel hub for wildlife, featuring an extensive creek network that enhances its habitat diversity. Features an established trail system throughout!

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 19.6 Acres - \$82,124

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

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 – 70 Acres - \$244,900

Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden County, KY – 80.92 Acres - \$307,500

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!

Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000

Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,690 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!

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

Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$375,375

Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$548,550

Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$575,575

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

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 – 193 Acres - \$799,000

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!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 18.96 Acres - \$375,000

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.

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250

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.

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# SportsShorts

## SCHEDULE

### Upcoming events

Crittenden County | Livingston Central

**TUESDAY'S SCORES**  
Softball LCHS 14, CCHS 0  
Baseball Caldwell 8, CCHS 0

**THURSDAY**  
CCHS softball at Christian County

**FRIDAY**  
CCHS baseball hosts CFA  
LCHS hosts Calloway County

**SATURDAY**  
CCHS baseball at Madisonville  
LCHS baseball hosts Ballard (DH)  
CCHS softball hosts Webster County  
CCHS softball hosts Carlisle County  
LCHS softball at Class A State

*Pool Play vs Whitefield Academy, Trimble County, Covington Holy Cross*

**MONDAY**  
CCHS baseball hosts Hopkins Central  
LCHS baseball hosts St. Mary

**TUESDAY**  
CCHS softball hosts Lyon County  
LCHS softball hosts Union County  
CCHS baseball at Union County  
LCHS baseball at Trigg County

## BASKETBALL

### Boone CJ HM All-State

Crittenden County junior Anna Boone has been named to the Courier-Journal newspaper's All-State Team with an honorable mention, alongside Second Region players NeVaeh Day of Christian County, Brooklyn Gibson and A'Tylia Green, both of Henderson County. Boone averaged 15 points and 7 rebounds this past season, leading the Lady Rockets to the regional championship game for the second time in three seasons. Boone is the third all-time leading scorer in CCHS history with 1,754 points.



Anna Boone

## GOLF

### Orange Jacket at DLGC

Deer Lakes Golf Course will host its annual Orange Jacket Invitational on May 17-18 sponsored by Edward Jones. The entry fee is \$125, which includes cart fees for both days, a free practice round and the event's famous burger meal on Sunday. Tee times will be scheduled between 8 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. each day. Participants can select their partners and tee times for Saturday, while Sunday's pairings will be based on Saturday's scores. The tournament features individual stroke play, with flights determined after the first round. A skins game will take place on Saturday, and players' pools will be available on Sunday.

## OUTDOORS

### Hunting Seasons

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

Wild Turkey	April 12 - May 4
Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct. 31
Squirrel	May 17 - June 15
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

### Turkey numbers normal, based on recent seasons, but down from glory years

As of Tuesday, Crittenden County hunters had bagged 237 wild turkeys, including 196 gobblers and 41 jakes. Livingston County's total was 236 turkeys, made up of 208 gobblers, 24 jakes and two bearded hens.

Those figures appear to indicate a normal season compared to recent years. However, they are low when measured against the 25-year average.

From 2000 to 2024, the average turkey harvest in Crittenden County was approximately 430 birds per year. The best five-year stretch for spring gobbler hunters was from 2013 to 2017, when harvests were 525, 396, 390, 375 and 374 for a five-year average of 412.

Last year's harvest totaled 357 in Crittenden and 300 in Livingston County. Crittenden's harvest over the past three seasons – 307, 413 and 357 – has averaged 359.

The record harvest for one season in Crittenden County was 566 in the spring of 2012.

Wild turkey season ends Sunday, May 4. The 23-day season opened April 12. Harvest figures also include birds taken during the two-day youth hunt earlier this month.



Brayden Mahnke (seated in center), flanked by Coach Gaige Courtney and surrounded by football teammates, signed his letter of intent to play football at Bellarmine University in Louisville.



Pictured at Monday's signing day on the CCHS campus are (front from left) Travis McCord, Asa McCord, Deonna McCord and London McCord, (back) track coaches Nick and Sandra Martinez.

## McCord, Mahnke sign for sports

**STAFF REPORT**

Two Crittenden County High School student-athletes were honored last week during the school's spring College Signing Day. Senior Brayden Mahnke signed to play sprint football at Bellarmine University in Louisville and senior Asa McCord inked to run track and cross country at Georgetown University in Lexington.

Mahnke, 17, was a linebacker and running back for the Rockets for two seasons after transferring here from Washington State. He was the team's second leading tackler last fall with 61 stops. He also rushed for 279 yards, had 69 yards receiving and recovered two fumbles. Sprint football is traditional football but players cannot exceed 190 pounds.

Mahnke's team will play in the

same conference as Midway University where former Rocket Zech McGahan plays sprint football.

"I didn't think I would ever make it. Coming here (to Crittenden) I had more opportunities talking to colleges," Mahnke said.

McCord, who also plays Rocket baseball where he's been a successful righthanded pitcher, is a decorated high school distance runner. He has been a member of the cross country team for six years and three times he has qualified for the state meet. His personal best in the 5K is 18:18. McCord, 17, was also a regional medalist in track last season. He's currently participating in his senior seasons for distance running in track and baseball.

"I'm really excited," McCord said. "I can't wait, it's going to be so much fun."

## Crittenden County Baseball | Softball Roundup

### SOFTBALL

**Lady Rockets beat Caldwell in extras**

The Lady Rockets rallied to defeat Caldwell County 6-4 in nine innings Monday behind a 10-hit effort and clutch extra-inning scoring. The win snapped a five-game losing skid.

Elliot Evans and Andrea Federico led the offense, each going 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Federico also drove in two runs, while Anna Boone went 2-for-5 with two RBIs. Brodi Rich added a hit and scored twice, and Macibelle Hardesty and Morgan Piper each contributed a hit to round out the offensive effort.

Rich and Boone handled the pitching, with Rich going the first six innings, striking out six and allowing just one earned run. Boone got the win in relief, going three innings and allowing an unearned run on no hits.

**Big inning lifts Graves past CCHS**

Despite a 9-hit performance, the Lady Rockets couldn't hold off Graves County, falling 8-4 Friday in the second game of a doubleheader at Marshall County Slugfest.

Andrea Federico led the way, going 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Elle McDaniel and Elliot Evans also collected two hits apiece, each driving in a run. A decisive five-run sixth for Graves was a deal-breaker for CCHS.

**Lady Rockets lose 7-5 vs. Tilghman**

Crittenden rallied for five runs in the fourth inning but came up short in a 7-5 loss to Paducah Tilghman Friday in the Marshall County Slugfest.

Elliot Evans led the Lady Rockets at the plate, going 2-for-3 with 2 RBIs. Brenna Kemmer added a double and an RBI, while Morgan Piper was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Brodi Rich pitched virtually the entire game and gave up only five earned runs. A couple of errors were costly.

**Trigg beats Rockets by four**

In a 5-1 loss to Trigg County on Thursday, April 17, the Lady Rockets struggled at the plate, managing only two hits. Andrea Frederick went 1-for-3 and scored the team's lone run, while Abigail Champion had the



Rocket first baseman Keegan Pierson (16) delivers a throw to shortstop Quinn Summers during in a rundown between first and second base last week at Todd Central.

team's only RBI with a pinch-hit single. Evans pitched into the seventh inning and Brodi Rich finished it off. It was Crittenden's third straight loss in Fifth District play this season.

**CCHS drops district game at Lyon**

The Lady Rockets fell 5-2 last week at Lyon County despite a quick start with two runs in the first inning.

Offensively, the Lady Rockets were led by Andrea Federico, who went 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs. Elle McDaniel, Hannah Jent and Brodi Rich each recorded a hit. CCHS used three pitchers, Evans, Rich and Anna Boone, who combined to allow just 2 earned runs.

### BASEBALL

**Rockets drop district games vs Trigg**

Crittenden County lost twice last week to Trigg County in regular-season Fifth District action, falling 10-4 at Trigg on Tuesday and



Brodi Rich delivers a pitch during a recent Lady Rockets softball game at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

10-0 on Thursday.

In the first game, Hudson Stokes led the Rockets' offense with a 3-for-4 performance and two runs scored. Jaxton Duncan added two hits, a run and an RBI, while Chase Conyer and Drake Young each drove in a run. Asa McCord was the starting pitcher and worked into the seventh inning before Jake Rich came on in relief. McCord fanned six, allowed 10 hits and 5 earned runs.

At home last Thursday against the Wildcats, Crittenden was shutout. The Rockets managed just four hits and struck out 12 times in the loss. Stokes, Eli Lovell, Duncan and Quinn Summers each recorded a hit, but Crittenden left multiple runners stranded. Five Crittenden errors were also costly in the loss. Duncan was the starting pitcher and Stokes pitched 2.2 innings in relief. Combined, they allowed just 4 earned runs.

## Springs Sports | Track & Field Roundup

Results from last weekend's meet at Paducah Tilghman were not available at press time

Here are results from the Ballard Memorial All-Corners meet on April 15 at LaCenter.	Long Jump	4. Junior Cowsert (25.11), 11. Noah Byford (25.97), 12. Gaige Markham (26.26), 15. Matthew Valentine (27.55), 16. Kadence Hackney (27.68), 20. Camden Nash (28.45)	Green (30.86), 30. Josh Ross (32.26)
<b>Girls Results</b>	8. Ella Geary (13-1), 14. Susana Suggs (11-1), 15. Hayley Moore (11-0)	17. Rylee Allcock (19-8)	400 Meters
<b>TEAM TOTALS</b>	Shot Put	10. Rylee Allcock (19-8)	3. Aiden Messenger (55.29), 8. Jack Thomasson (57.76), 11. Talon Sanchez (58.27), 17. Eli Eichelberger (1:05.44)
McCracken County 153, Ballard Memorial 116.5, Crittenden County 66.5, Community Christian (Paducah) 40, Christian Fellowship 15, Livingston Central 2.	4. Layken Gilchrist (25-4), 8. Erika (Bre) McKendree (20-9)	16. Rylee Allcock (31-0), 18. Savannah Hunter (18-10)	1600 Meters
	Turbojav		8. Brayden Keeling (6:15.53), 15. Josh Ross (6:46.23), 16. Evan Barnes (6:46.96), 17. Wei Yang-Duong (8:19.20)
	5. Erika (Bre) McKendree (54-4), 6. Aliza Maraman (52-7), 9. Ella Whitney (48-9), 14. Layken Gilchrist (44-11)		110 Meter Hurdles
<b>CRITTENDEN COUNTY</b>			Talon Sanchez (15.62)
100 Meters		<b>LIVINGSTON CENTRAL</b>	4x100 Meter Relay
14. Kaylin Coleman (15.71), 20. Hayley Moore (16.76)	Shot Put	Shot Put	2. Livingston Central (48.50)
200 Meters	10. Rylee Allcock (19-8)	Long Jump	4x200 Meter Relay
9. Shelbi Belt (32.02), 11. Kaylin Coleman (32.46), 13. Ella Geary (32.88), 14. Presley Potter (32.93), 20. Hayley Moore (34.86), 22. Aliza Maraman (36.21)	Turbojav	8. Gaige Markham (16-3.5), 15. Camden Nash (12-11.5)	5. Livingston Central (1:58.16)
400 Meters	16. Rylee Allcock (31-0), 18. Savannah Hunter (18-10)	Shot Put	4x800 Meter Relay
9. Ella Geary (1:13.34), 10. Shelbi Belt (1:13.96), 12. Presley Potter (1:17.45), 15. Hayley Moore (1:22.52)		13. Aiden Musser (27-0), 18. Lucas McDowell (20-8)	5. Livingston Central (11:19.81)
1600 Meters	<b>Boys Results</b>	Turbojav	Long Jump
Mary Martinez (5:55.46), 5. Ella Whitney (7:48.63)	<b>TEAM TOTALS</b>	13. Aiden Musser (61-4), 17. Lucas McDowell (48-6)	14. Eli Eichelberger (13-1), 16. Eli McDonald (12-9.5), 17. Jaden Green (12-0.5), 19. Evan Barnes (11-6), 20. Canyon Palmer (10-8.5), 21. Sawyer Champion (8-2.5)
100 Meter Hurdles	McCracken County 165, Ballard Memorial 92, Livingston Central 64, Crittenden County 42, Cairo 21, Community Christian (Paducah) 20, Lyon County 6, Christian Fellowship 1.	<b>LIVINGSTON CENTRAL</b>	Shot Put
7. Susana Suggs (23.76), 8. Aliza Maraman (23.82)		100 Meters	3. Brady Stone (38-4), 10. Sam Eichelberger (28-4), 12. Rylan Gainey (27-8), 19. Sawyer Champion (15-4)
4x800 Meter Relay		3. Talon Sanchez (11.78), 30. Aiden Peck (14.04), 36. Canyon Palmer (15.81), 37. Eli McDonald (16.32), 38. Daniel France (16.77)	Turbojav
2. Crittenden County (11:53.19)		200 Meters	4. Brady Stone (82-11), 7. Daniel France (71-8), 9. Rylan Gainey (69-8), 18. Sam Eichelberger (48-3), 20. Sawyer Champion (47-0)
High Jump		25. Graham Rhea (30.10), 26. Aiden Peck (30.39), 27. Jaden	
3. Presley Potter (4-4)			



# Riley exiting principal’s post; will be instructional supervisor

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Elementary School Principal Sarah Riley has been appointed the district’s next Supervisor of Instruction, a role she will begin July 1 after more than 25 years of service at CCES.

Riley, who has served the elementary school as an instructional assistant, classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal, will step into a district-level leadership position currently being filled by retired educators Jenni Gilkey and Rhonda Callaway.

“While it is indeed hard

to leave a place that has been my second home, I am excited to embark on this new journey as K-12 Supervisor of Instruction,” Riley said.

Her goals include fostering collaboration among staff, supporting professional development, celebrating student and staff successes, and building strong relationships with educators throughout the district.



Riley earned her associate degree from Madisonville Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Western Kentucky University, a master’s in education from Indiana Wesleyan and a Master of Arts in School Administration from Murray State University.

She and her husband, Todd, have two children, Paxton and Payton. The family enjoys boating, outdoor activities and spending time with friends, family and their pets.

# Marion hears water concern

STAFF REPORT

During a longer-than-typical city council meeting Monday, local resident Megan Kirk delivered an impassioned and detailed 35-minute presentation on regional water quality issues, drawing attention to cancer concerns and EPA standards while pointing out that the problem is not specific to Marion.

Kirk’s address delved into personal tragedy and research, citing the death of her mother from cancer as the catalyst for her deep dive into local and regional water quality. She referenced her own testing results, publicly available data and federal guidelines. The presentation heavily focused on the Consumer Confidence Report, a government-sanctioned publication available online, and emphasized the need for residents to consider installing home filtration systems.

“This is not a Marion problem, at the very least, this is a regional concern,” she said, citing documentation that included two water quality reports, both of which she distributed to council members.

Following Kirk’s remarks, Marion water department supervisor Jeff

**CITY COUNCIL**

Black explained current local testing protocols. He said the city submits quarterly test results from two sites to the EPA and has not had a standard violation in more than two years. Any result outside the acceptable EPA range is posted online and printed on customers’ monthly bills.

Black said that any anomalies are treated at the plant with chemical adjustments and chlorine gas treatment.

Mayor D’Anna Browning thanked Kirk for her research. Councilman Bobby Belt noted that efforts to have Marion’s water supplied by the Crittenden-Livingston Water District have been underway for three years, with an estimated four more years before completion.

In other business, a joint city-county ethics board has been formed to comply with an ordinance that had gone unenforced for years. City appointees are Susan Yarbrough are Mickey Alexander. County government will add another appointment.

•An ordinance was introduced to name the alley between Moore

Street and South Main “Free Will Street,” in honor of the former Free Will Baptist Church. The city will be responsible for maintenance and paving, estimated at \$5,000.

•The first reading of the city’s annual budget was presented. Adjustments are expected before final adoption.

•The city’s employee handbook was amended to prohibit participation in Kentucky’s medical marijuana program by city employees.

•A rezoning request at Adams and Old Morganfield Road was approved, changing the designation from agricultural to commercial. A sports and fitness complex is planned there.

•Mayor Browning dispelled social media rumors, clarifying that no sidewalk is planned from McMican Road to Main Street, and that there is no formal request to rename a street for Richard Cruce, only a geographic feature, which would require federal approval.

•Additionally, the mayor announced that 54 Hometown Heroes banners will be ready by Memorial Day, with 20 funded by Marion Tourism Commission.

# TAX

Continued from page 1

the county \$337,000 each year.

Medicare, EMS representatives noted, pays an average of just \$65 per ambulance run, contributing to the ongoing shortfall.

The occupational tax currently generates more than \$400,000 per year, but with fixed costs for ambulance and public employee insurance exceeding that amount, Newcom said the county often finds itself “in the hole.” That also leaves no funds available for other public entities like the senior center and park.

Court members have in recent weeks discussed at length the financial challenges facing the E-911 service, which needs an additional \$200,000 annually to stay afloat. The county’s current 911 fee is described as cum-

bersome and difficult to collect. Sheriff Evan Head said the county loses money serving summons on those who fail to pay.

Several magistrates noted a mix of public opinion. Magistrate Travis Perryman said he’s received calls from constituents who prefer a property tax increase instead of a payroll tax, which could be less burdensome for individuals. Magistrate Matt Grimes said others have expressed willingness to support both an occupational tax increase and a dedicated ambulance tax.

“We’ve gotten to a point where we have to make a change,” Magistrate Robert Kirby said, pointing out that, in retrospect, the best policy may have been to take smaller increases over the years.

“Now we’re in a posi-

tion that we have to make a huge jump,” he added.

Magistrates gave some indication that they might also be willing to revisit the idea of creating a new property tax specifically to support EMS. They had balked at that idea during a special meeting two weeks ago although several individuals – mostly ambulance staff – pushed for the tax. ComCare, which is under contract to provide the county’s ambulance service, says its fleet of vehicles is sorely outdated.

“We’ve been absorbing everything for 13 years,” Judge Newcom said. “At some point, we need a period of adjustment.”

Second reading of the ordinance, which would formalize its approval, is expected at the court’s special called meeting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 29.

# TIME

Continued from page 1

moments until they’re smooth and featureless in memory. Had I not written down the histories of my world, I might have forgotten some of those finer details where I’ve been.

The Press recently signed a contract with Newspapers.com. More information will be forthcoming about what that will mean for our readers. Basically, it will provide The Crittenden Press with perhaps a more eternal and certainly sacred digital resting place. With our new relationship with Newspapers.com came a free subscription to its service. I have spent some time – which was probably a bad idea because I might have spent it wiser elsewhere – looking through the voluminous archives Newspapers.com provides. Skipping back to those high school days looking for familiar names in my hometown newspaper and strolling through some of my own writings from when I got to do some really cool stuff with the Paducah Sun (like cover Major League Baseball’s spring training and UK basketball in the SEC Tournament).

Thumbing through those digital archives has been a sharp reminder of my time on this earth – how I have spent it and what I have encountered.

The old articles have remastered some memories faded by time.

So, how do we deal with time? Perhaps the answer is not to resist it, or try to trap it, but to walk with it. To engage it on a regular basis. Afterall, we can be part of the present, yet we can only pray and hope to be part of the future.

The past may be unreachable and the future unknowable, but the present – this fleeting, flickering moment – is still ours to claim. Time is of the essence not because of our poor power to master it... but because we have it. In the immortal words of Dr. Seuss, “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.”

Our task is to stop trying to outpace time and instead live alongside it – aware of its presence, humbled by its power and grateful for whatever stretch of it we’re given. In the end, my time will prove personally rewarding – and perhaps publicly pleasing – because I have gotten to share the bulk of it chronicling the life and times of others.

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.

# WKCTC stops in Smithland

STAFF REPORT


Education and community pride took center stage last week as West Kentucky Community and Technical College brought its “Your Community, Your College, Your Future” Education Express tour to Livingston County.

The April 17 stop at the Livingston County Board of Education marked the third in a regional series aimed at strengthening ties between WKCTC and the communities it serves. More than 20 students, parents and community leaders attended the event, which featured

discussions with college faculty and staff and recognized local leaders for their support of education.

Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams, Smithland Mayor William Hesser and Superintendent David Meinschein were honored with certificates of recognition for their continued commitment to advancing education in the region.

“I do appreciate Dr. Reece having everybody here and encouraging our community to continue their education,” Williams said. “They offer a tremendous amount of programs compared to when I graduated high school back when it was PCC.”



**FEBRUARY 2025**

# Activity Report

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

	2024	Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	3	7.6
Complaints	43	66.8
Papers Served	35	53.0
Unsuccessful Service Attempts	9	5.5
Total Service Attempts	78	104.1
Transports	1	4.3
Special Detail	121	58.7
Training Hours	16	41.1
Verbal Warning	7	24.4
Courtesy Notice	—	—
Criminal Citation	11	17.7
Officer Assist	9	5.7
Building Checks	43	50.6
Total Manhours	934.5	832
Bailiff Court Hours	114.25	86.7
Cases Opened	5	8.0
Felony Arrests	5	8.8
Followup Investigations	12	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	1	10
Motorist Assists	6	8.3
DUIs	0	2.5
Traffic Citations	1	14.1
General Policing	238	156
Call for Service	37	21

SHERIFF  
EVAN HEAD

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**OTHER SPECIALS ANNOUNCED DAY OF CELEBRATION**





PHOTO BY SHELIA TRUITT

# Former soldiers experience memorial trip

STAFF REPORT

A group of local veterans traveled to the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Frankfort last week as part of a Patriot Tours excursion organized by Marion resident and veteran Dennis Hodge. The one-day trip offered a powerful moment of reflection and fellowship for those who served during one of the most turbulent times in American military history.

Patriot Tours, co-founded by Hodge, a former Army Ranger, partnered with West Tennessee Motor Coach to transport about 60 veterans and guests to the state capital. The visit included stops at the Kentucky State Capitol, where Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear, greeted the group, and culminated at the Vietnam Memorial, a unique architectural landmark where a sundial casts shadows on the names of Kentucky soldiers on the anniversary of their death.

"This was something we've talked about for years," said Hodge, who also served as the driver for the tour. "We just wanted to do something for veterans. With the help of friends and businesses like Akridge Farm Supply, who fed the group breakfast at the Coon Dog Inn, and Lone Star Construction, who provided dinner at Mammy's Kitchen in Bardstown, we were able to make it happen."

Two Vietnam veterans, a two-star general and a ranger jumpmaster, led a reverent tour of the memorial, offering firsthand accounts that gave deeper meaning to the site's solemn symbolism.

**Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a sundial-shaped tribute honoring 1,103 fallen service members, including 23 missing in action. Designed by naval aviator and architect Helm Roberts, the stainless steel gnomon casts a shadow on each veteran's engraved name on the anniversary of their death, giving each a personal Memorial Day. The placement of names was calculated using precise solar and geographic data to ensure accuracy and avoid dividing any name across the granite plaza. Roberts, who died in 2011, called the memorial his legacy, a lasting blend of personal tribute, design, and mathematical precision.**

The impact of the visit was emotional for many.

Hodge recalled sitting next to one older veteran who was visibly moved as he quietly reflected on memories of fellow West Point cadets, including a friend who went missing in action shortly after deploying. "To see those guys go back 50-plus years in their minds, it was powerful," Hodge said.

Veteran Donnie Orr of Marion, who served more than four years in the Navy, said he joined the trip after seeing a flyer at the local VFW. He served in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam period and knew many who didn't come home.

"It was hard to pass up," he said of the trip. "I played football with Charlie Doom. He didn't

make it back."

Ronnie Riley, another Vietnam-era veteran who served aboard an aircraft carrier in the South China Sea, echoed the sentiment.

"I'm just appreciative of the fact they're willing to do it for us," he said. "It's about camaraderie."

Lynn Goodrich, commander of the Marion VFW post, was also among those who boarded the coach in Fredonia early last Thursday. He said the trip was meaningful and described it as cheerful yet reverant. Names on the wall signify heroes, he said, but many didn't feel that way when they returned from war decades ago.

"Many of their experiences were bad when they returned, some were actually spit upon," Goodrich said.

The Vietnam War spanned from 1955 to 1977, a period many Americans remember for its bitter social divide. Unlike veterans of previous wars, those returning from Vietnam were often met with hostility or indifference, the commander explained, a fact that makes trips like this all the more meaningful.

"These guys got ripped off on their return home," Hodge said. "They rectified that mistake by ensuring every generation after them didn't get lumped into politics. This trip, in some way, helps heal those wounds."

As the veterans returned to Marion, many said the journey was less about the destination and more about the company – old friends and new – and the shared memories that still resonate decades later.

**Roll Call**

Veterans, family and friends who made last week's pilgrimage to the Frankfort Memorial and State Capitol are pictured (front from left) Alissha Allen, Mona Lozen, Dave Morris, Larry Threlkeld, Larry Maness, Orville Truitt, Randy Manley, David Sizemore, Ron Ledford, (second row) Wayne Cash, Billy Baker, Mike Boyd, David Brown, Joni Truitt, Roger Simpson, Terry Boone, Jeremy Wheeler, (third row) Doug Jenkins, Bob Guess, Bob Campbell, Darryl Goodaker, Steve Haire, Ronnie Riley, Larry Rustin, Bobby Holloman, (fourth row) Michael Parshall, Adam Perkins, Michael Bujarski, Jeffrey Polanee, Bill Damron, Josh Orr, Tom Brasher, (back) Ron Harbour, Lynn Goodrich, Paul Crowell, Anthony Mesaris, Denis Hodge, Boyd Bates, Donnie Orr and Steve Crider. The trip was organized by Patriot Tours, operated by local veteran Denis Hodge. You can hear audio interviews from some of the veterans who took the tour on The Press's Monday podcast at The-Press.com.

## PRINCIPAL

Continued from page 1

transitioning to teach math at the middle school for three years. For the past five years, she has worked as curriculum coach at the middle school.

Frederick, a graduate of Murray State University, holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in school administration. She said her career in education is deeply rooted in her family's legacy. Her grandmother, Sylvia Thurman, and mother, Diana Lusby, were longtime educators in the district and played key roles in shaping her calling.

"I began to see the difference my mom and grandma made in students' lives," Frederick said. "I began to understand that being a teacher is not just a job, but a calling, and I'm so glad I answered."

Frederick said her experience as curriculum coach has given her valuable

insight into instructional leadership, data analysis and the development of school improvement plans. As principal, she hopes to build on the school's strong foundation.

"We already have an amazing staff," she said. "My goal is to continue to build on the great culture we have and be a place where staff and students feel included and supported."

Frederick said she is humbled by the opportunity to lead and recognizes the expectations that come with the role.

"I have some pretty big shoes to fill, from both the former administration at CCMS, as well as my family," she said. "I'm so blessed to have a big support system with years of knowledge and experience."

Frederick is married to her husband, Derek, and they have three children: Jacey, Brenna and Liam. She also serves as an assistant coach for the Crittenden County High School Lady Rockets softball team.

## BUTTON

Continued from page 1

number of times it's pressed and triggering protocols such as a lockdown if needed. One person described it as a "direct 911" message with a simple touch of a button. The system would directly notify law enforcement, which would know in real time the specific location within the school where the button was activated.

The system is independent of cellular and Wi-Fi networks and includes hallway strobes and outdoor signals coded for seven types of emergencies. It also features a six-hour battery backup.

"This would help everyone feel safer," Driver added. "Seconds can save a life in a medical emergency or other situations."

The system's external signaling system would alert bus drivers or others arriving on campus in case there is an emergency inside the building.

Tiffany Blazina, who works in district leadership, shared a powerful story about a 22-year-old teacher applicant who

toured the school recently. The applicant had survived the 2018 Marshall County High School shooting and was visibly shaken recalling it.

"Her voice trembled when she said she was standing beside the shooter," said Blazina. "This is very real."

Blazina said the applicant was impressed with the district's current security measures, including its Open Gate system at doors and school resource officers on each campus. This proposed new system, Blazina said, would further enhance safety.

Centegix is working alongside about a dozen school districts in Kentucky to install its system. Local school leaders recently toured Meade County School District to see firsthand its system installed by the company. Its simple interface allows for rapid response, including lockdowns that can be initiated remotely by an administrator. The system has already been used by a coach during a football conditioning incident in another district, a company representative said.

With the system, visi-

tors, including contractors and substitute teachers, could be tracked while on campus to help ensure that restricted areas remain off limits.

Crittenden's five-year commitment to the program will cost \$124,000, with an initial payment of \$34,800 and annual payments of \$22,300. The district is seeking donations to offset the cost, offering sponsorship levels of Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$3,000) and Silver (\$1,500), but is also recognizing smaller contributions. The district has already received a \$5,000 donation from Warren Paving and another \$1,500 commitment.

"We are earmarking funds in any way we can," said Driver. "We'd like to see this system operational in all school buildings by the first day of school in August 2025."

Driver said staff is currently applying for a grant to help offset costs beginning in the second year of the proposed contract.

To make a financial commitment to the plan, contact Driver at the school district headquarters at 270-965-3525.

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