

Deadline Thursday for acreage reports

U.S. Department of Agriculture reminds farmers of two important deadlines this month at the Salem Service Center.

- Aug. 14 is the final day to submit a 2025 acreage report without incurring late filing provisions.
- Aug. 15 is the deadline to enroll in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program’s Conservation Activity Plan (ECAP) signup.

For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service or Risk Management Agency at the local service center.

Back to School will need a little more time

The start of school in Crittenden County has been bumped to Tuesday, Sept. 2, due to delays in the delivery of fixtures and furniture for the new middle school addition. Because of the delay in getting the middle school ready for students, all schools will take another week of summer recess.

Superintendent Tonya Driver said that while the new facility itself is ready, the company responsible for furnishing classrooms is unable to deliver before the original start date of Aug. 26.

Despite the delayed start, no changes will be made to the 2025–26 academic calendar. The last day of school will remain May 28. All professional development and planning dates for staff will continue as scheduled, and Opening Day for faculty and staff will still take place Monday, Aug. 25. Back-to-School Bashes will remain on schedule as follows:

- Preschool open house, 4–6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 18.
- Kindergarten Carnival, 5–6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 18.
- CCES open house, 4–6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19.
- CCMS open house, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21.
- CCHS open house, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion City Council meets Monday, Aug. 18 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 18.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19 at the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden Fiscal Court meets at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 21 at the county office complex.
- Livingston Conservation District Meeting meets at 8 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 21 at Deer Lakes Golf Course.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden–Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Aug. 25 at the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Livingston County Fiscal Court meets at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 26 at the county office complex in Smithland.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court meets at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the courthouse.

Water crisis 2.0

City hopes to provide bottled water

STAFF REPORT

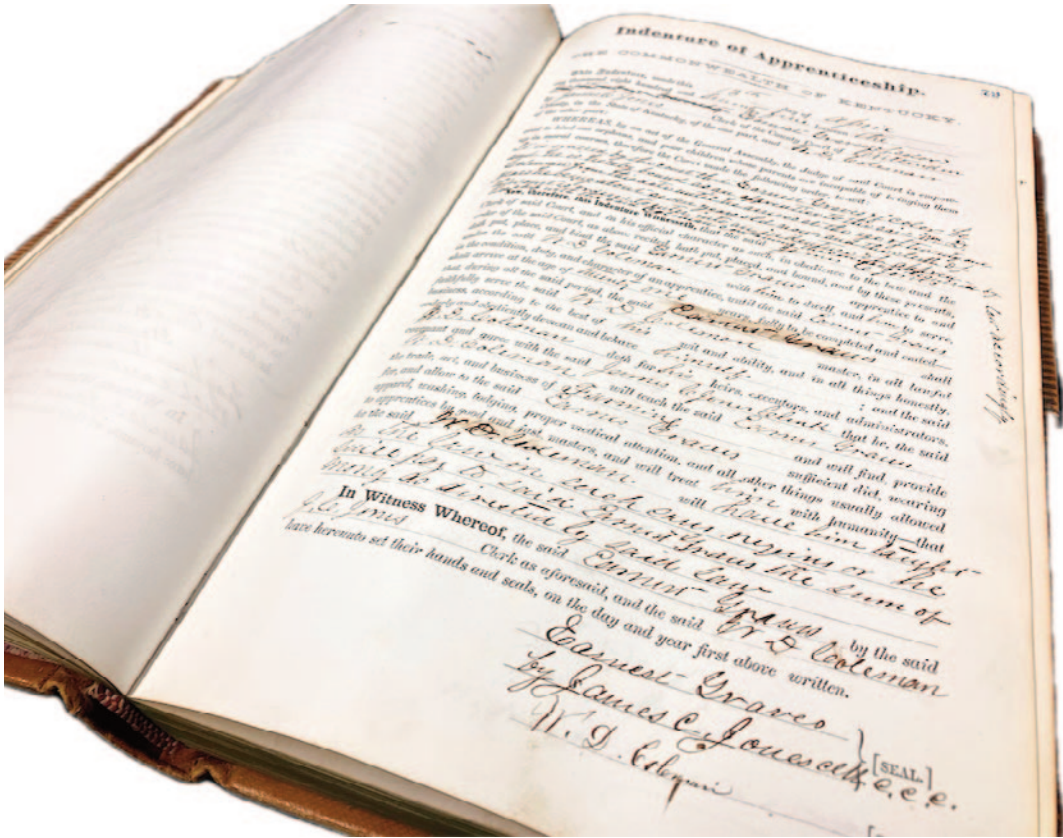
Mayor D’Anna Browning started sounding the alarm a few weeks ago when, despite a wet spring and summer, water levels at crippled Lake George remained stubbornly low. In hindsight, she knew Marion’s driest late summer and early fall months were ahead and feared the city could be headed for another difficult stretch, perhaps as tough as the earliest days of 2022 and 2023 when its water crisis first began after the lake’s levee started leaking.

By mid-July, Browning was already warn-

ing local and state leaders that if conditions didn’t improve, Marion would once again face challenges supplying drinking water to its roughly 3,000 residents. With little rain in recent weeks and a forecast that appears even drier, the mayor is hoping the city’s latest emergency declaration will help secure state assistance, even if only in the form of bottled water like Gov. Andy Beshear provided in the summer of 2022.

For the second time in just over two years,

See **WATER**/page 9



From Basement to Browser

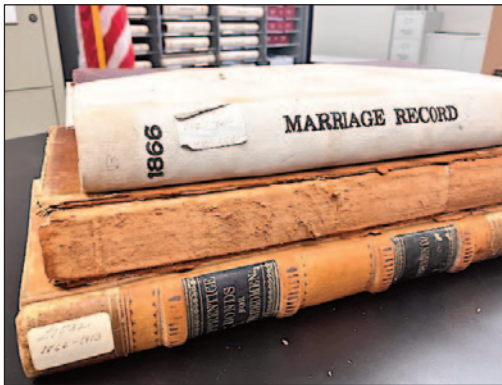
Forgotten Freedmen records preserved; grant breathes life into Civil War-era past

STAFF REPORT

Some of the most poignant stories of Kentucky’s post-slavery struggle, including indentured children, segregated marriages, and young men called to war, are told in fading ink on brittle pages formerly housed in the Crittenden County Courthouse basement. Now, thanks to a grant from the Kentucky Historical Society’s America250KY initiative, those stories will be preserved and made accessible to the public for generations to come.

Crittenden County Clerk’s Office was recently awarded \$6,790 through the America250KY program, a statewide initiative aimed at honoring America’s upcoming 250th birthday by preserving local narratives tied to the nation’s founding ideals. Clerk Daryl Tabor said the funds will be used to rebind, protect and digitize three historic record books that date back more than 160 years.

“What we hope to achieve through this undertaking is to shed light on a conflicted and difficult time in American history that is not readily associated with our local past,” said Tabor. “By preserving and digi-



tizing these records, many generations will have access to documents that help tell our full story in Crittenden County.”

The volumes selected for preservation are tied closely to the Civil War and Reconstruction era and highlight the experiences of Black Americans in the years after emancipation.

Among the bound recordbooks being preserved are Freedmen’s Marriage Record,

See **BOOKS**/page 10

County real property value up 4.9%

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County’s total taxable property value has grown again this year, led by a healthy increase in real estate assessments and gains in public service company holdings, according to new data released for 2025.

The county’s real estate value rose from \$422.2 million in 2024 to \$439.9 million in 2025, a jump of more than \$17.6 million, or roughly 4.2 percent. It marks another year of steady appreciation in property values across the county.

The assessed value of real property in Crittenden County has increased by

Crittenden's Assessed Property Values			
	2025	2024	%Change
Real Estate	\$439.9M	\$422.2M	+4.9%
Tangible Personal Property	\$19.8M	\$20.1M	–1.5%
Motor Vehicles	\$82.4M	\$80.5M	+2.3%
Watercraft	\$3.3M	\$3.2M	+5.3%

Based on Crittenden County Fiscal Court data

approximately 132.7% from 1998 to 2025. This represents a growth rate that is roughly 10 percentage points higher than the increase recorded as of last year.

Homes, farmland and undeveloped property continue

to see record-breaking sales prices in Crittenden County. Thirty years ago, acreage here could be purchased for around \$600 to \$700 an acre. Today, prices average above \$4,400 an acre.

Marked growth in value of

See **VALUE**/page 4

So, here we are

Life expectancy has risen dramatically throughout history, especially in recent decades, due to improvements in medicine, hygiene and overall living conditions. In the Early Bronze Age around 3000 BCE, the average human lifespan ranged between 28 and 38 years. This low figure was heavily influenced by high infant and child mortality. Those who survived childhood may have reached their 50s.

By 1800, the global average life expectancy remained under 40 years. Although public health measures and sanitation had improved by then, childhood mortality still significantly impacted the overall average. However, the 19th Century marked the beginning of a gradual upward trend in life expectancy. By the early 1900s, antibiotics had changed everything, and lifespan exploded.

Today, life expectancy is estimated globally at 73.49 years, with developed countries like the United States nearing 79.4 years.

So here we are, living longer than ever... seventy, eighty, ninety, maybe even long enough to see the Cardinals win another World Series. And the miracle of it is, we’re doing it while marinating in a daily cocktail of pollutants, eating processed food and ingesting enough microplastics to support grandma’s Tupperware Party.

By now, you’d think we’d either be pickled from the inside out by all the toxic humidity or baked extra crispy by global warming. Although the air smells like burnt toast in half the cities across the country and rivers and streams are nastier than a cesspool, we’re healthier than ever. Half the food on the shelf has an ingredient list that reads like a college chemistry final, yet we’re encouraged to eat natural. Buy the expensive stuff, they say, like chickens raised at Little House on the Prairie.

Although we have only a trace amount of real food in what we’re eating, we’re still here. Thriving, even.

Grandpa used to drop dead by 60, granted some of those deaths were likely metastasized by hard work and even harder whiskey. Now gramps is still driving at 92, watching reruns and reminding everyone how he walked 10 miles to school, uphill both ways without getting cancer or diagnosed as gluten intolerant.

It’s baffling. We’re surviving on drive-thru dinners and bottled water that’s been filtered through a thousand corporate lies. We lather on SPF 100 to block the sun, eat lab-grown meat with a seltzer and call it a balanced diet. Is it the science, the medicine? Maybe it’s the smartphones. Who knows?

Perhaps we’ve just evolved into creatures with cockroach-toughness. But for all our hand-wringing about the apocalypse we’re sniffing and sipping, somehow we’re outliving our great-grandparents who ate nothing but garden vegetables with barnyard fowl or squirrels and drank from largely unpolluted freshwater wells or creeks. The human body is either more resilient than we thought, or it’s too stubborn to die before finishing the Netflix queue.

Either way, proof exists of one thing: We’re living longer in spite of ourselves.



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

Deaths

Phelps

Walter “Roger” Phelps, 80, of Crittenden County, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, at his home.

Phelps was born Jan. 11, 1945, in Union County to the late Walter Richard and Atlanta Fox Phelps. For 39 years, he was a staple in the meat department at Food Giant. After his retirement, he stepped into a new role, driving for and delivering ice for his Amish neighbors, a role that earned him the nickname, “The Ice Man.” Phelps enjoyed and was a skilled woodworker, making family and friends beautiful and useful pieces that they will forever hold onto. He loved his family dearly and cherished each moment with them. He attended Emmaus Baptist Church.



Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Charlotte Garrett Phelps; two daughters, Lisa (Allen) Mayes and Jessica Cornwell; a son, Rodney (Robin) Phelps; seven grandchildren, Stephanie (Josh) Stone, Travis (Kim) Mayes, Melissa (Jason) Waid, Korey (Ericka) Mayes, Teri (Craig) Hamilton, Lindsay Phelps and Morgan Phelps; 12 great-grandchildren, Addison, Aleric, Sophie, Deacon, Kai, Daxton, Mia, Toby, Emily, Abby, Lily and Penelope.

Services were Monday, Aug. 11 at Gilbert Funeral Home with Bro. Gary Murray officiating. Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Paid obituary

Grimes

Kristie Rene Grimes, 51, of Carrier Mills, Ill., died Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025 at her home.

She was a loving mother and grandmother and cared for her beloved pets, Pepper, Casey and Rufan.

Surviving are two sons, Dirk Hopkins and Tyler Woodall; a sister, Leslie (Scotty) Nichols; a brother, John Hamilton; her father, Franklin Hamilton; four grandchildren, Amaya Woodall, Braeden Copeland, Evonly and Genesis Calderon; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Karen Darlene Darnell; and two grandmothers.

Graveside services were Sunday, Aug. 10 at Love Cemetery under the direction of Myers Funeral Home.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Aug. 14

- The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building located at 412 North College St. Refreshments will be served.
- New Era Meet & Greet will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. William Catholic Church.
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Tuesday, Aug. 19

- The Crittenden County Extension District Board meeting will be at noon at the Crittenden County Extension Office.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

- Time Well Spent will be at noon at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.
- Crittenden County 4-H Day at the Kentucky State Fair.

Thursday, Aug. 21

- Hurricane Camp Board meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the dining hall. This meeting

Pinson

Cassidy Ann Pinson, 34, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 4, 2025. She was a loving mother, daughter and compassionate nurse.

Surviving are her children, Colton and Carter Holloman; her parents, Patty and Keith Driver and Terry and Trish Pinson; brothers Cody (Kara) Pinson and Kris (Erin) Driver; sisters Ashley Lecompte and Amber (Brandon) Bennett; ; Jim and Betty Little; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by Doug Rorer, June Norman and Stuart and Opal Pinson.



Paid obituary

Ditty

Minnie Wanda Ditty, fondly known as Wanda, gracefully departed this world to be with the Lord on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, at the age of 93. Born on January 14, 1932, in the Casad community of Crittenden County, she was the cherished daughter of the late Lourenzia Alfred (Al) Easley and Minnie L. Easley.



Her early years were spent in Kentucky, but she was led to Chicago, where she embarked on a career with the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1952, she relocated to Springfield, Ohio, to raise her family, a place she would call home for the rest of her life.

A devoted member of The Church of God in Anderson, Ind., Ditty's faith was the cornerstone of her life. Her passion for service was evident in her commitment to both global and local missions, often traveling with her beloved husband, Larry, on mission trips well into her 70s. Her dedication to helping others and spreading love was truly inspiring.

Ditty leaves behind a loving family, including her devoted husband of 37 years, Lawrence “Larry” Ditty; three children from her first marriage to James W. Kueker of Chicago, Ill., James B. Kueker, Harriet A. (Mark) Snow and David R. (Tara) Kueker; four stepchildren, David (Shannon) Ditty, Diana (Steven Pavick) Ditty, Linda (Matt) Beck and Darla (Mek) Logan; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Her

warmth and kindness also touched the lives of numerous friends and extended family members.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by nine brothers and seven sisters, who she now joins in eternal rest.

Visitation is 2-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 16 at Gilbert Funeral Home. Services will follow at 3 p.m., with Bro. Tom Easley officiating. Burial will be in Mapleview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gideons International.

Wanda's legacy of love, faith, and service will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Paid obituary

Penn

Timmy Glenn Penn, 67, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 4, 2025 at his home.



He was born July 25, 1958 in Crittenden County to the late Glenn and Pauline Hackney Penn. He previously worked for the Marion Country Club as a

groundskeeper and spent more than 20 years employed at Kentucky Stone and Rock Company. In his free time, Penn enjoyed dancing and playing pool. He was always there to lend a hand to someone in need and could often be seen mowing someone's yard for no charge. He attended Main Street Missionary Baptist Church in Marion.

Surviving are a son, Mason Penn of Paducah; a daughter, Timberlee Penn of Paducah; a grandson, Spencer Penn of Paducah; two sisters, Kathey Belt of Carrsville and Joyce Harwell of Picayune, Miss.; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Richard Penn and Tony Penn.

Services were Friday, Aug. 8 at Gilbert Funeral Home with Bro. Don Beverly officiating. Burial was in Deer Creek Cemetery.

Wright

Janice V. Wright, 90, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, at Lake Barkley Health and Re-

habilitation in Kuttawa. She was born June 24, 1935 in Marion to the late Vernie C. and Hazel Duffy Orr. She was a member of Marion Second Baptist Church.

Surviving are two brothers, Ronald “Tink” Orr and Gerald “Butch” Orr, both of Marion; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Wright; and a sister-in-law, Donna C. Orr.

Visitation is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, Aug.15 at Gilbert Funeral Home. Services will follow at 1 p.m., at the funeral home with Bro. Chris Lowery officiating. Burial will follow in Mapleview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mapleview Cemetery, c/o Marion Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 514, Marion, KY 42064.

Johnson

Donna Jo Johnson, 72, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 11, 2025 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She was a member of Mexico Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband, Bennie Johnson of Marion; two sons, Scotty (Dee) Johnson of Salem and Troy (Jennifer) Johnson of Greenville; five grandchildren, Chelleanne, Taylor, Hailey, Avery and Miley; five great-grandchildren, Paisley, Kayson, Ivy, Sage and Kaleb; a sister, Patricia Waddell; and a niece, Sandy Waddell.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy Joe and Norma Louise May.

Services are at 10 a.m., Thursday Aug. 14 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Mexico Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 13 at the funeral home.

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Crittenden County Fiscal Court • The Sohn Family • The Fohs Foundation

CITY OF MARION
NOTICE OF TAX-RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion City Council will hold a public hearing on the 27th day of August 2025, during the time of the City Council special meeting which begins at 5:00 p.m. at the city building, 217 South Main Street, Marion, KY. The purpose of this hearing is to receive taxpayer input on the proposed real estate ad valorem tax rate for 2025. This notice is required by KRS 132.027 as passed by the Kentucky General Assembly.

The tax rate for the preceding year (2024) was \$.2290 per \$100 of valuation, which produced revenue of \$234,369.00. The City proposes to increase the tax rate for 2025 to \$.2290/\$100, for which the revenue (without new property) is expected to be \$249,234.00. This year's compensating tax rate \$.2240/\$100, for which the revenue (without new property) is expected to be \$243,792.00. Revenue from new property and personal property is expected to be \$37,984.00.

The City of Marion proposes a tax rate which will exceed the compensating tax rate, but the proposed rate is the same as the preceding year. Additionally, the proposed rate is expected to produce revenue from real property, exclusive of revenue from new property, of less than four percent (2.23%) over the amount of revenue which would be produced by the compensating tax rate.

The revenue in excess of the revenue produced in the preceding year is proposed to be allocated to the General Fund to be administered according to the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

/ss/ Cortny Cosby
Cortny Cosby, City Clerk

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MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of July 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month's totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year's monthly average.

CATEGORY	JULY 2025	June 2025	July 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	1,829	2,383	1,788	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	13	13	16	150	12.5
Domestics	6	16	8	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	3	7	3	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	7	18	4	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	3	16	7	112	9.3
DUI arrests	1	1	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	0	2	2	51	4.3
Traffic citations	45	20	26	212	17.7
Other citations	13	45	16	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	4	4	1	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	1	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	8	9	9	69	5.8
Security checks/alerts	61	66	52	720	60.0
Calls for service	229	215	240	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY

Marion Police Department logging more patrol miles so far in 2025

Marion Police Department logged significant increases in patrol miles and traffic citations during the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, monthly reports provided by Police Chief Bobby West.

Officers drove 10,305 miles from January through June, a 13% increase over the 9,095 miles logged during the first six months of 2024. Traffic citations rose sharply, up 57% from 79 to 124, while misdemeanor arrests jumped from 46 to 62.

Security checks and alarm responses

also increased notably, from 336 to 400. Calls for service remained steady, ticking up from 1,244 to 1,264.

Other areas saw declines. Criminal investigations dropped from 84 to 74, and criminal summons fell by nearly half, from 34 to 18. Non-criminal arrests decreased from 75 to 58.

DUI arrests rose from 1 to 5 in the year-to-date comparison through June, while felony arrests remained flat. Traffic warnings declined from 55 to 40, and reported traffic accidents stayed virtually the same – 35 in 2024 and 36 in 2025.

Big Fest

Fredonia celebrated big last weekend with its 60th annual Fredonia Festival, complete with a parade, petting zoo, giveaways, ball games and countless activities for the entire family. Pictured here is young Charlie Tabor enjoying a chance to make friends with a couple of burrows.



PHOTO BY JAYCEE CHAMPION

Incredible horse-breaking show is coming to Fredonia's Riding Club

Spring, summer, fall, winter... What season is it? You don't have to be a genius to know it's summertime. I wrote last month about the expected July heat, which is usually "hotter than a firecracker." As it turns out, my forecast was right on target.

Once again this year, the annual Hurricane Camp and Campmeeting was held in June. But think back, do you remember the "traditional" date for Hurricane Campmeeting was in August? (I think it moved from August to June around 2000.) Can you think of a reason for campmeeting being in August? Maybe because it was too hot to work.

When our agrarian culture was in full swing – before Food Giant, Kroger or Walmart – people grew what they ate. One reason for the August date may have been the "rhythm of life." In rural areas, there's a natural break during the intense heat of August. By then, the crops have been laid by, hay is in the barn, and garden goodies have been canned to feed the family through winter and spring. Campmeeting was a welcome respite from hot work on the farm, a time of joy and celebration as well as religious fervor.

There are other "seasons," too: hunting, fishing, vacation, shopping, Christmas, sports. Mention "football season," and many think of sitting on cold bleachers bunn-

dled up like an Eskimo. But football players and coaches aren't thinking about cold weather during August football camp.

Do you ever experience a busy season? One of mine in equestrian ministry is when Paul Daily makes his annual trip through Kentucky during his Kentucky-Illinois-Indiana circuit. This year it was last week. Through our Happy Trails Ministry, I often co-sponsor these Paul Daily Horse Whisperer events. For example, we co-hosted one with Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church on July 31 at the MSU Expo in Murray. The next evening, Aug. 1, we co-hosted with New Salem Baptist Church at Gordon Park, about 10 miles south of Nortonville.

Some of you may remember seeing Paul Daily at the Marion fairgrounds in 2012 and 2014. He sets up his 40-foot round pen in the center of an arena to work with a horse. Each host provides him with an unbroken two- or three-year-old horse that is halter broke but never ridden. (It's amazing how many times I've been asked, "Does he use the same horse at every event?") Using principles of faith and trust, Paul works with the



Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

young horse for about an hour, step by step, based on mutual respect and understanding, to prepare it to carry a saddle and rider for the first time.

Make no mistake, this is not a "show." It's an amazing demonstration between a horse with little human interaction and a master horseman. Paul understands the nature of these four-legged creatures God created. He uses that nature to break down barriers, allowing him to communicate effectively. At each step, Paul draws a spiritual parallel. When the preparation ends, the horse is saddled and ridden. You never know what will happen when the rider climbs aboard. Last week, a two-year-old stallion in Murray was ridden without drama, while a gentle-seeming two-year-old mare at Gordon Park got "excited" as a train went by just as the ride began.

Good news: The Fredonia Valley Riding Club will host Paul Daily on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 5 p.m., as he heads back toward Louisiana. The riding club is at 201 Dalton Road, just off KY 91 in the Crider area between Fredonia and Princeton. What does Paul want from these young horses? Trust, obedience and surrender. What does God want from you? Trust, obedience and surrender. A wonderful object lesson for any season.



Pictured are some of the Crittenden County Public Library Summer Reading Program award winners (from left) Brooklyn Gideon, who placed first in Comic Script Design for younger kids and third in Super T-Shirt Capes, being recognized by Children and Youth Librarian Tabby Tinsley; and Paisley Witherspoon, who was first in Super T-Shirt Capes.

Board of Ed considers '25 tax rate

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Board of Education is weighing its options for setting 2025 property tax rates to help fund its Fiscal Year 2026.

The school board can consider several scenarios, including taking the state-calculated compensating rate, keeping the current rate or opting for the full 4 percent revenue increase.

The compensating rate, designed to generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year, adjusted for growth, would be 49.50 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value and 51.20 cents for personal property. That option would bring in about \$2.66 million in revenue for the district.

By comparison, keeping the current tax rate of 51.40 cents on real estate and 51.90 cents on personal property ad-

justed slightly for exonerations would raise approximately \$2.76 million, or \$212,409 more than the district collected last year. The district brought in \$2.54 million in its FY25, which is supported by 2024 property taxes.

The board was expected to outline its plans at Tuesday night's meeting which was held after the newspaper's print deadline. Based on previous discussions, it appeared that the board of education was leaning toward keeping the current rate, plus exonerations.

When a taxing district adopts the "current rate plus exonerations," it begins with last year's property tax rate, then makes a slight upward adjustment to offset revenue lost from exonerations (tax bills that were removed after being is-

sued due to property damage, assessment errors, exemptions or similar reasons). The effective rate with exonerations will be fractionally higher than last year's rate.

All options under consideration are within the district's statutory limits and some would not require a public hearing or face potential recall under state law.

Property valuation data supplied by the district shows substantial growth in the local tax base. Real estate assessments increased from \$432.8 million in 2024 to nearly \$453.8 million in 2025, a \$16.98 million gain from revaluation alone, not including new construction. Personal property values also rose, with assessments increasing by nearly \$1.9 million over the past year.

Brightening up Marion's night

I've been out in the evenings lately, and I can't help but notice how different our streets look under the new LED lights. The upgrade is nearly complete, and I think it's safe to say they look great. More importantly, nothing looks better than safety and cost savings.

When Marion City Council began discussing this change earlier this year, it was a little tricky to explain how it would work. We do have a five-year conversion fee built into our monthly payment to Kentucky Utilities, but the energy efficiency of the LEDs immediately lowered our bill. Right now, we're saving about \$400 per month. Once the conversion is paid off, we'll see monthly savings of around \$1,600 – over \$19,000 per year. That's a big deal for our city budget, and we've traded that old orange glow for brighter, clearer light.

Another project that has been gaining momentum is our Home-town Hero banner program. These banners, which honor local veterans and service members, are now a regular feature during military holidays. We can add new ones at any time, but to have them in place for Veterans Day, applications need to be in by Oct. 1. The large 18x45 banners cost \$72, and families can get forms from City Hall or the tourism office. All that's needed is a photo and information about your service member.

I'm also aware that our streets and drainage systems have been on every-



D'Anna BROWNING
From the
MAYOR'S DESK
Marion, Kentucky

one's mind. Like many communities across Kentucky, Marion has dealt with heavy rains that have washed out culverts and caused flooding in several areas. We're actively pursuing FEMA funding and other grants to address long-standing problem spots, including areas near the park and the old health department building. These issues aren't unique to us, but they do require persistence to fix.

On the paving front, our list is ready, and I hope to see work begin in the coming weeks. State funding only stretches so far, but we're committed to making progress where we can. Potholes will always be a reality, but we'll continue addressing them as they come up.

Marion is moving forward one light, one banner, and one street at a time – and I'm grateful to see the progress we're making together.

★AUCTION★AUCTION★

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LOOK FOR AD AND PICTURES ON AUCTIONZIP.COM AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!!
Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.

Mosquito fogger joins county crews

Crittenden and Livingston counties now have access to a shared mosquito fogging machine provided free of charge by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The program includes not only the equipment, but also chemicals, maintenance and parts, all at no cost to the counties.

Local operators should be certified soon and will be able to begin spraying sometime this month. The fogger unit, which mounts in the back of a pickup truck, will allow crews to better target mosquito-prone areas based on community needs and specific requests, Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said.

Spraying routes will likely focus on low-lying trouble spots around the four river basins in the two counties – the Tradewater, Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio – and their tributaries. Areas such as parks will also be targets for fogging.

Governor sets up scam-specific site

Gov. Andy Beshear last week announced the launch of a new website and education campaign aimed at protecting Kentuckians from online and financial scams, which cost state residents more than \$74 million annually, according to a 2024 FBI report.

The new website StopScams.ky.gov offers tools for spotting scams, reporting fraud and recovering losses. It also allows users to sign up for scam alerts via email or text message. The initiative is a collaboration among state agencies and private partners, forming a central hub of trusted scam-related information.

“Scams are mean and cruel, and they cost Kentuckians their hard-earned savings,” Beshear said. Public Protection Cabinet Secretary Ray A. Perry, who is leading the initiative, emphasized the rising threat of scams, especially with artificial intelligence. The administration is urging Kentuckians to “Pause, Check and Protect” when contacted by unfamiliar sources.

Extension quilting

Liz’s Barn Quilts and the Crittenden County Extension Office will host a Barn Quilt Paint Party from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Crittenden County Lions Club. Participants can choose from eight designs and three sizes of outdoor signs, with prices ranging from \$130 for a 2’x2’ to \$270 for a 4’x4’. Fees include all supplies, primed boards, and lunch. Designs must be selected and paid for in full by Aug. 29. Space is limited, and registration is required by calling 270-965-5236.

Clerk explains how auto buyers can protect themselves

Using a piece of technology at virtually everyone’s fingertips can go a long way when buying or selling a vehicle to an individual.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor cautions people over buying vehicles from an unknown individual, especially if meeting at a neutral location like a store parking lot. Sometimes a good deal is hard to ignore, but it can lead to being defrauded, costing time and money. Vehicle title fraud is on the rise in Kentucky.

If you do purchase a car this way, insist on using your phone to take a photo of the seller’s driver’s license. If they refuse, that should serve as a warning. Also, be sure your seller’s name is notarized on the back of the title.

If you are selling a car to anyone and not going to the county clerk together with the buyer to sign over the title, have the buyer print their name on the back of the title and date it. Take a photo of the en-



tire page so that may be used to help get the title and taxes out of your name should the buyer drag their feet on titling and registering. You may also want to take a photo of the buyer’s license.

The buyer’s signature will need to be notarized.

Sheriff charges former deputy

A Marion man has been charged with impersonating a peace officer after Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head says he conducted an illegal traffic stop on the south side of town near Liberty Fuels.

Sheriff Head said his office received two complaints on Aug. 5 about a man operating a black Dodge Charger and wearing clothing that resembled law enforcement attire.

Court records identify the suspect as Roderick “Rick” Mills, 62, of Marion. He was served a criminal summons on a Class D felony charge of impersonating a peace officer. Mills is an active code enforcement officer in another county, formerly served as Marion’s code enforcement officer and was Crittenden County deputy sheriff under a previous administration.

Sheriff Head, in a social media post on Monday, confirmed that no employee of his office drives or owns a black Dodge Charger, and no one has been authorized to act on his behalf. He has urged anyone stopped by someone matching the description to call the sheriff’s office at 270-965-3400.

According to the incident report, the alleged stop was captured on security video at Liberty Fuels and shows the black Charger attempting to stop a vehicle pulling away from the parking lot. Additionally, the citation says that a female witness “stated (the suspect) was honking the horn and flashing lights on his vehicle.”

According to the citation, the driver, later identified as Mills, is seen exiting the Charger then approaching the driver’s side of the other vehicle.

Head’s narrative on the citation also alleges that Mills admitted to accidentally activating the vehicle’s blue lights while trying to contact the occupants of the other vehicle about a possible trespassing suspect.

The sheriff believes the same alleged victims were stopped again a short time later near Mott City Road and A.H. Clements Road. Court records say that when Head and another deputy later located Mills, he was still wearing the badged polo shirt and had a handgun on his side. The sheriff’s incident report says the victims told investigators Mills gave the appearance of being a law enforcement officer or deputy jailer.

The citation provides only local law enforcement’s side of

the story, and Mills is scheduled to appear in Crittenden District Court later this month.

State cleaning up KY voting rolls

Ahead of next year’s midterm elections, Kentucky continues to clean up its voter roll.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the State Board of Elections removed 284,381 inactive voters who were deceased or determined to have relocated out of state. After the removals and accounting for new registrations, there were 3,336,118 voters as of July 16 this year.

To demonstrate the efficiency of keeping the voter roll current, Kentucky’s number of eligible voters remains below the U.S. Census Bureau’s latest estimate of voting-age population. That number is 3,560,578, suggesting that about 94 percent of the state’s eligible voters are registered.

Conversely, in Feb. 1, 2023, there were 3,592,835 voters in the Bluegrass State, or about 90,000 more than the estimated number of people 18 and up at the time.

As of Friday, there were 6,346 registered Crittenden County voters, or about 91 percent of the most recent estimate of eligible population.

There are currently 3,926 Republicans and 1,807 Democrats in the county, or 61.9 percent to 28.5 percent. The remaining 9.6 percent of local voters are Independent, Other or registered with a third party.

Dec. 31 is the deadline to change your party registration for next year’s primary, which includes races for countywide offices, Congress and the statehouse.

Statewide, Secretary of State Michael Adams has announced that Kentuckians registering under “other” political affiliations have led new voter registration for the fifth month in a row. Republican registration accounts for 47 percent of the electorate, with 1,584,157 voters. Republican registration rose by 630, a .04 percent increase. Democratic registration constitutes 42 percent of the electorate, with 1,388,758 voters. Democratic registration fell by 1,524, a .11 percent decrease. There are 364,539 voters registered under other political affiliations, making up 11 percent of the electorate. “Other” registration grew by 1,792, a .49 percent increase.

Nominations sought for Leadership event

Leadership Kentucky is accepting nominations for its New Executives to Kentucky program, set for Sept. 24.

The free, one-day event offers senior-level executives who have moved to Kentucky within the past two years an introduction to the state’s history, economy and top leaders. Participants, along with their spouses, will tour signature bourbon and horse industries and take part in discussions on the state’s economic outlook and public policy.

Nominations can be submitted online at leadershipky.org.

VALUE

Continued from page 1
property began here in around 1997 largely because of an influx of property investors pushed out by sprawl in metropolitan areas of the South, and the trend continues as retiring Baby Boomers from the North begin returning to their ancestral roots or looking for cheaper places live.

Furthermore, sportsmen have driven the price of raw land, and recreational interests in Crittenden County real estate continues to be very strong. Among the attractive points for real estate ownership here are relatively low taxes and an affordable cost of living.

Crittenden County’s property tax rate was above 12 cents per \$100 of assessed value in the 1990s. Over the past couple of years it has been about six percent lower thanks largely to rising values. Meanwhile, local government is taking in more tax dollars because of the increased value of property.

Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be discussing the 2025 tax rate during its Aug. 21 meeting. Property tax bills are mailed in the early fall and due by the end of the year.

Other taxable property categories have changed over the past year. Valued at \$19.8 million in 2025, tangible personal property dropped slightly from \$20.1 million in 2024, a decrease of 1.5 percent. This category includes business equipment and machinery.

Motor vehicle assessments totaled \$82.4 million, up from \$80.5 million in 2024, a 2.3 percent increase. This includes both private and public service vehicles.

Valued at \$3.3 million, watercraft assessments rose 5.3 percent from \$3.2 million the previous year. This category includes boats taxed locally under Kentucky law.

Aircraft was assessed at \$1 million for 2025, which includes recreational and non-commercial aircraft. It is not locally taxed.



Members of the Crittenden County Republican Women’s Club welcomed Huda Jones to Marion during her campaign for Kentucky Secretary of State. The visit took place on a Saturday afternoon in front of the courthouse. Pictured from left are: Huda Jones, Corine Wilson of Campbellsville, Edith Clement, Thelma McCree, Gustine Sullenger, J.E. Keeling, Lois Sullenger, Susie Hardin and Anna Gilbert.

10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 2015

■ The third annual Jake Hodge Foundation Wiffle Ball Tournament in Princeton raised \$23,000 for scholarships distributed to graduates from Crittenden, Caldwell, Lyon and Livingston counties.

■ 4-H Sweepstakes winners from the Crittenden County Lions Club fair were Tessa Potter, Shelby Robinson and Jessi Brewer.

■ Crittenden County High School golf team members included Tate Roberts, Sammy Greenwell, Lauren Gilchrist, Braxton Winders, Landon Crider, Will Tolley, Reid Baker, Skylar James, Logan Belt and John Duvall.

■ The team of Ben Simpson, Jeremy Shoulders, Jason Bauer and Kyle Myers won the four-person scramble at Marion Country Club with a 57-54-111.

■ Volleyball team members at Crittenden County High School were Harley Wesley, Hannah Bell, Chloe Maxfield, Ellie Smith, Jaycie Driver, Southern Pate, Amanda Estes, Jada Hayes, Lilly Gardner, Ellie McGowan, Alexa Kidd, Kaitlyn Hicks, Paige Gilbert, Madison Champion, Kenlee Perryman, Brandy Book, Kyron Hicks, Sage Winternheimer, Megan Sherrill, Taylor Belt, Kristen Perryman, Catherine Hutchison, Kaitlyn Myers, Alyssa West and Emily Hall.

25 YEARS AGO

August 17, 2000

■ Petitions were being circulated in an effort to garner the required 255 signatures needed to put the issue of alcoholic beverage sales on the Nov. 7 ballot in Crittenden County.

■ Crittenden County Extension Homemakers participating in a summer outing were Jerrell James, Sarah Ford, Patty Gilbert, Cindy Davidson, Judy Owen, Elizabeth Stevens, Francis Turley, Louise Watson, Helen Lewis, Barbara Vaughn, Ruth Robertson, Barbara Myers, Mona McDaniel and Gladys Belt.

■ Members of the Crittenden County High School golf team were Tyler Summers, John Tyner, Jessica Quisenberry, Morgan Doods, Krista Mankle, Jay Thompson, Matt Stone, Ryan Dunn, Andy Hunt, Jeremy Smith, Joseph Fowler, Jason Guess, Chris West and Derrick Doods.

■ Rocket football coach Al Starnes was looking toward four stats leaders to lead his tenth season, including Keith Wilcox and David Hunt, returning rushing leaders; quarterback Matt Mattingly; and defensive leaders Lucas Mick and Hunt.

■ Seniors on the Lady Rockets soccer team’s inaugural season were Dennise Porter, Tabby Padgett, Adrienne Howard, Lee Ann Miniard, Johnna Asbridge, Dusty Witherpoon, Jackie Cook and Nicole Langden.

50 YEARS AGO

August 14, 1975

■ The recently completed \$1 million Crittenden County High School was opening its doors for a public viewing, including tours and a reception with faculty. Classes were scheduled to begin Aug. 25.

■ New teachers hired in the Crittenden County Schools were Bruce Moore, assistant principal at Crittenden County High School, who replaced L.B. Gaston; and teachers Cathy Campbell at Marion Elementary; Francine Bird, Mattoon Elementary; Sharon Dossett, high school secretary; Sharon Yates, Fohs hall secretary; Brenda Butler, Norma McCord and Amy Bell, library aide. Substitute teachers were Muriel Jacobs, Aline Stalion, Maurine Hughes, Betty May, Linda Munson, Mary Conyer, Clara Lee Whitt, Geneva Dycus, Susan Yarbrough, Carleen Croft, Velva Dameron, Katherine Swansea, Barbara Cherry and Rose Hill.

■ Winner of Miss Crittenden County Fair was Michelle Ramage. First runner-up was Debbie Fritts; and second runner-up Robin Hamilton.

■ Post-season awards presented by the Marion Swim Team were: First place winners Troy Fox, Bear Greenwell, Rhonda Kirk, Robbie Kirk; second place Kevin Brewer, Lisa Brewer, Sara Belt, Greg McCord, Donetta Oliver, Kristi Hughes; third place David Cruce, David Crider, Mike Wheeler, Wolf Greenwell; fourth place David Grimes, Kanley Gilland, Anthony Bowerman, Bobby Rushing, Mike Allison, RaDonna Chandler, Johnny Chandler, David Harshman, Melissa Jones, Janet Crider, Hank Mills, Billy Mills, Sara Frazer, Zac Greenwell, Jonie Binkley, Julie Davidson, Jamie Branson, Robbie Beavers, Kim Boyd, Susan Ramsey, Robin Hamilton, Jeff Hughes and Julie Pyse.

Full circle: God’s story of hope

One of the great classical ways to tell a story is to begin with an idyllic scene. The fairy tale version begins, “Once upon a time.” The current movie versions begin with a family scene that is crashed upon by an event that destroys the peacefulness; or it may begin with turmoil and look back to when times were better. By the end of the story, we have returned to stability and peace, and problems have been overcome and resolved. There are exceptions; horror movies or those that are prepping us for a sequel with a cliffhanger. The ones, however, that we like most, the ones that allow us to walk away feeling good, end with some version of, “They lived happily ever after.” Hence the popularity of holiday movies and the Hallmark channel.

The greatest story ever told, the Bible, follows this pattern. As T. S. Elliot wrote in The Cultivation of Christmas Trees, “The beginning shall remind us of the end.” The Bible begins in a garden. There is peace with God and with nature.



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

There is faith. It is where everything is “very good.” That beginning is quickly interrupted by failure. The rest of the book is a catalogue of human failure and God’s guidance on how to overcome that failure.

When the people of Jerusalem and Judea were at their lowest point, the prophet Isaiah delivered the “book of consolation” (Isaiah 40-55). The theme of the God of Creation pulses through these oracles.

They were to take comfort that their end would not look like their present because God, who spoke everything into being, was speaking consolation, restoration, and salvation to them.

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?” (40:21)

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.” (40:28)

“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and

there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done.” (46:9-10)

When the “word became flesh” in the Gospel of John we are taken all the way back to the beginning as we anticipate the end. “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1, 14)

The last scene in the Bible, in Revelation, takes us once again into the presence of the tree of life (from which Adam and Eve were banned) and we read, “... the tree of life with its 12 kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be anything accursed...[and we shall see God face to face]. (Rev. 22:2-5). Indeed, the end reminds us of the end.

It is vitally important for us to know where we have come from. It is what we believe about our origin that directly leads us to our understanding of where

we are going. There is no religion (or lack thereof) or culture that does not in some fashion see us ending up in the same place from whence we came.

Here is where belief that we were created by a good God and placed in a good world is comforting to us. How that creation happened is, for me, less important than the fact that it happened.

Human beings are born in all sorts of circumstances. It can be massively difficult for us to overcome weaknesses in our families of origin. Being honest about that and helping each other along the way makes sense if we are going to move toward a better world. This is why communities of faith are so important. They can help us to look back all the way to the beginning to see that good is possible. They can help us see the end in the beginning. Knowing where we started will help us know where we are going.

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.

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



We should join God in his work

Question: My pastor has asked me to serve as a bi-monthly leader in the children’s worship service rotation. My children are grown, and I think I am past the age of working with children. Shouldn’t the pastor ask someone younger and more gifted to work with children than me?

Answer: I encourage you to pray about this opportunity to serve. You may not think you have the gifts to be a children’s worker, but apparently your pastor sees you as a very capable worker and thinks you can make a difference in the lives of children. Granted, there are challenges and difficulties that are involved with serving, but God gives His Spirit and power to do His work.

There is no best age group to work with children.

Your pastor’s request could be God’s way of inviting you to get involved in what He is doing in your church. God’s plans are often delivered through people. You could be a conduit for God to work through. Furthermore, Christians who are actively serving in their church and in their community are happier than others.

You might be surprised at how much you would enjoy working with children. As an older adult, you could be a grandparent image to some children that need some love and guidance. The children respect and appreciate leaders helping them. In return, the children give friendly smiles and precious hugs.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday at 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.
- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.
- Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.
- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

Belleville Manor

is currently leasing spacious, and energy efficient
1 BR/ 1 BATH UNITS
located in Marion, KY.

1BR/1 Bath units require one person in the household to be 55 or older, handicap, or disabled to qualify. Units Currently available to rent. Taking applications.

2BR/1 BATH UNIT’S

accepting applications for waiting list only.
Eligible person(s) must be 18+ or older with more than one person in the household.

- HUD assistance with rent based on household income.
- Includes FREE Water, Sewer, and Trash service!
- Residents pay for personal electric service.
- Unit amenities include all major appliances (Stove & Refrigerator); washer/dryer hookups; and an onsite laundry facility. These won’t last long!

Apply at
Belleville Manor
819 Terrance Drive, Marion KY, 42064
during office hours: Monday -Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Email: Bellevillemanor@homelandinc.com
(OR) call the office number
(270)965-5960 for more info today.
Hearing Impaired Contact Number Only- TDD# 1-800-545-1833, EXT. 336
<https://www.homelandinc.com>

COLE SPRINGS APARTMENTS

Now Leasing!

36 McMican Rd, Marion, KY

Looking for a comfortable, affordable apartment? Cole Springs Apartments are now leasing all unit sizes!

ELIGIBILITY: One household member must be age 55 or older to qualify. Income Restrictions Apply

Current Contract Rent:
(20 Units) 1BR/1 Bath -\$470 up to \$630 per month
(24 units) 2BR/1 Bath -\$575 up to \$740 per month
(4 units) 3BR/2 Bath -\$625 up to \$900 per month

Property Highlights:
Brand New Construction – Move-In Ready Units Available!
No Application Fee
All Utilities Paid

Unit Amenities Include:
Stove & Refrigerator and Dishwasher
Washer/Dryer Hookups
Personal Storage Area Onsite

Ready to Lease?
Call Belleville Manor office number: (270) 965-5960 to learn more, schedule a tour or fill out a pre-application for Cole Springs Apartments. Applications available at Belleville Manor Apartments office: 819 Terrance Drive, Marion, KY 42064. TDD# 1-800-545-1833, Ext. 336 (Hearing Impaired Only)

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published in Kentucky newspapers.
www.kypublicnotice.com

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WORSHIP

with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

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

St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

175 Mexico Rd.
(270) 965-4059
MexicoBaptist.org
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.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.
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
Join us for praise & worship
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children’s & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Huleman
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

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

Speaker: Greg Rushing
School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.
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 -

From still to spill: Prohibition tales along the Ohio River

If not for doing research in the old Crittenden Presses, this is a subject I would never have known about. I realize most of the action took place before I was born, so it stands to reason I wouldn't know about it. My first readings were about the many moonshine stills located all around the county, then in later years the illegal trafficking and selling of liquor, bootlegging as it was called, that took place in the county. It certainly kept the local law enforcement busy. It's amazing the amount of moonshine that was poured out at these raids. Reminds me of the old black and white 1958 movie, Thunder Road. I remember seeing the movie, but I didn't understand what it was all about and certainly didn't know what prohibition meant.

Here are some interesting articles that appeared in The Press. The names will not be used.

Feb. 1929 – Bootleg Liquor

The Press editor had this to say: Dame Rumor these days is not stingy with the information that there is plenty of the poison commonly known as “white mule” in certain sections of this county. Seemingly it is not very difficult to obtain in Marion.

The Press has no definite information as to where and how it can be obtained, the editors thereof not being in the market for same and having made no inquiries concerning its availability – but we do know that it is being consumed and it has to be had from some source first.

We do know that our county officials desire to stamp out the traffic a very laudable one. We also know that we, The Press, desire a number of things that would make our pathway thru life a bit more pleasant – and we also know that we will never get them by waiting for someone to bring them to us.

May 1929 – Three Nabbed by Federal Officers

A group of Federal Prohibition officers arrived in Marion Saturday afternoon, and with local officers made one raid. Four local men were arrested and taken to Paducah.

Of the arraignment in Paducah the News Democrat said: “Four men, arrested by federal officers on charges of violation of the National Prohibition Act were held to the federal grand jury when arraigned before United States Commissioner A. Y. Martin yesterday.”



A group of revenue officers are seen with their capture of an illegal still and items to be used to sell the moonshine liquor.

Three of them were charged with possession and sale of intoxicating liquor, and one was charged with possession.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

April 1931 – Sheriff Brings in Shiner's Plant

County officers who searched the farm of Geo. H. Brooks Tuesday night confiscated and brought to Marion a portion of a still, some “moonshine” liquor and mash which was found concealed in the woods on the Brooks farm.

The raid was made at about midnight by Sheriff P. R. Taylor, Deputy B. F. Walker and Special Deputy C. F. Conger. In addition to the still, over 2 gallons of liquor, about 400 gallons of mash, a quantity of meal and about 500 pounds of sugar were found.

No arrests were made as the still was deserted. It is believed that the owner of the farm did not know that the still was in operation on his place.

The Brooks farm is located on the Mexico and Caldwell Springs Road about two and a half miles from Mexico.

May 1931 – Federal Agents Raid Residence

Five arrests for alleged violations of the liquor laws were made in Marion Thursday afternoon

by federal prohibition officers with the assistance of city and county officials.

Two agents from Paducah assisted by Sheriff B. F. Walker and Chief of Police Hugh Norris made the arrests.

The offenders were arrested at one home and all were charged with the possession of liquor, and one was taken to Paducah where he will be tried in Federal Court, charged with transporting liquor from some unknown point to the residence.

Twenty-one gallons of whiskey were found in his car. Nineteen gallons of colored moonshine, 100 quarts of homebrew, 18 dozen one-half pint bottles empty, three 10 gallon charred keys and 15 one -gallon glass jars were found in the homeowner's residence.

The confiscated liquor was poured out on the paving in front of the court house.

A short while later a mother and her 16-year-old son were arrested at their home by the same officers. They are charged with the recent selling of one-half pint of liquor to Joe P. Murrey, one of the prohibition agents.

Oct. 1931 – Five Arrested; Three in Jail

Five persons were arrested here Wednesday for alleged violations of the liquor laws and three of those taken into custody are in the jail here, two to await trial while another has already started serving his sen-

tence.

Early Friday morning Sheriff B. F. Walker, Deputy Ralph Hamilton, Chief of Police Hugh Norris and Night Policeman Albert Agee got busy serving warrants which were issued on charges brought by an undercover man sent here by federal prohibition officers at Paducah.

One man was apprehended at his place of business on Fords Ferry Road and charged with selling intoxicating liquor. He is accused of maintaining a “bar” and selling whiskey across the counter at 25 cents a drink. He and others are accused of selling liquor to the undercover man.

Another man, seven miles north of Marion, was also charged with selling liquor to the undercover man. He was found to have 50 gallons of mash on his premises. It was poured out.

Oct. 1931 – Liquor Dumped into Ohio River

One of the biggest liquor raids ever staged

in Crittenden County took place last Sunday night at the E-town Ferry landing on the Ohio River near Tolu. The guilty party was on a houseboat at the ferry landing.

The party was arrested by Sheriff B. F. Walker, Deputy Ralph Hamilton and Federal Prohibition Agent J. Walter Guess of Paducah.

Officers in their search found, they claim, 40 gallons of whiskey, 200 gallons of mash and 24 gallons of home-brew. Some of the liquor was bottled and the other was in jugs and jars.

For a time after the raid, fish in the Ohio, unaccustomed to the forbidden drink, must have become slightly intoxicated as all of the confiscated liquor was dumped into the river.

Sept. 1932 – Two Prosecuted on Violation of 18th Amendment

A liquor case occupied the city court the first part of this week and provided interest for a large number of persons, the court room be-

ing filled to the capacity during the hearing.

The case began Saturday afternoon with the arrests of two men on the road to the spar mill by City Policeman Chas. B. Hina and Sheriff Roy Malcolm, the men were driving along with 5 one-gallon jugs of red liquor in the back of their car.

The two men were brought before City Judge J. A. Elder immediately after their arrest and after a preliminary hearing were lodged in jail to await trail on Tuesday.

The car, a Ford Roadster, which was said to belong to one of the men, was taken by the officers Saturday afternoon and will be turned over to the proper prohibition authorities.

The trial Tuesday resulted in a fine of \$200 and a 45-day jail sentence for the one who admitted owning the liquor. His case was in the hand of T. C. Bennett.

The other man, who contended that he knew nothing of the liquor being in the car, got a \$300 fine and a 60-day jail sentence.

The term “bootlegging” initially described the act of concealing small quantities of liquor in boot tops, often during trade with Native Americans in the Midwest. During Prohibition, when alcohol production and sale were illegal, the term “bootlegger” expanded to include anyone involved in the illegal liquor trade.

(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).

The Sinner's Prayer

Rick Owens

A common belief in the denominational world, regarding how one gains salvation, is reciting the “sinner’s prayer.” It can take different forms, but all are similar in nature. This is a basic example of the “sinner’s prayer, “**Lord Jesus, I’m a sinner. I believe you died for my sins so I could be forgiven. I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for coming into my life. Amen.**” (<https://www.pray.com/articles/sinners-prayer>)

The “sinner’s prayer” developed and came about out of a sense of convenience. As the invention of praying for salvation developed, the “mourner’s bench” came into popularity in the eighteenth century. That doctrine asserted a sinner might be saved if he prayed long enough and hard enough, at the mourner’s bench; and stories of people spending long and grueling hours at the bench began to circulate. During that time, phrases like the “alter call,” and “pray through” were also invented. However, today the mourner’s bench is mostly non-existent, though some denominations have preserved the bench as a memento of the revivalist days of long ago, they remember as “old time religion.”

In the early twentieth century; revivalist preachers, like Billy Graham, began simplifying their doctrines of salvation; after all, the mourner’s bench was too time consuming and cumbersome, which made it unappealing to the people. In addition, large crusades became popular, and denominational preachers needed a quick way to “save” hundreds of people simultaneously. Thus, the sinner’s prayer was a quick fix for their dilemma, and the people were led to believe it would forgive them of their sins! However, the question is whether the “sinner’s prayer” is authorized by God; and if it is, where can it be found in the New Testament of Jesus Christ?

Unfortunately for those who have fallen for Satan’s devices, the “sinner’s prayer” is not found anywhere in the Bible, and a careful study of the accounts of conversion provided in the New Testament, will not reveal one single instance of one who has never obeyed the gospel, being instructed, or encouraged to “pray through” for his or her salvation. Instead, those who had been taught were told to *believe on the Lord* (Acts 16:31), *repent of past sins* (Acts 2:38), *confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God* (Acts 8:37), and to *be immersed in water for the forgiveness of past sins* (Acts 22:16). That was done so the recipient could be added to the Lord’s body, which is the church (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18), and the place where all spiritual blessings exist (Eph. 1:3).

Often, proponents of the sinner’s prayer like to use the parable of the publican and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9- 14) as an example. However, neither of the two men mentioned was an alien sinner, because they were both Jews, having been born into the family of Is-

rael, and both had gone to the house of God to worship. The publican is simply an example of a child of God having gone astray, asking for forgiveness because of his unfaithfulness.

Scripture makes it very clear, the mere act of “calling” out the Lord’s name to gain His divine mercies, in the absence of obedience to the Gospel, is an act that will not be rewarded. Christ Himself warned, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*” He also asked, “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say*” (Luke 6:46)?

Prayer is and has always been a blessing reserved for the child of God, not sinners. When Christ was asked by His disciples to teach them how to pray, He began the model prayer with the words: “*Our Father which art in heaven*” (Matt. 6:9). The great prophet Isaiah taught the same thing, “*Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face, from you, that he will not hear*” (Isa. 59:1-2). Isaiah understood the issue was not that God could not hear the people; instead, **He does not hear those who live in sin!** John warned, “*Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth*” (John 9:31). Of course, the meaning is that God does not act on the prayers of those outside His covenant relationship, because He hears and knows all things; after all, the wickedness of Nineveh had come up before Him (Jonah 1:2).

One might suggest the good man Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8) had his prayers answered by God. Cornelius was certainly a believer in God, but not a New Testament Christian; in addition, the text states his “*prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God*” (Acts 10:4). A memorial is a “reminder,” and Cornelius was the reminder of the promise given to Abraham how the blessings of God were for all of humanity, and it was time for the Gospel to go the Gentiles.

Saul, the great persecutor of the church, could not gain salvation through prayer. He fasted and prayed for three days, and yet his sins were not “washed away” until he was baptized in water in accordance with the divine will of God (Acts 9:11; 22:16). If there was ever a case of the “sinner’s prayer” being exercised, that is it; however, it was not acceptable to God.

The only answer to sin is obedience to God’s plan of salvation, not humanity’s inventions, and the “sinner’s prayer” is just that!

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legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on August 6, 2025 Terry Wayne Brown of 814 W. Ce-dar St., Franklin, KY 42134 was appointed administrator of Stephen K. Brown, de-ceased, whose address was 241 Amos Rd., Marion, KY 42064. All persons having claims against said estate are here-by notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the ad-ministrator before the 4th day of February, 2026 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 imme-diately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-32-c)

Notice is hereby given that on July 30, 2025 Sara Os-borne of 306 S. Main Cross, Apt. 11, Louisa, KY 41230 was appointed administratrix of Teresa Dalton, deceased, whose address was 127 Pigeon Drive, Marion, KY 42064. R. Michael Sullivan, 608 Frederica St., Suite 201, Owensboro, KY 42301, at-torney. All persons having claims against said estate are here-by notified to present the same properly proven as re-quired by law to the adminis-tratrix before the 30th day of January, 2026 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 imme-diately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-32-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-CI-00078
BYLINE BANK PLAINTIFF vs.
COFFER STORES, INC., ET AL DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 3 p.m., Friday, August 15, 2025, at public auction to the highest bidder. The auction of property shall be at the location of the property to be

sold at 221 and 223 Sturgis Road, Marion, Kentucky. A viewing of the premises shall be held August 15, 2025 from Noon to 2 p.m. The property is described as follows:

Property Address:
223 Sturgis Road and 221 Sturgis Road,
Marion KY 42064

PARCELS: 1, 2, and 3
Being the same property acquired by Mortgagor by deed dated February 7, 2022, of record in the Office of the Clerk of Crittenden County, Kentucky, in Deed Book 245, Page 1. Further being the same property acquired by Mortgagor by deed dated October 17, 1995, of record in the Office of the Clerk of Crittenden County, Kentucky, in Deed Book 172, Page 581. And further being the same property acquired by Mortgagor by deed dated April 22, 1998, of record in the Office of the Clerk of Crittenden County, Kentucky, in Deed Book 180, Page 162.

Parcel One:
Purported Address: 223 Sturgis Road, Marion, Kentucky 42064.

A certain tract or parcel ofland, in Crittenden County, Kentucky, near the corporate limits of Marion, Kentucky, and being lots Nos. 37 and 38, in Block No. B-2 Sec. of Flynn Addition to the town of Marion, Kentucky, as shown by plat of record in Deed Book No. 61, Page 429, Clerk's Office, Crittenden County Court.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to Sherman Wendell Coffe, from Ima D. Walker, a widow, by Deed dated June 3, 1981, in Deed Book 136, Page 510, in the Office of the Crittenden County Clerk. Sherman Wendell Coffe died testate April 6, 2014, and pursuant to his Last Will

and Testament of record in Will Book 17, Page 385, he devised the subject property to Connie Ruth Gabehart, as Trustee of the Testamentary Trust under the Will of Wendell Coffe.

Lots 31 and 32 in Section No. B-2 Flynn property addition to the town of Marion, Kentucky. The plat of same being of record in Deed Book 61, Page 429, Clerk's Office, Marion, Kentucky.

Also Lots 33 and 34 in Section No. B-2 Flynn property addition of the town of Marion, Kentucky. The plat of same being of record in Deed Book 61, Page 429, Clerk's Office, Marion, Kentucky.

The above described four lots is a parcel of land running on U.S. Highway No. 60 100 feet and extending back from the highway (north) 200 feet, between parallel lines.

A certain tract, parcel, lot or boundary of real estate being Lot No. 35-36 in Sec. No. B-2 Flynn Property Addition as shown by plat of record in Plat Book No. 61, Page 429, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

A certain tract or parcel of land near Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, and being a part of the Flynn Addition to the City of Marion, Kentucky and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the intersection of Central Avenue, and Hamilton Drive and running North with t he West line of Hamilton Drive for a distance of 190 feet to a stake or stone, an agreed comer; running thence west or nearly so for a distance of 216 feet to an elm on the east bank of the branch running thence south-east with the east bank of the branch to the north line of Central A venue, to a stake or stone, an agreed comer; running thence east with the north line of Central A venue, to the point of beginning, containing about 2 acres, more or less.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to Sherman Wendell Coffe, from J. W. Lingang, a

widower, by Deed dated September 22, 1976, of record in Deed Book 122, Page 588, in the Office of the Crittenden County Clerk. Sherman Wendell Coffe died testate April 6, 2014, and pursuant to his Last Will and Testament of record in Will Book 17, Page 385, he devised the subject property to Connie Ruth Gabehart, at Trustee, of the Testamentary Trust under the Will of Wendell Coffe. AND BEING the same property conveyed to Coffe Stores, Inc., a Kentucky corporation, by deed from Connie Ruth Gabehart, Trustee of the Testamentary Trust established pursuant to the Last Will and Testament of Sherman Wendell Coffe, said deed dated February 7, 2022, of record in Deed Book 245, Page 1, in the Office of the Crittenden County Clerk.

Parcel Two:
Purported Address: 221 Sturgis Road (House and Lumber Yard), Marion, Kentucky 42064.

A certain tract or parcel of land in Crittenden County, Kentucky, near the corporate limits of Marion, Kentucky, and being lots Nos. 37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48 and 49 in Block B-2 Sec. of Flynn Addition to the town of Marion, Kentucky, as shown by plat of record in Deed Book No. 61, Page 429, Clerk's Office, Crittenden County Court.

ALSO a certain tract or parcel of land in Crittenden County, Kentucky, near the corporate limits of Marion, Kentucky, and being lots Nos. 28, 29 and 30 in Section B-2 of Flynn Addition as shown by plat of record in Deed Book No. 61, Page 429, aforesaid Clerk's Office.

LESS AND EXCEPT: That certain tract or parcel of land in Crittenden County, Kentucky, and being Lots No. 37 and 38 in Block B-2 Sec. of Flynn Addition to the town of Marion, Kentucky, as shown by plat of record in Deed Book No. 61, Page 429, which was conveyed by Ima D.

Walker, a widow, to Sherman Wendell Coffe, On June 3, 1981, of record in Deed Book 136, Page 510, all references herein are to the Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to Coffe Stores, Inc., from James H. Walker and Janet M. Walker, husband and wife, and James H. Walker, Trustee of the Winford Walker Living Trust, by Deed dated October 17, 1995, of record in Deed Book 172, page 581, in the Office of the Crittenden County Clerk.

Parcel Three:
BEGINNING at an P.K. nail in concrete in the center of ditch, being 301.34 feet from the center of U.S. 60, along Coffe's line, a new division corner; thence with original lines N. 28 deg. 55 min. W. 158.66 ft. to an iron pin, N. 25 deg. 06 min. W. 751.81 ft. to an iron pin and N. 11 deg.

36 min. W. 200.00 ft. to an iron pin in Frye's line; thence with his line S. 78 deg. 37 min. E. 500.00 ft. to an iron pin corner to Wright; thence with their lines S. 14 deg. 56 min. E. 832.83 ft. to an iron pin, and N. 74 deg. 59 min. E. 58.28 ft. to an iron pin in the center of branch; thence with the center of the branch S. 01 deg. 54 min. E. 34.41 ft. and S. 14 deg. 17 min. W. 26.10 ft. to an iron pin in the center of a branch at the mouth of a ditch; thence with the meanders of the center of the ditch N. 11 deg. 04 min. W. 10.81 ft., N. 67 deg. 02 min. W. 21.02 ft., S. 81 deg. 31 min. W. 33.20 ft., S. 73 deg. 55 min. W. 56.10 ft. S. 71 deg. 00 min. W. 136.48 ft, S 70 deg. 02 min. W., 61.62 ft. and S. 88 deg. 46 min. W. 24.80 ft. to the beginning containing 8.736 acres by survey. Survey by Billy J. May, finished April 14,

1998. See plat of record attached in Deed Book 180 at Page 164. AND BEING the same property conveyed to Coffe Stores, Inc., from James E. Riley and Rita G. Riley, husband and wife, by Deed dated April 22, 1998, of record in Deed Book 180, Page 162, in the Office of the Crittenden County Clerk.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS. IN ADDITION THE MASTER COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN ORDERED TO SELL WITH THE REAL PROPERTY ALL INVENTORY AND EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT AND ABANDONED IN THE BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING CONCERNING SAME.

Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:

At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is one of the parties, they shall be allowed a credit against the purchase price of their pro rata interest and pay over to the Master Commissioner the balance and any costs of sale apportioned to their interest in the property. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2025 and subsequent years.

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bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2025.
Rebecca J. Johnson
Master Commissioner
217 West Bellville Street
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REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 30 Acres - \$112,500
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.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$436,000
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 County, KY – 70 Acres - \$244,900.00
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

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Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$520,725
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400
Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600
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PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900
This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 52 Acres – \$225,000
Tradewater River hunting tract with cabin, 8.5+/- open acres, timber, pond, and food plot potential. No road frontage, gated gravel access, and 2,000 feet of riverfront in a QDM area.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 55.79 Acres - \$299,000
This unique combination tract offers the best of both worlds—an established equestrian setup with excellent deer and turkey hunting opportunities, all tucked away in a quiet, secluded landscape.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 63.46 Acres - \$239,900
This well-rounded hunting tract offers a strong mix of habitat types and features ideal for whitetail and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 13+/- acres of open ground.

PENDING! 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!

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 – 153.5 Acres - \$614,000
Well-balanced mix of open and wooded ground with fencing, wildlife potential, and strong hunting prospects. Ideal for livestock, food plots, and recreation, this property packs a big punch!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 214.74 Acres - \$834,600
Open and wooded mix with fencing, great access, and exceptional hunting potential. Great layout for livestock, food plots, and recreation, this is a highly usable property with a lot of upside!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 10 Acres – \$59,900
This tillable acreage offers investment opportunity with 10+/- tillable acres ready for agricultural production.

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CCMS softball at Livingston County

TUESDAY
Volleyball hosts Marshall County

FOOTBALL

CCMS schedule

Here is Crittenden County Middle School's fall football schedule:

Aug. 16 Browning Springs, 5:30pm
Aug. 21 Union County, 5:30pm
Aug. 26 at Henderson South, 5:30pm
Sept. 2 at South Hopkins, 5:30pm
Sept. 9 at James Madison, 5:30pm
Sept. 13 Trigg County, 6pm
Sept. 16 Webster County, 5:30pm
Sept. 18 at Ballard County, 5:30pm
Sept. 23 Henderson North, 5:30pm
Sept. 25 Caldwell County, 5:30pm
Sept. 27 Conference Playoffs
Oct. 2 Conference Championship

GOLF

Rockets fall at Lyon

Crittenden County High School's golf team was led by a pair of 49s from Jaxton Duncan and Mitchell Brown during a match last week at The Cullen Mineral Mound Golf Course. Lyon County Lyons won the match 172-203 as Cooper Collins took medalist honors with a round of 40.

SOCCER

CCHS opens with win

The Lady Rockets kicked off their 2025 season in commanding fashion Monday night, earning a 7-1 win at Christian County. Senior captain Ella Geary was unstoppable on the attack, finding the back of the net four times and setting up three other goals. Junior Kylie Bloodworth added two goals of her own, and sophomore Haley Moore chipped in with a goal. The offense was fueled by precise passing, with Geary and sophomore Adri Berry combining for five assists. On the defensive side, junior goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty anchored the back line with a strong performance, tallying seven saves.

DISTANCE RUNNING

5K to benefit cemetery

A "Say Goodbye to Summer" 5K to benefit the Marion Cemetery Association will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 at Marion City-County Park. Entry fee is \$20. A one-mile fun run will be offered for a \$10. Top 3 males and top 3 female finishers were be awarded. Entry forms are available at The Crittenden Press.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct 31
Coyote night, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sept 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Early wood duck	Sept 20-24
Teal	Sept 20-24
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
Deer Youth	Oct 11-12
Deer muzzleloader	Oct 18-19
Turkey shotgun	Oct 25-21
Woodcock	Oct 25 - Nov 7
Deer gun	Nov 8-23
Turkey crossbow	Nov 8 - Dec 31
Bobcat trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Squirrel	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Quail	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Rabbit	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Raccoon trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Woodcock	Nov 10 - Dec 10
Coyote trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Bobcat	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Nov 22
Duck	Nov 27 - Nov 30
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Dove	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31



Crittenden County High School's 2025 Lady Rocket soccer players are (front from left) Ruby Peek, Aliza Maraman, Macibelle Hardesty, Haley Moore, Callie Rich, (second row) Olivia Topp, Addie Morries, Kylie Bloodworth, Adri Berry, (back row) coach Jessica DeBurgo and seniors Dixie Hunter, Hayden Peak, Madison Walker, Ella Geary, Mollie Blazina, Peyton Smith and Zoey Hodge.

VARSITY ROSTER		
2	Kylie Bloodworth	Jr
3	Macibelle Hardesty	Jr
4	Mollie Blazina	Sr
5	Adri Berry	Soph
6	Ruby Peek	Jr
7	Madison Walker	SR
8	Aliza Maraman	Soph
9	Olivia Topp	Jr
10	Raleigh Smith	SR
11	Haley Moore	Soph
14	Callie Rich	Soph
15	Zoey Hodge	SR
16	Kiersten Smith	SR
17	Ella Geary	SR
21	Adeline Morries	Soph
23	Dixie Hunter	SR
25	Hayden Peak	SR

JUNIOR VARSITY ROSTER		
4	Kathryn Epley	8th
5	Adri Berry	Soph
6	Kamryn Smith	Fresh
7	Emarie Cox	8th
10	Isabella Walston	8th
11	Haley Moore	Soph
14	Callie Rich	Soph
15	Cloie Renschler	Soph
17	Isabel Geary	8th
22	Adeline Morries	Soph
23	Lacey Birdwell	Fresh
32	Aliza Maraman	Soph
33	Jade Hughes	Soph
34	Aurora Duvall	8th

Veteran group drives soccer hopes

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's soccer team heads into the 2025 season with what head coach Jessica DeBurgo calls the most experienced group she has had since the Lady Rockets' record-setting campaign three years ago.

"This is the most seasoned group I have had since 2022," DeBurgo said. "They have been with me since I started coaching."

Now in her fifth season at the helm, DeBurgo will rely heavily on her top three returning offensive threats, seniors Adri Berry, Ella Geary and Kylie Bloodworth. Berry led the team last year with 22 goals, Geary was close behind with 21, and Bloodworth added 15. All three were also among the leaders in assists, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the Lady Rockets' scoring production in 2024.

With eight seniors on the roster and no freshmen, this squad enters the year with a strong grasp of DeBurgo's system.

Last season, Crittenden finished 5-11. Also back in the starting lineup is sophomore goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty. Depth could be the one limiting factor this year, as the coach notes that injuries could quickly test the bench.

In 2022, DeBurgo guided the Lady Rockets to an 11-6-2 record, the best in school history.

SOCCER SCHEDULE	
Aug. 11 at Christian County	
Aug. 14 at Webster County	
Aug. 18 at Lyon County (All A)	
Aug. 23 Owensboro Apollo	
Aug. 25 at Lyon County	
Aug. 28 Trigg County	
Sept. 2 Union County	
Sept. 8 at Union County	
Sept. 9 at Hopkins Central	
Sept. 11 at Caldwell County	
Sept. 16 Muhlenberg Co. (Sr Night)	
Sept. 18 Lyon County	
Sept. 20 at Hopkinsville (JV)	
Sept. 22 at Trigg County	
Sept. 25 Hopkinsville	
Sept. 29 St. Mary's	
Sept. 30 at Paducah Tilghman	
Oct. 2 at Union County	
Oct. 6 District Tourn. at Crittenden	
Oct. 7 District Tourn. at Crittenden	

A Quick Look Back...		
Yearly Records & Head Coach		
2001	4-10-0	Johnny Crider
2002	7-8-0	Karen Nasserri
2003	4-6-3	Karen Nasserri
2004	5-7-5	Karen Nasserri
2005	8-6-2	Mandy Perez
2006	7-6-1	Michael Gibson
2007	5-13-0	Michael Gibson
2008	0-13-2	Michael Gibson
2009	0-12-0	Andy Walker
2010	0-16-0	Ken Geary
2011	3-18-2	Juan Gonzalez
2012	0-14-0	Juan Gonzalez
2013	2-18-0	Ken Geary
2014	6-17-0	Ken Geary
2015	6-16-1	Ken Geary
2016	5-12-1	Summer Riley
2017	4-11-1	Summer Riley
2018	1-12-2	Summer Riley
2019	0-18-0	Summer Riley
2020	4-6-1	Summer Riley
2021	6-10-1	Jessica DeBurgo
2022	11-6-2	Jessica DeBurgo
2023	6-9-0	Jessica DeBurgo
2024	5-11-0	Jessica DeBurgo



Crittenden County High School's 2025 Lady Rocket volleyball players are (front from left) Brinley Tramble, Grace Vincent, Maddie Hearell, Jasmine Lynch, Lola Cratty, Chandler Winterrod, Ava Tabor, Lilly Cappello, (second row) assistant coaches Bailey Pritchett and Addy Kirby, Layken Gilchrist, McCandliss Chittenden, Shelbi Belt, Alexis Mattingly, Braelyn Merrill, Carly Crider, Maeson Martin, Alyssa Northrup, Emerye Pollard, coach Bayley McDonald, (back) Hadley Myers, Lilah Sherer, Aly Yates and Lacey Boone. Not pictured Grayson Travis.

Volleyball girls want to continue momentum

VARSITY ROSTER		
2	Maddie Hearell	5-4
5	Lacey Boone	5-7
7	Hadley Myers	5-8
8	Shelbi Belt	5-7
11	Ava Tabor	—
14	Grayson Travis	—
15	Layken Gilchrist	5-9
16	Maeson Martin	5-10
17	Braelyn Merrill	5-8
20	Aly Yates	5-3
21	Emerye Pollard	5-3
22	Lilah Sherer	5-5

JV & FRESHMEN ROSTER		
2	Maddie Hearell	5-4
15	Layken Gilchrist	5-9
16	Maeson Martin	5-10
17	Braelyn Merrill	5-8
21	Emerye Pollard	5-3
8	Lilly Cappello	5-5
20	Macandliss Chittenden	-
10	Alexis Mattingly	5-4
11	Ava Tabor	—
3	Brinley Tramble	—

STAFF REPORT

After one of the most successful volleyball campaigns in program history, Crittenden County is looking to build on its momentum in 2025 with a familiar face back at the helm.

Bayley McDonald returns as head coach after a two-year hiatus, taking over a team that went 21-6 last fall under interim head coach Savanna Tays and captured the All "A" Classic Second Region title and a Fifth District championship.

McDonald, who previously led the Lady Rockets before stepping away, inherits a team with high expectations after their impressive run in 2024. Crittenden County has not lost a district match in seven seasons, winning the district championship each year.

CCHS lost a great deal of height and talent to graduation but returns six key players from last year's squad, including seniors Lacey Boone, Aly Yates and Lilah Sherer. They bring back a combined 222 kills and 64 service aces from last year's campaign. Boone averaged 1.42 kills per set with 105 total, Yates tallied 35 digs, and Sherer recorded 29 kills and 16 aces.

Junior Braelyn Merrill, who had 107 kills, 53 digs and a .71 service ace average, also returns as a key offensive and defensive contributor. Junior Maeson Martin and senior Hadley Myers each saw limited varsity action last season but add valuable experience and depth to the 2025 lineup.

CCHS SCHEDULE	
Aug 19	Marshall County
Aug 21	at Livingston Central
Aug 25	at Trigg County
Aug 28	at Heritage Christian
Sep 4	at Henderson County
Sep 8	Trigg County
Sep 9	Christian County
Sep 15	at Union County
Sep 22	Livingston Central
Sep 23	Webster County
Sep 29	Madisonville
Oct 2	at Caldwell County
Oct 13	at University Heights
Oct 16	Henderson County

Marion code enforcement progresses, resident still troubled by blighted home

STAFF REPORT

City of Marion’s Code Enforcement Board met Monday to review recent enforcement activity, ongoing property concerns and proposals for future city policy.

Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Byers reported 16 new complaints since the board’s last meeting on July 11. In that time, she resolved 25 cases, issued one citation, which was paid but not corrected and will result in a second citation, and has six more citations ready to mail this week. Byers also sent 37 notices of violation, the step before a citation, and said many property owners have responded positively. She noted she tries to make personal contact before sending a citation.

On policy matters, discussion included an abandoned property ordinance, which members said needs more refinement before going to city council for considera-

tion, and a rental property registration proposal that will not move forward due to resource limitations and some misunderstandings about its provisions. Byers said new enforcement software is costly, and an increase in fines for some violations will be sent to the city council for consideration.

The board also heard from Evelyn Hayes, a landlord who questioned why property owners are held responsible for high grass when tenants fail to mow. Byers and the city’s legal counsel, Bart Frazer, explained that state law makes the owner responsible, though both tenant and owner can be cited. Mayor D’Anna Browning said the city gives “a lot of grace” and works with owners facing unique circumstances.

Depot Street resident Scott Tabor expressed frustration over a nearby property he says has been neglected for decades. He de-


scribed missing doors and windows, a removed roof, vermin and odor issues, and said it makes his home unsellable. Byers said both the owner and the person holding a land contract have been cited. The home has been without power since November 2024, according to Tabor, and is uninhabitable, he said. Browning confirmed it has already been condemned by the city, meaning the process to force its sale and demolition can begin.

Frazer noted that mowing and property clean-up can be expensive for the city, which must take bids for hazard abatement. In some cases, he said, properties are tax-delinquent, complicating enforcement and often costing the city money to force a sale.


Byers said despite the challenges, the past month had been productive, with steady progress on longstanding violations.

JULY 2025


Weather Yearbook



Coldest Temp
65.2



Warmest Temp
93.0



Wettest Day
1.9

Wed., July 2

Mon., July 28

Sun., July 13

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	80.2	76.8	77.6	78.8	76.6	78.6
Coldest Temp	65.2	58	57.8	61.5	58.5	61.3
Hottest Temp	93.0	92.8	93.8	95.0	90.0	90.6
Precipitation	5.4	7.7	3.6	8.6	6.8	5.75
Wettest Day	1.9	1.45	0.99	3.93	3.7	1.57

■ During July, temperatures remained consistently warm with a highest recorded temperature of 93.0 degrees and an average high of 88.8 degrees. The lowest temperature was 65.2 degrees, while the average low settled at 71.7 degrees. The mean temperature for the month was 80.2 degrees. There were 11 days when temperatures reached 90 degrees or higher. Precipitation totaled 5.4 inches for the month, with measurable rainfall (0.01 inches or more) occurring on 12 days. Six of those days saw at least a tenth of an inch, while three days recorded a half inch or more. Notably, there were also three days with rainfall exceeding one inch. July 2025 was the hottest July on average and one of the driest months over a six-year span, with higher low temperatures and a significant single-day rainfall. Overall, the data suggest a gradual warming trend with fluctuating but declining total precipitation.

Stingrays edge Henderson YMCA in pool

Marion Stingrays eked out a victory over the Henderson County YMCA swim team in a meet that came down to the wire on July 29. With a final score of 1,042 to 1,040, the Stingrays closed out their season with strong showings in the relay events and consistent performances across all age groups.

The first-place girls 8U 100m Medley Relay consisted of Violet Rodriguez, Henley Zimmer, Nellie Singleton and Lawson Davis. They also took first place in the 8U 100 m Freestyle Relay. The 8U boys looked equally as impressive winning by the Medley and Freestyle Relay. The 8U boys team was Knox McDonald, Boomer Snyder, Heaton Davis and Bennett Hunt. The 12U girls relay team, Madi Weatherspoon, Caroline James, Lily Barlow and Charlotte Vince took 2nd place in both

the Medley and Freestyle races.

FREESTYLE

Girls 6U 25m Freestyle Lawson Davis 2nd place
Girls 8U 25m Freestyle Nellie Singleton 2nd place, Charlotte Vince 3rd place, Henley Zimmer 4th place, Violet Rodriguez 5th place
Boys 8U 25m Freestyle Knox McDonald 1st place, Heaton Davis 2nd place, Boomer Snyder 5th place, Bennett Hunt 6th place.
Girls 10U 25m Freestyle Madi Weatherspoon 3rd place
Girls 12U 50m Freestyle Lily Barlow 2nd place, Caroline James 3rd place
Girls 14U 50m Freestyle Bella Walston 1st place
Boys 14 & Under 50m Freestyle Cash Chappell 1st place, Jacob Townsend 2nd place
Boys Open 50m Freestyle Cale Tabor 1st place

BACKSTROKE

Girls 8U 25m Backstroke Henley Zimmer 2nd place, Nellie Singleton 3rd place, Violet Rodriguez 5th place
Boys 8U 25m Backstroke Heaton Davis 2nd place, Knox McDonald

3rd place, Boomer Snyder 5th place
Girls 10U 25m Backstroke Madi Weatherspoon 3rd place
Girls 14U 50m Backstroke Bella Walston 1st place
Boys 14U 50m Backstroke Cash Chappell: 1st place, Jacob Townsend: 2nd place

BREASTSTROKE

Girls 8U 25m Breaststroke Charlotte Vince 2nd place, Nellie Singleton 3rd place, Henley Zimmer 4th place, Violet Rodriguez 5th place
Boys 8U 25m Breaststroke Heaton Davis 1st place, Knox McDonald 3rd place, Boomer Snyder 5th place
Girls 10U 25m Breaststroke Madi Weatherspoon 3rd place
Girls 12U 50m Breaststroke Lily Barlow 2nd place, Caroline James 3rd place
Girls 14U 50m Breaststroke Bella Walston 1st place
Boys 14U 50m Breaststroke Cash Chappell 1st place, Jacob Townsend: 2nd place
Girls Open 50m Breaststroke Abigail James 1st place
Boys Open 50m Breaststroke Cale Tabor 1st place

BUTTERFLY

Girls 8U 25m Butterfly Henley Zimmer 2nd place, Nellie Singleton: 3rd place
Boys 8U 25m Butterfly Heaton Davis 1st place, Knox McDonald 2nd place
Girls 12U 50m Butterfly Lily Barlow 1st place
Girls 14U 50m Butterfly Bella Walston 1st place
Boys 14U 50m Butterfly Jacob Townsend 1st place

WATER

Continued from page 1

Marion is under a local State of Emergency for water conservation after Browning issued Executive Order No. 25-06 on Monday, reinstating Stage 3 restrictions, the city’s most extreme level of conservation.

The order comes amid ongoing low-water conditions at Lake George, one of Marion’s primary raw water sources. City officials say already low reserves are being worsened by excessive evaporation and limited rainfall. The National Weather Service predicts continued dry weather for the region, and August, September and October are typically Marion’s driest months.

Under Stage 3, residents are prohibited from washing vehicles, sidewalks or porches, and from using municipal water to irrigate non-food-producing plants. The goal, according to the city’s Water Conservation Plan, is to ensure

essential water needs are met while minimizing unnecessary usage.

The conservation plan, established by Ordinance 22-10 in 2022 and amended in March 2023, also calls for increased public awareness and education about best water-use practices, along with encouraging all residents to conserve wherever possible.

“We must be proactive in protecting our water supply,” Browning said. “The city will remain vigilant in monitoring the situation, and further orders will be issued should conditions change.”

This is the first time Marion has returned to Stage 3 restrictions since May 2023, when the city enacted the order after Lake George was purposely breached to prevent a levee failure. Plentiful rains later eased the crisis, allowing the city to drop to Stage 1 restrictions.

The emergency order remains in effect until further notice.

Youth deer season extended; other KDFWR regs changing

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky’s youth-only firearms deer season will now span nine consecutive days in October, giving young hunters and their families greater opportunity to enjoy one of the most anticipated outdoor traditions of the year.

As part of a sweeping series of regulatory updates finalized this summer, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources announced that the youth firearms season will run Oct. 11-19 this fall. Previously only a two-day window, the expanded season is expected to offer families more flexibility around school and sports schedules, while also helping manage the state’s growing deer population.

The change to youth deer season is one of several amendments to state wildlife regulations recently approved by the legislature and now in effect, according to Fish and Wildlife. The revisions affect hunting seasons, wildlife transportation and holding, public land use, fishing limits and more.

Among the major game-related changes:

- Elk hunting rules have been adjusted to prevent overlap with the Christmas holiday. The second cow elk gun season will now begin on the first Saturday in January. Bait must be removed 30 days prior to any hunt, and new lands – Paul Van Booven and Fishtap Lake Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) – have been opened to elk hunting.
- Bear season regulations now include a 14-day hunt in Clinton and Wayne counties, aimed at reducing crop damage. The Siberian Laika has

also been added to the list of approved dogs for use in bear hunting and chasing seasons.

- Migratory bird hunting rules have changed as well. The September teal season has been shortened from nine to five days, and the use of decoys by dove hunters is now prohibited on department-controlled lands during September.
- Public land use regulations have been updated to allow temporary closures for up to three years on newly acquired or managed properties. This gives the department time to assess and prepare land for safe hunting, fishing or habitat management.
- Foxhound training enclosures will now be subject to a clearer permitting structure. Specific rules now govern the possession and transport of red foxes, coyotes and rabbits used in these training enclosures, including fencing, enclosure size, health protocols and reporting requirements.
- License and permit structure has been updated to include a new noncommercial foxhound training enclosure permit for smaller properties, ranging from 40 to 200 acres.
- Fishing regulations have been adjusted to streamline management statewide. Notably, the 9-inch minimum size limit for crappie at Nolin River and Rough River lakes

has been increased to 10 inches. Additionally, walleye regulations on the Rockcastle River now mirror those in place on other slot-limit waters, with an 18- to 26-inch slot and two-fish daily limit. Special catch-and-release rules on Clear Fork and daily limits for ponds at Kentucky River WMA’s Boone Tract have been removed.

- Live wildlife transportation rules have been updated to allow the possession of native wild rabbits under specific conditions. New language also clarifies rules around exotic species, specifically banning the possession of European rabbits that resemble wild varieties, in order to protect native rabbit populations from disease.

The regulatory updates follow legislative review and approval, with effective dates ranging from April to June 2025 depending on the individual regulation.

For complete details and up-to-date hunting information, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife encourages outdoor enthusiasts to review the 2025 Fall Hunting Guide available at fw.ky.gov. Hunters can also sign up for Reg-Watch, a free service that provides email notifications about new and amended wildlife regulations.

Youth hunters and their mentors are especially encouraged to take advantage of the newly extended season this fall. With better weather, more time in the field, and the potential to help manage local deer populations, this year’s October youth season is shaping up to be the most accessible and exciting yet.

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The land, buildings and any property abandoned in the bankruptcy will be part of the foreclosure sale.



True Value property will sell at auction on Friday

STAFF REPORT

The former Clark's Marion True Value property on Sturgis Road will be sold at public auction Friday, Aug. 15, following a court-ordered foreclosure in Crittenden Circuit Court.

The sale stems from a 2024 lawsuit filed by Byline Bank of Chicago, which obtained a default judgment against Coffer Stores Inc. and more than a dozen associated parties after a defaulted business loan. The property, including parcels at 221 and 223 Sturgis Road, will be auctioned on-site at 3 p.m., with public viewing available from noon to 2 p.m.

The store and lumberyard, once a longtime community staple founded by Wendell and LouElla Coffey, was sold in 2022 to Ryan Clark and his wife of Madisonville. Operating briefly as Clark's True Value, the business closed permanently in late 2023. A Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing by the Clarks in December 2024 listed \$2.7 million in assets and liabilities. The Marion

property, along with its inventory and equipment, is part of the liquidation ordered by the court. The property value was listed at around \$950,000, according to a schedule of their assets in the bankruptcy filing.

On the grounds and inside the buildings are fixtures, abandoned merchandise and equipment used when the store was an ongoing business enterprise. Outside are concrete blocks, lumber, shingles and buckets of what appear to be tar or a similar substance.

Multiple parties were named in the foreclosure, including Clarks Hardware, Zero Clark 30 Properties, the City of Marion, Crittenden County, and national creditors such as Wells Fargo and Orgill Inc. The property also faces code violations and delinquent taxes, which will be settled from auction proceeds before remaining debts are addressed.

The sale will be conducted by Master Commissioner Rebecca Johnson.

BOOKS

Continued from page 1
1866-1906, which documents 227 marriages between Black men and women in Crittenden County, legally prohibited from marriage while enslaved. The record includes declarations like that of Anthony Webster and Lizzie Bigham in July 1866 and concludes with the union of Wade Shackelford and Mamie Rudy in November 1906.

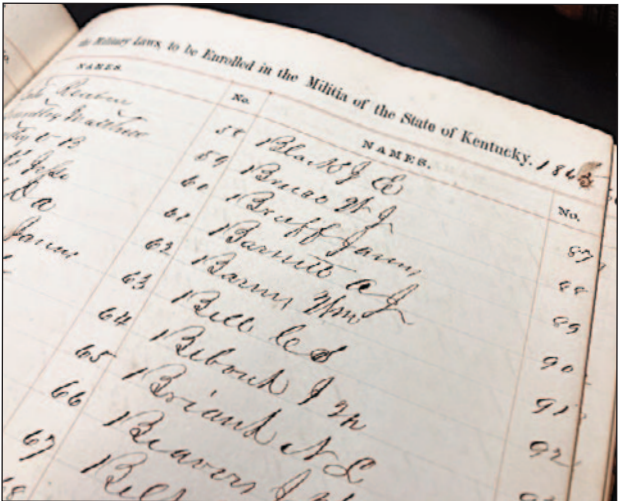
The Apprentice Bonds for Freedmen 1866-1913 recordbook chronicles the indenture of Black children, some as young as three, into servitude. These contracts, signed after the Civil War, bound boys to farming and girls to spinning or other trades in exchange for food, shelter and the promise of literacy or monetary compensation. Children such as Isaac Taylor, just 4 years old, along with siblings and others, were handed over to white guardians like R.W. Taylor, who promised to raise and educate them until adulthood.

The Crittenden County Militia Roll from 1860-75 is a register of able-bodied men between 18 and 45 who were eligible for military service. Many of the names from the early pages went on to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. One such man, George W. Stovall, enlisted as a first sergeant in 1861 and died three years later during the federal occupation of Atlanta.

Each book offers a rare and sobering glimpse into the turbulent transformation of Kentucky society in the mid-19th century, reflecting both the cruelty of systemic racism and the resilience of those who endured it. The volumes were chosen not only for their historical significance but also for their physical vulnerability. The pages are disintegrating, their bindings broken, and in many cases, the ink is barely legible, Tabor said.

Preservation and digitization will be handled by HF Group, a nationally recognized book preservation firm. The estimated breakdown of the work is as follows:

- \$2,550 to preserve and digitize the militia roll.
- \$1,425 to rebind and digitize the apprentice bonds.
- \$2,740 to rebind the second volume of the freedmen's marriage



Documents like this 1865 militia roll will be preserved through digitation.

records.

Crittenden County clerk's office will contribute at least \$750 in local funds to support the indexing of digital images and incorporate them into the office's public-access digital system. These newly preserved volumes will join a previously digitized and rebound marriage record volume, also bound in a distinct blue vinyl cover to set it apart from other county archives.

Together, the four volumes will serve as a unique, easily identifiable collection, providing what the grant narrative describes as "power of place" to descendants and researchers. Surnames like Taylor, Cook, Hunt and Smith, long embedded in the region's history, appear throughout these volumes, creating direct ancestral connections to the documented individuals.

For example, on Dec. 2, 1878, three more Black boys – Anderson, 11, Reuben, 5, and Henry, 3 – were bound to R.W. Taylor under the same laws that indentured Isaac and his peers a decade earlier. These are not fictional accounts, but verified records that have been tucked away for generations.

The stories are not limited to oppression. The militia roll records names like Stovall and others who, while living in a border state deeply divided over slavery, enlisted to fight for the Union and the end of the Confederacy. From 1860 through 1875, 1,319 local men registered on the roll, many going on to participate in defining moments of American military history.

"These volumes, some dating back to the final days before the Civil War, carry forward through Reconstruction and into

the Jim Crow Era," Tabor said. "They help us tell the story not just of who we were, but how we've tried to move forward."

America250KY, the Kentucky arm of the nationwide America250 initiative, awarded a total of \$250,000 in grants to projects across the state that preserve historical materials and illuminate Kentucky's contributions to the national narrative as the country approaches its semiquincentennial in 2026.

By digitizing and preserving these records, Crittenden County becomes a local steward of a larger national effort to "do history," not just read about it. And it's a story with unique regional ties: the very name of the county honors Russellville's John J. Crittenden, author of the Crittenden Compromise, a failed last-ditch effort to prevent the Civil War.

"These documents are about a crossroads in history," said Tabor. "And now they'll be visible again, not forgotten in a courthouse basement, but available to anyone willing to look into our past."

The newly digitized and rebound volumes will be made available through the Crittenden County clerk's office as part of its ongoing public records access system. Once completed, they will serve as a vital educational and genealogical resource, especially for families who may never have known their ancestors were recorded in these early pages of post-emancipation history.

This project is supported with funding from the Kentucky Historical Society. For more information, see history.ky.gov. All physical copies of the record books will be maintained and stored by the county, Tabor said.

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

Theresa White, APRN
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