



Back-to-School Special Section

While the start of school is still a couple of weeks off, The Press is publishing its annual Back-to-School special section this week. See six pages in B Section for all the information you need to be ready for Sept. 2 when classes resume.

Also, a couple of back-to-school events will be taking place late this week at Rocket Arena.

- CCMS open house, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21.
- CCHS open house, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21.

CLWD helping Marion with drinking water

Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) began supplementing Marion's drinking water supply late last week, marking the first time in more than two years that the city has purchased water from the district. Marion is buying 30 gallons per minute to help ease its ongoing water shortage, which has persisted since 2022 when the Lake George levee was intentionally breached to address a leak.

The city relies on Lake George as its raw water source, but the lower water level, combined with evaporation and other natural factors, has strained supply. As a result, city officials have declared a local state of emergency. Read more in city council report on page 9A.

Chamber is hosting leadership breakfast

Leadership Breakfast will be at 7 a.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Guest speaker will be Supreme Court Justice Shea Nickell, and Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom will provide an update on the new courthouse project. Cost is \$15 for breakfast. The event will be at Rocket Arena conference room. RSVP to crittenden-countychamber@gmail.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden Fiscal Court meets at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 21 at the county office complex.
- Livingston Conservation District 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.

Grand Champion



Russell Vince of Marion (second from left) won so many awards at last week's ham contest at the Kentucky State Fair that 4-H state officers had to help him out. He won all four.

Vince's speech really hammed it up!

STAFF REPORT

Eleven-year-old Russell Vince of Marion has joined an elite group of Kentucky 4-Hers, earning the coveted Junior Grand Champion title in the state's annual Country Ham Project at the Kentucky State Fair. His victory came with a clever and sometimes humorous twist – a four-and-a-half-minute speech told entirely from the point of view of the ham he spent months curing.

Vince's accomplishment is one seldom achieved locally. As far as current county 4-H officials and longtime participants know, the only other Crittenden County youth to claim a grand championship at the state fair was Mauri Collins, who won in the senior division in 2018. Collins also won the junior division once and claimed the senior title twice more in 2014, 2015 and 2017. In her seven years competing, she topped the speech competition in her age group every year but one.

Two other Crittenden County 4-Hers also placed at this year's competition. Caroline Martin earned an overall award in her age group without winning either the ham or speech portions individually, a sign of her consistently high scores in both areas. Brooklyn Lovell earned third place in her division.

For Vince, the road to the championship began in February at Broadbent's B&B Food Products in Kuttawa, where he and his grandfather, Charlie Hunt, began the curing process. Working together, they rubbed salt into every part of the ham, a crucial first step to preserve the meat, before returning in March for rinsing, reshaping and re-hanging. In August, they cleaned the ham and prepared it for judging at the fair.

At the fair, Vince's smoked ham earned second place in his age division, but it was

See **HAM**/page 10A

Davises launch big plans for former Marion hardware store

STAFF REPORT

Colby and Bethany Davis of Marion have stepped into the role of developers, buying the former Marion True Value property last week with plans to turn it into a regional hub for fitness, medical services and athletic instruction.

The property, which includes the former store, lumberyard, two storage buildings, a nearby residence and a smattering of remaining inventory, was sold Friday afternoon in a court-ordered foreclosure auction. The sale was tied to a lawsuit filed by Byline Bank of Chicago over a defaulted business loan involving Clark's True Value and related entities.

About three dozen onlookers attended the sale conducted by Buntin Auction Co., but only two parties entered bids. The Davises emerged as the new owners of

See **SOLD**/page 4A



Colby and Bethany Davis with their two children.

4-year-old Paris murder trial set for four days next spring

STAFF REPORT

A Crittenden County man accused of shooting his father to death in February 2022 is scheduled to stand trial more than four years after the killing.

Timothy W. Paris, 41, of Marion is charged with capital murder in the death of his father, Jerry Paris, who was 80 at the time of the killing.



Paris

The elder Paris was found dead with two gunshot wounds from a .41-caliber handgun inside his Blackburn Church Road home on Feb. 28, 2022.

Circuit Judge Daniel Heady last week set the trial for four days next spring, beginning with jury selection on March 27, 2026. The case will be heard March 30 through April 1. A pretrial conference is set for Dec. 11 of this year.

There was some discussion in court last week

about whether Marion City Hall, which has been serving as an acting circuit courtroom, is a suitable venue for the proceedings. Officials considered moving the case to a nearby county to allow for better accommodations, enhanced security and to avoid scheduling conflicts with other court sessions in Marion. No decision was made last week on a change of venue.

The case has been delayed

See **MURDER**/page 6A

Dry as a bone

Last week, the main water line under The Press office gave way. Somewhere on our side of the meter next to Bellville Street, past where tree roots creep and pipes rust in the dark soil, we lost contact with municipal H₂O. The problem was in a tough spot, near where the line pushes through the concrete slab floor. There, a crack turned into a gush, and just like that, we were bone dry. The only remedy was to shut it off at the meter altogether. That's right, no running water. By the time you read this, Lord willing, the plumbers will have wrenched and sweated enough joints to get things flowing again.



Chris Evans
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

It's funny, or maybe pitiful, how quickly you miss water when it's gone. I agree, it's not the buck-30 bottled Dasani you're probably getting at DG these days, but the plain old brown-tinted stuff that comes hissing out of the tap is tough to go without. Sure, in Marion we're frustrated by having to live with that routine rusty hue and a smell – a legacy of manganese and old iron lines. But when you can't wash your hands after a potty break, you find yourself longing for even that imperfect blessing. With regard to Marion's broader water problem at Lake George, we can only pray for meaningful progress because a magic bullet does not exist. The cure will take time.

The Romans, of course, had water on the brain two thousand years ago. Their aqueducts ran for miles, carrying fresh springs to fountains, baths and even private homes. Historians can't agree whether it was lead pipes that poisoned them or the madness that comes from power and paranoia. As a community, we must resolve to get back on our feet waterwise, as a whole. As it was about 2,000 years ago, aqueducts will keep running long after the politics fall apart, proof that time will heal in spite of us.

Still, that's all ancient history. The here and now is a little less glamorous. Our "aqueduct" is a patchwork of buried pipe, much of it older than the fluorspar mining lamps inside the Clement Museum, and when it breaks, it takes a man with a shovel, a backhoe and maybe a prayer to fix it. The plumbers outside The Press this week aren't prospecting for gold, though I reckon if they found any, they'd claim it before telling me. They're just trying to coax that manganese-laced stream back inside so we can splash our faces, wash a few dishes in the sink and flush the jon as designed.

Folks take running water for granted until they don't have it. Flip a handle, turn a knob, and it's there... until it isn't. And when it isn't, you realize indoor plumbing is one of the few luxuries that are really a necessity. A man can honestly live without the convenience of WiFi, but go without water for a few days, and you start to understand why the Romans built those stone arches in the first place.

So if you see a muddy trench outside our office, fret not. It's just our little aqueduct under repair, and when it's done, I'll gladly raise a glass of brown water in its honor.

Chris Evans, a newspaperman since 1979, has been editor of The Press for more than 30 years and is the author of South of the Mouth of Sandy, a true crime story.

Deaths

Tosh

Linda Sue Tosh, 85, of Kuttawa, died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family.

Tosh was a charter member of the Lake Barkley Homemaker Club, had been a clerk for Kentucky Utilities in Eddyville, a clerk at the Ribbon Outlet at the mall in Eddyville and other stores as well. She was an artist who composed, drew and painted things she found along the shoreline of Lake Barkley. The artisty came from within and manifested itself through her work. She never had a bad word to say about anyone and always kept a positive attitude no matter what was going on.

Surviving are two sons, Kevin (Bonnie) Tosh of Eddyville and Darron (Jennifer) Tosh of Lexington; two grandchildren, Tiffany (Kory) Tosh of Westland, Mich., Justin Tosh (Ashley) of Corbin; and a great-grandchild, Mason Allen Carter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Tosh, in May of 2017. He was buried in Frances Cemetery in Crittenden County; two brothers, W. L. Simpkins and Billy Simpkins; a sister, Phyllis Phillips; and her parents, John Linon and Ruby Fuller Simpkins.

Services were Saturday, Aug. 9 at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville with Rev. Butch Gray officiating. Burial will follow in Frances Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., until service time at the funeral home.

Cook

Regina S. Cook, 69, of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 18, 2025 at her home. She was a member of Marion First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are her husband, Robert B. Cook of Marion; two daughters, Stacy Cook of Paducah, and Ashley Gunn of Nashville; and a brother, Brent Brantley of Jacksonville, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilbur and Corene Brantley; and a sister, Pamela Davenport.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Aug. 22 at Marion First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m. until service time at the church.

Donations may be made to the Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter, 24 Just A Mere Road, Marion, KY 42064.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Watson

Gregory A. Watson, 71, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025 at The Loft of East Peoria, Ill. He was born Oct. 2, 1953 in Marion to Paul and Lois Watson.

Music was his life and he would be best known as the owner of Watson Music which served Peoria, Ill., and surrounding

communities for many years.

Surviving are five children, Erin (Jessy Lozano) Watson of Nevada, Jenna Adair of Robein, Ill., Taylor (Shelby) Watson of East Peoria, Ill., Wesley Watson of Chicago, Ill., and Colin Watson of Michigan; and nine grandchildren; a sister Vickie (Jim) Callas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Lois Watson; a daughter, Miranda Watson; and a sister, Darla Watson.

Cremation has been ordered and no services will be held.

Tyner

Rebecca Ann Tyner, 69, of Salem died Monday, Aug. 18, 2025 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born in Marion to the late R.G. and Ozella Grimes Bailey and was a devoted member of Marion Second Baptist Church. She was known for her love of animals and antiques, passions that brought her joy throughout her life.

Surviving are her husband, J.H. Tyner; a son, John Tyner; a brother, Stanley (Judy) Bailey; her grandchildren, Carter and Presley Tyner; and a niece, Adrienne (Bailey) Wallace.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.



Help choose the encore stamp

The U.S. Postal Service is asking the public to help choose a fan-favorite stamp design for reissue in 2026 as part of its 250th anniversary celebration and the nation's upcoming semiquincentennial.

Through Sept. 30, the USPS is hosting its Stamp Encore Contest, allowing voters to select from 25 popular stamp panes released in recent years. The winning design will be unveiled in May 2026 at the Boston 2026 World Expo, a major event planned in conjunction with the United States' 250th birthday.

"This is an open invitation," the USPS said in its announcement. "Everyone is welcome, and you can vote as many times as you want."

Ballots may be cast online at stampsforever.com/vote or by mail using a printed form avail-


able at the same site.

The contest lineup includes a mix of Americana, pop culture and historical themes. Among the choices are Art of Disney: Magic (2007), Batman (2015), Bioluminescent Life (2018), Charles M. Schulz (2022), Frozen Treats (2018), Mister Rogers (2018), Star Wars: Droids (2021), Wonder Woman (2016), Total Eclipse of the Sun (2017) and Transconti-

ental Railroad (2019).

Until the winner is revealed in 2026, results will remain a secret.

Current stamps and other philatelic products are still available at usps.com/shopstamps, by phone at 844-737-7826, or at Post Office locations nationwide. Licensed USPS merchandise can also be purchased through Amazon, with more information at StampsForever.com.



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New school year, a shared responsibility

Across Kentucky, students are returning to classrooms, meeting teachers and settling into new routines. The start of a school year is always a reset point and an opportunity to focus on what works, address what doesn't and set goals for the months ahead.

Education is, at its core, about preparation. Whether a student's next step is higher education, technical training, the military or joining the workforce, our responsibility is to make sure they have the skills, knowledge and work ethic to succeed. That takes consistent effort from every part of the system — schools, families, communities and policymakers alike.

In recent years, the General Assembly has taken practical steps to strengthen that system. We've expanded early literacy programs, updated school safety measures, increased access to mental health resources and built more pathways for students to connect classroom learning to real-world careers. Thanks to targeted programs and careful planning, more Kentuckians are completing community and technical college without the burden of student debt.

These gains are important, but we haven't crossed the finish line. We still face questions about how to measure success in a way that reflects the needs of students, how to close learning gaps before they become long-term setbacks and how to keep our education system aligned with the demands of a changing economy. Meeting those challenges means listening to those closest to the classroom and shaping policy that works in practice, not just on paper.

A strong school year depends on everyone doing their part. Educators bring expertise and dedication to their work. Families provide guidance and encouragement at home. Communities add strength through their time, support and involvement. When each of these pieces works together, students are in the best position to succeed.

Students should stay engaged, keep asking questions and take pride in what they accomplish. Families, educators and community members all play a role in supporting that success. This year is a chance to build on what's working, confront challenges directly and keep our focus on preparing every Kentucky

student for what comes next.

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, represents the 1st Senate District, including Calloway, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon and Trigg counties. He co-chairs the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee. He is also vice chair of the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee. Howell serves on the Interim Joint Committees on Banking and Insurance; Economic Development and Workforce Investment; Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations; and Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology. He is a member of the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force. In 2024, he served on the Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force.



Jason HOWELL
KENTUCKY STATE SENATOR
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September 25th Show



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Burglary suspect cuts plea deal to get amended charge

STAFF REPORT

A number of defendants were sentenced or had probation revoked last week by Judge Daniel Heady in Crittenden Circuit Court on charges ranging from burglary and drug trafficking to theft and witness tampering, with some receiving probation contingent on treatment or cooperation, while others were ordered to serve prison terms.

Following are dispositions of cases before Judge Heady last week.

- Terri Henry, 45, of Dawson Springs, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of felony third-degree burglary plus original felony charges of theft by unlawful taking (under \$10,000) and first-degree criminal mischief by complicity and a misdemeanor charge of possession of burglary tools. She was sentenced to five years on each felony and 365 days for the misdemeanor with all time to run consecutively. The court agreed to probation on all counts for five years if she completes court-ordered programs, makes restitution and truthfully

revealed drug paraphernalia in his possession and alleged methamphetamine residue.

- Chealse M. Williams, 31, of Marion pleaded guilty in two cases, one for theft of a controlled substance and escape from jail. She was sentenced to seven years, but the commonwealth will not oppose shock after 30 days. She has already been jailed for more than two months. Court records indicted that Williams took 187 does of morphine sulfate from a home she was visiting back in September of last year. She is also accused of escaping from Crittenden County Detention Facility after being charged with the above felony. Court records say that she was granted furlough by the jail on Oct. 30, 2024 and did not return under terms of the temporary furlough.
- Makenzie Watson, 23, of Marion pleaded guilty to a Class C felony of complicity to trafficking in a controlled substance (greater than two grams). Although she was sentenced to 10 years, the

judge ordered probation so long as Watson goes immediately into a longterm treatment center then enrolls in and completes drug court following initial treatment.

- Jessica F. Long, 32, of Marion pleaded guilty to an amended charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine), less than two grams, a Class D felony. She was originally facing a Class C felony based on the same crime, but at a higher volume, above two grams. Long was sentenced three years and the Commonwealth opposed probation. Court records indicated that she sold 3.44 grams of meth to a cooperating witness last February.
- William L. Walker, 56, of Eddyville entered an Alford plea to four amended charges of attempted witness tampering, a Class A misdemeanor. He was originally indicted in

early 2024 on felony charge pg sending correspondence to a victim “containing false statements and threats of reprisal regarding (the victim’s) testimony...”

He was sentenced to 365 days, but given credit for time served which satisfied the penalty.

- Tony Wiliams, 40, of Salem had his probation revoked on two 2023 drug convictions. Testimony by his probation officer indicated that Williams failed to complete court-ordered treatment for drug addiction and had been given multiple opportunities. He was ordered to serve the balance of his sentenced on both cases.
- Alexandria Jimenez, 31, of Marion had a drug felony charge dismissed for possession of hydrocodone. She is currently serving a five-year sentenced on a fantanyl conviction in Crittenden County.

Bond set for 2 of 3 shooting suspects

STAFF REPORT

Bond has been set for two of three Marion residents charged in connection with a February shooting in the Mexico community, while the third remains held without bond.

Circuit Judge Daniel Heady last week set Jonathan Chase York’s bond at \$500,000 and Allison Robinson’s at \$250,000. Travis Robinson asked to leave him in custody without bond. All three are being held in the Crittenden County Detention Center and have pretrial conferences scheduled for Oct. 16.

York, 40, is charged with attempted murder, possession of a



T.Robinson A.Robinson York

handgun by a convicted felon, tampering with physical evidence and being a persistent felony offender (PFO). Travis Robinson, 47, faces conspiracy to commit murder, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, tampering with physical evidence and PFO. Allison Robinson, 25, is charged with con-

spiracy to commit murder.

The charges stem from a Feb. 10 incident in which authorities say a man in his 30s was shot in the hip while driving along KY 70 near Jackson School Road. He drove himself to Crittenden Community Hospital and has recovered. Investigators allege the three planned to lure the victim to an address on KY 70, where York is believed to have fired the shot. Court records indicate two suspects tried to destroy the gun by cutting it into pieces.

If convicted as charged with PFO enhancements, the Class B felonies could carry penalties of 20 years to life in prison.

Burglary, custodial interference among indictments

STAFF REPORT

A Crittenden County grand jury last week indicted four individuals, dismissed one felony count with a no-true bill and amended another felony case to misdemeanors.

A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence. It decides only whether enough evidence exists to continue prosecution of a felony case in circuit court.

Indicted last Thursday were the following.

- Deborah Lyn Abegglen, 67, of Marion, was indicted for felony custodial interference. Law enforcement was contacted in June by state social workers to help locate a missing 17-year-old girl, who had been committed to state custody on June 14, 2022, but went missing from foster care

about a year ago. Authorities believed she was living with her grandparents, who had recently moved to Marion. When officers arrived at the home, Abegglen and her husband, Randall Abegglen, denied the girl was present. She was later found in a back bedroom and returned to state custody.

- Randall Lee Abegglen, 68, of Marion, also faces the same custodial interference charge as his wife, Deborah Abegglen.
- Thomas Drake Kemper, 24, of Marion, was indicted on a Class C felony charge of second-degree assault. A separate count of being a persistent felony offender was dismissed with a no-true bill. The indictment

charges that Kemper fired a BB gun at a six-year-old boy, striking him in the leg and causing serious physical injury. Surgery was required to remove the BB, court records say.

- Tyler James Smith, 28, of Morganfield, is charged with third-degree burglary, a Class D felony, and third-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, a misdemeanor. Police believe that on June 10, Smith and a male juvenile burglarized a residence on Mott City Road in Crayne. The property owner had returned from an extended absence to find a broken window, pry marks on a door and several items missing. Troopers allegedly traced

the stolen property to a neighboring home. According to court records, the juvenile told police he and Smith entered through broken glass after trying to pry open the back door and took items from the home to a neighbor’s house. Smith allegedly admitted to the burglary and said he did not want the juvenile to be charged.

- Rocky B. Odom, 28, of Marion, had a felony charge of second-degree burglary amended to first-degree criminal trespassing, a misdemeanor. He also faces misdemeanor counts of third-degree terroristic threatening and two counts of fourth-degree assault with minor injury. The case was remanded back to Crittenden District Court.

Nine indicted on a variety of charges

STAFF REPORT

A Livingston County grand jury last week returned the following felony indictments. A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence. It decides only whether enough evidence exists to continue prosecution of a felony case in circuit court.

- Lora Ashley Goff, 34, of Gilbertsville, was indicted on a felony charge of flagrant non-support.
- Nathan Mathiesen, 24, of Salem, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree wanton endangerment and misdemeanor third-degree terroristic threatening. Court records indicate Mathiesen was arrested at a home on Park Road on May 5 after he allegedly pointed a handgun at another person and threatened to kill them during a confrontation at Salem Food Market.
- Brandy Rupcke, 47, of Paducah, was indicted on a felony charge of flagrant non-support and for being a first-degree persistent felony offender.
- William L. Sanford, 44, of Paducah, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).
- Ni’Kylar Bowden, age and address not available, was indicted

on five felony counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, as well as charges of speeding, reckless driving, menacing, leaving the scene of an accident, DUI, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper passing, failure to or improper signal, criminal mischief, failure to wear seat belts, resisting arrest, improper lane usage, attempted escape, failure of non-owner to maintain required insurance and obstructing an emergency responder. Court records indicate that on June 25, state troopers answered a complaint about a reckless driver on Interstate 24 near Grand Rivers. Bowden was the alleged driver and is accused of driving 96 mph and striking multiple vehicles on the interstate.

- Nicholas Quintin Bowden Jr., 22, of St. Louis, Mo., was indicted on two felony counts of third-degree assault and misdemeanor charges of menacing, disorderly conduct, public intoxication and resisting arrest. Bowden was a passenger in the above case involving Ni’Kylar Bowden.
- Richard F. Watkins Jr., 62, of Grand Rivers, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree pos-

session of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Court records indicate that on June 24, deputies with the Livingston County Sheriff’s Department assisted Probation and Parole officers with a home visit at 272 Megan Drive. During the visit, Watkins allegedly admitted to having recently used methamphetamine. Inside the home, officers found glass smoking pipes containing a white crystalline residue that appeared to be methamphetamine and later field-tested positive. Deputies also discovered two small baggies containing a substance believed to be methamphetamine.

- Heather Marie Harris, 48, of Ledbetter, was indicted on a felony charge of failure to comply with sex offender registration, failure of automobile owner to maintain required insurance and careless driving.
- Doris Marie Thorn, 26, of Smithland, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, greater than two grams (methamphetamine), and lesser charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of a legend drug.

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REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 13.42 Acres - \$649,900
This stunning hobby farm offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and functionality in a quiet rural setting. Includes a 6-bedroom, 4-bathroom home, two-car attached garage, two shops and a barn.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 20 Acres - \$65,000
This property offers an exceptional blend of features tailored for deer and turkey hunting enthusiasts. The landscape is marked by areas of exposed rock that add a rugged charm and unique character.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 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.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4.291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!
With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and multiple lodges with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity! A part of this listing is under contract – contact agent.

Livingston County, KY – 147.7043 - \$565,000
This exceptional hunting tract serves as a main travel hub for wildlife, featuring an extensive creek network that enhances its habitat diversity. Features an established trail system throughout!

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$288,200
Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$357,000
Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres – \$520,725
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400
Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600
Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - \$2,243,750
Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - \$3,016,450
These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 2 Acres - \$219,900
Charming 2BR, 1.5BA with tons of light, a big deck for sweet tea sippin', insulated garage, and a white picket fence. Cozy, bright, and full of southern charm!

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.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 129.52 Acres - \$679,000
This scenic and versatile farmstead offers a rare opportunity to own multiple homes and a well-rounded blend of agricultural, recreational, and residential amenities!

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Burna student is chosen for Craft

Livingston Central High School student Alena Carolynn Edwards of Burna is among 120 juniors selected from across the state to join the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University for the fall of 2027.

The Craft Academy offers academically gifted high school juniors and seniors a residential, dual-credit experience on MSU’s campus, allowing them to complete their final two years of high school while earning college credit. Students are chosen through a competitive application process based on academic performance in STEM fields, standardized test scores, essays, recommendations and interviews.

The program emphasizes project-based STEM+X courses, innovation and civic engagement while preparing students for postsecondary success.

EQUIP program deadline Sept. 26

Landowners, farmers and producers have until Sept. 26 to apply for assistance through the USDA’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) if they want to be considered for the next round of funding.

While the USDA–Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts applications year-round, funding selections for EQIP and other conservation programs are made at set times during the year. Applications received by the September cutoff will be evaluated for potential cost-share contracts during this cycle.

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial private forestland owners to address concerns related to soil, water, air and other natural resources. Participants work with NRCS to implement voluntary conservation practices in exchange for reimbursement for a portion of the costs.

The program is open to those engaged in livestock or



agricultural production, as well as owners of eligible forestland. In fiscal year 2025, Kentucky NRCS provided more than \$25 million in EQIP assistance.

For more information, visit www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov, contact the Crittenden County Conservation Office at 118 E. Bellville St., Marion, or visit the USDA Service Center in Salem.

KDFWR explores lake pontoon rental

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will host a public hearing next month on a proposal to operate a commercial pontoon boat rental business on Lake Beshear.

The meeting is scheduled for 7–8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Pennyrile State Resort Park Lodge. Officials from the department will take public comments on the request by Corey and Kristin Merrill to locate a pontoon rental service on the lake, which lies in Caldwell and Christian counties.

Impounded in 1962, Lake Beshear is part of Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park and is a popular destination for boating, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider the proposal at its Sept. 19 meeting. A summary of all comments made at the public hearing, along with written remarks submitted in advance, will be provided to commissioners for review.

Those unable to attend the meeting may submit written comments by mail or email by 5 p.m. ET Wednesday, Sept. 17. Correspondence should be labeled “Lake Beshear Public Comment” and include the sender’s name, county and state of residence, and, if applicable, their organization and position.

Written comments may be mailed to: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman’s Lane,

Frankfort, KY 40601. Email comments may be sent to fw.fisheries@ky.gov with “Lake Beshear Public Comment” in the subject line.

The lodge is located at 20781 Pennyrile Lodge Road, Dawson Springs, KY 42408. For more information, call 270–797–3421.

KDE plans to scrap ACT for SAT for Jrs.

Kentucky Department of Education plans to replace the ACT with the SAT for all high school juniors beginning this school year, ending an 18-year practice of requiring the ACT. Unlike the ACT, the SAT does not include a science section — an area where Kentucky students have consistently struggled.

The switch was announced to superintendents during a July 15 webcast after KDE awarded a testing contract to SAT. However, Jefferson County Public Schools spokesman Mark Hebert said Aug. 12 that districts have yet to receive guidance. ACT officials have appealed the decision, a move similar to challenges SAT filed in other states.

Kentucky law requires all juniors to take a college admissions exam but does not specify which test. When legislators mandated the ACT in 2006, then–Sen. Dan Kelly said it helped more students see themselves as “college material.”

The change comes amid declining science proficiency scores. In 2024, only 6% of high school students were proficient in science, compared to 22% in middle school and 34% in elementary. Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher has called for a statewide review of science instruction and performance. KDE has not disclosed how much the state spends to provide the tests for free.

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

Crittenden Press Letter to the Editor

Healthy living should be personal responsibility

To the Editor,

Chris Evans’ article in the Aug. 14, 2025 newspaper entitled “So here we are” is missing the point that our health should be our personal responsibility and not rely on medical advancements.

We have a responsibility to live healthy, so we don’t have to rely upon medical advancements. Our lives begin the same; however, as we grow we are affected by genetics and environmental factors.

Environmental factors include what we decide to put into our

bodies, if you watch TV commercials, everything is good for us. Yes, we can treat our bodies without regard to what is good for us and when we get older our doctors can prescribe drugs to give us more time with loved ones.

But at what cost, just because we can rely on the doctors to help us, should we?

It is our responsibility to treat our body the best, by eating healthy and exercise and when we cannot control genetics, we have the doctors to help us.

Chris Evans’ original article used statistics so here is mine. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studies on adult and child obesity and overall health of U.S. citizens state that 40.3% of adults 20

years and older in the U.S. are considered obese and 1 in 5 children are obese.

The Crittenden Press is a good source of information for our local community, and it is my belief that these articles should assist in the health and well-being of our community. I thank Chris Evans for publishing the article and hopefully getting more than me thinking about the health of our community.

For additional information reach out to the many community nutrition programs to educate ourselves to live healthy lives and limit the amount of medical advancements we need.

Martha Westgate
Marion, Ky.

SOLD

Continued from page 1 what had once been one of Marion’s cornerstone businesses. The sale price was \$525,000, slightly above the stated appraisal price of \$500,000 announced prior to the sale by Master Commissioner Rebecca Johnson.

For Colby Davis, the purchase marked both a leap of faith and a pivot. For months, he and his wife had been working toward constructing a new indoor training facility on land they acquired next to Marion-Crittenden County Park. State-approved engineering plans were already in hand when the auction notice appeared in the newspaper.

“I had actually tried to buy True Value in December, but it was too far along in the bankruptcy process to be saved,” Davis said in an interview. “On the day I

got my engineering specs back with a stamp of approval, the auction was published. We prayed about it and decided to call an audible.”

Instead of breaking ground on new construction, the Davises shifted their focus to repurposing the True Value complex. Davis envisions a phased development, beginning with a community fitness center, a turf training area, and space for agility and weight training.

Future plans include batting cages, softball and baseball instruction, and expanded programming through partnerships with professional trainers and performance labs. He said agreements are already in place with nationally recognized organizations.

Medical partners are also expected to occupy space in the complex.

“This entire project has been a leap of faith

for me and my family,” Davis said. “We’re not entrepreneurs by trade. We both work full-time jobs. But we want this to be affordable and accessible to the community.”

Davis is a Paducah native and Heath High School graduate. He has served 19 years in the Kentucky Army National Guard and is awaiting promotion to major. On the civilian side, he works in safety, claims and engineering for Irvin Cable Construction.

Bethany (Heaton) Davis is a familiar face in Marion. For years, she worked at Farmers Bank now she’s an occupational therapist at local hospitals.

The property they acquired has a layered history. True Value closed its doors in late 2023 after the Madisonville owners defaulted on loans. By early 2024, bankruptcy filings revealed the local store was part of a broader fi-

nancial collapse tied to multiple properties and creditors. The Marion location sat idle for more than a year.

Now, the Davises hope to revive the space, not as a hardware store but as The Launch Pad for healthier lifestyles and athletic opportunities.

Phase one, Davis said, could open as soon as renovations are complete in the storefront portion of the building. Beyond gym memberships, the couple plans to participate in the SilverSneakers program to provide access for qualifying seniors. They are also exploring sponsorship options to assist young athletes who cannot afford training fees.

“Our location is at the epicenter of a lot of college programs in western Kentucky and southern Illinois,” Davis said. “We believe Marion can be on the map in a way it hasn’t been before.”



FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK — A group of eight fifth- and sixth-graders from Crittenden County attended Camp Currie, one of three conservation education camps operated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The campers, all participants in the Department’s Conservation Education Program in the schools, spent the week swimming, boating, and fishing, and also received instruction in boating safety, conservation, and safe gun handling. Pictured are (front row, from left) Carissa Bigham, Rhonda Fox, Roxanne Binkley, Le Anne Malcolm, Angela James; (middle row) Tracey Bebout, Shelly Clark, Lisa Brewer; and adult leaders and counselors. This photo appeared in The Crittenden Press in August 1975. See this photo in living color on our Early Bird Facebook page.

10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 20, 2015

■ The road leading to Industrial Park North off U.S. 60 east of Marion was named for longtime Crittenden County Judge-Executive Pippi Hardin.

■ Crittenden County High School cheerleaders pictured in The Press’ football preview were Sydney Leibenguth, Katie Travis, Lauren McKinney, Kali Travis, Hayleigh Bradham, Makensie Simpkins, Shelby Wallace, Hannah Cooksey, Hannah Bell, Jaylin Blackburn, Brittany Minton, Kirsten DeBoe, Shelby Brown, Jenna Potter, Jessie Potter and Ellie McGowan.

■ Seniors on the Rocket football team previewed in the newspaper were Jesse Belt, Seth Birdwell, Nick Castiller, Tyler Coleman, Alex Cosby, Travis Fitzgerald, Dylan Hicks, Dylan Hollis, Tony Hood, Devin Hopper, Gary McConnell, Austin McKinney, Bryce McKinney and Travis McKinney.

■ Lauren Gilchrist, an eighth grader, finished 36th out of 107 golfers in Kentucky at a match at Central Hardin.

25 YEARS AGO

Aug. 24, 2000

■ Five residents of Greenwood Heights subdivision filed criminal complaints against Tyson chicken broiler house owners due to odor emitted on the east edge of Marion, putting the question to the court system as to whether odors can trespass.

■ After four months of discussion, the Marion City Council voted to remove parking meters from the downtown.

■ Jason Guess won the 16-18 age division of the Marion Country Club Junior Tournament with a one-over-par 73 for the 18-hole tournament. Winner of the 13-15 division was Justin Travis; Jon Brantley won the 11-12 division; and Janson James the 8-10 division. Paxton James won the driving and putting contest, and Cole Foster won the chipping division.

■ Crittenden County soccer won its opening game of the season 1-0 over University Heights in double overtime with a goal by Andie Turley in the last minute.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 21, 1975

■ Just over 1,770 students were due to start school with several big changes, including the opening of a new high school, creation of a middle school for seventh- and eighth-graders in the former high school, and the establishment of a floating principal to oversee Frances, Tolu and Mattoon elementary schools.

■ Students of Mrs. Dexter Marsh presented a piano recital, including Daphne Dodson, Judy Workman, Stacy Hunt, Pam Dorris, Tina Latham, Beth Towery, Mark Latham, Maria Shewcraft, Paul Akridge, Rita Shouse, Patty Dorris, Faylena Crawford, Caryn Shewcraft and Margie McClure.

■ Crittenden County youth attending Camp Currie were Tracey Bebout, Shelly Clark, Lisa Brewer, Carissa Bigham, Rhonda Fox, Roxanne Binkley, Le Anne Malcolm and Angela James.

■ Mike Stone won Marion Country Club’s Club Tournament with a pair of 68s for the 36-hole event. Annabelle Pfunder took first place in the women’s division with rounds of 90 and 84 for a 174 total. First flight winner was Roy Cooper; second flight winner Mike Allison; third flight Pete Hickey; and fourth flight Bobby Rogers.

■ Crittenden County’s girls softball team ended its season with an 11-5 record. Team members were Judy Belt, Molly Asbridge, Janis Johnson, Anna Browning, Debbie York, Ramona Artman, Lorrie Harris, Cindy Jepsen, Debbie Jepsen, Market Brown, Cheryl Hina, Janet Loyd, Mona Kirk, Connie Gilliam, Madeline Henderson and Sherry Martin.

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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Chris Evans, editor & publisher

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A world I want to live in

I have spent some time this week contemplating creation. However one thinks it all happened, it is complex beyond our knowledge and beautiful beyond our words. I was taking a break on one of our very hot days recently and just looked at the leaves. Not one of them cared that I was there. I wondered how many leaves in this world come and go that no one ever sees. There they were, doing what leaves do, keeping this planet's ecosystem in balance. One leaf is inconsequential, but together they keep us alive and make this world beautiful.

I noticed some skinks going about their business. I saw ants and flying insects. All doing what they were created to do. They can't do anything else but what they were created to do. If they start to act strangely, we understand that they have a disease or that something is out of balance. This, it seems, applies to all creation – except us.

We have been given the opportunity to “have dominion” over the earth. We have been given the privilege of seeking wis-



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

dom and technology and making our lives more comfortable. But we have forgotten that the world does not belong to us. That will not be corrected this side of eternity so far as I can see.

We still, however, can decide the kind of world we would like to live in and act accordingly. The Bible tells us that God called his people, not because they were greater than others, but because he wanted to show the rest of the world what a blessing it is to live the way we were created to live. The goal was to live in such a way that all people would be drawn back to God. This is true of the church today and of the children of Abraham in the Law and the Prophets.

We have been given instruction in Micah 6:8, repeated by Jesus in Matthew 9:13 (repeated in 12:7), when he told some religious leaders to “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’” There is a constant theme of forgiveness throughout the Bible. When Peter asked how often he should forgive a wrong the answer came back

“seventy-seven” (but who’s counting?).

Many Christians pray the Lord’s Prayer. There are a couple of lines in that prayer that call us to account for our actions. One of them is, “And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.” This is not an easy prayer to live. There is another line earlier in the prayer that is a reminder that we are to behave like people of the kingdom while we are here on earth, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”.

Where God’s people gather, regardless of one’s faith, there should be a place of peace and safety. It is a place of forgiveness, mercy, and accountability. Our churches and congregations are lights in a world that has moments when it forgets how we were created to behave and treat each other.

To extend this beyond the gathering requires courage and stamina. The famous ancient preacher, John Chrysostom said, “This is the rule of most perfect Christianity, its most exact definition, its highest point, namely, the seeking of the common good... For nothing can so make a person an imitator of Christ as caring for their neighbors.” (On the Statues, Homily 20).

Basil the Great (330-379), bishop of Caesarea, commenting on

the man who tore down his barns to build bigger ones in Luke 12:18 spoke this challenge, “When someone strips a man of his clothes we call him a thief. And one who might clothe the naked and does not—should not they be given the same name? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it.”

Mahatma Ghandi is given credit for coining the phrase, “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” This is wisdom that does not conflict with Christianity. It happens when a person decides to be transformed into a new way of living and thinking. We do not have to do this on our own. We have communities of faith to help us. We have built-in examples, stories, mentors, and accountability. We have encouragement close to hand.

It is challenging, but all of us can do more to make our congregations places of mercy and forgiveness. We can act the way we want others to treat us because that is the way we are, not because others deserve it.

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.

Strength in faith: God will supply what we lack

Question: I’ve just received a notice from the federal government that I must start making a monthly payment on my college student loan. As a family we are maxed out with a home mortgage loan, insurance payments, a car loan and medical bills. I feel like we are sinking financially. I need a miracle. I desperately need God’s help. Will He help me?

A: God isn’t a tyrant, a dictator, or simply unengaged.

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

He’s a compassionate heavenly Father, who works for the good of His children. Jesus made this perfectly clear. When He taught, “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts

to those who ask him” (Mt. 7:11)!

God willingly gets involved in our needs. He helps, but He isn’t obligated to respond to our needs with a miracle. To receive God’s help, follow these suggestions:

- 1. Ask for help.** Lower your pride and raise your faith by asking God to help you in this time of your need. Make it a matter of consistent prayer.
- 2. Assess the true needs**

in your life. Distinguish between your wants and needs, then deny yourself some wants to make regular payments on your debt.

- 3. Let God use whatever resources you have.** He can do what no one else can do.
- 4. Look for God’s hand working in your circumstances.** Then, respond in faith and obedience to His help.

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.
- 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 Celebrate Recovery meets Monday’s 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.

75th Anniversary of Ministry

PINEY FORK
Cumberland Presbyterian Church

will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Rev. Wendell Ordway’s first preaching ministry

Sunday, Aug. 24
11 a.m.

Church is located on Highway 506, 6 miles from Marion

Unity
General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd., Marion, KY

Join us for our annual
HOMECOMING
Sunday, Aug. 31

Service at **11 a.m.**
Singing following noon meal by Cutter & Cash and the Kentucky Grass

Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us.

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 Jojo Joseph

Mexico Baptist Church

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Morgan Smith
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

“Whatever It Takes”
Bro. Jamie Baker

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Barnett Chapel...
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m. 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 Join us for praise & worship

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232

Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children’s & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

261 Crooked Creek Church Rd., P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Pastor, Hank Cayce “Come and Worship with Us”

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace 2 Peter 3:18

PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God

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

Speaker: Greg Rushing

PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.

A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian

585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.

Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously

SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.

South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray

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 -

Harmony and heritage: Remembering singing schools

In the 1900s, singing schools were a significant part of American communities. These were essentially short, intensive courses in music instruction, usually lasting for a few weeks and led by itinerant “singing masters.” Singing school was a brief course of musical instruction devoted to the teaching of note-reading and sight-singing, with a focus on sacred music. The primary purpose was to improve congregational singing. Printed manuals, or tunebooks, containing instructions, scales, etudes and sacred choral music were used as teaching materials.

Singing masters taught basic musical literacy and the mechanics of singing. This often involved the use of shape notes, a simplified system of musical notation where different shapes represented different pitches, making it easier for those with limited musical training to read music. (This sounds difficult to me, but I never was able to carry a tune, even with music. I can’t imagine trying to sing a song by just looking at the shaped notes.)

Generally these schools lasted two weeks. The opening night would see the school divided into two groups. The beginner’s group would be instructed in note reading, singing the scale and then singing by note. The advanced group would be composed of those who could do the above. They would be instructed in harmony and in “singing by parts,” tenor, bass, alto and soprano in their individual classifications. The results accomplished were amazing.

Singing masters went out to train people how to sing and to encourage young people to further their education. What these persons learned by the end of the school remained with them and enriched them for the rest of their lives. They knew the rudiments of singing. They taught others. The elementary training continued to bear fruit



Hoods School house was in Shady Grove. Pierce McChesney was the teacher. This group is shown holding the printed manuals, or tunebooks, that were used in teaching.

and help church singing wherever they went. They could get a few people together, select those with a

little talent and soon had them singing as a choir.

Singing schools were more than just music lessons. They were important social gatherings that brought communities together, providing opportunities for interaction and even courtship.

From the archives of The Crittenden Press we can

re-visit some of these musical affairs from the past.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Sept. 1913 – Much Enthusiasm Shown at Singing School

County singing convention met at Repton Church Saturday, Sept. 6. A large crowd was present and the exercises were opened by singing by the Repton choir followed by devotional exercises by Rev. B. F. Hyde, who also delivered the welcome address.

Cave Springs’ choir then took charge of the singing. This choir did good singing, and showed they had good training.

They were followed by Rosebud choir who also delivered some excellent music led by Desmond Crowell.

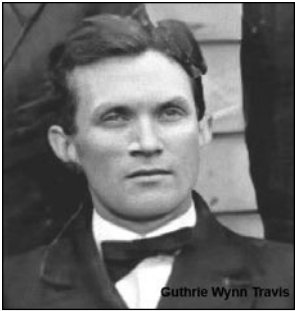
After a song by the entire congregation, the choir from the Second Baptist Church of Marion with George Gass as leader was next and many comments were made upon the spirit with which they sang and upon the selections they made.

At 1:30 o’clock the congregation was brought together again by singing, followed by prayer by Bro. Walker, music by Rosebud choir, then a talk on music was made by Mrs. Frank Cowen, followed by singing by Marion’s choir.

Mrs. E. M. Duvall made an interesting talk on the “Blessings of Music” not only here on earth but in heaven also, and said that when we are singing praises here that it should be with the hope and expectation of singing in God’s choir in the other land. Her address was followed by a quartet by Joseph Foster and family then a duet by Marion choir, music by Rosebud choir, quartet by Messrs Travis, Crowell, O’Neal and Crowell and a solo by Guthrie Travis.

July 1917 – Singing at Blackburn Church

The singing school con-



Guthrie Travis was a “singing school” teacher who went around the county teaching people to sing by reading shaped notes and organizing choirs for churches.

vention was held at the Blackburn Church on Sunday, June 24, 1917. Those who love songs, sociality and something good to eat will never know what they missed by not being there.

The meeting was under the control of Prof. Guthrie W. Travis, who is recognized all over this and adjoining counties, as one of the greatest of song lovers, as well as an excellent singer and proficient teacher of vocal music.

Prof. Travis has been teaching singing schools for more than 20 years. He also, teaches instrumental music and voice successfully. Mr. Travis recognizes the fact that no community organization is complete without its community singing, so he is doing all he can

to reestablish this important factor which has been almost lost from the “good old times.”

There were five or six full choirs at this meeting, besides singers and song lovers, young girls and their friends, curiosity seekers, idle spectators, bystanders, others with no object at all in view, old folks, young folks, men, women, children and babies galore, in all about 1,500 people besides horses and buggies and automobiles. We sang and ate dinner on the ground, drank water and melted – the day was hot.

As on the fifth Sunday in July, we have our next singing convention at the beautiful little tri-county center, Shady Grove. Now, if you miss this one is it your fault because I have told you where and when it is to be. All lovers of song, sociality, chin music (slang for idle talk); curiosity seekers, bystanders, and all will find this a good place to be on that day. The Shady Grove choir extended to us a cordial invitation, singers, choirs, candidates and all. Signed, by one who was there.

August 9, 1917 A Big Time At Shady Grove

The singing school convention at Shady Grove, Sunday, July 29, under the management

of Guthrie Travis was a grand success.

Although the weather was uncomfortably warm there was a large crowd gathered early in the day. there were six choirs present, Shady Grove, Blackburn, Cave Springs, Enon, Crewswell and Beckner’s Chapel.

Dennie Hubbard, leader of the Shady Grove Choir, in his welcome address, made us feel like we had come to the right place. And James Canada from Walnut Grove in a few well chosen words, made responses to Mr. Hubbard’s hearty welcome.

Then we had singing by the different choirs, and at the noon hour after we had refreshed ourselves by eating dinner, we spent the remainder of our intermission in having a good time speaking with our friends.

In the afternoon we had more singing by the different choirs interspersed with some special singing and then general discussion of the singing convention. After this all the choirs joined in singing that grand old song, “Sweet By and By,” then we were dismissed and all went home with gratitude to Mr. Travis and the good people of Shady Grove for the nice time we had enjoyed.

Guthrie Travis

Guthrie Wynn Travis, the leader of these Singing School Conventions, was the third child of W. C. M. and Georgiana Travis. He was born at Bells Mines in the year 1871. In his later years he and his family lived at Blackford and Providence.

He taught how to read music and also trained many choirs in Crittenden and adjoining counties. He also wrote music for several songs, some of which found their way into books used in Sunday schools and church work. Guthrie Wynn Travis died Nov. 22, 1963 at the age of 92. He is buried at the Blackford Cemetery in Webster County.

(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).

MURDER

from page 1A

by questions over Paris’ mental competency to stand trial. In October 2024, the court temporarily deemed him incompetent following a psychiatric evaluation at the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center in La Grange. The evaluation found that Paris was suffering from a

mental defect at the time of the shooting that prevented him from appreciating the criminality of his conduct, and that he remained unable to understand the consequences of his actions or meaningfully assist in his defense.

Paris was ordered to remain in custody with his condition to be reviewed regularly. A new public defender was recently assigned to his case and now it’s moving

forward.

Paris was arrested within hours of the shooting and has been held on a \$1 million bond since. Probable cause was found in March 2022, and he was indicted the following month.

At previous hearings, Paris has expressed frustration at the pace of the case. Judge Heady

has acknowledged the delay, citing a backlog in court-ordered psychiatric evaluations and changes in the public defender’s office.

If Paris is found guilty, the capital murder charge could carry a sentence of death, life without parole or life with the possibility of parole.

NOTICE

In accordance with Chapters 65A.080 (2), KRS 424.220 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the Fiscal Year 2025 financial report and supporting data, including the most recent audit, may be inspected by the public at the Crittenden County Conservation District located at 118 East Bellville Street, Marion, KY, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Crittenden County Conservation District holds its scheduled regular monthly board meetings at the office at 6:30 p.m. CST or 7 p.m. DST on the 3rd Thursday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. This notice has been paid for by the Crittenden County Conservation District using taxpayer funds. The Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Aug. 21

- Hurricane Camp Board meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m., due to CCHS/CCMS back to school night.
- The CCES SBDM meets in the school library at 4 p.m.
- Friends of Crittenden County Public Library meet at 6 p.m. in the Library meeting room.
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Friday, Aug. 22

- Crittenden County Food Bank will have distribution from 8 a.m.-noon at 402 N. Walker St. in Marion.

Monday, Aug. 25

- Marion’s VFW located at 412 North College St., Marion will serve breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. Cost is \$8 or a donation can be made.
- WITS workout begins at 1 p.m at the Crittenden County Public Library.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

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

Thursday, Aug. 28

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

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NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 25-14: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §71.65 GOLF CART REGULATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on August 18, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council held on July 21, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

All motorized golf carts must be complete with rear view mirrors, lights (including brake lights, head lights and turn signals), brakes, a seat belt for each designated seating position, and a horn.

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

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
LEGAL SERVICES OFFICER
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
August 18, 2025

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 25-13: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on August 18, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council held on July 21, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance provides that street-legal special purpose vehicles may be operated on the streets located within its municipal boundaries except between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the following streets: Country Club Drive, Industrial Drive, Autumn Lane, West Gum Street, West Belleville Street and North and South Main Street.

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

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
LEGAL SERVICES OFFICER
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
August 18, 2025

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 25-12: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-10 THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SETTING COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS FOR THE SAME FISCAL YEAR

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on August 18, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council held on July 21, 2025, at 5 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the Pay Plan to provide for a Code Enforcement Officer at the annual pay of \$35,360.00.

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

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
LEGAL SERVICES OFFICER
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order of July 31, 2025, scheduling a public comment meeting to be held on September 8, 2025, at 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at Jefferson Community & Technical College: Hovarth Auditorium, 1000 Community College Dr., Louisville, KY 40272 for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company applications for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FREDONIA CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to KRS 132.027, as enacted and amended by the Kentucky General Assembly, the Fredonia City Council will hold a public hearing on

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, at 7 p.m.

in the Fredonia City Council Chambers, 312 Cassidy Avenue, Fredonia, KY 42411. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rates on real and personal property for calendar year 2025. As required by statute, please note the following information: the 2024 real property tax rate was 27.4 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and produced approximately \$33,868 in revenue; the proposed 2025 real property tax rate is 26.9 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and is expected to produce \$35,203 in revenue; the 2025 compensating real property tax rate is 25.9 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and is expected to produce \$33,894 in revenue; no new revenue is expected from new property in 2025; and the revenue expected from personal property in 2025 is \$22,490. Revenue received in the current year in excess of the revenue produced in the preceding year shall be allocated to the general fund for general City purposes. THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS REQUIRED PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

JIMMY DON SEIBERT, MAYOR
FREDONIA, KENTUCKY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
FREDONIA CITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE
NO. 07-21-2025

An Ordinance regulating potable water sales that are transported outside of the boundaries of the Fredonia Water System for the purpose of being potable water.

Whereas, the City Council, upon motion, second, and appropriate vote occurring on 21st day of July, 2025, that the following will be in act thus forward;

Section 1- Definitions
The following words and phrases will have meanings ascribed to them respectively.
"Potable Water" water that is for ingestion, either when drunk directly in liquid form or consumed indirectly through food preparation.
"Load Out" any access point where water can be loaded into tanks for transport from the Fredonia Water System
"Vendors" any person or business buying potable water and transporting it for monetary compensation outside of the boundaries of the Fredonia Water System

Section 2- Vendors
A) Vendors must obtain a Potable Water Business License from Fredonia City Hall. The cost of the license will be \$200.00. A vendor number will then be assigned to the vendor. License will need to be renewed annually from license date of purchase.
B) Vendors must register tanks that will be used to haul the water. Registration will include size, age and material of tanks, vehicle used to haul the tanks, license plate number of vehicle and a billing address. Once tanks are inspected an inspection sticker will be placed on tank. This sticker must be on the tank for all load outs. Upon license renewal, the inspection of tank must be renewed annually upon license purchase date.
C) Water can only be loaded out during normal business hours of Akridge's Hardware loading station. Absolutely no-load outs after hours.
D) Each time a vendor intends to load out they must call city hall before they load out with their vendor number and a .5 cents per gallon for the size of the tanks registered bill will be accessed. This must be paid with cash or check before loading. All vendors must sign a waiver freeing Fredonia Water System and City of Fredonia from any liability for the water being loaded out and transported. The vendor accepts all responsibility.

Section 3 - Fines
Fines for not registering and loading out are \$500 per offense. Fines for loading out and not notifying City Hall are \$500 per offense. Fines for loading out after hours at Akridge's are \$500 per offense.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED this 21st day of July, 2025, by the City Council of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, as follows: That the reasons stated heretofore, the City of Fredonia has determined it be in the best interest of the city to set regulations for potable water sales.

Done this 21st day of July, 2025.
First Reading: 06/16/2025
Second Reading: 07/21/2025
Jim Seibert
Mayor, City of Fredonia
Attest: Rachael Vickrey
City Clerk, City of Fredonia

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocket sports schedule

THURSDAY
Golf at The Cullen GC (All A)
CCMS Football hosts Union County
CCHS Volleyball at Livingston Central

FRIDAY
Rocket Football at Marshall County

SATURDAY
Soccer hosts Owensboro Apollo

MONDAY
Golf at Shawnee Hills CC
Soccer at Lyon County
CCHS Volleyball at Trigg County

TUESDAY
Golf at Deer Lakes GC
CCMS Football at Henderson South

BASEBALL

Jones is new CCHS coach

Riley Jones has been named head baseball coach at Crittenden County High School, replacing Devin Belt, who stepped down earlier this month after three years leading the Rockets to accept the head coaching position at Marshall County. Jones, who has served the past two seasons as an assistant and freshman coach, is a Union County native and a fifth-grade teacher at CCES.



Jones

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

CCHS advances in All A

The Lady Rocket soccer team beat Lyon County 9-3 at Eddyville on Monday in the opening round of the All A Classic. It was the first win over Lyon in 3 years. Adri Berry scored 4 goals for CCHS, Ella Geary nad Kylie Bloodworth had 2 apiece and Hayden Peak 1. Assists came from Geary (3), Bloodworth (1), Berry (1) and Haley Moore (1). Keeper Macibelle Hardesty had 12 saves. The win propelled CCHS into the semifinal round against Caldwell County, but Tuesday's match was postponed in the first half due to weather. Caldwell was leading 1-0. It will resume on Thursday at Eddyville.

•Crittenden County won at Webster County 7-4 last Thursday led by Ella Geary's five goals and Kylie Bloodworth's two. Assists came from Mollie Blazina, who had three, and Oliva Topp and Adri Berry with one each. Goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty had three saves.

V-ball falls to Marshall

The Lady Rockets opened their season with a straight-set loss to a very good Marshall County team on Tuesday at Rocket Arena.

CCHS loses scrimmage

Crittenden County lost 38-7 in a scrimmage game at home Friday against Madisonville. CCHS was within 10-7 in the first period, before the Maroon scored 31 unanswered points over the three-period varsity portion of the scrimmage.

CCMS falls in opener

Crittenden County Middle School opened its football season Saturday at home with a 36-6 loss to Browning Springs. Rocket running back Noah Moss scored CCMS's only TD.

JUNIOR PRO FOOTBALL

Jamboree is Saturday

West Kentucky Junior Pro Football kicks off Saturday with its Pre-Season Jamboree at Hopkins County Central High School. The event opens at 9 a.m. with Union facing Trigg, followed by Webster against Hopkins at 10:30. Caldwell and Crittenden will square off at noon.



GOLF

QB Club event winners

The Victor "Pippi" Hardin/Ron Myers Crittenden County Quarterback Club Scramble drew 18 teams to Deer Lakes Golf Course last week where the four-some of Vicki Hardin-Hatfield, Stefanie Shoulders, Jeremiah Foster and Dakota Watson won with a 15-under-par 57.



Here is the Rocket footbball team (front from left) manager Gracie Orr, Caden Howard, Trae Taylor, Hayden Hughes, Joel Bumpus, Mitchell Brown, Logan Nolan, Kaden Herrington, Ethan Sosh, Jay Stevenson, manager Landon Woodall, (second row) manager Morgan Stewart, Noah Byford, Conner Poindexter, Camden Nash, Quinn Summers, Davis Perryman, Brayden Poindexter, Azariah Rich, Adri Berry, manager Kylie Hunt, (third row) Eli Lovell, Whyatt Gipson, Chris Guess, Dakota Sosh, Parker Phillips, Hunter Curnel, Michael Counts, Caden Blazina, Aiden Musser, manager Brodi Rich, (fourth row) Jake Rich, Matthew Counts, Ethan Burns, Garyson Hall, Gavin Croft, Keegan Pierson, Daniel Barnes-May and Johnny Tramel, (back row) coaches Austin Berry, Jeremy Collins, Grant Carter, head coach Gaige Courtney, Trevor Lewis and Jared Brown.

Rockets' 2025 High School Football Schedule

August 22 at Marshall County
August 29 Union County
September 5 Webster County
September 12 Union City, Tenn.

September 19 at Mayfield
September 26 at Trigg County
October 3 Todd Central
October 10 bye week

October 17 at Fort Campbell
October 24 Caldwell County
October 31 at Hopkins Central
November 7 Playoffs Round 1

Depth is Primary Concern

Rockets retool lineup for new 2A

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County kicks off its 2025 football season Friday night on the road at Marshall County, returning a smaller roster but reasonably stocked with adequate talent, including a high-performing quarterback.

The Rockets went 4-7 last season in senior QB Quinn Summers' first full season at the controls. He threw for 2,416 yards and 27 touchdowns. His command of the offense, arm strength and ability to run make him the complete package.

"He could be one of the best quarterbacks we've ever had," said fifth-year head coach Gaige Courtney. "Quinn had a very impressive junior season and we expect him to make an even bigger jump this time. He can run and throw. He's everything you want a quarterback to be, the full package."

The Rockets' depth chart is lean with just 36 players, so much will ride on staying healthy. Numbers have hovered around 50 in recent seasons, but with a smaller roster, several starters will play both ways in what Courtney calls "ironman football."

Summers will have plenty of proven targets. Senior Caden Howard, who set school receiving records last year, is back after 69 catches for 956 yards and 11 TDs. Junior Noah Byford, perhaps the team's best receiver in summer workouts, steps in, though he's been nursing an injury last couple of weeks.

Senior Trae Taylor moves to the feature back spot and will also be a threat catching passes. Freshman Joel Bumpus is a hard-nosed newcomer expected to make an impact. Coach Courtney says his is a name fans will hear a lot this year despite being a young player. Eli Lovell, Davis Perryman and Hayden Hughes round out a versatile skill group.

Up front, senior Braydin Brandsasse is back as a four-year starter and he anchors a unit that includes returners Keegan Pierson and Michael Counts. Senior Gary Hall takes over at tackle after a growth spurt, while senior Jake Rich is expected to lock down the fifth spot up front at center. Depth comes



Gaige Courtney
5th Season
Overall record 24-24

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB Summers, C.Poindexter, Hughes
F Taylor, Bumpus
H Lovell, B.Poindexter
Y D.Sosh, Stevenson
Z Howard, Hughes
X Byford, Perryman
C J.Rich, Phillips
RG Counts, J.Rich
LG Brandsasse, Curnel
LT Hall, Sherer
RT Pierson, Curnel

SPECIAL TEAMS
PAT/FG M.Brown, Berry
KO Berry, Brown
LS B.Poindexter, E.Sosh
H Summers, C.Poindexter
P Summers, Lovell

DEFENSE
CB Byford, Herrington
CB Taylor, Hughes
FS Howard, Perryman
SLB Stevenson, A.Rich
MLB B.Poindexter, E.Sosh
WLB Musser, Bumpus
Rocket D.Sosh, Curnel
Whip Lovell, Nolan
LE Hall, Blazina
RE Pierson, Counts
NG Brandsasse, Counts

from Hunter Curnel and Parker Phillips.

Middle linebacker Brayden Poindexter, the team's leading tackler in 2024, is the captain of the defense and its quarterback on the field. His health is critical, as depth at linebacker is thin. So far, Poindexter's pre-season work has been limited due to a nagging injury.

Linebackers Bumpus and junior Aiden Musser will share time outside, with Jay Stevenson moving into the strong-side role.

Up front, Brandsasse is a disruptive force at nose guard who commands double teams. Hall and Pierson start at end, with Counts as the top backup in multiple spots.

The secondary is the most veteran group. Howard moves from corner to free safety this fall and is joined by quality corners Taylor, Byford and Hughes, plus versatile inverters Lovell and Dakota Sosh.

2025 CCHS ROSTER

Jersey	Grade	Name	Position
77	12	Brandsasse, Braydin	DL/OL
54	12	Counts, Micheal	DL/OL
60	12	Hall, Gary	DL/OL
0	12	Howard, Caden	DB/WR
59	12	Pierson, Keegan	DL/OL
15	12	Poindexter, Brayden	LB/WR
38	12	Sosh, Dokota	IN/WR
8	12	Stevenson, Jay	DL/ WR
12	12	Summers, Quinn	DB/QB
1	12	Taylor, Trae	DB/WR
9	11	Byford, Noah	DB/WR
56	11	Musser, Aiden	LB/OL
5	11	Nolan, Logan	IN/WR
14	11	Perryman Davis	DB/WR
57	11	Rich, Jake	DL/OL
74	10	Barnes-May, Daniel	DL/OL
23	10	Berry, Adri	K
55	10	Blazina, Caden	DL/OL
4	10	Brown, Mitchell	K
53	10	Curnel, Hunter	LB/OL
24	10	Lovell, Eli	IN/WR
11	10	Nash, Camden	IN/WR
70	10	Phillips, Parker	DL/OL
10	10	Poindexter, Conner	DB/QB
16	10	Rich, Azariah	LB/H
7	10	Sosh, Ethan	LB/F
75	10	Tramel, Johnny	DL/OL
26	10	Gibson, Whyatt	DB/WR
3	9	Bumpus, Joel	LB/F
66	9	Croft, Gavin	DL/OL
35	9	Guess, Chris	DB/WR
6	9	Herrington, Kaden	DB/WR
2	9	Hughes, Hayden	DB/QB
68	9	Sherer, Daryl	DL/OL
58	9	Counts, Matthew	DL/OL
71	9	Burns, Ethan	OL/DL

"Almost all of them started last year, maybe in different spots," Courtney said. "It's our biggest strength."

Mitchell Brown and Adri Berry – the latter returning as the first female to play varsity Rocket football – will handle placekicking duties. Summers and Lovell will punt, while Berry and Brown share kickoff duties.

Crittenden's district schedule lightens with a move to a six-team Class 2A alignment, but staying healthy will determine just how far the Rockets can go. The Class 2A First District includes Caldwell County, Fort Campbell, Todd Central, Trigg County and Mayfield.

With a proven quarterback, quality receivers and a seasoned secondary, the Rockets appear right now to have at least some of the pieces to be a district contender. If the front line can hold its own, the new linebackers develop quickly and injuries can be avoided, CCHS could find its way back to a winning season.

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Approval granted for special vehicles; water on city agenda

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council met Monday evening to tackle issues ranging from the ongoing water crisis to new special vehicle ordinances and code enforcement updates.

Mayor D’Anna Browning provided an update on the status of the city’s water supply, which remains strained despite help from Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD). Water Plant Supervisor Jeff Black said Lake George levels are just 8 feet above the intake pipe as evaporation continues to trouble the already crippled lake.

Between seasonal organic problems and leaks in the distribution system, Marion continues to face difficulties with water, likely for about three more years, the mayor noted.

“This will not be our last summer to struggle,” Browning said, pointing out that until CLWD can provide Marion with its full water needs, there will be issues with city water.

The two-county district is struggling to meet its own demands but has agreed to supplement Marion through the next few months with about 43,000 gallons. Browning said the city will remain under a local conservation order and state of emergency, and that she has requested bottled water distribution through Kentucky Emergency Management. Tentative plans call for households to present a water bill at the new wastewater treatment plant on Pippi Hardin Blvd. in September and October to receive 20 gallons of bottled water each month.

The council also passed two ordinances. The first authorizes the use of street-legal special purpose vehicles on most city streets, with restrictions during school travel hours and after dark. Such vehicles will not be allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise, nor between 7:30-9 a.m. and 3-4:30 p.m. on the following streets: Country Club Drive, Industrial Drive, Autumn Lane, West Gum Street, West Belleville Street, and North and South Main

MARIONCITY COUNCIL

Street.

The second ordinance tightens regulations on golf carts, requiring lights, mirrors, seat belts, brakes and horns. That measure passed unanimously.

In other business, council members approved a resolution supporting a water and wastewater assistance project, appointed Charlie Day to replace Kayla Maxfield on the Chamber of Commerce board, and heard code enforcement updates from officer Tanya Byers.

Byers reported 59 open cases, 10 new complaints and 11 citations totaling more than \$3,000 in fines. She recommended increasing fines to make enforcement more effective.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson said she has fielded complaints about a neighborhood rooster and other chickens, and Byers suggested the city consider a species-specific livestock ordinance. Meanwhile, Browning also addressed flooding issues that plague residents along Hickory Hills Ave. She said recent work by the city has improved the situation, but further mitigation is needed.

Princeton passes similar vehicle law

Princeton has also authorized street legal special purpose vehicles on public roads within city limits where the speed limit is 55 mph or less, effective Aug. 20.

Princeton added extra rules, including limiting operation to daylight hours (sunrise to sunset), no passengers may ride in cargo areas and trailers are prohibited. Operators must follow all federal and state requirements for licensing, safety equipment, insurance and registration. Violations carry fines up to \$100 per incident, and the ordinance applies only inside the city limits.

Fredonia plans to lower tax rate

STAFF REPORT

Fredonia City Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 to receive comments on proposed 2025 property tax rates.

The city’s 2024 real property tax rate was 27.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which produced about \$33,868 in revenue. The proposed 2025 rate is 26.9 cents per \$100, expected to generate \$35,203. The compensating rate is 25.9 cents, which would bring in \$33,894. No new revenue is expected from new property this year.

Revenue from personal property taxes is projected at \$22,490. Any revenue above last year’s collections will go to the city’s general fund for general purposes.



A new park mural commissioned by First United Bank and the Marion-Crittenden County Park Board has been completed by local artist Elizabeth Rodriguez. The image represents Gordon Blue Guess Stadium at the ballpark, which was once home to the Marion Bobcats and now hosts only Crittenden County High School and Middle School baseball. The mural has a captivating 3D appearance and is painted on the side of the restroom facility in the center of the park. Pictured are (from left) First United Bank Branch Manager Charlie Day, Rodriguez and bank representatives Jessica Walker and Addie Kirby.

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Homemakers Annual Meeting | Officer Installation

Crittenden County Homemakers held their annual meeting last week at the Lions Club’s Agriculture Building at the county fairgrounds. During the event, former county president Darl Henley administered the oath of office to new county officers, including Brandi Potter, president; Laurie Holcomb, vice president; Nancy Lanham, secretary; and Nancy Hunt, treasurer. All 2025-26 officers and chairpersons were also introduced. They included Potter, Lanham, Holcomb, Sue Ledford, Monica Wessel, Mona Lozen, Janet Stevens, Debbie Padgett, Henley, Jerrell James, Andrea Clement and Hunt. Members attending the meeting posed for a group photo, representing the many leadership and program areas of the Homemakers organization. They are (front from left) Darl Henley, Claudina Travis, Sarah Ford, Roberta Shewmaker, Brandi Potter, (second row) Diane Ford-Benningfield, Vickie Belt, Monica Wessel, Janet Stevens, Gwen Pruitt, Sue Ledford, Micki Crider, (back) Laurie Holcomb, Debbie Padgett, Mona Lozen, Willa Suggs, Darlene Abell, Edith Harris, Nancy Lanham and Susan Crice.

Florida outlaws extract that Marion is watching

STAFF REPORT

Florida officials have outlawed a concentrated extract of kratom known as 7-hydroxymitragynine, or “7-OH,” classifying it as a Schedule I controlled substance. The emergency rule, issued last week by Florida’s attorney general, makes it illegal to sell, possess or distribute the compound anywhere in that state.

The ruling does not affect raw kratom leaf or powder, which remains legal in Florida and most other parts of the country. Kratom is derived from a Southeast Asian tree and has stimu-

lant-like effects in small doses, but some extracts such as 7-OH have been linked to opioid-type effects. Federal regulators have not yet scheduled the substance, though the FDA has recommended it be banned nationwide.

Meanwhile, convenience stores across Kentucky continue to openly sell kratom products, including capsules and drinks, without restriction. Marion City Council has previously discussed taking its own action against sales here, but so far no ordinance has been passed.

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Marion City Hall, 217 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064 | City Council meets in regular session at city hall at 5 p.m., on the third Monday of each month

4-H Hall of Fame calls Buntins

STAFF REPORT

The Buntin family of Crittenden County has been inducted into the Kentucky 4-H Foundation Hall of Fame, honoring more than 50 years of service, leadership and dedication to agriculture and youth programs across the state.

The induction took place Friday at the Kentucky State Fair's Cloverville event, where four generations of the family gathered for the ceremony.

Wade Buntin and the late Sue Buntin began their 4-H journey in youth and deepened their involvement after moving to Kentucky in 1964. They became pillars of the Crittenden County 4-H program, founding the Horse Club and "Goat-Getters" Livestock Club, leading educational field days on their farm, and mentoring generations of young people. Wade served on the State Horse Council, County 4-H Council,

and Extension Board, while Sue led the Tolu 4-H Club and co-chaired the Pennyryle Area 4-H Horse Camp. Together, they created welcoming, hands-on learning environments where every child felt valued. Wade is a member of the Crittenden County Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Their influence extended well beyond club leadership. The Buntins helped lead county fairs, served as longtime fair superintendents, and were active in both the International Boer Goat Association and the American Dairy Goat Association. They built lasting programs that inspired a spirit of service in others.

The family's 4-H legacy lives on through four generations. Their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren remain active as members and volunteers, keeping the family's passion for 4-H strong.

The Buntins continue to be a steady presence at county events, livestock shows and community programs.

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation's Hall of Fame honors individuals and families who exemplify the organization's values. The Buntin family embodies the 4-H motto, "To make the best better," and their dedication has left a lasting mark on the program and the lives of those fortunate enough to learn from them.

"This amazing 4-H family has given many years and tireless hours to so many youth and 4-H programs in our county and across the commonwealth," the Crittenden County Extension Service said in a statement posted on social media. "Their legacy embodies 4-H values and principles and will continue to live on through many more generations to come."



The entire Buntin clan traveled from Crittenden County to Louisville late last week to be honored by Kentucky's 4-H program. Their generational dedication to 4-H has landed the Buntins in the Hall of Fame.

HAM

Continued from page 1

his speech titled "A Year in the Life of a Ham" that won first place and propelled him into the championship rounds. Told in first person, his speech gave the audience and judges a step-by-step description of the curing process, but from the ham's own perspective.

"There I was, fresh off the pig, full of potential, ready to become something great," Vince began, before walking listeners through the long months of salting "like a day at the world's worst spa," hanging in a cotton sock to dry, enduring summer heat in a smokehouse, and finally being cleaned and polished for judging. The lighthearted tone and detailed explanations apparently impressed the judges.

"No cucumbers on my eyes, just cold, grainy salt packed into every nook and cranny. It wasn't a gentle pat-down either," went this speech.

Because speeches account for 60 percent of a contestant's overall score, Vince's strong showing advanced him to a callback round, where he again presented before judges. In the end, he was named Junior Grand Champion, besting almost 650 competitors in both smoked and non-smoked categories for the entire junior division, representing entries from ages 9 to 14.

Kentucky's 4-H Country Ham Project, which began in the 1990s with fewer than 40 participants, now attracts more than 1,000 youth from counties all across Kentucky.

For Vince, the reward is more than a ribbon. His winning ham will remain on display for the rest of the fair before returning home. The family plans to have it cut and sealed at A Cut Above, then share portions as gifts, a savory reminder of a year's worth of work and a rare title earned.

"It wasn't a parent doing it for him," his mother, Kim Vince, said. "He had to give that speech. He had to do it. And he did."

Crittenden County 4-H entered a dozen hams in the contest and had many other state fair entries.

You can hear Vince's speech on our news podcast at The Press Online. It will be part of Thursday's newscast, which posts at 5:55 a.m., at The-Press.com

Sheriff releases statement regarding investigation

On Aug. 5, 2025, Crittenden County Sheriff's Department was made aware of a complaint regarding a black Dodge Charger pulling over vehicles in Crittenden County. The complaint we received was reported to have occurred at a Marion business. At that time, the Sheriff Evan Head started an investigation.

The Sheriff's Office does not own nor operate a black unmarked Dodge Charger; nor, to our knowledge, does any other law enforcement agency in Crittenden County. Additionally, no one is authorized to act on behalf of the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office using such a vehicle.

During this investigation, the Sheriff's Office was able to confirm the identity of the person by using security video footage from a local business where the incident occurred. This person was identified as Roderick "Rick" Mills. Mr. Mills has been a resident of Crittenden County for several years and has worked in public service. Mr. Mills has never been employed nor worked for the current Sheriff Evan Head.

On the recommendation of the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff was advised that a special prosecutor would need to be appointed to this case and would need to review the investigation and appropriately advise as to recommended charges.

The decision to charge Mr. Mills, with impersonating a peace officer and citing him to court was made by Sheriff Head after reviewing the security video footage, speaking with the complainant, and speaking with Mr. Mills. Mr. Mills did not pose a flight risk, nor did he convey to the Sheriff he would not show up for court.

A description of the vehicle and a brief description of the suspect was released to the public.

"I feel we released enough information at that time to allow public knowledge without releasing enough information to aid false reports," said Sheriff Head. "We are a small community and everyone here knows everyone. We did not want to draw attention or recognition to one individual, while we were still in the investigation stages of this.

"We were trying to gather the facts of this case, not create false accusations. We wanted the facts from the public in their own words, not our words rewritten."

Evan F Head
Crittenden County Sheriff



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2025-2026
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A special to The Crittenden Press

Thursday, August 21, 2025
Page 1B

Rockets Ready to Launch into 2025!

Dear Rocket Community,
As the summer days draw to a close, a familiar and exciting energy begins to build. There's a buzz in our hallways and classrooms as our dedicated staff prepares for the grand return of our students. There's also a new sound that is ringing through the air, and that is the sound of construction. We have had several



Superintendent
Tonya Driver

- facility projects this summer:
- ✓ new middle school wing
 - ✓ upgrades to the sixth grade classrooms
 - ✓ air conditioning in middle school gym
 - ✓ new HVAC units at CCES
 - ✓ two remodeled sets of bathrooms at CCES
 - ✓ new flooring in the middle school gym
 - ✓ roofing improve-

ments on many buildings That's been a lot for our custodial and maintenance crews to balance, so special thanks to all of them for the hard work and determination they have shown in these projects. We are looking forward to opening our doors to students on September 2nd. The furniture for the middle school will be arriving the week prior, and we will be all set. This time of year is a renewed opportunity for us all to embrace the spirit of

our **Rockets** mascot—to launch into the year with boundless energy, curiosity, and a drive for excellence. Our schools are more than just buildings; they are a vibrant hub of our community, fueled by the collaboration between our amazing students, supportive parents, and talented educators. As we kick off the new academic year, I want to extend a personal welcome to every student, from our youngest learners to our graduating se-

niors. Our commitment remains unwavering: to launch students to personal success in an ever-evolving world. This commitment to cultivating success is built on our core values of **kids first, safety, tradition, excellence, and relationships**. This year, let's continue to be guided by our shared motto: **#BelieveinBlue**. This isn't just a tagline; it's a call to action rooted in our core values. It means believing in our students' potential, be-

lieving in our teachers' passion, and believing in the strength of our community when we work as one team. It's a reminder of our unity, our pride, and our shared vision for the future of our young people. Thank you for your on-going partnership. I look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things our students will accomplish. Wishing you a fantastic and successful school year.

Back to school, back together: Welcome students and new staff

Bailey Pritchett

An interest in biology and influence from relatives and friends led Bailey Pritchett to Crittenden County High School. Pritchett, 22, is a Marshall County native who will be teaching biology and integrated science this school year. The 2025 Murray State University graduate had originally considered a career in the medical field, but teaching was her back-up plan. "I want to help students get prepared for college," she said. "Even if they don't go to college to get a biology degree, they're going to have to take a biology or chemistry class." The fact that humans are surrounded by biology is interesting to Pritchett, who is also an assistant volleyball coach at Crittenden.



Pritchett

two years teaching at Henderson Community College as an adjunct professor. "I'm excited to build relationships with students and their families," she said. "I love being at the elementary school, to see the excitement in their faces and watch them grow." "I want to continue what Crittenden Elementary already has – they have great things going for them and I'm ready to step in and help out, get to learn new kids and build new relationships." Hargrove holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, a master's degree from Western Kentucky University, and a Master's in School Administration from Murray State University. She and her husband, Terry, have a son, Ben, a recent graduate of Kentucky Christian University; and a daughter, Ashlynn, a senior at Union County High School.

Michelle Crider

A professionally-trained musician will take her place in the Crittenden County Elementary School classroom later this month. Michelle Crider holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Murray State University and a master's of music in vocal performance from the University of Kentucky. She has been a voice instructor since 2006 and has directed several theater productions at Fohs Hall in Marion while also collaborating with the Community Arts Foundation to present musicals and camps for area youth. "I'm deeply excited to enter the public school music classroom and serve the students and families of Crittenden County," Crider said. "Teaching music is not just a job for me, it's a calling. I'm ready to give my very best to our students, to help them discover the joy of music, and to nurture their creativity, confidence, and growth." Crider and her husband Corey have



Crider

four children and reside in Marion. "I believe that education is not just about acquiring knowledge – it's about nurturing the whole child: intellectually, emotionally, creatively, and socially. As a music educator, I see music as a powerful tool for connection, expression, and confidence-building. Every child has the ability to grow through music, and my job is to help unlock that potential." "Ultimately, my philosophy of education is rooted in the belief that every child deserves a champion – someone who not only teaches them but truly sees them. I consider it a privilege to be that person in my students' lives, and I am committed to helping them grow not just

as musicians, but as human beings."

Isaac Carter

Local folks who have met Isaac Carter since he moved to Marion last month agree on one thing – he is full of energy. And it's that energy he plans to take to the band room at Crittenden County High School. Fresh out of Murray State University, where he played in the marching band, Carter is a native of Breckenridge County with a high school of similar size to Crittenden County High School. Carter, 24, plays the



Carter

tuba and bassoon. He participated for two years in the Music City Drum Corps, which he calls the "major league of marching band." The Music City Drum Corps performs across the country in big shows. Carter plans to focus on growing the band program in Crittenden County. "My goal is to get them playing more music, be more in the public eye," he said. "We will be playing for sporting events, playing the National Anthem and the school fight song along with some stand music during games." Crittenden County's band members met Carter last month and participated in a week-long camp on campus the last week of July. He offers one-on-one lessons to students to

increase their abilities and love for music. "One-on-one lessons is what drives my passion because getting to see them grow and get it right the first time is all I need," he said.

Jared Brown

Veteran Crittenden County educator Jared Brown will lead Crittenden County Middle School's new JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program. The leadership-based federally-funded program has been offered at Crittenden County High



Brown

NEW — Continued on page 5B

Stephanie Hargrove

Seasoned Union County educator Stephanie Hargrove is the assistant principal at Crittenden County Elementary School. Hargrove is serving as the assistant to recently hired principal Lorie Holcomb, the former assistant principal, who replaces Sarah Riley. Hargrove, a National Board Certified teacher, spent 27 years at Sturgis Elementary, where she taught kindergarten, first and second grades and reading intervention. Additionally, she spent one year at Union County Middle as a reading interventionist and



Hargrove



Crittenden County Schools

2025-26 Calendar

AUGUST	
15-22	Professional Development/ District Planning Days
25	Opening Day for Staff
26	First Day for Students
SEPTEMBER	
1	Labor Day
OCTOBER	
2	Progress Report #1
6-10	Fall Break
31	End of 1st Quarter
NOVEMBER	
3-14	Parent-Teacher Conferences
7	Report Card #1
26-28	Thanksgiving Break
DECEMBER	
11	Progress Report #2
22-31	Christmas Break
JANUARY	
1-2	Christmas Break continues
5	District Planning Day
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
20	End of 2nd Quarter
27	Report Card #2
FEBRUARY	
16	District Planning Day
26	Progress Report #3
MARCH	
2-13	Parent-Teacher Conferences
20	End of 3rd Quarter
27	Report Card #3
30-31	Spring Break begins
APRIL	
1-3	Spring Break continues
MAY	
5	Progress Report #4
25	Memorial Day
28	Last Day for Students
29	Closing Day for Staff
JUNE	
1	District Planning Day

July 2025						
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September 2025						
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December 2025						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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28	29	30				

- Regular Instructional Day
- First & Last Day for Students
- Opening/Closing
- Holiday

- Professional Development
- District Planning Day
- Non School Day

School Day - 7:55 AM - 3:00 PM

CCES Rockets ready for takeoff into an amazing year

Welcome back, Rocket families!

Can you believe the start of school is almost here? We're thrilled to welcome back all of our amazing students and families! Our dedicated teachers, custodians, and staff have been working hard to create a safe, caring, and inspiring environment where every child can thrive.

This new school year is full of exciting opportunities for learning, growth, and success. We understand that the beginning of the year can bring many questions about routines, expectations,

schedules, and materials. We're here to support you every step of the way and provide the information you need to help your child feel confident and ready.

To stay connected and informed, we invite you to:

Attend the CCES Back to School Nights:

Kindergarten families: August 18th, 5:00–6:30 PM

Grades 1–5 families: August 19th, 4:00–6:00 PM



Holcomb

PM

Meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom, and get helpful tips to start the year strong.

Review the CCES Student Handbook(linked in OLR):

Learn about dress code,how to make transportation changes, behavior expectations, cafeteria info, and more.

Visit the Crittenden County Schools website: Access Infinite Campus, check lunch menus, find event updates, and connect with our social media.

Stay in touch with your

child's teacher through ParentSquare:

Download the app for quick and easy communication.

Check your child's backpack nightly:

Look for newsletters, homework, assessment dates, and information about special events.

Volunteer at school:

We welcome your involvement in classrooms and school activities—it truly makes a difference!

Contact the CCES of-

fice:

For any urgent needs or questions, we're just a call away at (270) 965-2243.

Please remember, we are partners in your child's education and well-being. Together, home and school create the foundation for your child's growth and success. Our CCES Rockets have limitless potential, and by working hand-in-hand, we can help each student reach their very best. We look forward to

CCES SBDM
Laurie Holcomb
Jenny Lowery
Becky Bailey
Amanda Harris
Tiffeny Brown

Meets at 4 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the CCES Library.

a joyful, successful year with your family!

CCES Staff

Laurie Holcomb , Principal Stephanie Hargrove , Asst. Principal Sara Omer , Guidance Counselor Johnna Henager , Guidance Counselor	LIBRARY Mary Ann Winders	Casey Clelland Kennedy Ford Kathy Maynard Stephanie Mott
OFFICE Julie Champion , Secretary Rheanda DeBoe , Bookkeeper James Duncan -SRO	MUSIC Michelle Crider	SPED INSTRUCTIONAL ASST. Jennifer Belt Angie Beverly Marsha Burkeen Kayla Maxfield Courtney McMackin Dillan Smith
PRESCHOOL Meagan Brasher Shanna Loudon	GT Kathleen Guess	PRESCHOOL ASSISTANT Deana Beckner Carla Tinsley
KINDERGARTEN Jennifer Beverly Denise Guess Andrea Markham Cassie Polk	INTERVENTION JJ Graham Mollie Tabor	FOOD SERVICE Cindy English Tammy Lemon
1ST GRADE Heather Bloodworth Magan Cruce Ann Moore Kayla Travis	SPECIAL EDUCATION Becky Bailey Heather Belt Wendy Bunner	
2ND GRADE Shayann Board Melia Cappello Bailey Guess Victoria Shewcraft	INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT Taylor Berry	
3RD GRADE Madison Boling Abby McKinney Victoria Orten Mandy Winders Julie Young		
4TH GRADE Bess Davis Amanda Harris Vicky Parker		
5TH GRADE Riley Jones Mandy Perez Renee Stowe		
PSYCHOLOGIST George Cavanah		
CURRICULUM Tiffany DeBoe		
ARTS/HUMANITIES Suzanne Brown COMPUTER LAB Shawna Sunderland PHYSICAL EDUCATION Mandy Hunt		

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you are ENOUGH

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note to self: DO NOT QUIT

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CCMS launches school year in brand-new building addition

Welcome back, Rockets! We hope you have had a summer full of fun, laughter, and making memories. Myself, teachers, and staff are ready to welcome students and families back for an exciting year ahead in our brand new building addition to CCMS!

Our new building represents more than just bricks and walls; it reflects the hopes, dreams, and dedication of so many who believe in our students and their futures. Inside these bright new classrooms and collaborative spaces, we will continue to put our students first. Our kids are the heart of everything



Frederick

we do, and we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where they can grow, not only as learners, but into the best version of themselves they can be. We continually work towards fostering strong relationships with students, families and our community.

At CCMS we strive for excellence in all that we do - academically, socially, and emotionally. We believe that when expectations are set high, our students will rise. Our dedicated teachers and staff are ready to inspire, challenge, and cheer on each and every Rocket along their journey as they set new goals, overcome obstacles, and reach new milestones.

Let's make this a year

to remember as we carry on our strong Rocket traditions that make CCMS such a special place. Whether its celebrating student successes, F.U.E.L time on Fridays, or our notorious Capture the Flag tournaments, lets make some memories, and fill these new halls with laughter, learning, and kindness! See you soon!

CCMS SBDM
Ashley Morries
Maddie Ryan
Ben Thompson
Neal Bryant
Jessica DeBurgo
Cathy Oliver

Meets at 3:45 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

CCMS Staff

Office
Ashley Frederick, Principal
Talley Joyce, Guidance Counselor
Becky Bryant, Curriculum Coach
Heidi Hicks, Receptionist
Cathy Oliver, Attendance Clerk/Bookkeeper

Teachers and Instructional Assistants
Allison Evans
Sabrina Stokes
Ben Thompson
Austin Berry
Dennise Beck
Ken Geary
Trace Adams
Susan Baker
Gabby Gray
Neal Bryant
Madison Champion
Jessica DeBurgo

SBDM Members
Ashley Morries
Maddie Ryan
Ben Thompson
Neal Bryant
Jessica DeBurgo
Cathy Oliver

Amber Cavanah
Nicole Cates
Stephanie Galusha
Tara Kirk
Kaitlyn Berry
Jared Brown
Jayme Young
Bryce Winders
Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Larry Walker
Jessie Hill
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Marlee Lanham
Isaac Carter
Jose Perez
Trevor Lewis

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CCHS United: A new year, a stronger vision

As we begin a new school year at Crittenden County High School, I am honored to continue serving as principal in my second year. It is a privilege to work alongside our dedicated staff, supportive families, and, most importantly, our outstanding students.

Our school's motto, CCHS UNITED , serves as the foundation for all that we do. It reflects our commitment to working together—students, staff, families, and community—to ensure ev-

ery student is prepared to achieve their fullest potential. Last year, we made significant strides in academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and school culture. This year, we are determined to build on that progress with a renewed focus on student success, innovation in teaching, and a strong



Cook

sense of unity.

Crittenden County High School is more than a place of learning; it is a place where young people grow into leaders, problem-solvers, and responsible citizens. That growth is made possible because of the unwavering support of our community. Your presence at events, encouragement of our students, and investment in our school make a tremendous difference.

As we move forward into this school year,

I am confident that by staying UNITED, we will continue to see our students excel both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of Crittenden County High School.

This year, our SBDM Council consists of teacher representatives, Dr. Derrick Ford, Deonna McCord, and Howard Suggs. Jennifer Hardesty serves as our parent representative with another parent to be elected soon. We'll meet on the

third Thursday of each month in the CCHS Library, at 3:30 p.m.

Our school administrative team members each have an open door policy and welcome input and feedback from students, staff, parents, and the community. Growing our students takes all of us, working together, to provide the support, resources, and encouragement they need to find personal success in an ever-evolving world. We believe that so strongly, we have adopted that as

CCHS SBDM
Deonna McCord
Howard Suggs
Derrick Ford
Aaron Brown
Jennifer Hardesty

Meets at 3:30 p.m.
on the 3rd Thursday
of each month in the
CCHS Library.

the guiding vision for our school as we move forward UNITED.

CCHS Staff

TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS
Jessica Abercrombie, Agriculture
Cedrich BAтуang, Mathematics
Kaitlyn Berry, Specially Designed Instruction
Jennifer Brown, Allied Health/BioMed
Isaac Carter, Band Director
Emma Coleman, JAG Specialist
Taylor Davis, Social Studies
Derrick Ford, English Language Arts
Jennifer Gibson, Specially Designed Instruction
Lori Glone, Specially Designed Instruction
Vicki Hatfield, Social Studies
Pat Hazzard, ISD/Alt. School
Jessie Hill, Library Media Specialist
Marlee Lanham, Agriculture
Brittany Mardis, Family &

Consumer Sciences
Nick Martinez, Mathematics
Sandra Martinez, Health/PE
Deonna McCord, English Language Arts
Stacey McKinney, College-Career Readiness Coach
Michelle Orr, Mathematics
Jose Perez, SDI Assistant
Jody Porter, Aviation/Science
Bailey Pritchett, Science
Elizabeth Rodriguez, Visual Art
Howard Suggs, Social Studies
Stephanie Sunderland, CBI Instructor
Misty Tinsley, Business
Larry Walker, Foreign Language
Leah Waters, English Language Arts

CCHS OFFICE
Dustin Alsobrooks, Assistant Principal
Staci Blackburn,

Receptionist/Administrative Support
Breen Brown, Bookkeeper/Administrative Support
Josh Cook, Principal
Gaige Courtney, SAM
Lyndsey Day, Administrative Support/Attendance Clerk
Stefanie Shoulders, Guidance Counselor

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Jeff Hughes, Crosswalk Coordinator
Jessie Mathieu, Pennyroyal Services
Rick Coyle, School Resource Officer
Jessica Head, School Nurse

TECHNOLOGY
Rita Binkley
Ben Grainger

Kinder desires collaboration in new DLC role

Marshall County teacher Laura Kinder feels like the Digital Learning Coach position she just filled with Crittenden County Schools is a great match with her skill set and passion for incorporating technology in the classroom.

Kinder, a 13-year educator, began her career in Henderson County, where she taught English Language Arts at the middle school level and English at the high school. She then went to Marshall County High School, where she taught English for 7 years, before spending three years as an instructional coach for the district.

Integrating technology, Kinder feels, is a great way

to create better learning experiences for students.

“As an instructional coach, I taught teachers how to use AI effectively in the classroom, incorporate technology-rich lessons, use game-based learning, and create systems for efficiency,” she said.

Kinder is excited about developing the new position into one that supports and empowers all educators as they integrate technology to enhance student learning.

“I’m committed to col-



Kinder

laborating with teachers and the community to help prepare our students for success in an ever-evolving world,” said Kinder. “I am very excited to be part of this community.”

A graduate of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE), Murray State University, and Campbellsville University, Kinder is currently pursuing an endorsement for instructional technology at MSU.

Kinder and her husband, Gabe, reside in Cadiz, Ky., and enjoy spending time with their dog, Scout. In her free time, Kinder enjoys woodworking, 3D printing, and jewelry making.

Turning back-to-school stress into excitement

As summer winds down, the transition from carefree days to school routines can be a big shift for both kids and parents. Preparing children to return to school goes beyond shopping for supplies — it’s about getting them mentally, emotionally and physically ready for a successful year. A little planning and support can make this transition smooth and even exciting.



Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Reestablishing routines
During summer, kids often stay up late and sleep in, so it’s helpful to gradually shift bedtimes and wake-up times back to school hours at least a week or two before the first day. This helps reset their internal clocks and makes the first week of school less jarring.

Open conversations about the upcoming year
Talk about what your child is looking forward to and any concerns they may have. Maybe it’s a new teacher, different classmates or just getting back into home-

work. Listen to their thoughts, validate their feelings and reassure them. A calm, supportive atmosphere at home can ease back-to-school jitters.

Getting supplies
Shopping for supplies and new clothes can be turned into a fun, confidence-building experience. Letting your child pick out a new backpack or notebook can help them feel more involved and excited about the year ahead. Review the school’s supply list and prepare items in advance so you’re not scrambling at the last minute.

New start
If your child is starting at a new school — or even a new grade level that comes with big changes, like middle or high school — it can be helpful to visit the school ahead of time. Walking the halls, seeing their classroom or even meeting their teacher if possible can ease first-day anxiety.

Start building or rein-

forcing good habits
Organizing school materials, packing lunches and checking homework are just three examples of good habits that lead to success. You might set up a designated homework area and begin talking about after-school routines. These habits help children feel more secure and prepared.

Stay positive
Kids take their emotional cues from adults, so show enthusiasm about the new year. Remind them it is a fresh start full of opportunities to learn, grow, make new friends and explore new interests.

With thoughtful preparation and encouragement, the back-to-school season can be a time of anticipation and excitement, not stress.

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CCHS updates student dress code for new year

Crittenden County High School has updated dress code guidelines for students as the new school year begins. The policy outlines specific expectations for tops, pants, and other clothing items to ensure students are dressed appropriately for the school environment.

Tops must fully cover the chest, back, midriff and undergarments at all times. Straps are required to be at least the width of a credit card, meaning spaghetti straps, halters and tube tops are not allowed. Clothing may not display offensive or inappropriate content, including references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, vulgarity, hate speech, or gang-related imagery.

Pants must extend to at least fingertip length when standing, and any holes or tears must fall below that point. Undergarments are not to be visible, and clothing must provide appropriate coverage whether a student is sitting or

standing.

Other restrictions include the requirement that heavy coats and trench-style jackets be stored in lockers upon arrival. Hats, bandanas, hoods, sunglasses, AI glasses and gloves are prohibited indoors unless medically required. Sleepwear items such as pajamas, blankets, and house shoes are also not permitted. Chains and similar accessories that could pose safety concerns are banned, and tattoos displaying inappropriate content must be covered.

Administrators emphasize that the dress code is designed to create a safe and respectful learning environment while minimizing distractions in the classroom.

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Joe & Kathy McEnaney, Owners/Operators
Stephanie Maness, Store Manager

NEW

Continued from page 1B

School for one year and now has been picked up at the middle school.

Brown has been a special education teacher at Crittenden County Middle School for 7 years. He says developing students into leaders at the middle school level will come from removing personal barriers and developing confidence through hands-on experience and special guest speakers.

JAG is offered in 32 states and has been in Kentucky schools for 30 years.

The program's goal is to create tomorrow's leaders so they are successful in the workforce, military or post-secondary education.

Brown is excited to have the ability teach this class and the leadership skills students need to be successful.

The class will be offered five times each day to small groups of 10 or 11 students at CCMS.

"Part of learning to be a good leader is also learning how to be a good follower at times also," Brown said. "Sometimes you're going to be put in uncomfortable positions and we have to learn how to adapt to it."

Brown hopes to develop students' public speaking skills. Though it can be uncomfortable, Brown said that is part of the growth process.

Brown is being mentored by CCHS JAG instructor Emma Coleman.

Brown earned a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University in 2007 and a master's degree from Georgetown College in 2018. He began working in Crittenden County Schools in 2010 as an alternative school instructor and has most recently served as a special education teacher for fifth, sixth and seventh grads.

Victoria Orten

Not only is Victoria Orten new to Crittenden County Schools, she is new to Kentucky.

Within a week from getting married this summer, Orten and

her husband set off for Sturgis, where her father-in-law, Daniel Orten, is a pastor.

Orten will be teaching third-grade math.

At 31, her experience has been in special education and as a math resource teacher in Houston the last two years.

"I am very familiar with math and love teaching math, it's one of my favorite subjects," she said.

"I'm excited about having a class like this, because I love making connections with students and I'm excited to be able to do that."

As a special education teacher, she was with her students for shorter periods of the day, whereas in third-grade at CCES, she will be with the same students most of the day.

"I'm really excited about watching them grow as humans, not just in their academic skills."

She holds a bachelor's degree from Grand Canyon University and is certified to teach in Kentucky.

Jennifer Brown

A familiar face in the local medical community will be teaching part-time in the biology department at Crittenden County High School this year.

Jennifer Brown, APRN, will teach biomedical and allied health courses in the afternoons while continuing to practice in the nursing field.

Brown has been a nurse practitioner at Family Practice Clinic in Marion since June 2019.

"I was approached about a need for a biomedical instructor, and I want to expose students to the amazing opportunities the medical field can offer," Brown said. "My goal is to make a positive impact at the school and



Orten



Adams

help students develop skills that can provide financially for their families."

Brown is a graduate of Caldwell County High School and the University of Louisville. She earned a master's in nursing and completed the Family Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Kentucky in 2008.

Trace Adams

Trace Adams is picking up where he left off at the end of the 2024-25 school year as a social studies teacher in Crittenden County.

Adams is a 2021 graduate of Crittenden County High School and a 2025 graduate of Murray Sate University. He completed student teaching at Crittenden County Middle School under sixth grade social studies teacher Ben Thompson.

Adams will be teaching seventh grade social studies.

Adams is also an assistant baseball coach.

"I'm really excited to start my first year teaching at my hometown middle school," he said. "It feels great to come back and give back to the community that helped shape me."

"I'm looking forward to inspiring my students through learning history and life endeavors."

Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Crittenden County native Elizabeth Fitzgerald will split her day between the middle and high schools in what will be her first year in the school district.

The 2013 graduate will split her time between the two schools, teaching financial literacy at the high school and career exploration at the middle school.

"I like the curriculum I'll be teaching," she

said. "I like finance and I have had experience with several careers."

As a military wife for six years while living in South Carolina and Virginia with her husband Travis, she worked in several fields and worked at Farmers Bank in Marion for a year.

Fitzgerald has a bachelor's degree in finance from Murray State University.

Taylor and Bess Davis

The husband/wife duo of Taylor and Bess Davis are entering the Crittenden County School District this year, Taylor as a history teacher at Crittenden County High School and Bess as a fourth-grade math teacher.

Taylor most recently has been teaching history at Union County Middle School. He earned his bachelor's degree in history and a masters in education from Murray State University.

Likewise, Bess has a bachelor's from Murray, her degree in elementary education. She taught at Crittenden Elementary her first three years in education and the last two at Lyon County Elementary.



T. Davis



B. Davis

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CCMS welcomes students back with new facilities

As the first day of school approaches on Tuesday, Sept. 2, excitement is building across the Crittenden County School District — especially at Crittenden County Middle School. Students will return to class with not only fresh school supplies and new schedules, but also a modernized facility designed to enhance their

learning experience. This summer, crews have been hard at work completing construction and upgrades that will directly benefit middle school students. The additions include a brand-new middle school wing, upgraded sixth-grade classrooms, air conditioning and new flooring in the middle school gym, ensuring a more com-

fortable environment for athletics, events, and daily activities. New HVAC units have also been installed throughout the building, improving air quality and energy efficiency. Superintendent Tonya Driver and school leaders say these improvements represent an important investment in the future of education in Critten-

den County. These facility upgrades not only provide more space and comfort, but also support the academic and extracurricular opportunities that help students thrive. Teachers and staff have been preparing classrooms and common spaces to welcome students back for a new year filled with opportunities to learn, grow,

and succeed. Families are encouraged to check schedules and transportation routes in advance to ensure a smooth start on the first day. With exciting new facilities, dedicated staff, and a fresh school year ahead, Crittenden County Middle School is ready to make the 2024–25 school year one to remember.



BUS 041-MANDY HUNT
Cherry St., Rochester Ave., Luck St., 2nd St., N. College, Whippoorwill Dr. to Hillcrest Dr. to Summit to Harmon Dr. back to 60 and West Bellville from stop light to N. Weldon

BUS 212-SARA OMER
Old Salem Rd., West Belleville to North Yandall, Travis to Keeling to N. Weldon (STREETS ALONG N. WELDON INCLUDING CREEK ST) turnaround at Starling (PICK UP FOR WILLIAMS PARK IS PIGON DR.)

BUS 0739-COURTNEY PATE
Ky. 1901, Mattoon Loop, Blackford (to turnaround) back Blackford to Nunn Switch, Fishtrap, J.P. Howerton, Ky. 654 to Ky. 120, Tribune Tower, Wilson Farm Rd. and West Bellville from stop light to N. Weldon

BUS 2319-LIBBI ROBINSON
CCHS to CCES AM, CCES TO CCHS PM, Ky. 297 from Glendale Church Rd. to Ky. 723 S., Ky. 723 to Cecil Croft Rd., Ky. 838 W., Claude Belt, New Union Church, Lewis Croft, Deer Creek.

BUS 2601-GARY DAMRON
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS DAYCARE Ky. 297, Tolu end of Ky. 723, Tolu end of Ky. 135, Tolu, Irma White Rd., Tom Hill Rd., Dick Jones Rd., Barnett Chapel

BUS 1514-AMBER LENEAVE
East Belleville (from 5-Star to Marion Feed Mill), Old Shady Grove, Club Dr., Guess Dr., N. Clay, Towery Rd., Sugar Grove Church Rd., Ky. 132 (Enon Church) Ky. 120.

BUS 1528-Stewart Whitt
AIR EVAC (Hospital annex), KB Pharmacy, Main Street in town (pick up and drop in front of Frazer Law Office) Terrace Dr., Ky. 120-139 Shady Grove, Providence Rd.

BUS 1508-RICKY WINDERS
S. Weldon (includes joining streets) Ky. 1668, Ky. 135, OB McDaniel Rd., Donald Winders Rd., Aunt Jane Tabernacle, Willard Easley Rd., Hebron Church Rd., Hwy. 91 (cannot cross bridge or go to Freedom Church due to weight restrictions) AT Crider.

BUS 2609-MATT MINIARD
West Mound Park, Sturgis Rd., U.S. Hwy. 60 E. to Railey Rd., Long Branch, Old Morganfield Rd. (At U.S. Hwy. 60 E. & Old Morganfield Rd.)

CCHS/CCMS 1ST ROUND (STARTING AT ROAD)

BUS 2356-BRYCE WINDERS
U.S. Hwy. 641 from industrial Dr. to Mott City Rd. to Railroad Ave., AH Clements to Dove Ln., Campbell Ln., Weldon from U.S. Hwy. 641 to Belt Ln., Coleman Rd., Chapel Hill (Brookcliff, Arlene and Hickory Hills) to Moore Ave. (Leland Ave.) Watson to Blackburn to U.S. Hwy. 60 W.

BUS 1513-MIKE HARRIS
Ky. 654 N. to Cotton Patch, Roe Wafford, Mt. Zion Church, Yoder Rd., Valley View, Fords Ferry to Pickering Hill back to Browns School (turnaround at Howerton Rd.) Fords Ferry to Sturgis Rd. MAIN STREET MARKET STOP (Includes McDonalds, Johnson's Furniture and Subway)

BUS 24-KEELY HALL
Blackburn Church (Just A Mere at intersection) Copperas Springs, Ky. 506, Pleasant Hill (from Ky. 506 to Floyd Turley Rd.) Lone Star Rd. to Baker Lane, Piney Fork, Ky. 1077 to Harvest House Church, E. Depot (from Kevil to Ky. 506) E. Depot, S. Walker, Main St. from Napa to Industrial Dr.

BUS 2318-WADE RAMAGE
U.S. Hwy. 60 W. from Ky. 1668 to Crittenden-Livingston Line (White Church Ky. 7971 U.S. Hwy. 60 W.), Zion Cemetery, Lewis, Love Cemetery, Irma White Youth Camp, Dry Branch

BUS 33-AMANDA
Ky. 70 (Mott City to Dycusburg) Ky. 855 (from Ky. 70 to Ky. 902) Ky. 902 from Crittenden-Caldwell Line to Dycusburg, Jackson School Rd. to March Oliver Rd., Dycus Rd., Main Lake Rd., Joyce Rd. at Ky. 70 Lafayette Heights at Ky. 70

BUS 1604-ED LENEAVE
CCHS to CCES PM, CCES TO CCHS AM, U.S. Hwy. 60 City Limits to Ky. 166, Airport Rd., Gregory Ln., Claylick Rd., Ky. 2132, View Rd. (Ky. 2132 to U.S. Hwy. 60) Kirk Bluff, Damron Rd., Eagle Mine, Ky. 855, Frances Rd., Amos Rd.

BUS 2215-PAM COLLINS
HAPPY HEARTS, Sulphur Springs Rd., Mexico Rd. (from Marion Rd. to Mexico Baptist Church) Marion Rd., Axel Creek, Caldwell Springs to turnaround, Guess Rd., Paddy's Bluff to turnaround (Gorman Pond Rd.) Brown Mines Rd., Emmaus Rd.

BUS 2317-LISA WILLIAMSON
HAPPY HEARTS, Chapel Hill (from Par 4 to Crayne) Lloyd Rd., Lilly Dale Rd., U.S. Hwy. 641 from Calvary Baptist Church to Caldwell Co. Line, Nipper Rd., Harris Rd.