



The Crittenden Press

Underdown's Forgotten Passages | Page 6

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

FREE DRINK

City will distribute one gallon bottles of potable water



- Error on August bills -

Free drinking water will be distributed Sept. 8-13 at the city's wastewater treatment plant on Pippi Hardin Blvd., as part of ongoing relief efforts during Marion's water shortage. Distribution hours will be 9 a.m., to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Sept. 8-12 and 9 a.m., to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13. Each household on the city system will be provided 20 gallons of water distributed in one-gallon jugs. Residents must present a copy of their water bill. Those who use the online app and receive paperless billing should present their phone screen transaction receipt as verification. Text alerts will also be issued before distribution begins and notices will be printed on water bills that will be mailed this week.

The water is being supplied by Kentucky Emergency Management under a local state of emergency. Mayor D'Anna Browning has requested 60,500 gallons for September and October. Dates for October's distribution will be announced soon. The city has 1,394 active household accounts, meaning up to 27,880 gallons could be distributed in September. Officials hope that rainfall and cooler weather will ease the crisis as fall approaches. In another development, city water bills going out this week inadvertently indicate they are delinquent due to a system error. No penalty has been added to the bills.

Claylick closing today

Claylick Road just west of Marion will be closed at approximately the 1-mile marker from 7 a.m., to 7 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 28 for replacement of a failed cross drain. There is no detour option during this closure. Anyone living past the closure point on Claylick Road should make necessary adjustments to ordinary travel plans.

Candidates invited to finance workshop

Prospective candidates in local 2026 elections are invited to a campaign finance workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. at the County Office Complex. Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor will explain financial reporting that must be done before any candidate runs for office. The meeting is not mandatory but merely offered to help answer questions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Public Library Board meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28 at the library.
- Community Prayer will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 6 at The Press empty log.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8 at city hall.

Jailer Responds to Court's Action

Court asks Hayes to resign

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court last week formally requested the resignation of Jailer Athena Hayes, citing ongoing financial strain at the detention center and a lack of confidence in her leadership. The action was approved unanimously, though it carries no legal authority to force her removal.

Magistrate Matt Grimes made the motion after a short discussion of the jail's

finances. He noted the county has subsidized jail operations by a b o u t \$600,000 over the past two fiscal years and appears on track to contribute another \$488,000 this year, based on losses during the first two months of FY26.

"This is basically saying



Hayes

we no longer have any confidence in (her) ability to run the jail," Grimes said.

Hayes, who had already left the meeting after presenting her monthly jail report, was not present for the vote. Contacted later, she said she had been informed of the action and has "respectfully denied the request" to step down.

"I was elected by the citizens of Crittenden County

See **JAILER**/page 10



Soil values in Kentucky are not as rich as developed property

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County landowners have seen assessed values on their cropland increase over the past 10 years as routine adjustments are made within the formula for assessing agriculture property for tax purposes.

Over the past decade, the value of Class 2 soils, which is the county's most productive farmland, has gone from \$425 an acre in 2015 to \$710 in 2024, an increase of more than 65 percent. Class 3 soils have

It's Tax Season

Find information that will help you understand how you are being taxed. Here and on page 3.

climbed from \$350 to \$550 during that same 10-year period. Other soil categories, such as Classes 4 through 7, have risen more modestly, while Class 8 remains among the lowest-valued categories.

Despite the steady in-

See **SOIL**/page 3

Taxable Rates

| Soil Class Assessed Value Per Acre in Crittenden | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Class | 2015 | 2023 | 2024 |
| 1 | \$700 | \$700 | \$870 |
| 2 | \$425 | \$600 | \$710 |
| 3 | \$350 | \$500 | \$550 |
| 4 | \$300 | \$400 | \$400 |
| 5 | \$260 | \$300 | \$300 |
| 6 | \$200 | \$225 | \$225 |
| 7 | \$150 | \$200 | \$200 |
| 8 | \$150 | \$150 | \$150 |

*Rates in 2025 same as last year

Tourism tax sees slight decline in 2Q

STAFF REPORT

Restaurant sales in Marion continue to surpass the \$2 million mark each quarter, according to city reports. Figures from the 3 percent tourism tax on meals and lodging show that businesses generated about \$2.67 million in taxable sales during the second quarter of 2025, following \$2.28 million in the first quarter.

Combined, that represents nearly \$5 million in restaurant receipts through the first half of the year.

Although receipts were slightly below the record-setting pace of 2024, when spring sales peaked at \$2.75 million, this year's numbers remain strong. The dip may be linked to the closure of Mulligan's at the country club and the shuttering of

FOOD & DRINK
LODGING



Brunch of Sandwiches.

The tourism tax, enacted years ago to support local projects, applies only to prepared meals and overnight lodging. However, city officials note that lodging accounts for only a small portion of the total because Marion has few hotels. Restaurants generate the bulk of the revenue.

Alcohol sales are not included in these figures.

Liquor carries its own 5 percent tax, which is reported separately. The city began collecting alcohol revenue in 2019 after voters approved liquor by the drink.

Before that change, annual restaurant and lodging receipts averaged between \$6 million and \$7 million. By comparison, in 2015 the city's total taxable sales were about \$7.6 million, while today's figures project more than \$10 million annually. The expansion of dining options, higher prices due to inflation and the addition of alcohol sales have been key drivers of that growth in sales figures.

The first two quarters of 2025 suggest the year will again exceed that mark, keeping local dining as one of the city's most consistent economic drivers.

Digital disgust

I'm convinced that somewhere in Silicon Valley, a group of engineers is laughing at me. They sit in glass towers, sip overpriced coffee and dream up new ways to torture us with "convenient" technology.

Take PayPal, for instance. Logging into my account is like taking a sobriety test on the shoulder of the interstate. "Slide this bar to the right to prove you're human."

"Click all the pictures with dogs." I'm squinting at grainy photos of what might be a Labrador or might be a patch of tall weeds. By the time I've clicked through my third round of traffic lights and crosswalks, I half expect a trooper to pull me over and ask me to recite the alphabet backward.

The Kentucky tax website is worse. Used to be I could write a check, lick a stamp, and be done in two minutes flat. Now it's a 20-minute obstacle course of expired codes, unsupported browsers and the ever-helpful message to "clear your cache." Half the time I'd rather clear the Revenue Department with a hammer.

Then there's Meta, the parent company of Facebook, that shining beacon of modern communication. It's promotions fill my inbox with junk and politely offer me a chance to unsubscribe. Except the unsubscribe button doesn't work. For months now the message reads: "We're working on fixing the problem." If Meta doesn't have enough engineers to repair an unsubscribe button, then we're all sunk.

And just when I finally learn where the features are hidden on PayPal, they redesign the whole site. It's like hunting crickets in the basement, you can hear the chirp but you'll never find the critter.

It makes me miss the old ways. A checkbook never told me "session expired." A letter in the mailbox never asked me to click pictures of bicycles. Thank God you can still walk into the county office complex, hand over your tax payment and leave with a smile.

Now we have Chatbots. Where did they come up with that name? It's nothing like the confession booth or the local beauty shop. And what I have found so far with AI, is that it's wrong about as much as it's right. Am I supposed to be impressed? It's no more efficient than an eighth-grader with an attention disorder.

Folks keep saying that these high-tech machines will replace people. Maybe so. But the machines they've given us so far seem to have less common sense than a wrought iron chair and something akin to the same comfort level. I just don't feel good about where we're headed.

But, here we are, the so-called "users" who are supposed to benefit from technology confounded more than before. The irony is, if the machines really were human, they'd be just as frustrated as the rest of us.

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



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Glore

Charles Ronnie Glore, 74 of Marion, died Monday, Aug. 18, 2025 at his home.



He had worked as a coal miner and operated Ron's Fish Market in Cave in Rock, Ill.



He was a veteran of the United States Army and enjoyed fishing, hunting and spending time with family and friends.

Surviving are two daughters, Carolyn Glore and Patricia Burton; a son,

Charles Glore Jr.; four grandchildren, Dillon Glore, Marcus Burton, Micah Burton and Maliah Burton; and a special friend, Debbie Riley.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Opal Dial Glore; two sisters; and a granddaughter.

Cremation was chosen, and there are no services are planned at this time.

Myers Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Jerome

Arnold K. "Jerry" Jerome, Jr., 83, of Evansville, Ind., died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025 at Brickyard Woodlands Convalescent Center in Newburg, Ind.



Jerry earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Evansville and was a self-employed owner of Arnold Jerome Cadillac of Pontotoc, Mich. He later retired as a sales representative for Alpha Lasser of Evansville.

Surviving are his wife, Brenda Jerome; a daughter, McKayla Bohanna of Charleston, S.C.; a son, Tim Jerome of Darmstadt, Ind.; a granddaughter, Caroline Bohanna of Charleston, S.C.; a sister, Kay McDonald of Tucson, Ariz.; and a brother, Tim Jerome of Hohenwald, Tenn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold Jerome, Sr. and Mary Helen (Meinerding) Jerome.

Private services are under the direction of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Curnel

Charles (Doug) Curnel, 80, of Marion passed away peacefully at his home Wednesday, August 20, 2025.



He enjoyed the farming life and teaching his children new things. He took pride in keeping his truck washed and waxed and ready for a trip to town. He was always happy to see his grandchildren come through the door.

Surviving are his loving wife of 50 years, Kathy; sons, Charles Ray and Karen Curnel, both of Grand Rivers, Jason Curnel and Jordan of Marion; a brother, Donnie and Jeannie Curnel of Marion; sister-in-law, Shirlene Curnel of Marion; five grandchildren, Ethan (Jazmyn), Aiden, Lila, Raylin and Coy Curnel of Marion; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harmon and Ester (Privett) Curnel; five

brothers, Lonnie, James, Ollie, Jesse (JV) and Carl; and four sisters, Bertha, Mamie, Pearlie and Mary Sue.

Services were Saturday, Aug. 23 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

Belt

Raymond Everett Belt, 85, of Marion, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation Center. Born on July 17, 1940, in Salem, Belt grew up learning the value of hard work on his family's farm — lessons that shaped his character and helped him excel in every endeavor he pursued.



A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Belt shared more than 65 years of marriage and partnership with his beloved wife, Sharon, both in life and in business. Together, they owned and operated Belt Auction and Realty in Marion, serving their community with integrity and dedication.

Belt's life reflected his faith and commitment to others. He served as a trustee and treasurer of Lola Pentecostal Church, as past president of the Pennyrile Board of Realtors and vice president of the Western Kentucky Realtors, and on the board of the Kentucky Auctioneers Association. Beyond his professional achievements, he was an adventurer at heart. He had visited all 50 states and every continent, traveling the globe alongside Sharon. His greatest joys, however, were at home — with his wife, their daughter Sharie, and their cherished grandchildren Tucker and Regan, who affectionately called him "Rapa."

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Sharie Belt of Winterhaven, Fla.; and grandchildren, Robert Tucker Frazer of Dallas, Texas and Regan Denise Frazer of Tampa, Fla.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Glendel, Leon and Deon; and his parents, Corbet Everett and Ethel Mae (Ramage) Belt.

Services were Wednesday, Aug. 27 at Lola Pentecostal Church. Burial followed in Lola Pentecostal Church Cemetery.

Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services was in charge of arrangements.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15

Paid obituary

Mitchell

Steven Douglas Mitchell died August 20, 2025 after a hard-fought battle with cancer.



He was born in Marion, the beloved son of Delmer and Betty Mitchell. He is survived by his wife, Anne and also nieces, nephew, many cousins and dear friends. He is preceded in death by

his parents.

A celebration of life will be held in Big Piney, Wyoming in September, to be followed by the scattering of his ashes in the mountains he loved. All friends and family are welcome to attend.

Pierce

Cynthia "Darleen" Pierce, 75, of Burna, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025 at Mercy Health Lourdes Paducah. She enjoyed making jewelry, yard work and needlepoint.



Surviving are her husband of 33 years, Billy Joe Pierce; a son, Martin (Tracey) Amis of West Paducah; a daughter, Tara Pierce of Paducah; two grandchildren, Ryan Amis (Jasmine) of West Paducah and Makayla (George) Rodriguez of Paducah; and her furry companion Joe D.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Stringer and Kenneth Stringer; and her parents Ogie and Alberta (Powell) Stringer.

Services are at 1 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial will follow in Pinckneyville Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 11 a.m., until the funeral hour in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Paid obituary

Travis

Noble Cook Travis, 91, died Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at Livingston Hospital.

He was born on April 29, 1934 in Caldwell County to the late Charlie and Cecil Mae Murray Travis. He was a skilled electronics technician and worked at Arvins in Princeton for more than 30 years, only missing three days of work during his tenure. He enjoyed his farming and gardening, but most of all he enjoyed beekeeping. He loved to sing and read his Bible. He was a member of The Gideon's International and attended Freedom General Baptist Church.



Surviving are his daughter, Tonya Utley; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Opal Rushing Travis; a son, David Scott; a daughter, Tina Crane; a brother, Everett Travis; and three sisters, Shirley Quertermous, Wanda Travis, and Jo Ann Stewart.

Services are at 1 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29 at Gilbert Funeral Home. Visitation is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Burial will follow in Love Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Gideon's International: P.O. Box 304, Salem, KY 42078.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

What to do if you get hacked

Have you ever had someone tell you they received an email from "you" that you didn't send, or asked why you sent them another Facebook request? Or have you received an unusual-looking email from someone that made requests you know that person wouldn't usually make? These are signs that an email or Facebook account could have been spoofed or hacked.



Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

so someone cannot try the same password on other services. Using two-factor authentication is even stronger protection. Check your bank account statements — checking, savings, credit cards — for identity theft, such as purchases you did not make.

Check your credit reports from all three bureaus for anything that does not look right at https://www.annualcreditreport.com/

If you suspect identity theft, get information on what to do at [https://www.identitytheft.gov/]



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**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**



County plans no change in tax rate

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court plans to keep property tax rates steady for 2025, following the recommendation of the county's budget committee.

The proposed 11.4 rate will generate an estimated \$517,322 in revenue, which is more than last year because of changes in the county's overall assessed value due to new property and routine reassessments over one-fourth of

the county.

Property Valuation Administrator Todd Perryman pointed out to magistrates that despite leaving the rate the same, it's still raising new taxes by not taking the compensating rate, which would have been 11.1 cents. The county also plans to leave other property tax rates as they were last year at 12.4 cents for inventory, boats, autos and personal property; and magistrates agreed to continue

levying no tax on personal aircraft.

As it had last year, the fiscal court set \$10 as the minimum tax bill that will be mailed and pursued, which complies with state regulations.

County taxpayers also pay 2 cents per acre for timberland fire protection, \$30 for local fire dues and \$36 per dwelling (residential and commercial) to fund the E-911 service.

2025 Crittenden County Proposed Tax Rates

| TAX DISTRICT | Change from '24 | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| City of Marion | -?- | * | 22.9 | 22.5 | 22.4 |
| Crittenden County | -0- | 11.4 | 11.4 | 11.8 | 11.6 |
| School District | -?- | ** | 51.4 | 51.6 | 49.0 |
| Extension | +0.1 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| Health Tax | -0- | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Public Library | -0- | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Tradewater | -?- | *** | 34.9 | 33.6 | 33.7 |

* City planned to set rates Wednesday; **Schools will set Sept. 9; ***Tradewater not yet reported

Values are shown as cents per \$100 of assessed value

FISCAL COURT REPORT

Roads set for paving

STAFF REPORT

During last week's Crittenden County Fiscal Court meeting, updates were provided on late summer and early fall paving projects, but county officials expressed concern of a lack of state funding to repair all that are in need.

The county has applied for emergency funds to help repave Chapel Hill Road and Earl Patmor Road. State assisted paving as part of routine road improvement projects will include paving on Chandler Farm Road, Youth Camp Road, Hilltop Road, Nunn Switch Road and Tribune Tower Road. A priority list of improvements for chip and seal roads has also been approved, but it appears that funding is available for only a couple of roads. Those slated for work this year are Phin Croft and Jimmie Stallions roads, which officials say are in the worst condition. Another 11 roads are on the list, but there will likely be too little funding to improve them all.

Magistrates also okayed a plan to pave sections of Claylick Creek Road and AT Crider Road.

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom warned that road maintenance money is being slashed at the state level, leaving local governments with fewer resources to cover hundreds of miles of roadway.

Rural Secondary Funds, which help pay for county road projects, will drop from \$59.2 million statewide this fiscal year to \$55.1 million next year, he said. Flex Funds, which are discretionary money counties often use for resurfacing, have been cut almost in half, from \$25 million to \$13.3 million.

Newcom said the county maintains nearly 400 miles of roadway on less than \$1 million a year, a budget that must also cover bridge replacements, payroll and repairs when flooding washes out roads. Asphalt alone costs about \$80,000 a mile for a 1.5-inch overlay, he said, but Crittenden will receive less than \$190,000 for paving this year.

"Anyone who complains about roads shouldn't be talking to us, they need to talk to their legislators," Newcom said. "Until they figure out that counties can't maintain this many miles with what we're given, it's not going to work. We've made it clear in Frankfort, but they say they don't hear anything from the public."

It was also noted road maintenance crews spread just over 2,100 tons of rock and hot mix on local roads during the most recent billing period, according to a report approved July 1. All material came from Lafarge, totaling \$24,934.21.

Among the heaviest-served roads were Fritts Lane, O.B. McDaniel Road, Cool Springs Road and Charles McConnell Road.

•The fiscal court has also begun the process to consider accepting 415 feet of Catbird Lane into the county's official road system.



JULY 2025

Activity Report

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

| | July | 2024 Mo.Avg. |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Collisions Investigated | 7 | 7.6 |
| Complaints | 25 | 66.8 |
| Papers Served | 49 | 53.0 |
| Unsuccessful Service Attempts | 9 | 5.5 |
| Total Service Attempts | 78 | 104.1 |
| Transports | 6 | 4.3 |
| Special Detail | 11 | 58.7 |
| Training Hours | 5.5 | 41.1 |
| Verbal Warning | 15 | 24.4 |
| Courtesy Notice | 6 | — |
| Criminal Citation | 10 | 17.7 |
| Officer Assist | 11 | 5.7 |
| Building Checks | 55 | 50.6 |
| Total Manhours | 528.25 | 832 |
| Bailiff Court Hours | 88.25 | 86.7 |
| Cases Opened | 4 | 8.0 |
| Felony Arrests | 4 | 8.8 |
| Followup Investigations | 15 | 29.3 |
| Misdemeanor Arrests | 7 | 10 |
| Motorist Assists | 2 | 8.3 |
| DUIs | 0 | 2.5 |
| Traffic Citations | 0 | 14.1 |
| General Policing | 134 | 156 |
| Call for Service | 66 | 21 |

SHERIFF EVAN HEAD



Clerk says mail-in voting safe in KY

By DARYL K. TABOR
CRITTENDEN COUNTY CLERK

Despite widespread and bipartisan acceptance, mail-in voting is again being questioned by President Trump, who also wants to do away with voting machines. But voters should know that Kentucky has ample controls over election administration to ensure integrity across the state and virtually eliminate fraud risk.

The Commonwealth has carefully crafted statutes and regulations to institute common-sense voting rules and ensure the transparency and integrity of elections. And all 120 counties use the same foundation of laws to carry out trustworthy elections.

Mail-in ballots and voting machines are framed by opponents as tools to help Democrats win elections, though there is no evidence to back such broad claims.

As the county's chief election official, I feel it is my responsibility to ease voters' concerns by sharing facts to maybe combat the specter of widespread election fraud.

Though a handful of states send mail-in ballots to all voters, in Kentucky, a voter must request a ballot and attest to one of a few reasons for being unable to vote in person on Election Day or for Early Voting. And no returned ballots are accepted after 6 p.m. on Election Night.

For those who may question the politics of mail-in voting, consider local statistics from the 2024 general election:

- 68 of the 121 ballot requests came from Republicans.
- 67 of the 100 accepted ballots voted for Donald Trump.
- 21 ballots were rejected for various reasons, including voters not following specified instructions for signatures and to ensure the integrity of the ballot.

As for voting machines...

- Every Kentucky vote is cast on a paper ballot. Even the electronic ballot-marking devices print a paper ballot for voters to inspect before recording their vote.
- The voting equipment used by Kentuckians to cast their vote is merely a tabulation machine that reads and registers votes based on the paper ballot you marked. It works much like the old-school testing forms you mark with a pencil or the PowerBall ticket you mark for the lottery drawing.
- A mandated post-election audit in Crittenden County following the 2024 general election utilized three local poll workers to hand count ballots on a randomly selected machine. They returned the exact same results as the electronic ballot scanning device. It took roughly an hour to count and verify the votes on a single machine.
- Kentucky voting machines are incapable of connecting to the internet or any wireless network. They are not even equipped for such.

The presidency holds no immediate constitutional power over elections. They are governed by Congress, the states and local jurisdictions ... and should remain that way. There is always room for improvement across the country, but baseless claims of fraud serve only to undermine trust in our democratic processes.

In Kentucky, current election laws are a product of bipartisan efforts led by Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear and Republican Secretary of State Michael Adams. Meantime, local elections are overseen by a bipartisan County Board of Elections.

It's tax season | What you need to know to get in the game

Agencies setting their rates

STAFF REPORT

Schools are back in session next week, football season opened Friday and across Kentucky it's also property tax season – a period when counties, cities and school boards adopt property tax rates. Once the process is complete in a few weeks, tax bills will be mailed to property owners.

Groundwork for the state's property tax process begins in the spring and culminates with bills being delivered by year's end. There can also be a discount for paying early.

County property valuation administrators must submit updated estimates of taxable property in their jurisdictions in April. Those values give local governments a clearer picture of what they will have to work with as they prepare budgets for the fiscal year that begins July 1 each year.

In June, the Kentucky Department for Local Government notifies each county, city and special taxing district of two key figures: a "compensating rate," which would bring in about the same revenue as the year before, and a rate that would generate 4 percent more revenue. These figures are required under Kentucky's tax-limiting law, passed during a 1979 special session as House Bill 44. The law was designed to slow down fast-rising property tax bills in the late 1970s.

Since then, local governments have been able to adopt rates that increase their property tax revenue by no more than 4 percent annually without triggering extra steps. Any rate expected to raise more than that



Kentucky has a 6% sales and use tax, but city and counties are not allowed to levy a general sales tax.

requires a public hearing and is subject to a possible voter referendum if enough signatures are gathered.

In most years, taxing authorities quietly adopt either the compensating rate, the same rate as the year before, or something at or below that 4 percent threshold. Contrary to common misunderstanding, those percentages don't refer to the tax rate itself but to the amount of money collected. Because real estate is reassessed on a rolling basis – one-fourth of all property each year – the total value of taxable property usually increases. As a result, tax rates often go down even while taxpayers' bills go up.

For example, you might read a headline in the newspaper that says, "Fiscal Court lowers property tax rate," when in reality your tax bill is the same, or perhaps even higher if your property has been reassessed at a new, higher figure.

School boards also have the option of adding an extra "nickel" per \$100 of property value for facility improvements. Crittenden County tried to get that passed a few years ago to build a new high school, but voters denied it. That's partly why the school district opted instead to build a much smaller new wing for the middle school, which was recently completed.

Because public agency

budgets depend directly on tax revenue decisions, the real time to start asking questions about property taxes is not in late August, when rates are set, but back in April, May and June when assessments and budgets are first being discussed.

Property taxes are not to be confused with payroll and net profit taxes, typically referred to in unison as the occupational tax. Those rates can be changed at any point in the year, but normally come up as governments and taxing districts are planning their fiscal year budgets. Locally, decisions were made by the city and county back in the spring to raise those rates, which directly affect paychecks and business profits. The new, higher rates went into effect July 1, which starts the new fiscal year for local governments. If your employer gave you a cost-of-living pay increase this year, it's likely the occupational tax hikes have eaten it up.

Understanding the difference in payroll and property taxes – and how each works – can help taxpayers know exactly how and when their voices can be heard. Payroll taxes were increased weeks ago with almost no input from citizens.

This newspaper always provides timely information about potential changes in tax rates and how and when taxpayers can participate in the system, which is typically during hearings or meetings. The county's fiscal court meets regularly at 8:30 a.m., on the third Thursday of each month. Marion City Council meets at 5 p.m., on the third Monday of each month.

SOIL

Continued from page 1

creases, farmland in Kentucky remains taxed well below market prices. That's because of the state's agricultural "use-value" system, which assesses land on its income-producing ability rather than what it would bring in a sale. The exemption was established in 1969 to prevent farmers from being taxed off their property as development pressures pushed up land values across the state.

Crittenden County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) Todd Perryman says Kentucky allows for the lower assessment on farmland and woodlots in order for the state to maintain its agrarian economy and culture.

"Farmland is assessed differently than residential properties," Perryman said. "Residential properties are assessed and you pay taxes on the fair cash value, what it would bring on the open market. But for farmland, the state has set aside an agricultural exemption for anything 10 acres or more."

Each tract of farmland is assigned a soil class, ranging from Class 1, the richest cropland, to Class 8, very marginal land with severe limitations and suitable mainly for low-grade pasture or woodland. Classifications are based on U.S. Department of Agriculture soil surveys, which account for slope, drainage, depth and overall productivity. It's a complicated metric, Perryman said.

"It's based on what you could reasonably pay for a piece of property and make a living off of it, not what it would bring on the open market," he said.

In Crittenden County, there are no Class 1 soils such as you would find in neighboring Union or Webster counties. Class 2 is the highest rating present here. That means the best cropland in the county will be taxed at the Class 2 rate of \$710 per acre this year, same as in 2024. By contrast, poorer soils with less crop potential, such as Classes 6 and 7, are assessed at only \$225 and \$200 per acre, respectively.

You might see marginal land sell for \$4,000 an acre or more right now, Perryman said, but tax-wise, even the best

Class 2 land in the county is assessed at only \$710 an acre.

While a farmer or landowner may have paid \$4,000 or more per acre for their property on the open market, their tax bill is based on the much lower use-value figure. Residential houses on farms, however, do not qualify for the exemption and are taxed at full fair-cash value.

Perryman added that while Crittenden's Class 2 land is considered the best in the county, its market value is difficult to gauge.

"People who have that high-producing cropland are holding onto it," he said. "We're not really seeing those tracts sell. What moves more often are cattle farms or woodlots."

Rising soil values and consistent or higher tax rates mean additional tax dollars for schools, fiscal court, health department, library, Extension Service and other local taxing districts that draw revenue from property assessments. Revenue generated from local property taxes can be up or down depending on what rates are set against assessed value. Taxing districts are currently setting 2025 rates, which will be applied to the assessed value of all real property in the county. For more on that process see our accompanying article on Kentucky's property tax system.

The last major adjustment to agricultural land values came last year. Values are re-examined on a four-year cycle by the state Department of Revenue in coordination with county PVA.

Any landowner with at least 10 acres in agriculture qualifies for the use-value assessment. Those with questions about their farmland's classification or taxable value can contact the PVA office at the courthouse. Perryman also emphasized that property owners have an appeals process available if they believe their soil classification is inaccurate.

"There have been times where our map showed a farm as Class 2 cropland, but when we checked it was all timber," he said. "In those cases we flag the account so the property is taxed more fairly."

Livingston quarry sold in Warren’s deal with Granite

Granite Construction has acquired Warren Paving, which operates a quarry in Livingston County, as part of a \$710 million deal that also includes the purchase of a separate California-based company.

Granite, the California infrastructure company, announced Aug. 6 that the acquisitions expand its vertically integrated operations and increase its aggregate reserves by about 30 percent, adding more than 440 million tons. Annual aggregate production will rise by 27 percent, or more than 5 million tons.

Warren Paving, a Mississippi-based company, brings with it one quarry, a sand and gravel operation, 11 aggregate yards, three asphalt plants and a fleet of 168 barges along the Mississippi River system. Granite officials said Warren Paving is expected to generate \$275 million in annual revenue.

Locally, the deal means Granite now owns Warren’s Livingston County quarry, which supplies stone for regional construction projects.

Teen arrested in Mayfield game shooting incident

A 14-year-old boy from Fulton has been arrested in connection with a shooting Friday night at the Graves County-Mayfield football game, according to the West Kentucky Star.

Mayfield police said the juvenile is charged with first-degree assault after shooting 18-year-old Jordan Riley of Farmington. Riley suffered serious injuries to his arm and upper torso and was flown to an out-of-state hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

Investigators said the shooting occurred in a parking lot next to War Memorial Stadium following a fight between Riley and another juvenile, during which the suspect discharged a gun.

Panic followed inside the stadium as players, coaches and referees ran for cover and fans spilled from the stands. The game was halted with Mayfield ahead 40-7. Videos of the scene quickly spread nationwide.

Crittenden County’s football team is scheduled to play its annual district matchup at Mayfield on Sept. 19.

Chamber event will feature KYSC justice

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce’s next 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 crittendencountychamber@gmail.com.

Animal shelter report

Crittenden County Animal Shelter reported 26 new dog intakes during July. Six dogs were adopted, 11 were sent to



rescue, and one was reclaimed by its owner. No animals died, escaped or were euthanized during the month.

As of July 31, the shelter housed 48 dogs, with 52 more in foster care.

No income was reported from dog licenses, reclaim fees or sponsorships.

Riverview Park sees modest July increase

Riverview Park in northern Crittenden County recorded a modest increase in overnight stays during July 2025, despite continued access issues due to the closure of the KY 295 bridge.

According to the latest monthly report, there were 68 total overnight stays at the Ohio River park, 55 RV nights and 13 tent nights. That’s up slightly from June’s total of 65 overnight stays but still well below the 106 rentals reported in June 2024.

The July financials show \$1,390 in site revenue, with RV stays accounting for \$1,320 and tent stays bringing in \$70. Additional income included \$172.75 in fees and \$109.43 in tax revenue. However, a camp credit of \$160.30 offset part of the month’s income, leaving total deposits at \$1,832.48. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,526.58, resulting in a net income of \$305.90.

While the campground remains a popular summer destination with its full hookup RV pads, tent sites, restrooms, playground, dock and pavilion, the ongoing bridge outage has clearly impacted traffic to the site this season. Access detours have made it more difficult for travelers to reach the park, which was formerly known as Dam 50.

Tent sites continue to rent for \$5 per night and RV sites for \$20. Reservations are available online at CrittendenCountyKy.org.

Davis earns new rank in KY National Guard

Colby Davis of Marion has been promoted to the rank of Major in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

Davis enlisted in the Guard in June 2007 as a Military Police Soldier (31B). In 2012, he commissioned as an officer through Murray State University’s ROTC program, beginning a career of leadership within the Kentucky Guard’s Engineer units.

His assignments have included serving as Executive Officer of the 206th Engineer Battalion’s Headquarters Company in Owensboro, commanding Detachment 1 of the 1123rd Sapper Company in Marion, and later serving as an assistant staff officer for the 206th. In 2016, Davis transferred to the 613th Engineer Facilities Detachment, deploying to Kuwait and Jordan in 2017 as a project engineer. Upon returning, he continued



Maj. Davis

serving as the state design engineer until 2021. From 2021 through 2024, he commanded the 130th Engineer Support Company, leading Soldiers in missions across the Commonwealth and abroad.

In addition to his federal service, Davis has played a key role in state emergency response operations. He served as Incident Commander and Liaison Officer during the Marion water mission and the Dawson Springs water mission, ensuring critical support to Kentucky communities during times of crisis.

His military decorations include the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device and 10-Year Bronze Hourglass, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Kentucky Active Duty Service Ribbon recognizing state service.

In his civilian career, Davis serves as the Director of Safety and Claims for Ervin Cable Construction. He is also deeply involved in the community, coaching youth baseball and working to expand athletic opportunities for children in western Kentucky.

He and his wife, Bethany, make their home in Marion with their son, Heaton, daughter, Lawson, and are expecting another son later this year.

Still no details on body in Burna

There is still no new information about the body of a man found Thursday, July 31, near Burna in front of Livingston County Middle School.

Kentucky State Police said an autopsy has been conducted on the body of Ethan Schriener, 30, of Calvert City; however, no further details are available at this time. Results of the autopsy are pending, KSP Public Affairs Officer Sarah Burgess said.

County closing offices for holiday

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Crittenden County Office Complex (judge-executive’s office, county clerk, PVA and sheriff’s office), Crittenden County Road Department, Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, resuming normal hours Tuesday, Sept. 2.

In addition, the Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter will also be closed Saturday, Aug. 30.

*Between Printed Editions
Tune in to The Press Online
for breaking news.
We also ask that you subscribe to
our YouTube Channel.
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USDA’s 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.



From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago

Eighth-grade students at Crittenden County Middle School made their first visit to the library in the old high school building. Pictured in the background are Mrs. Tom Loyd, Principal Ralph Stallion and librarian Mrs. Gareth Hardin. Mrs. Loyd, who had taught at Fredonia the year before, was a new English teacher at the middle school in Marion. Students shown are (from left) Rita Shouse, Paula Binkley, Tina Underdown and Russell Her-rin.

50 YEARS AGO

August 28, 1975

■ Roger Linzy was pictured with his “lifesaver for a one-man operation,” a ramp made out of a steel grate to help remove small power equipment from the bed of a pickup truck. Linzy’s Universal Ramp sold for \$145.

■ Sam Smith won the Sycamore Hills at Marion Country Club with an even-par round of 72. He described it as his “best round ever,” narrowly defeating Marion native Mike Stone, a member of the Campbellsville College golf team.

■ Members of the Blue team from the Marion Rotary Club’s Pee Wee Baseball league ended the season with a 4-2 record. Members were John Watson, Mike Crider, John handler, Tony Perryman, David May, Perry Morris, Brent Travis, Mike Tosh, Lawrence Ellis, John Crider, David Belt, Bart Frazer and Wade Hurt.

25 YEARS AGO

August 31, 2000

■ The Blackford Bridge restoration project initiated by Brent “Danny” Winterspoon was searching for funding to save the bridge, which was built as a railroad bridge in 1886 and linked Webster and Crittenden counties in Blackford.

■ Crittenden County rushed for 308 yards in a 17-16 victory over Health High School. QB Zach Brantley threw for 39 yards and David Hunt rushed for 104.

■ Freshman Jason Guess paced the undefeated Rocket golf team with a one-under 35 at Kentucky Dam Village in a match against Lyon County.

10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 27, 2015

■ Marion Baptist Church began its Celebrate Recovery program, an outreach effort to help remove individuals and families from negative behaviors.

■ 4-Her Mauri Collins was pictured after earning first place in the Kentucky State Fair Country Ham Contest.

■ Marion resident and author Bob Yehling signed copies of his book, “Just Add Water,” at the Crittenden County Public Library. The book tells the story of Clay Marzo, one of the best surfers in the world, who was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome.

■ Lauren Gilchrist, an eighth grader, finished fourth at the Class A regional golf tournament at Pennyrile State Park.

■ Quarterback Nick Castiller helped lead the Rockets to a 35-14 record-setting, season-opening victory over Todd Central. Castiller rushed for 142 yards and passed for 209.

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

Crittenden Press Letter to the Editor

Nelson County Jailer writing to support work of Jailer Hayes

To the Editor,

I am writing in my official capacity as Jailer of Nelson County to express my concern and disappointment regarding the actions taken by the Crittenden County Fiscal Court in requesting the resignation of Jailer Athena Hayes. Having worked alongside Jailer Hayes, I can say without hesitation that she is among the most capable and dedicated jailers in the Commonwealth.

The decision to pursue her resignation, and to do so outside her

presence, was both unnecessary and inappropriate. Jailer Hayes operates one of the most efficient and professional correctional facilities in Kentucky. I have personally reviewed her jail budget, and it is very much in line with the standard operational budget of a facility of that size. Any suggestion otherwise is misleading and unfair. The attempt to undermine her work reflects motives that appear to be more political than practical.

As elected officials, our responsibility is to set a higher standard. Decisions like this diminish public trust and send the wrong message about the values of fairness and integrity that we are sworn to uphold.

Jailer Hayes has earned the respect of her peers, her staff and her community. To dismiss her contri-

butions in this way is not only a disservice to her but also to the citizens of Crittenden County.

I respectfully urge this court to reflect carefully on the consequences of its actions and to correct course. Kentucky’s correctional system depends on leaders like Jailer Hayes, and her service should be recognized, not politicized.

Justin Hall
Nelson County Jailer
Bardstown, Ky.

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. See our complete letter policy at our website The-Press.com.

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We complete each other

Every human being is the sum of decisions they have made...and decisions made by everyone else. We are all born in a time and a place. When and where and to whom we are born determines the scope of decisions available to us. Then there are the wild cards that are thrown in. Ecclesiastes 9:11 says it like this, "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all."

Every decision that we make as a society will have benefits for some and will harm others. Sometimes the harm comes to our neighbors, sometimes it falls on people in other nations toward whom we seldom give thought. It is not that we should feel guilty about this inadvertent harm but perhaps we should at least consider it a possibility.

Laws, public and foreign policy, diplomatic



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

decisions, and interpretation of religious books all play into creating the type of world we live in. When I hear people being blamed for their poverty, perhaps I need to consider my role in their situation. When I see the decisions that other nations make, perhaps it would be wise to better understand their position. This doesn't mean that action should not be taken. It does not mean that there are times when aggression turns into vengeance that needs to be checked.

It is easy to forget that the first account of Creation in the Bible finished with the exclamation, "It was exceedingly good!" In this account human beings were created after everything was in place. It is as though the Creator prepared a place for us and then put us in it to care for it...and for each other.

That first enigmatic poem in Genesis 1:27 can be rendered, "So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created it, male

and female he created them." It is as though humanity is made in the image of God and it takes all of us, together, to reflect that image. That makes us part of each other from the beginning.

The teachings of Jesus in the Gospels tell us what the kingdom of God is like. He does this in parable and preaching. The parables tell us about God and about Jesus' work while he was here. Some tell how we are to treat each other. The apostles then began to explain the implications of these teachings to the gatherings that were to become the church. They used the metaphor of the body to explain that we are all one and connected to each other.

John Donne's famous Meditation 27 beautifully states that we are all connected. "Perchance he for whom this bell tolls may be so ill, as that he knows not it tolls for him; and perchance I may think myself so much better than I am, as that they who are about me, and see my state, may have caused it to toll for me, and I know not that. The church is Catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all. . . No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece

of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee."

If I say I am a Christian, and you make the same claim, what each of us does affects the other. Remembering this may prevent me from treating another person in a way that I would never treat part of my physical body.

Perhaps if more of us understood that while we may be created in the image of God, we are only a tiny sliver of it. It is when all of us, together, work for the good of all that we begin to move back toward the day when humanity was introduced to the world. Paul's reminder to the Jews and Gentiles who made up the churches in Rome, "Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7, RSV).

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.

Religious Outreach

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

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Givers experience more joy than stingy people

Question: Recently, a friend offered me a considerable amount of money to help cover a large debt. I told him, "Thanks, but I'll get by." He replied, "If you don't take my money, you'll take away my blessing of helping you." Is there really a blessing in giving or was he just trying to get me to take his money?

Answer: Yes, there's a blessing for people who give! "It is more blessed to give," said Jesus, "than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving to help others, makes us more thankful for how God has blessed us. Also, it helps us to depend upon God's generous supply for our own needs (Phil. 4:18). Continuously, Jesus

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

taught His followers to generously give to meet other's needs. "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you" (Mt. 5:42). Also, He exclaimed, "Give, and it will be given to you" (Lk. 6:33). When He sent the twelve disciples on their first mission trip, He instructed them, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Mt. 10:8). If one goes through life thinking, "I'm short on money," or "No one wants my help," or "If I offer to help,

they'll think I'm just trying to be a 'big shot.'" These and other excuses stop the process of helping others before it starts.

A good place to start a giving lifestyle is to realize God has given to you first.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (Jn. 3:16). Let's ask God to help us see the needs of others, then, to respond generously.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Unity General Baptist Church
4691 Mott City Rd., Marion, KY
Join us for our annual
HOME COMING
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.
Father Joji Joseph
860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky.
(270) 965-2477

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.
Speaker: Greg Rushing
SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.

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 -

Long journey for the bridge across Tradewater River

People who lived in the northern section of Crittenden County were cut off from nearby Sturgis in Union County by the Tradewater River. The community of Bells Mines was much closer to the town of Sturgis than the 20-plus miles to Marion, but the lack of a bridge across the Tradewater River sometimes made it difficult to get to Union County. A small ferry boat was available most of the time or people found their own means to cross the water. From the articles in the old Crittenden Presses as early as 1897 the fiscal court knew a bridge was needed in this area.

As with many new projects that cause change, this one had its problems and setbacks too. Here is the story of the Kiwanis Bridge with the idea starting as early as 1897 and finally finished 29 years later in 1926.



The Kiwanis Bridge connecting Crittenden and Union counties was completed in 1926. It was a much-needed convenience for the northern part of the county.

On last Friday Aug. 13, a few citizens of Sullivan in Union County were in our city agitating the question as to the location of the federal highway and the crossing on the Tradewater River.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

It has been our information that former Commissioner Rodman Wiley settled this question more than a year ago, and why some few of our citizens will listen and continue to assist a few disgruntled citizens of another county to rob the citizens and taxpayers of our own county of the prospect of a road that rightly belongs to them is somewhat a mystery.

On the 18th day of June 1918, every man who voted for the \$150,000 road bond did it with the specific understanding that the road should cross the Tradewater at or near the mouth of Cypress. Every man who signed pledges to donate money to augment this sum for road purposes signed a paper that was explicit in stating that the road should cross the Tradewater at this point. A resolution unanimously adopted by the Fiscal court, published and put before all the people of the county, designated Cypress for crossing.

We believe this road should come into this county by crossing the Tradewater at or near the mouth of Cypress, because it was promised the voters by those in charge of the campaign; because it will benefit directly all the northern part of the county while the other will not; because it will connect, directly, almost all of the county with the coal fields of both this and Union County; because the assessors' books show that the farmlands touched by the Cypress are valued at \$30,000 or more. Why a suggestion of another route has been talked about is a little bit mysterious and one wonders about the motive of the talk.

They Cypress route serves 10:1 more Crit-

tenden County people and furnishes ingress and egress to a far more extensive and productive part of the county than the other.

June 23, 1922 - Bridge Meeting

Some 40 or more citizens of Morganfield and Sturgis representing the Kiwanis Clubs of these cities drove over from Union County Tuesday to attend the bridge meeting held at the courthouse here. Owing to the lack of proper advertising, only a small number of Crittenden County people were present at the meeting.

County Judge E. Jeffrey Travis gave the opening address explaining the object of the meeting. He told them he wanted the bridge. He said the people of the two counties were not as closely allied as they should be. Mayor Kern of Sturgis gave the next address. He advised cooperation between the two counties and said the building of the bridge would be the means of more closely uniting the people as neighbors and friends.

Supt. Herbert of Bell Coal & Navigation Co. said the citizens of the northern part of Crittenden deserved and ought to have the bridge. He said that in the days of Daniel Boone and the Indians when they wanted to cross Tradewater, they crossed in a boat. He told them that in that respect that part of the county had not improved - they still had to cross in boats. He said it was not right to force those people to endanger their future lives by cussing like a blue streak every time they tried to cross the Tradewater and get stuck in the mud.

The meeting closed with an address by J. F. Dogge in which he said he was interested in both counties and wanted the bridge so that he could better make the trips back and forth.

June 9, 1922 - Bridge To Be Built Across Tradewater

The Union County Fiscal Court met in a called session last Saturday and voted to build a bridge across the Tradewater at the mouth of Cypress, at the same time voted \$12,000 or more if necessary for construc-

tion of same. A date was set for a joint meeting of the Crittenden and Union county courts to meet at Sturgis to discuss the final plans for the much-needed bridge.

This bridge has been needed for the convenience of all the northern part of the county and Judge Travis says he is doing all he can to have it completed before the year is out. (But not to happen yet for it seemed several of the fiscal court members were "agin" the whole thing and a lot of the town people weren't convinced it was a worthwhile project to spend money on.)

August 10, 1923 - Fiscal Court News

The Fiscal Court met with Judge E. J. Travis and County Attorney E. D. Stone and all the magistrates being present. The court adjourned to meet with the Fiscal Court of Union County to confer as to whether the bridge at the mouth of Cypress built by order of the two counties would be accepted or rejected.

The party of officials motored over and consisted of County Judge E. J. Travis, E. D. Stone, P. R. Taylor, Miss Leaffa Wilborn, L. A. LaRue; F. M. Davidson, P. F. Paris, S. F. Peek, Charles LaRue, Will Hardesty, J. L. Rankin, R. L. Holt and Henry Simpson.

August 27, 1926 - Tradewater Bridge Now Open To Traffic

The bridge across Tradewater River, on the highway between Sturgis and Marion, was opened to traffic for the first time Saturday of last week. The structure, one of the largest all concrete foundation bridges in Kentucky, was finished about July 15. Messrs. W. M. and J. S. Quirey, who had the contract to make the fill at each end of the bridge, completed the work in about 30 days. Between 5,000 and 6,000 yards of dirt was moved in order to do this. Since the Kiwanis Club of Union County worked so hard to see this bridge built, it has since been known as the Kiwanis Bridge.

The old one-lane Kiwanis Bridge which was so hard fought for for so many years, served its purpose, and needed replacing many years later. In 1982 it was replaced with a new two-lane modern concrete bridge. The new bridge was constructed just downstream from the location of the old one.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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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
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PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 2.28 Acres - \$244,900
This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

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

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

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

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 80.92 Acres - \$307,500
With plenty of edge and transition cover, areas of dense bedding and security cover, and numerous funnels and pinch points, this property is tailored for successful hunting!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 117 Acres - \$575,000
This phenomenal hunting property offers outstanding opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl enthusiasts, making it a must-see for the avid outdoorsman. Includes 44+/- acres of open ground!

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

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

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

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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Observance
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Crittenden County Board of Education

The 2024-2025 Unaudited AFR, Balance Sheet and Vendor List for Crittenden County Schools have been posted on the Crittenden County Schools website and can be accessed at the following link.
<https://www.crittenden.kyschools.us/finance>

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.

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Crittenden Co. Volunteer Fire Department

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocket sports schedule

THURSDAY
Golf at The Cullen GC in Eddyville
Soccer hosts Trigg County
CCHS Volleyball at Heritage Christian
FRIDAY
Rocket Football hosts Union County
TUESDAY
Golf at Deer Lakes GC
Soccer hosts Union County
CCMS Football at South Hopkins

CCMS loses to Union

Crittenden County Middle School couldn't get the offense going and lost 14-2 to Union County last Thursday at Rocket Stadium. The Rockets scored a safety in the first half for its only points. The team played at Henderson South on Tuesday, but results were not available at press time.

CCHS GOLF ACTION

Critenden beat Hardin

CCHS golfers defeated Hardin County, Ill., 240-281 Monday at Deer Lakes Golf Course. Crittenden's team scoring was led by Hudson Stokes with a 44, followed by Mitchell Brown and Jaxon Duncan at 46, Levi Quertermous 49 and Bentley Rushing 55. Gunner Topp also shot a 55, and Dawson Jones finished at 61. For the girls, Georgia Holeman carded a 50 and Abby Korzenborn shot a 62.

OUTDOORS

Dove decoy limitations

Starting this season, decoys are not allowed on public dove fields until Oct. 1. This change was made to provide a safer and more enjoyable hunting experience for everyone in the field, KDFWR says. Early-season use of decoys can create low-flying birds, which is a safety concern during the busiest part of the season on public hunting areas. Dove season opens Monday, Sept. 1 on Labor Day and runs through Oct. 26 for its first fall segment. Public dove hunting is available in Crittenden and Union counties. See the KDFWR Hunting Guide for details about WMA hunting opportunities at Big Rivers and Higginson-Henry.

Barkley Lake blinds

The annual Lake Barkley Duck Blind Drawing will be held Monday, Sept. 15 at the Right Bank Recreation Area below the powerhouse. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with the drawing to follow at 8. Hunters must present a valid hunting license, a signed Federal Duck Stamp and a completed HIP survey number to participate. For more information, contact Ranger Ben Clark at 270-362-4236.

Hunting Seasons

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

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bullfrog | May 16 - Oct 31 |
| Coyote night, no lights | July 1 - Nov 30 |
| Squirrel | Aug 16 - Nov 7 |
| Dove | Sept 1 - Oct 26 |
| Crow | Sept 1 - Nov 9 |
| Canada goose | Sept 1 - Sept 15 |
| Deer archery | Sept 6 - Jan 19 |
| Turkey archery | Sept 6 - Jan 19 |
| Deer crossbow | Sept 20 - Jan 19 |
| Early wood duck | Sept 20-24 |
| Teal | Sept 20-24 |
| Turkey crossbow | Oct 1 - Oct 19 |
| Raccoon | Oct 1 - Feb 28 |
| Deer Youth | Oct 11-12 |
| Deer muzzleloader | Oct 18-19 |
| Turkey shotgun | Oct 25-31 |
| Woodcock | Oct 25 - Nov 7 |
| Deer gun | Nov 8-23 |
| Turkey crossbow | Nov 8 - Dec 31 |
| Bobcat trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Squirrel | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Quail | Nov 10 - Feb 10 |
| Rabbit | Nov 10 - Feb 10 |
| Raccoon trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Woodcock | Nov 10 - Dec 10 |
| Coyote trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Bobcat | Nov 15 - Feb 28 |
| Youth waterfowl | Nov 22 |
| Duck | Nov 27 - Nov 30 |
| Canada goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| Snow Ross goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| White-fronted goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| Dove | Nov 27 - Dec 7 |
| Coyote night, lights | Dec 1 - March 31 |
| Turkey shotgun | Dec 6 - Dec 12 |
| Duck | Dec 7 - Jan 31 |
| Deer muzzleloader | Dec 13-21 |

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's football season opened with fireworks on offense but too many miscues to pull off an upset against a much larger opponent.

The Rockets traded scores with Class 6A Marshall County for much of the first half last Friday before turnovers and a key injury tilted the game in the Marshals' favor, resulting in a 42-29 setback at Draffenville.

The Rockets actually out-gained Marshall, piling up 375 yards to the home team's 303. Senior quarterback Quinn Summers, entering his second full season as starter, completed 22 of 39 passes for 327 yards and four touchdowns. His performance was a reminder of why head coach Gaige Courtney calls him "the complete package."

Summers spread the ball around to six receivers, and senior wideout Caden Howard once again led the way. Howard caught five passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns, including a 78-yard bomb in the second quarter that kept the Rockets in the game. Earlier, he opened the scoring for Crittenden with a 15-yard reception and two-point conversion.

But just as Howard looked primed for another record-setting season, his nagging hamstring issue resurfaced in the third quarter. He was sidelined the rest of the way, leaving the Rockets without their most dangerous weapon. His availability for this week's home opener against Union County remains uncertain.

The Rockets didn't lack for other options. Sophomore Eli Lovell was a steady target with five catches for 84 yards, and senior Dokota Sosh added five for 69 yards and a touchdown. Freshman Hayden Hughes showed poise with a short scoring grab in the third period, while Davis Perryman and Brayden Poindexter chipped in crucial catches to extend drives.

Still, turnovers haunted CCHS. The Rockets lost two fumbles and threw an interception, all in the first half. Each gave Marshall excellent



Although Trae Taylor's first start as the featured running back in Crittenden County's offense didn't produce big numbers on Friday at Marshall County, he did have some key runs like this one. He netted 17 yards on 11 carries.

field position, leading directly to points. The Marshals capitalized quickly behind quarterback Neyland Jezik, who threw for 154 yards and two touchdowns, including a 55-yard strike to Ethan Webber. Marshall's power run game also wore on Crittenden, as Kolten Winsett and Kaysen Holland combined for 128 yards and three rushing touchdowns.

After leading 35-23 at half-time, Marshall extended its advantage in the third quarter, and Crittenden's final drive into the red zone stalled at the Marshals' 15-yard line.

Now the Rockets (0-1) shift their focus to Friday's home opener against Union County. The Braves are also winless after a 49-13 loss to Madisonville-North Hopkins, the same Maroons team that defeated Crittenden 38-7 in a scrimmage the week prior to the regular season. In that preseason tilt, Crittenden trailed just 10-7 early before Madisonville reeled off 31 unanswered points.

Friday's matchup at Rocket Stadium is an early measuring stick for both programs. Summers' arm and Crittenden's depth at receiver will again be the key, but the

Rockets will hope for the return of Howard, whose presence could make all the difference against a Union squad eager to bounce back.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Friday at Rocket Stadium. Union County was the pre-season No. 5 in Class 3A.

Crittenden County's all-time football record against Union County is 8 wins and 30 losses. Last season, Union County beat the Rockets 42-14 in Marion

SCORE BY QUARTER

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|
| Crittenden County | 15 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| Marshall County | 14 | 21 | 7 | 0 |

SCORING PLAYS

M-Kolten Winsett 20 run (Brayden York kick) 8:40, 1st
C-Caden Howard 15 pass from Quinn Summers (Summers run) 7:21, 1st
C-Dokota Sosh 18 pass from Summers (Mitchell Brown kick) 2:15, 1st
M-Ethan Webber 55 pass from Neyland Jezik (Thatcher Newnum kick) 1:23, 1st
M-Kaysen Holland 2 run (York kick) 11:11, 2nd
M-Holland 7 run (Newnum kick) 10:12, 2nd
C-Howard 78 pass from Summers (Eli Lovell run) 5:53, 2nd
M-Jezik 3 run (York kick) 1:43, 2nd
C-Hayden Hughes 3 pass from Summers (pass failed) 5:53, 3rd
M-Webber 7 pass from Jezik (Newnum kick) :50, 3rd

TEAM TOTALS

First Downs: CCHS 12, MCHS 13
Penalties: CCHS 5-45, MCHS 4-40
Rushing: CCHS 21-45, MCHS 35-149
Passing: CCCHS 22-40-1,327; MCHS 13-18-1, 154

Total Yards: CCHS 375, MCHS 303
Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 2-2, MCHS 1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

CCHS: Summers 9-39, Trae Taylor 11-17, Lovell 1-(-11). MCHS: Winsett 12-74, Holland 14-54, Jezik 7-11, Reece Reed 1-2, Webber 1-8.

Passing

CCHS: Summers 22-39-1, 327; Howard 0-1-0. MCHS: Jezik 13-18-1, 154.

Receiving

CCHS: Howard 5-120, Lovell 5-84, Sosh 5-69, Davis Perryman 3-25, Brayden Poindexter 1-15, Hughes 2-6, Taylor 1-8. MCHS: Kamren Brown 5-49, Syllas Winding 1-10, Webber 3-72, Aiden Roy 2-8, Kaiden Mohler 2-15.

Defense

Brandsasse 7 solos, 3 TFLs; M.Counts assist: Hall solo, 2 assists, TFL; Howard 4 solos; Pierson 3 assists; B.Poindexter 16 solos, 5 assists; D.Sosh 3 solos; Stevenson 6 solos, interception; Taylor 2 solos; Musser 5 assists; Perryman 2 solos, assist; Blazina solo; Lovell 5 solos, 2 assists, sack; Bumpus 2 solos, 2 assists, TFL; Herrington solo; Hughes solo.

Players of the Game: Offense Quinn Summers, Defense Brayden Poindexter, Lineman Braydin Brandsasse, Special Teams Mitchell Brown.

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A new nationwide enforcement wave started August 11,

2025, with fines ranging from about \$250 to over \$1,500, plus potential license suspension or criminal penalties.

Observe School Zones with Extra Caution

Always obey reduced speed limits and flashing beacons in school zones.

Be Proactive & Defensive

Maintain ample following distance, especially behind large vehicles like school buses, and use the 3-second rule, or longer in poor weather or low light. Be particularly alert in

residential areas, driveways, and near bus stops. Children can be unpredictable.

Understand Local Traffic Laws

Laws about when you must stop for a school bus vary on divided highways. Some states don't require vehicles opposite a stopped bus to stop. Always check your state's specific regulations. Crossing guards' signals are enforceable, always follow their directions for stopping or proceeding.

Avoid Distractions at All Costs

Using a cellphone, fiddling

with the radio, or otherwise being distracted can be fatal, especially near children and school buses. Stop all distractions and keep your eyes on the road.

Be Mindful Near Driveways & Neighborhood Drives

Backing out of driveways near school routes? Look carefully, many pedestrian fatalities happen between 7-8 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. Always look around your vehicle before entering and drive slowly through areas where children may be present.



County will allow SUVs on roadways

STAFF REPORT

After showing perhaps a slight bit of reluctance earlier this summer to embrace a new special-purpose vehicle law, Crittenden County Fiscal Court last week introduced an ordinance that would allow street-legal vehicles to operate on most county roads.

The measure stems from House Bill 89, passed by the General Assembly in March and codified as KRS 186.077. The new state law, which took effect June 27, gives local governments the option of permitting certain vehicles such as side-by-sides and utility task vehicles (UTVs) on highways within their jurisdiction.

Livingston County, Princeton and Marion have already passed similar ordinances to allow it.

Crittenden County's proposed ordinance mirrors language from the statute but outlines specific restrictions. It would allow the vehicles on all highways in the county except U.S. 60, U.S. 641. The proposed ordinance further limits operation to no more than 20 miles of continuous travel on highways with centerline pavement markings. It also bans minitrucks from use on any highway built under a federal highway program.

The ordinance was given a first reading at last Thursday's fiscal court meeting. A second reading and final vote will be required before it becomes law.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor said three such vehicles have already been licensed in the county. The rigs must meet very specific safety regulations to be licensed and the owner must carry insurance.



Crittenden County Middle School's football team has three games under its belt already this season. Pictured are players (front from left) Alex Borden, Jacoby Lynch, Parker Day, Jase Estes, Elijah Taylor, Gabriel Belt, Conley Palmer, Bowen Robison, (back) Barrett Brown, Trenton Allsbury, Oliver Davis, Noah Moss, Brady Polk, Kevin Little, Draven Farmer, Abel McKinney and Kaelynn Fallquist. The team is coached by Ethan Dossett, Hunter Boone, Jacob Courtney and Brock Langston.



Senior Lacey Boone returns a shot during the Lady Rockets' volleyball match last week at Livingston Central.



Crittenden County Middle School infielder Danielle Farmer makes a play on a Caldwell County baserunner at second.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

The Lady Rockets dropped a district soccer match 5-1 at Lyon County Monday as Adri Berry scored Crittenden's only goal on an assist by Ella Geary. The girls are now 0-1 in district play and 4-2 overall. CCHS had beaten Lyon last week in the the All A Classic.

Crittenden County's girls' won Saturday 7-3 at home over Apollo. Sophomore Adri Berry powered the Lady Rockets with four goals, while senior Ella Geary added two and sophomore Haley Moore chipped in one. Assists came from Geary (3), Moore (1), senior Mollie Blazina (1) and junior goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty (1). Hardesty also recorded nine saves in the net.

LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

Crittenden County improved to 2-0 in district play with a straight-set victory at Trigg County Monday night.

Crittenden County has bounced back after a season-opening loss to Marshall County with mixed results over the past week of volleyball action. The Lady Rockets defeated Livingston Central 3-1 on Aug. 21, marking their first dropped set to a district opponent in four years. Despite the mild misstep, Crittenden still hasn't lost a district match in six seasons. Set scores were 20-25, 25-12,

25-15, 25-17. For CCHS, Aly Yates dug 14 balls and Lacey Boone added 11. Emerye Pollard had 11 attacks, while Braelyn Merrill slammed down 12 kills and Lilah Sherer tallied 10 kills along with 24 set assists.

•At the West Kentucky Smackdown in Hopkinsville last weekend, CCHS won two of six games, falling twice to Caldwell County 2-1 and 2-0. In the 2-0 loss, Sherer handed out 36 assists. Yates anchored the defense with 12 digs. Pollard and Maddie Hearrell each contributed four kills, and Maeson Martin finished with three blocks. In the other loss to Caldwell, Pollard scored four aces, Sherer had 34 sets, Yates had 16 digs and Boone five kills. The Lady Rockets had a 2-0 win over University Heights (25-17, 25-13). Boone and Pollard each fired five aces, Yates had six digs, and Merrill posted five kills. Crittenden fell 2-0 to Owensboro Catholic (21-25, 15-21). Hearrell served two aces, Sherer recorded 23 assists, and Yates dug 10 balls. Merrill had four blocks, while Sherer, Merrill, Travis and Pollard all finished with three kills apiece. The Rocket girls posted a 2-1 victory over Garrard County. Yates led from the service line with four aces and nine digs. Sherer dished out 48 assists and added five kills. Boone paced the offense with seven kills, while Travis and Martin joined Sherer with five kills each. Merrill chipped in three blocks. CCHS lost 2-0 to Kirkwood. Sherer had 18 assists and four kills. Yates and Hearrell each collected seven digs, and Travis notched two blocks.

ALL A CLASSIC GOLF SCORES

Here are complete All A Classic Second Region Golf Tournament Results from last Thursday, Aug. 21 at The Cullen Golf Course at Mineral Mounds in Eddyville. Crittenden did not have anyone to qualify for the state tournament.

- BOYS SCORES**
- Carson Collins (Lyon County), 75
Cal Givens (UHA), 78
Cooper Collins (Lyon County), 79
Hayden Hunt (UHA), 80
Brayden Biggers (Livingston Central), 84
Bryson Turner (UHA), 84
Collin Barnes (Livingston Central), 86
Cohen Wiggins (Lyon County), 90
Landon Mitchell (Caldwell County), 90
Clay Calendar (Livingston Central), 91
Logan Wring (Livingston Central), 91
Hugh Sisk (UHA), 94
Mitchell Brown (Crittenden County), 94
Bentley Rushing (Crittenden County), 95
Ty Williams (Livingston Central), 96
Cash Singleton (Crittenden County), 97
Jonah Ramey (Lyon County), 97
Scott Cornter (Caldwell County), 98
Jimmy Cowan (Lyon County), 99
Landon Crouch (Lyon County), 103
Preston Alfred (Caldwell County), 103
Hudson Stokes (Crittenden County), 106
Trace Elliott (Lyon County), 106
Levi Quertermous (Crittenden), 109
Brody Kirk (Caldwell County), 114
Jaxton Duncan (Crittenden County), 116
Gunner Topp (Crittenden County), 119
Kinley Clapp (Lyon County), 121
Lucas Harper (Caldwell County), 142
- GIRLS SCORES**
- Allie Sandifer (University Heights), 82
Campbell Lindsey (University Heights), 85
Brenna Breitrick (Lyon County), 89
Ella Perry (University Heights), 91
Jenna Coursey (Lyon County), 95
Georgia Holman (Crittenden County), 100
Emma Belt (Livingston Central), 107
Caroline Tucker (University Heights), 112
Abby Kolzenborn (Crittenden County), 113
Amelia Ray (Livingston Central), 122
Reese Palmer (Livingston Central), 127
Kylee Grace (University Heights), 127
Bryleigh Jordan (Caldwell County), 124
Marylee Harper (Caldwell County), 132
Jessie Taylor (Livingston Central), 144
Hayden Hall (Caldwell County), 162



Crittenden County High School senior Dixie Hunter (23) battles for possession of the ball during a recent match against Lyon County. The Rocket girls have lost just twice so far this season, and both defeats have come at the hands of the Lady Lyons – once in the All A Classic and again Monday night in league play Eddyville.

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| Crittenden County Detention Center | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | JAIL CENSUS | July 2025 Avg | June 2025 Avg | Monthly Average 2024 |
| | State Inmates | 76.8 | 75.6 | 75.38 |
| | Federal Inmates | 49.2 | 54.9 | 67.69 |
| | Other County Inmates | 26.4 | 26.5 | 21.82 |
| | Crittenden County Inmates | 15.6 | 12.6 | 19.86 |
| | TOTAL INMATES | 168 | 169.6 | 184.75 |
| | Highest Daily Count | 176 | 177 | 195.67 |
| | Lowest Daily Count | 165 | 168 | 178.75 |
| | DETENTION CENTER REPORT | | | |
| | August 21, 2025 | | | |
| The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count is an average for last month. <small>* Federal Inmates \$57 Per diem * State Inmates \$35.34 Per diem * Lyon County Inmates \$36.00 * Other County Inmates \$40.00</small> | Last Month REVENUE | July 2025 | June 2025 | Monthly Average 2024 |
| | State Housing Payments | \$84,179.88 | \$80,151.12 | \$81,220.16 |
| | Federal Housing Payments | \$86,982.00 | \$93,936.00 | \$116,235.25 |
| | Federal Transport Payments | \$5,725.70 | \$7,002.30 | \$13,566.71 |
| | Lyon Co. Housing Payments | \$28,944.00 | \$27,468.00 | \$21,399.00 |
| | Other County Housing Payments | \$320.00 | \$1,160.00 | \$1,802.17 |
| | Weekend/Work Release | \$240.00 | \$160.00 | \$477.33 |
| | TOTAL HOUSING | \$206,391.58 | \$209,877.42 | \$234,709.79 |
| | Last Month ANALYSIS | | | |
| | Cost of Crittenden Inmates | \$18,800.00 | \$15,200.00 | \$19,290.67 |
| LAST MONTH CASH FLOW Total Receipts \$312,558.54 Disbursements \$357,135.22 | Numbers of Co. Housing Days | 470 | 380 | 602.83 |
| | County Daily Housing Rate | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$32 |
| | Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates | 15.16 | 12.6 | 19.86 |

JAILER

Continued from page 1 in a fair election. I have worked diligently to perform my job to the best of my ability the entire time I have been in office. I can be removed only by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly, and I have no plans to step down,” Hayes said

Elsewhere on this page, see the jailer’s full response to the court’s request.

Financial reports show the jail ended the last two months with an \$81,000 cash shortfall. Total receipts in July were \$312,558, while disbursements topped \$357,135. Hayes told the court that inmate housing numbers remain steady but expenses are climbing rapidly.

“Food has gone up \$150,000 a year, medical costs are rising, and equipment is breaking down,” she said early in last Thursday’s meeting, explaining to magistrates some complications of the jail’s financial footing. “We operate a good jail that this county should be proud of, but given current circumstances it’s pretty hard to just tread water.”

Hayes said she has been seeking grant relief through potential opioid settlement funds and exploring other programs to offset medical costs. She noted that attrition is being used to trim staffing and that the jail is looking at every option available.

The jailer also defended her operation, saying the facility is maintained safely and cleanly despite challenges.

“I don’t want anyone to think that I’m not aware of what this is costing the county,” Hayes said. “There are increases we can’t control.”

In her written statement, Hayes further emphasized that Kentucky jails today are “much different than they were four to five years ago,” citing a dramatic drop in state inmates, rising operational costs and added burdens from Marion’s ongoing water crisis.

“During the time that I have been jailer, the jail has been run efficiently with as little cost to the county as possible,” she wrote.

Some of those comments were shared early in the fiscal court meeting after Hayes provided a jail census and occupancy figures for last

month. It wasn’t until the final minutes of the more than two-hour meeting that magistrates emerged from a closed-door executive session and began the process to declare their desire to have the jailer resign.

At that time further discussion was initiated. Magistrates said they continue to hear complaints from the community about the jail, citing financial concerns, but nothing else. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom cited consistently low numbers of federal inmates, which is a key source of revenue in a climate when state inmates are more difficult to find. He pointed out that he had questioned why federal inmates from Missouri are no longer being housed locally, but said he’d not gotten an answer.

“I’ve had several calls wanting to know, as magistrates, what are we doing to make this better,” Grimes said. “The truth is, there is not much we can do.”

While the vote has no statutory force, magistrates acknowledged it reflects broad dissatisfaction from both the court and the public based on their interactions with constituents.

Newcom characterized the vote as “an indication of dissatisfaction from the court” and he also pointed to concerns from the community at large, which is on the hook for shortfalls that exist in the jail’s current financial instability.

On paper, the jail has operated in the black six during six fiscal years since it opened in 2007. Hayes was first elected jailer the fall of 2022 and began serving in January 2023.

The jailer holds a constitutionally prescribed position and cannot be removed from office by the fiscal court. Elected constitutional officers such as jailers and county judge-executives cannot be forced out of office simply by a fiscal court’s request; removal is governed by the state constitution and statutes. Under Section 227 of the Kentucky Constitution, a jailer may be indicted and, upon conviction for misfeasance, malfeasance or willful neglect of duty, removed from office. Otherwise, ouster requires formal impeachment proceedings by the General Assembly under KRS

Chapter 63. In short, a fiscal court’s vote to request resignation carries political weight but has no binding legal authority.

The jail employs a staff of just over 40 to provide security and administrative services. Its budget is around \$3.83 million, representing 27.5% of Crittenden County’s more than \$14 million budget.

The jail opened in late 2007 at a cost of \$7.6 million. An article in The Crittenden Press in early 2008 cited county leaders as saying “the jail will never make a profit, but it should cut local spending.”

The main building on the corrections facility campus is a 133-bed, full-service jail. The nearby restricted Custody Center (RCC) was built in 2016 to house up to 39 lower-security, work-release Class D prisoners. Cost to refit the old county museum building, converting it to the RCC, cost the county around \$250,000

Prior to 2007, the county regularly spent about \$300,000 or more on its smaller former county jail. Back then, county leaders hoped that building a larger jail would somehow stabilize spending from its general fund.

JAILER HAYES RESPONSE TO FISCAL COURT REQUEST FOR HER RESIGNATION

To the citizens of Crittenden County, all local and interested parties: Aug. 25, 2025:

I have been advised that without notice to me, the members of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, specifically Magistrates, Matt Grimes, Chad Thomas, David Belt, Scott Belt, Travis Perryman, Robert Kirby and with the support of Judge Executive Perry Newcom voted to request my resignation as Crittenden County Jailer. I actually attended the August 21, 2025, Fiscal Court meeting and gave my monthly Jailers Report and answered numerous questions. After my report I had obligations that required me to depart from the meeting at 9:30am. I was given no notice of any intention to discuss or vote on a request to ask me to resign, or I would have stayed to address it at that time. I have still not received a written reason for the vote, only a call from the Judge Executive notifying me of the request for my resignation which I respectfully declined.

I was elected by the citizens of Crittenden County in a fair election. I have worked diligently to perform my job to the best of my ability the entire time I have been in office. I can only be removed by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly, and I have no plans to step down.

The atmosphere that Kentucky’s jails operate in today is much different than it was 4 to 5 years ago. The number of State Inmates has dropped dramatically while operational costs have risen at an unprecedented rate. Crittenden County Detention Center is also fighting the water crisis that Marion, Kentucky is currently addressing, ironically starting the week, I won the primary election. This adds another layer to the financial strain the Detention Center now faces.

The Crittenden County Detention Center was built in 2007. The structure and equipment such as HVAC, locks, fire suppression systems, hot water heaters, kitchen equipment, etc. are aging, therefore causing maintenance costs to rise along with efficiency problems. The water crisis has added to those woes, by putting a strain on the plumbing and other operational systems due to debris in the water.

During the time that I have been Jailer, the jail has been run efficiently, with as little cost to the county as possible. The Jail provides a service that is required by statute, and we are bound to safely and securely incarcerate inmates in a manner that is moral and ethical while providing all life sustaining services. The Crittenden County Detention Center is a leader in the field of Corrections. The fact that you don’t hear much about the jail is a sign of efficiency and cost-effective operation.

I have obtained a grant for new washers and dryers for the facility. I have reached out to the KY DOC to receive surplus inmate uniforms and equipment that has saved the county thousands of dollars. I have obtained a grant for video equipment and software that has allowed for the virtual court appearances of prisoners here and across the state which has saved countless tax dollars on transport

costs, while enhancing the security of the court proceedings. I have also reduced the number of staff at the Detention Center cutting as much as possible to payroll without jeopardizing safety and service. Staff have taken on additional duties with very little complaint as they are aware of the need to reduce costs.

I have increased the number of work sites for inmate labor to include the City of Marion, The Marion Water Department, Marion Convenience Center, Victory Garden, Mowing Crew and litter abatement. I have also started the Crittenden Cares Program that has helped with multiple non-profit, city, and county projects that can be completed during the fall and winter months which has helped those agencies save resources that they would have had to spend on labor.

I am an active member of the Kentucky Jailers Association and have been elected by my peers, for the past 2 years, to serve on the KJA Board of Directors. I believe it is important to be at the table discussing the best interests of all Kentucky Jails and representing Crittenden County on a State level while learning from other Jailers and building relationships that I can call on during times of need.

I have repaired the relationship with local law enforcement and the Circuit Clerks Office which was badly damaged when I took office. I have worked as a team player assisting as many agencies as possible every time they call.

We have a great Jail that this county should be proud of. We have a Jail that enriches the community by more than financial gain. We help to change the lives of inmates and their families through effective incarceration.

I don’t work for the County Judge Executive or the Fiscal Court. I work for the people of Crittenden County who elected me to this office. I stand by my record and believe I have effectively done the job the people have elected me to do and that will continue.

I will not be intimidated by political attacks, especially those that are unfounded. I have done and will continue to do the job I was elected to do and distractions such as this will not deter my effective discharge of my legal and Constitutional office. I would suggest that the Fiscal Court and County Judge Executive focus on making life better for our citizens, instead of wasting time playing politics.

I am willing to answer any question any citizen, or the media asks. My door is always open as it has been the entire time that I have been your Crittenden County Jailer.

I want to give my most sincere thanks to everyone who has reached out to support me and to encourage me to stand up to the attempt at intimidation. The community response has been humbling and so appreciated. The support that has been extended to me from the Kentucky Jailers Association and the many Jailers across the State has been amazing.

In closing I want to say that being elected as Crittenden County Jailer has been one of the highlights of my life. It is not an easy job. It is a calling. I am proud of the job I do, and I will continue to do it for as long as the Citizens of Crittenden County will have me.

Sincerely,
Athena Hayes, Jailer

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Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

Create a customized long-term strategy. This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.

Set realistic expectations. Successful investing requires discipline and patience — most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep

your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.

Diversify your investments. The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation does-

n't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Keep a long-term outlook. It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.

Keep your emergency savings well-funded. This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount

August 28, 2025



Grant Rogers
Financial Advisor

depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

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