



The Crittenden Press

District Openers at Trigg County « Page 8

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

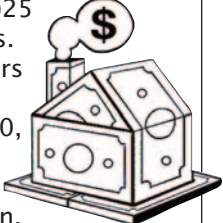
24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS / THE-PRESS.COM

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ONE DOLLAR

Homestead exemption is going up in 2025

Additional tax relief for older Kentuckians is on its way with an increase in the Homestead Exemption for the 2025 and 2026 tax years. Eligible homeowners can, starting next year, claim \$49,100, an increase of \$2,750 from the previous exemption.



To qualify, individuals must be 65 or older or totally disabled during the tax period. The property must be owned and occupied as the taxpayer's primary residence on Jan. 1 of the assessment year. The exemption saved more than 474,000 Kentuckians approximately \$293 million in property taxes in 2023, according to the Department of Revenue. Applications are available online or at the county PVA office. They should be submitted by Dec. 31 of the eligible tax year.

Wildfire season ends

Kentucky's fall wildfire season officially comes to an end Sunday, temporarily closing out a prohibition on daytime burning. Wildfire season, which is defined by Kentucky statute, is from Oct. 1 through Dec. 15 and Feb. 15 through April 30. During those periods, outdoor burning within 150 feet of a woodlot or brushland, is prohibited.

Stuff the bus wants gifts for local teens

Christmas gifts for teens are being collected during the annual Stuff the Bus holiday campaign. Items should be delivered to Crittenden County Extension Office through Dec. 16 or to Crittenden County Middle School between 10 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 16 only. Non-food items are preferred, including lotions, perfumes, cologne, gift cards, books, caps, hats, wallets, purses, drink tumblers, make-up and small decor for bedrooms. Collections will be donated to Community Christmas for distribution.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court bid review committee will meet at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Crittenden County Office Complex to open bids for snow and debris removal, chip and seal, asphalt, lubricant, oils and aggregate.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12 at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12, in the Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Operations Center at 275 Industrial Drive. All interested parties, emergency responders and local emergency planners are encouraged to attend this annual meeting where community preparedness is discussed.
- Marion City Council meets at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council meets at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16.
- Salem City Council meets at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Deer Lakes meeting room.



Marion's cherished Living Christmas Tree has returned after nearly two decades, earning glowing reviews from the first two performances. Pictured are director Corey Crider and accompanist Rebecca Johnson in front of the tree during Sunday's matinee performance.

Roots of Living Tree run deep

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

After nearly two decades, the Living Christmas Tree has returned to Fohs Hall, bringing with it a wave of nostalgia, joy and renewed community spirit. The beloved tradition, which first entered the spotlight 40 years ago, has always been more than a performance. It is a celebration of the enduring roots of our community – a testament to the power of dedication, creativity and

shared vision.

The triumphant return of the Living Christmas Tree is a momentous occasion for Marion. It marks the revival of a cherished cultural event that unites the community in music, spectacle and shared memories.

Last weekend's performances rekindled magic that filled Fohs Hall decades ago, and also honored the performers and countless hands who have brought this production to life, both past and

present.

At the heart of this revival are directors Corey and Michelle Crider, a husband-and-wife team from Marion who are also professional opera singers. A hand bell choir from Marion Methodist Church led by John Michael Gage is a delightful new wrinkle in the program.

Corey Crider's father, Dr. Steve Crider, was one of the early performers for Living

See **TREE**/page 10



HOLIDAY Things to Do

The Living Christmas Tree hosted by the Community Arts Foundation and Fohs Hall, Inc., drew large crowds last weekend. Its final performances are coming up this weekend with 3 shows.

NIGHTTIME SHOWS 7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 13. Sat., Dec. 14

DAYTIME SHOW 2 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 15

Free Admission
Donations Accepted

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Marion's Community Christmas program is short on donations. Can you help? See page 9 about how to donate.

OTHER HOLIDAY EVENTS

- Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade, "Sweet Christmas," is at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13.
- Deer Creek Church Live Nativity is 6–8 p.m., on Dec. 14, 15, 16 & 17.
- Cumberland River Homes' "Christmas Laugh Out Loud" celebration and fundraising event is at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13 at Salem Baptist Church.
- Sturgis Christmas Parade will be at 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14 with a special guest – Santa Claus!

STAFF REPORT

Inside Lyon County Justice Center last week, Marion resident Laurie Yates recounted some of the harrowing details of events that took place back in August 2023, when the driver of a tractor-trailer fired at least two bullets into the SUV she was driving as she and her teenage nephew were traveling along Interstate 24 in Lyon County.

However, Yates was telling her story to a court-designated victim's advocate instead of a jury. Neither a judge nor jury got to hear her testimony because defendant Leland Blake, 60, of Dallas, Texas, entered a guilty plea just minutes before the trial was to begin.

Yates talked about how the blue Freightliner 18-wheeler began tailgating

See **RAGE**/page 3



Laurie Yates and her teenage nephew, victims in the I-24 shooting, watch defendant Leland Blake as he pled guilty last week in Lyon County.



Work is progressing fairly rapidly in downtown Marion where only a hole and piles of debris remain of the former courthouse built in 1961. Pinnacle of Benton is the general contractor in charge of building a new \$20 million justice center. It is supposed to be ready for occupation in late 2026. County offices have moved to a new facility on the south side of Marion and will not return to downtown. In the justice center will be courtrooms, circuit court offices and judges' offices.

Man accused of hitting chief on bike is caught

STAFF REPORT

A Marion man, wanted since September for allegedly running over the police chief with his motorcycle, has been arrested and now faces additional charges.

Chris McKinley, 39, of Marion, was captured last Wednesday following a 20-minute pursuit on Marion's north side, near the same area where he had eluded arrest weeks earlier.

McKinley had been wanted since the evening of Sept. 21, when, while operating a motorcycle, he allegedly struck Police Chief Bobby West in an attempt to escape. At the time, officers were seeking

See **ARREST**/page 6

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Dalton

Mona Fay Dalton, 72, of Marion, died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 at Salem Springlake Care Center. She worked various jobs including at Carhartt for 30 years and retired from Siemens Mobility. She enjoyed playing softball, fishing and serving her community helping at the Tolu Community Center.



Surviving are her husband, Ted Dalton of Marion; three children, Misty Hicks, Jimbo Dalton and Jay Dalton, all of Marion; two brothers, Jeff (Marcia) Ellis and Randy (Georganna) Ellis; a sister, Linda (Eddie) Tinsley; a sister-in-law, Pat Ellis; six grandchildren, Kaitlyn (Keaton) Bridges, Ashlyn Hicks, Kyler Dalton, Chelsea (Jase) Manus, Savannah Dalton and Kathryn Dalton; four great-grandchildren, Klaus Manus, Greyson Manus, Skelyn Manus and Asher Dalton; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Mildred June Ellis, Jr.; and a brother, Danny Ellis.

Services were Tuesday, Dec. 10 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Whites Chapel Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tolu Community Center, c/o Larry Tinsley, 100 Todd Alley, Marion, KY 42064.

Moore

Jackie Dean Moore, 67, of Marion, died Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024 at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah.

Prior to his retirement, he was employed in the mail department of the West KY Correctional Center. He lived life to the fullest and was blessed with many friends and always showed a deep love for his family. His spare time was filled with hunting and fishing.



Surviving are his wife, Kathy Travis Moore of Marion; a goddaughter, Mason Tower; two sisters, Jennifer (Gary) Doom of Smithland and Debbie (Dave) Padgett of Marion; an aunt, Karen Ordway; an uncle, Noble Travis; a nephew, Brian (Jennifer) Doom; a stepson, Justin Beard; four grandchildren, Quentin, Greyson, Spencer, Rose Beard; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James "Red" and Shirley Travis Moore; his stepmother, Polly Moore; and a sister, Gail Moore.

Services were Monday, Dec. 9 at Myers Funeral Home with burial in Hurricane Cemetery.

Charitable donations in Moore's memory may be made to the Crittenden County Animal Shelter and the Mary Hall Ruddiman Shelter.

Online Condolences

myersfuneralhomeonline.com
boydfuneraldirectors.com
gilbertfunerals.com

Merry Salem benefit features big names

Market, comedy, music Saturday

A festive blend of holiday cheer, heartwarming performances and community spirit will grace Salem this week as Cumberland River Homes (CRH) hosts its annual "A Very Merry Christmas Benefit."

This free event, open to all, will feature a lineup of national performers, captivating comedy and a silent auction, according to a news release from CRH.

The benefit will take place on Friday, Dec. 13 at Salem Baptist Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., for a Holiday Silent Auction, with the concert starting at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Livingston Hospital is the Gold Sponsor of this event.

Headlining the evening is award-winning recording artist Chris Golden, known for his talent as a singer, multi-instrumentalist and producer. Golden has previously toured with country music legends Alabama and The Oak Ridge Boys. Joining him is inspirational humorist Jamey Ragle, a veteran performer whose comedic style blends elements of Larry the Cable Guy, Dr. Phil and Billy Graham, bringing both laughter and inspiration to audiences for over four decades.

The concert also features local talent, including Marion's Cutter and Cash and The Kentucky Grass. Rounding out the performances is the Cumberland River Homes Choir, affectionately dubbed "The Cumberland River Homes Tabernacle Choir" by CRH nurse and choir leader Julie Wedding.

"The joy and excitement that radiate from the choir members each time they sing are truly contagious," Wedding said. "It's a true honor to witness their dedication and passion for music. I feel incredibly blessed to serve alongside such a talented and enthusiastic group of individuals."

In addition to the music, attendees can explore a Holiday Market featuring handmade items created by CRH's Day Training Program clients, as well as goods and services donated by community businesses. Proceeds from the silent auction will go toward supporting CRH services and planned expansions.

CRH CEO Jim Wring emphasized the importance of the event in addressing a growing demand for its services, citing an estimated 6,000 people in the state needing services provided at CRH.

To meet this need, CRH has plans for a significant expansion in downtown Salem. The proposed facility will include a job skills training center, a café and expanded spaces for behavioral and direct support services, while their current building will be repurposed for day training programs.

The evening's sponsors are Livingston Hospital, Farmers Bank and Trust, Boyd Funeral Directors, McMurray Chapel Methodist Church, Jim and Jodi Wring, Darla Drawdy, Ken and Deanne Toby and Eddie and Jo McAlister.

CRH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to help clients achieve life goals while fostering a sense of community.



SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Crittenden County Animal Clinic performs surgical procedures including spays, neuters, a variety of small animal surgeries castrations, enucleations, lacerations, dentals and extractions.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Maddux • Dr. Michelle Hughes
3841 US Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY 42064
(270) 965-2257

THANK YOU

Perhaps You Sent A Lovely Card,
Or Sat Quietly In A Chair.
Perhaps You Sent A Floral Piece,
If So We Saw It There.
Perhaps You Spoke The Kindest Words
As Any Friend Could Say;
Perhaps You Were Not There At All,
Just Thought Of Us That Day.
Whatever You Did To Console Our Hearts,
We Thank You So Much, Whatever The Part.

A special thank you to Corey Crider for the much appreciated and much loved words that were spoken at Jason's service; much appreciation to Brian Farmer and Chris Fletcher for their assistance in choosing music; thank you to everyone who shared memories and humorous stories during the service; thank you to everyone who came to Jason's service and to our out of town family and friends who traveled many miles to honor Jason; thank you to the staff of Gilbert's Funeral Home for helping guide us through this most difficult time of our lives; special thanks to the Marion Methodist Women for the bereavement meal; and with much love to our son Jody, we thank you so much for honoring your brother by playing and singing the most appropriate song ever.

With much love from the family of
Jason Wardlaw Porter,

Peyton Porter
Joe & Gaye Porter
Jody, Adria, Carly and Jack Porter
John Wardlaw (Papaw John)

Rocket bands perform Dec. 17

The Crittenden County Rocket Bands will present a Christmas concert, a Rocket Christmas, at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Rocket Arena.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., for a silent auction featuring items donated by individuals, businesses and organizations.

The event will feature performances by sixth grade beginning band, middle school band and concert band.

Crittenden County bands are under the direction of Alex Benoit.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Tuesday, Dec. 17

- Crittenden County Elementary School SBDM will meet at 4 p.m., in the school library.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

- Crittenden County Middle School SBDM will meet at 3:45 p.m., in the principal's office.

Thursday, Dec. 19

- Crittenden County High School SBDM will meet at 3:30 p.m., in the school library.
- Crittenden County Public Library board of directors will meet at 5 p.m.
- Friends of the Crittenden County Public Library will meet at 6 p.m.



Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you approach the holiday season in the absence of your loved one.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from Brad and Valerie Gilbert
and the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home



Keeping Spirits Bright



The staff at Henry and Henry Monuments would like to say thank you for a wonderful year and offer holiday wishes to all our customers.

We know, for many of you this season will be the first without a loved one. Our prayer for you is that the spirit of Christmas can bring you some comfort, peace and joy as you remember happy times past.

When the time is right to remember those lost loved ones with the finest memorials, Henry & Henry will be there for you.

God bless us all and Merry Christmas!

OPEN ON DEC. 24 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
CLOSED ON DEC. 25

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"Where our family has been serving your family since 1881."

207 Sturgis Rd., Marion, Ky.
(270) 965-4514

Season Greetings,



We know the sense of loss that accompanies the holiday season after losing a loved one.

As an expression of remembrance, we will be mailing personalized Christmas ornaments to families who we have served this year. We will mail one per family, but additional ornaments may be purchased, with those proceeds being donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

As always, we truly appreciate the trust you've placed in us, and consider it an honor to serve your family.

Blessings for the holiday season,
Andy, Brandon, Grace, and James



Boyd Funeral Directors

& CREMATION SERVICES

212 E. Main St. • Salem, Ky. 42078
www.boydfuneraldirectors.com



At left is the typical storyboard that’s been deployed at the park. An effort to provide a more lasting storyboard is being developed by Crittenden County Extension. Hopes are that local groups will help fund the project. The stories could be periodically changed, and some could focus on local history.

HELP WANTED: Storyboards could lower stress

Stress among adults and children is at an all-time high. It is essential to know how to reduce and manage stress. Regular physical activity is a key part of staying healthy and reducing stress.

Exercise is a great way to reduce stress for people of all ages. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children ages 6 to 18 get at least one hour of exercise daily. Only 29 percent of Kentucky adults get the recommended amount of physical activity, compared with 45 percent nationally. A recent study found that 44 percent of Kentucky’s children had not participated in sufficient physical activity during the past 7 days.

Get outside. Taking a



Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

break to get fresh air and be in nature is a great way to reduce stress. Research shows people exposed more often to green spaces have less anxiety, stress and depression.

Ninety percent of a child’s brain develops before the age of six. Studies consistently show that children who read one book a day are exposed to around 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten.

Children’s interest in reading helps their cognitive development. Reading strengthens brain connections, improving memory, concentration, and problem-solving abilities. It also enhances overall academic success. Children who read regularly tend to perform better in school across all subjects due to improved comprehension and knowledge acquisition.

Family engagement is vital to the health of children. Family engagement refers to actively involving family members in an

individual’s mental health treatment and support system, which significantly positively impacts mental well-being and helps reduce stress and anxiety. Research also consistently shows that strong family engagement acts as a protective factor against drug use. Currently, Kentucky kids are removed from homes less for physical abuse compared to the United States but more for drug use.

Story walks have become more popular over the last few years, and they address all of the above health issues. A story walk outdoors encourages children and families to walk together, read and discuss the story, which benefits physical exercise, literacy, outdoor learning and family engagement.

Crittenden County Extension office often provides a story walk on the walking trail at Marion-Crittenden County Park. However, after hours of

work preparing storyboards for the walk, they usually only last a few days before weather or vandals tear them down.

We are working to get permanent structures so families can benefit from a year-long story walk. Twenty storybook “pages” are needed for most children’s books. Each page is \$350.

In addition to the children’s stories, we plan to develop some of the boards to detail the rich history of our community. Featured stories would be periodically changed. Anyone who donates to this project can have their name attached to the metal storyboard to memorialize their contribution, ensuring their legacy becomes part of this lasting initiative.

If you or your church, group or business would be interested in learning more about how to sponsor a page, please call the Extension office at 270-965-5236 or email rebecca.woodall@kysu.edu.

Community Christmas is short of goal, help needed

STAFF REPORT

Marion’s Community Christmas project, organized by the Interagency Council, is facing a shortfall in contributions as it approaches the annual holiday distribution.

The program aims to assist 48 families, providing support for nearly 200 individuals, including children. With the goal set at \$10,000, organizers emphasize the urgent need for more donations by Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Angel tree tags have been placed at Food Giant and H&H Home & Hardware, allowing community members to sponsor teens. However, participation through these avenues has been limited, and more support is needed, said Julie Herrin, president of the Interagency Council.

Monetary contributions can be made at Farmers Bank main office or branch to help meet the program’s financial goal.

Distribution is Wednesday, Dec. 18 9 a.m., to noon at Marion Baptist Church.

Contributions received after Dec. 18 will roll over to support next year’s Community Christmas program.



Know Someone Who Needs The Press for Christmas? Let us know. We will give them a 1 month free online subscription. Call 270-965-3191 or email thepress@the-press.com



Knightly Done

The Crittenden County Blue Knights chess team participated in the McCracken County Scholastic Chess Tournament on Saturday at Paducah. The Knights brought home a second-place finish in the K-5 division, and had two students scoring among the top five individually. They were Russell Vince in third place and Ryker Bryant in fifth. Pictured are team members (from left) Kayleigh Duvall, Aria Ford, Russell Vince and Ryker Bryant.



LaDonna Mooney uses fresh pine, fir and boxwood cuttings to create an evergreen ball with direction from Crittenden County Ag Extension Agent Dee Heimbartner.

RAGE

Continued from page 1

very closely.

“I live on a country road, and it sounded like when you run over a stick, and it pops up and hits the vehicle,” she said, describing the gunshots.

Investigators later dug bullets from the body of her vehicle. Fortunately, neither she nor her nephew, who is a junior at Crittenden County High School, was injured. Yates will have a chance to provide a victim’s impact statement on March 3, when the shooter will be formally sentenced. Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Chad Nelson has recommended two four-year sentences to run consecutively, for a total of eight years, for Blake’s plea on two felony counts of first-degree wanton endangerment. Coincidentally, the Kentucky statute detailing the charge of wanton endangerment changed when the Safer Kentucky Act became law on July 15 of this year.

“If the same incident were to happen today, it would be a Class C felony, but because it occurred before the law changed, it will still be under the old statute and a Class D felony,” the prosecutor said.

A person convicted of a Class D felony can be sent to prison for a term of one to five years. Although Blake will not be formally sentenced for almost four more months while a pre-sentencing investigation is completed, it’s likely he will serve 85 percent of the time before being parole eligible, because the offense is considered a violent crime.

According to Kentucky law, a person is guilty of wanton endangerment in the first degree when, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, he or she wantonly engages in conduct that creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury to another person.

The entire episode that took place on Aug. 9, 2023, lasted only seconds, Yates said. Her nephew was lying down in the backseat looking at his smartphone. He raised up and saw the handgun in Blake’s left hand as he fired from the driver’s side window.

Yates phoned 911 and gave the dispatcher a good description of the Freightliner. Blake was later stopped by police on I-24 in Livingston County and taken into custody. A 9mm Kahr CT9 handgun was retrieved from the tractor-trailer.

Blake posted a \$2,500 bond and was released days later. He will remain free on bond until Circuit Judge Natalie White issues a formal sentence.

The original criminal citation says that Blake told arresting officers that Yates had cut him off and slowed down in front of his rig. He claimed to have fired into the air.

Yates and her nephew watched the defendant enter a guilty plea on a television screen inside the law library at the justice center in Eddyville. The proceeding could not be held inside the circuit courtroom because of an electrical fire that was discovered at the center about the time jurors and court officials were arriving at 8 a.m. last Thursday. The Eddyville Fire Department responded, and the Justice Center was evacuated for a time. Court officials improvised so the judicial proceeding could be held, but the defendant, judge, and attorneys were in one room, while the victims and their advocates were in another. Blake was represented by public defender John Johnson.



THE LIVING
Christmas
TREE

A MULTI TIERED
CHRISTMAS TREE WITH
SINGERS AMONG THE
BRANCHES FEATURING
CHRISTMAS SONGS,
CHILDREN’S CHOIR,
AND HANDBELLS

PRESENTED BY FOHS HALL, INC. &
COMMUNITY ARTS FOUNDATION

DECEMBER 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15
FRI & SAT SHOW 7 PM * SUN SHOW 2PM
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FREE ADMISSION * FREE WILL OFFERING TAKEN



Discover Kentucky’s
HIDDEN TREASURES
in Marion

Marion man arrested with gun inside of Princeton’s Walmart

A Marion man was arrested at Princeton Walmart during the last weekend in November and is facing felony charges, including burglary and firearm possession, according to WPKY Radio.

Assistant Princeton Police Chief Shane Allison reported that William Stoltenburg, 39, was taken into custody on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 30 after Walmart employees identified him as a person previously being banned from the store. When officers informed Stoltenburg of his arrest for trespassing, he reportedly resisted but was eventually subdued and handcuffed.

During the arrest, police discovered Stoltenburg, a convicted felon, was carrying a loaded pistol and had stolen merchandise in his possession.

Stoltenburg now faces charges of first-degree burglary, resisting arrest and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. Stoltenburg also had outstanding warrants in Crittenden, Muhlenberg and Union counties for various misdemeanor and traffic offenses, reports WPKY. He was subsequently lodged in the Caldwell County Jail.

City qualifies for \$3K grant to help buy big mower/mulcher

The City of Marion has been approved for a \$3,000 Safety Grant from the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield spearheaded the application process, which included submitting a \$13,000 invoice for a new industrial lawnmower equipped with a mulcher. The purchase was a vital capital expenditure for the city this year.

The mulcher met the qualification outlined in the grant requirements.

The grant is part of KLC's ongoing effort to support municipalities in funding equipment and projects that prioritize safety and community well-being.



Hill

White

Area Farm Bureau groups are honored

Crittenden County Farm Bureau has been recognized during the 105th Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) annual meeting in Louisville for its outstanding membership and program achievement in 2024. The award honors county Farm Bureau offices that meet the company's profitability requirements and whose insurance policy growth meets or exceeds its annual growth goal.

Stephen Hill of Marion, president of Crittenden County Farm Bureau, was acknowledged as the award recipient by Eddie Melton, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, John Sparrow, executive vice president and CEO of KFB Insurance and Drew Graham, executive vice president of the KFB Federation, during the organization's awards program on Dec. 6.

Union County Farm Bureau was also recognized during the KFB annual meeting for its outstanding membership and program achievement in 2024. Dustin White, president of Union County Farm Bureau, was acknowledged as the award recipient.

Eagles accepting cash, coats, gloves at Sturgis

Fraternal Order of Eagles has begun its Coat-A-Kid campaign to collect new coats and gloves for children in Pre-K through 12th grade. All donations are due Friday, Dec. 13 and can be dropped off at United Community Bank in Sturgis and Morganfield, C-Plant in Morganfield and



Listen to our morning podcast M-W-F on your drive to work. Stay informed on local news & sports. Find it at The Press Online.

the Eagles Club. Monetary donations will also be accepted with checks made payable to Fraternal Order of Eagles 4209. For more information, call (270) 952-6772.

Corps meeting will address plans for munitions mitigation

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is actively addressing potential munitions hazards at the former Camp Breckinridge, which spans Henderson, Union and Webster counties. In June 2021, USACE released a Proposed Plan detailing the preferred remedial actions for the High Use Area (HUA) and Low Use Area (LUA) Munitions Response Sites (MRS). This plan was open for public review and comment from June 27 to July 30, 2021.

The Proposed Plan aimed to mitigate risks associated with munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) remaining from the site's historical military use. The preferred alternative included surface clearance of MEC in both HUA and LUA, with additional subsurface clearance in areas where there was a higher likelihood of subsurface munitions.

Following the public comment period, USACE evaluated the feedback and conducted further analyses, leading to revisions in the selected remedy. These revisions are documented in the Record of Decision (ROD), which clarifies the depth at which removal actions are anticipated to be effective and includes subsurface removal in the LUA portion of the MRS.

A public meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Camp Breckinridge Museum and Arts Center in Morganfield. This meeting will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about the revised remedy, ask questions and offer comments.

KY AG fights to bring back death penalty

Attorney General Russell Coleman is urging the Franklin Circuit Court to lift a 15-year ban on the lawful imposition of the death penalty in Kentucky. The ban, implemented in 2010, has delayed justice for families of victims in capital cases, according to Coleman.

Last week, the attorney general's office filed a motion requesting the court to end the injunction. Earlier this year, Kentucky Supreme Court cleared the way for a definitive ruling, following regulatory updates by the Beshear Administration in March that brought Kentucky's capital punishment policy into compliance with prior court rulings.

"The victims of these brutal crimes and their families deserve the justice that was lawfully delivered by a Kentucky jury – some of these cases go back decades," Coleman said, citing prolonged delays that have caused families "unnecessary pain."

One notable case involves Ralph Baze, sentenced to death in 1994 for the 1992 murders of Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and Deputy Sheriff Arthur Briscoe. The officers were killed while attempting to serve Baze with warrants. Thirty years later, Baze remains incarcerated at Kentucky State Penitentiary.

Fredonia Hive hosting adult league volleyball

The Hive in Fredonia will host an adult co-ed volleyball league in January for players 16 or older.

"Rally in the Valley" will be for teams of all skill levels. It will be a Friday-night league, which will feature up to six teams competing in a fun and competitive environment.

Registration is \$120 per team, with a maximum of six teams. So register soon. Games will take place at The Hive, the former Fredonia High School Gymnasium, throughout January. Rules allow a maximum of three men per team on court during play.

For more information or to register your team, contact Bayley McDonald at 270-601-0973.

Winter grazing among topics at center event

University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton will host the Winter Annuals and Winter Feeding Field Day on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Attendees will explore a range of topics, including winter hay feeding strategies such as bale grazing, strip grazing stockpile and hay feeders. Additional discussions will cover simplifying winter nutrition, stockpiling fescue, frost seeding and planting and grazing winter annuals.

This free event is open to the public, and a free lunch will be provided. Registration is required for meal planning. For tickets and more information, visit <https://2024winterfeeding.eventbrite.com>. Follow event signage upon arrival at the Research and Education Center.

Fredonia lighting up

City of Fredonia has signed a five-year contract with Kentucky Utilities to enhance its outdoor lighting services. The agreement, which was finalized recently, will see the installation of 81 LED cobra, flood or open-bottom lights, significantly improving visibility and safety throughout the city.

Under terms of the contract, Kentucky Utilities will provide routine maintenance and electric service for the lighting units located in Fredonia.

The city will pay a monthly rate of \$1,051.66 once the new lights are installed, which city officials say is much lower than current costs for traditional style street lamps. That rate will be subject to adjustments based on future filings with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC). It includes a temporary additional fee to pay for conversion costs. That fee will \$3.29 per light for the next five years. When that fee expires, the city's monthly light bill go down to \$785.17, based on current power rates.

Mayor Jim Seibert said the transition to LED technology is not only environmentally friendly but will also reduce the city's long-term energy costs.

The contract includes provisions for a conversion fee for changing non-LED fixtures to energy-efficient LED lights.

The project is part of Fredonia's ongoing efforts to invest in infrastructure and improve public services for residents, the mayor said.

Super Coffee Break

Crittenden County School Superintendent Tonya Driver invites the public to her Coffee and Conversations event from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Friday, Dec. 13 at the 88 Dip restaurant. This is an opportunity for the superintendent to share updates on the school district and answer questions.

Crittenden Press

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Chris Evans, Editor

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50 YEARS AGO

December 12, 1974

■ Robert A. Guess joined The Peoples Bank as a loan officer.

■ Farmers Bank & Trust celebrated its 75th anniversary with an open house and special four-page section in The Crittenden Press containing photos, a president's message and a history of the bank. Employees were H.D. "Doug" Sullenger, president; H.K. Brennan, assistant vice president; Dennis E. Woodall, assistant vice president; William R. Hopkins, assistant vice president; Maggie H. Davidson, assistant cashier; Virginia Crider, assistant cashier; Jewell B. Duffy, assistant cashier; Virginia F. Vaughan, bookkeeper; Phillis Hardin, bookkeeper; Barbara Floyd, bookkeeper; Sherry Drury, bookkeeper; and Candy Lou Winders, clerk.

■ Mattoon Elementary students Danny Wagoner, Stacey Hunt, Brenda Brantley and Vicki Thornton put finishing touches on a Christmas tree in Irene Decker's classroom.

■ Nelson's Pharmacy topped Crittenden County league standings for the Thursday night men's league at Sullivan's Rainbow Lanes. High game winners were Pippi Hardin, Buck Travis, Gene Stone, Bill King, Jim Burns and Nelson Hughes.

■ Crittenden County turned the ball over 20 times – the lowest mark of the year – in a game against Webster County as the Rockets started the season 0-4. Jimmy Croft had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Clark Towery added 14.

25 YEARS AGO

December 16, 1999

■ The 1999 Community Choir provided three evenings of choral entertainment to ring in the holiday season during the production of the Living Christmas Tree. Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation and Fohs Hall, Inc., were sponsors of the annual event at Fohs Hall.

■ Students at Crittenden County Schools had a special visitor when Marion native Shanna Moore, recently crowned Miss Kentucky, paid a visit. Moore spoke to the students about the Department of Agriculture's No Ifs, Ands or Butts campaign which discouraged the sale of tobacco to juveniles. Moore signed a few autographs and read a story to the students at the elementary school. She was the honorary grand marshal of the Christmas parade.

■ Reindeer Rochelle Trent guided Benjamin Hunt as he colored a Christmas picture, and Santa's little helper Brittany Binkley assisted Taylor Fritts and Amber Wright. Trent and Binkley joined Darci Holman and Stephanie Rice of the Crittenden County High School Science Club in entertaining a group of 18 children at Crittenden County Library's Story Hour as part of a community service project.

■ Middle school basketball held homecoming with the eighth-grade court including Aaron O'Neal, Meg Brock, Brett Shewcraft, Erin James, queen Savannah Farmer, Sean Thompson, Melissa Cook, Chris Findley, Britne Hunt and Tyler Guess. Ring bearer was Cole Foster and flower girl Haylee Young. The seventh-grade court was Payton Croft, Kayla Miniard, Kristine Hall, Cody Kuhlenschmidt, Brittany Wagoner, princess Katie Keene, Brent Thurman, Brad Hart, Larissa Ellis and Josphe Brazell. Sixth-grade court included Daniel Ellen, Jessica Mitchell, Jennifer Head, Austin Berry, Casey Woodall, Jessica Mathieu, Staci Belt and Todd Perryman.

10 YEARS AGO

December 11, 2014

■ Students of the month at Crittenden County High School were Kylie Collins, Brittney Wall, Cali Parish, Sydney Hunt, Alice Blaisdell, Nikki Shuecraft, Kayla Ford, Haylee Tinsley, Dylan Fox, Sam Winders, Nate Haire, Raj Patel, Stephanie Sitar, Tahla Trail, Kaitlynn Cook, Ben Brown, Chris Swilley and Ricky Adkins.

■ Crittenden County band members Sam Winders, Jamie Needs, Lauryn Faulkner and Monica Hodge were selected to participate in All District Band auditions.

■ Winners of the CCHS baseball team's Turkey Trot 5K were Robin Curnel, Shari Thompson, Hannah Berry, Lauren Berry, Misty Roberts, Ann Newcom, Sharon Smith, Jerry McDonald, Chad Bell and Tammy Williams.

■ Crittenden County PVA employee Elizabeth Hodge earned a Certified Kentucky Assessor award during the Kentucky PVA Association meeting.

■ Crittenden County's Landon Young led the Rockets with 12 points in a 45-35 win over Trigg County. In Lady Rocket action, Cassidy Moss had 20 in the girls' 52-38 win over the Lady Wildcats.

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

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SCAN ME

Schools played important role in communities

Schools are so much different today from what they were in my school days. There is no comparison. In some ways they may be better; in other ways, maybe not. It is all in the way we judge values. I often reminisce about the “good old days,” and one of my favorite topics is my school days.

The little one- or two-room school houses that stood beside the road in so many communities played a very important role to the neighborhood. It was their school, and everyone worked hard to make it a success. There were all kinds of activities, and parents would provide items needed to supply a school room, pie suppers, ice cream socials, or a night of music by the local musicians. Not a lot of money was made, but it was enough to get the things needed to make the school a better and brighter place for the students and the teachers, and everyone got involved to help.

From the archives of The Crittenden Press, here are some good times from long ago from some of the schools scattered across our county.

August 14, 1931 - Pleasant Grove School News

Pleasant Grove School is justly proud of the new paint on the school building. Under the leadership of the trustee, Mr. Herman Croft, some of the patrons painted the building inside and out.

The P.T.A. is progressing nicely with Mr. J. G. Aldridge as president. Two call meetings have been held and several new members have been enrolled and more are expected to enroll. They have already bought new shades for our room, sponsored the making of a table for the prima-



Barnett School opened in 1879 on land given by William Barnett. It was located near where the Barnett Chapel Church is today on Barnett Chapel Road off of KY 297. It closed in 1948 and students were sent to Tolu.

ry room, lunch benches and have helped with the reading room, which is now nearing completion. The new maps and charts have also arrived and been placed on the walls in the school.

The P.T.A. is now sponsoring an all-day program and barbecue for August. The morning program will be free to all and will consist of music, speaking by leading educators, and a short program by the school. The afternoon program will be a play, “Mr. Bob,” presented by the P.T.A. A small admission will be charged. There will be barbecued meat, cold drinks, ice cream, cake and pie served. Everyone is invited to be present and enjoy the day with us.

Everyone, but especially, the patrons are urged to visit the school and see these and other improvements which are being added from time to time.

Oct. 30, 1931 – Barnett School News

A large crowd attended the boxing match at our school house last Saturday night. A nice sum of money was realized for the benefit of the school. The match was between Paul Woodall and Lou- is Travis. Paul Woodall

won the match.

A play entitled, “The Hoodooed Coon,” is to be presented by the upper grades this Friday night. Everyone is invited.

We are hoping that we can get a 4-H club organized soon. Attendance for the first three months of school has been unusually good. More than half of the regular enrolled students have a perfect attendance record.

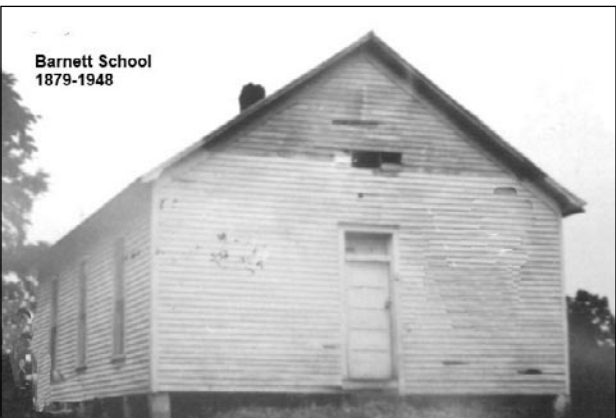
Oct. 30, 1931 – Colon School News

Quite a lot of interest and enthusiasm is shown this year in school activities. The mid-year week is closing with favorable results and progress in our work.

Several things have been added to our room, library and athletics. Among the new things are a large useful and instructive chart, library equipment, and a new ball bat for the ball team.

Colon was well represented at the school fair held at Siloam. The school entertained with an interesting program, and the P.T.A. was successful in serving a barbecue lunch at the gathering.

We have had splendid attendance all of the year, having 12 who have not missed a single day this year. They are: Bennett Eugene Kirk, Charles Edward Kirk, James Lee Kirk, Lorene Kirk, Thomas Kirk, Guthrie Kirk, Dorothy Phillips, Charles Ray Winders, Loraine Stallions, Robert Stal-



Dempsey School opened in 1800 and was located on Long Branch Road off of KY 365 in northern Crittenden County on the Elmer Gahagan land. The school was discontinued in 1948 and students were sent to Mattoon.

lion, Franklin Winders and Martha Helen Winders.

Sept. 18, 1931 - Bells Mines School News

The Perfect Attendance List contains, for the last month the names of Glenn Holdman, Charles and Van Morrow, Illa and J. C. Newcom, Harvey L. D. Floyd, Jack Winston, Clyde Chancellor, John Hina, Katie Travis, Katherine Hina, Ruby Aaron, Violet Daily, Dorothy Newcom, Edward Hugh Sheeley, Mary and Leonard Coker, Susie and Gladys Daily, Imogene Newcom and Arthur Holdman.

We are planning to attend in full force the pie and box supper to be given by Mrs. Edith Truitt’s school at Dempsey on Sept. 18.

James Holdman, after three weeks of illness, has returned to school. Mrs. Gladys Dempsey was present and gave a reading in our chapel program last Friday.

We have had an ice cream supper that cleared us \$14 and are planing to have a box and pie supper Friday night.

Oct. 30, 1931 - Dempsey School News

Last week completed the first half of our school. On Monday of this week, our teacher, Mrs. Edith Truitt, and our trustee’s wife, Mrs. C. E. Truitt, took us on a hike to the beautiful woods not far from our school grounds where we roasted wieners, marsh-

mallows and apples, after which mints were served.

We sang songs, recited poems and gave school yells. The pupils were arranged in couples, each couple secretly found something to be inspected and discussed after we returned to the school house. To say we had a wonderful time just won’t express our feelings at all.

On the honor roll last month were Nelia West, Rob Truitt and Freda Gahagen. Watch this list lengthen next month.

All our spare time in the school room is spent in making booklets, posters and other articles for the fair coming up at Mattoon. Our room is beautifully decorated with bright colored autumn leaves and attractive posters.

Last Friday night our teacher, some of our patrons and several pupils enjoyed the hospitality of the Bells Mines School. They gave a pie supper and an excellent program.

Oct. 30, 1931 - Mattoon School News

A large crowd attended the box supper at Mat-

toon Oct. 23. Mr. Marion Brantley auctioned the boxes which brought a nice sum of \$23.50. The proceeds will go to help pay for school supplies.

The Mattoon girls will play their first basketball game with the Blackford girls Thursday afternoon. Miss Clessie Agee is coaching the girls’ team.

Honor roll for the month of October: 1st grade - John Crowell, Conditt Lucas, Florence Walker, J. C. Slayton, Douglas McDowell, Addie May Hendrix, Christal Prow, Betty Jane Wilson, Nelson Ray Paris, Emma Sue Harris, Anna Ray Newcom, Glenna Nunn, Elwanda Newcom. 2nd grade - J. C. Little, Mary L. Asbridge, Mary J. Truitt, Opal Thomas, Ruth Berry. 3rd grade - Delmer Jenkins, Allen Hendrix, Leland Woodson, J. R. Brantley, Daisy M. Slayton, Earleen Little. 4th grade - Jake Lowery, George Gahagen, Willard Newcom, Eunice Lucas, Lester Nelson, Edwin Arflack, Janie ay Brown, Dorthy D. Howerton, Rudell Truitt, L. C. Crisp. 5Th & 6th grades - J. T. Nation, Virginia Cain, Samuel Nunn, Lucille Travis. 7Th & 8th grades - Wilbur Brantley, H. M. Calender, Charles A. Hendrix, Christine Jenkins, R. H. Lewis, Mina Scott, Charles W. Terry.

Fond memories from a different time in our past history.

(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).

ARREST

Continued from page 1

to apprehend McKinley on outstanding bench warrants from Lyon and Crittenden counties for child support and failure to appear.

Last week, Police Chief West noticed McKinley’s dog chained to a grill outside an apartment at the Creekside Apartment Complex, a location McKinley was known to frequent. Acting on a hunch, West began a stakeout. McKinley, apparently alerted to the officer’s presence, fled out the front door of the apartment and into a wooded area behind the Dollar General store. Multiple officers, including former Chief Ray O’Neal, Sheriff Evan Head, and deputies James Duncan and Rick Coyle, converged on the area. The search narrowed to a briar thicket, where McKinley was found hiding. After resisting arrest, he was subdued and tased by Sheriff Head before being taken into custody.

At the scene, officers discovered evidence that McKinley had attempted to bury drugs and drug paraphernalia. Additional alleged drugs were found on his person, totaling approximately 14 grams of methamphetamine, according to authorities.

McKinley’s attempt to evade capture has resulted in numerous charges. Combined with his previous offenses, the charges now include: first-degree wanton endangerment (police officer); tampering with physical evidence; fleeing or evading police, second-degree; criminal mischief, second-degree; no registration plates; failure of owner to maintain required insurance,

second-offense; operating on suspended or revoked operator license; failure to comply with helmet law over 21 years of age; fleeing or evading police, third-degree; resisting arrest; trafficking in controlled substance, first degree, first offense (greater than 2 grams methamphetamine); possession of drug para-

phernalia; failure to appear; probation violation (for felony offense); and contempt of court - libel/slander resistance to order.

The events last week stem from an earlier incident this fall when Chief West and Crittenden County Deputy Boyd Bates attempted to serve the original warrants on

McKinley. During that encounter, McKinley fled on his motorcycle, striking Chief West and causing minor injuries.

McKinley is currently lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center. His arraignment was scheduled for this week in Crittenden District Court.

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211689KY/10-24/12780

Garments of hope

Wearing the wrong clothes at a social event can be uncomfortable. I have, on a couple of occasions, been overdressed. Because of my lack of fashion sense. or not caring that much about it, my usual mistake is to be underdressed. It is also possible to be dressed inappropriately for the task at hand or the weather. There is a good mid-western saying, "There isn't bad weather, only bad clothing."



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

What we wear is important because it tells those around us something about us. Our clothing will give away our places of work or profession. It may signal our faith or our favorite university or sports team. It lets others know with whom we identify or associate. Uniforms signal authority or responsibility. Most uniforms come with an expected standard of behavior. Many indicate years of training or experience and can only be earned by study and practice. We recognize uniforms, robes, and jackets of various professions and vocations and act accordingly around them. The uniform indicates what we can expect from the person wearing it. If the process to gain the right to wear the uniform is sound, the uniform is more important than the person wearing it. If one doesn't live up to the standards, it can be taken away. With these things in mind, we can understand the power of clothing metaphors in the realm of our spiritual lives. Our clothing can make a difference to how we feel and act. This clothing comes from God, it is just for us to decide whether we are going to

accept it. The first time God provided clothing for us was not strictly metaphorical. Adam and Eve, after they realized that they were naked, hid from God – they were ashamed and hid from him. God, wanting them to come out where he could see them and have a relationship with them, provided for them clothing. If we are to walk with God, it is important that we wear the clothing he provides for us. The symbolism of Jacob (Israel) putting away the foreign gods from his house, washing (purifying), and changing his clothes indicates a change, finally, in him (Genesis 35:1-4). His descendants would do the same just before they crossed the Jordan over 400 years later. The priests of Israel were to wear properly prepared and sanctified garments when they offered sacrifices and approached the holy places in the tabernacle (and later the temple). In reading the texts for Advent season this year the poem at the end of Baruch has struck me powerfully this year. It is a poem of hope for God's people. It can also be understood as an invitation to anyone willing to put on the clothing of God's people today. "Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For your name will for-

ever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness." (Baruch 5:1-4) We all have sorrow and difficulty in our lives – some much more than others. These things will affect us for the rest of our lives. They are part of us. That does not mean, however, that we need to stay hidden in that clothing. It does not mean that we need be ashamed of what we have done or what has happened to us. There is, provided for us, clothing of hope that will allow us to still be who we are, but also clothed by the God who created us for wonderful things. It can be hard to put aside those things that have hurt us in the past. Healing takes time and different people handle that healing differently. For those who have been healed or who have never been hurt badly it is important to remember we are not the healer. We are simply wearing the clothing provided by the one who can make us whole. Wearing that clothing comes with some responsibility. It comes with expected behavior and attitudes. Paul gives us a description of what that clothing of hope looks like in Colossians 3:12-15, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." 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.

A baby's body is transformed into a Christlike body

Question: When a newborn baby dies, does he remain a baby in heaven?
Answer: A baby who dies goes immediately to heaven to be with Jesus. Small children under the age of accountability (old enough to make rational choices) are not responsible for their sins. In heaven, a baby will have a glorious body like Christ's resurrected body. The Bible teaches, "(Christ) will transform our lowly bodies so they will be like his glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). In other words, our mortal bodies that are subject to illness, pain, deformity and death will change into a glorious body like Christ's that

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

is not limited in any way. All the bodies of believers racked with pain, disease, injuries and old age will be transformed into fully functional bodies like Christ's. I believe, in their new resurrected bodies, babies will have a fully-developed body, personality and mind to enjoy the splendor of heaven and to experience the eternal fellowship of God, family and others. Since heaven is a place

where no sin will enter, it's imperative you prepare to be there with those babies who are now fully developed and other believers. The door to heaven is wide open to all who turn from their sins and trust in Christ as their Savior and Lord (Acts 20:21). If you haven't received Christ into your life, do it today! Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

- Crittenden County residents are invited to gather for a community prayer event on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. at the Crittenden County High School's Rocket Arena. The event welcomes individuals from all backgrounds, emphasizing unity among followers of Jesus Christ without denominational or church affiliations. Participants will join in prayer for the community.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. ■ 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. ■ The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is

open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday. ■ 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.

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Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

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Freedom General Baptist Church

Pastor: Ross Atwell
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)
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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 Holuman
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.
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Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

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South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray
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Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.
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Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
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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

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for rent

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notice

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public notice

The Bid Review Committee of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet in a public meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 9:00 am in the Fiscal Court Room at Crittenden County Office Complex. The purpose of this meeting will be to open bids received for the 2025 Operational Bids for the Road Department. Bids include Snow and Debris Removal services, Chip and Seal work, Asphalt work, Lubricant, Aggregate and RS-2 oil. All bids will be opened and then presented to the Fiscal Court during the regular session on Thursday, December 19, 2024. (1t-50-c)

bid notices

BID FOR HEATING AND AIR UNIT INSTALLATION
The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, KY is accepting bids for new heating and air units to be installed in an existing building. Bids will be accepted until January 10, 2025.
Job can be seen/assessed on-sight at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 East, Smithland, KY 42081 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties.
Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in-person or by mail (Livingston County Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than January 10, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please call 270-928-2168 or email Joni Phelps at jkbarr3@

uky.edu.
The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546. (2t-51-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for snow removal and/or debris removal and/or tree cutting services for 2025. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email atkristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. Bidders must show proof of liability insurance, provide equipment size(s) and price per hour of operation or price per tree to be cut. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965-5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for the application of Chip and Seal, single and double layer, on various roads in Crittenden County during 2025. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email at kristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during

the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965- 5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for the application of bituminous hot mix asphalt on various roads in Crittenden County for 2025. All bids must state the price per applied ton as well as the FOB price if available. Bids may include the price for any or all of the following mixes: base, binder, and surface asphalt; and shall meet KYTC Std. Spec. for Road and Bridge Const. Sect. 403.03.01. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email at kristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965-5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for FOB pricing on all aggregate materials for 2025. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email at kristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to

Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965-5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for RS-2 Oil delivered in bulk to the county road garage for 2025. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email atkristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965-5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for the following lubricant products delivered to the county road garage for 2025. Items include SAE 15-40 that meets CAT, ECF-3, API, CJ-4, and ACEA E9 specs; SAE 5-20 Synthetic Motor Oil that meets API SN specs; ATF D/M GM Dexron IIIH, Allison C-4, and Ford Mercon transmission fluids; DEF fuel additive; and 120-pound Barrel Grease EP-2. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email at kristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by 4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18,

2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject box. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, contact the County Road Supervisor at 270-969-1772. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)

BID NOTICE: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for 2025 on the following products to be delivered to the county road garage located at 1901 U.S. 60 E. Marion KY 42064. Items being accepted for bid are 12 ga. Metal culverts sizes ranging from 12" to 42" diameter and various lengths plain and coated and round and arched, and N-12 plastic culverts sizes ranging from 12" to 42" diameter and 4" perforated and non-perforated coils. Also being bid are connection bands for both types of culverts. All bids must be submitted to the County Judge Executive's office, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion KY 42064, or email atkristi.drury@crittendencountyky.org by

4:30 p.m. CST December 17, 2024. Bids will be opened by the bid review committee of the Fiscal Court on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and presented to Fiscal Court for consideration during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fiscal Court on December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope or in the subject line. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice, please contact the County Road Supervisor at 270-969-1772. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-50-c)



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NEW! 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!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 37.184 Acres - \$174,500
Sited in an area renowned for big bucks, this property offers the perfect habitat for deer and turkey hunting, plus the added convenience of a cozy cabin!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 2.06 Acres - \$69,000
Three contiguous lots in the beautiful Hillcrest Estates #2 Subdivision offer the ideal build site!

NEW! Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$303,600
NEW! Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$375,375
NEW! Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$548,550
NEW! Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$575,575
These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

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

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY - 83 Acres - \$259,900
Nestled along the picturesque Piney Creek, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike.


Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250
Sited in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000
Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,690 Acres - \$23,500,000
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!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 17.3541 Acres - \$169,000
Nestled within the embrace of tranquil countryside, this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers the perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. Includes a 32' x 48' metal barn.

SOLD! Livingston County, KY – 191 Acres - \$800,000
Just a half mile from the Cumberland River, this classic tillable and timber blend offers a prime investment and hunting opportunity. Planted in soybeans for the 2024 season.
Build site potential.



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BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES AROUND THE 5TH DISTRICT BOYS

Dec 13 Crittenden hosts Livingston
Dec 13 Lyon at Union County
Dec 13 Trigg at Hopkins Central
Dec 14 Crittenden at Apollo
Dec 17 Crittenden at Lyon County
Dec 17 Livingston hosts Trigg County

GIRLS
Dec 12 Lyon at Webster County
Dec 12 Trigg hosts Stewart Co., Tenn.
Dec 13 Livingston at Crittenden
Dec 13 Trigg at Hopkins Central
Dec 14 Livingston vs Marshall at Paducah
Dec 14 Lyon vs Massac at Paducah
Dec 16 Ballard Memorial at Livingston
Dec 17 Livingston hosts Trigg County
Dec 17 Lyon hosts Crittenden County
Dec 17 Trigg at Livingston Central

Fifth District Standings

GIRLS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Crittenden County	1-0	4-0
Lyon County	1-0	3-1
Livingston Central	0-1	1-2
Trigg County	0-1	0-2

BOYS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	1-0	4-0
Trigg County	1-0	3-1
Livingston Central	0-1	1-1
Crittenden County	0-1	0-3

AREA BASKETBALL SCORES

GIRLS
Lyon County 62, Murray 30
Graves Co. 72, Livingston Cent. 59
St. Mary 48, Trigg County 36
Lyon County 64, Hopkinsville 36
Livingston Cent. 54, Muhlenberg 36
Graves Co. 75, Lyon County 55
Caldwell Co. 43, McLean Co. 30
Webster County 55, Murray 50
Lyon County 61, Livingston Central 42
Caldwell County 55, Ft. Campbell 24

BOYS
St. Mary 64, Trigg County 35
Trigg County 73, Fort Campbell 70
Lyon County 80, Murray 62
Hopkinsville 71, Caldwell 61
Trigg County 52, Todd Central 51
Trigg County 73, ft Campbell 70, OT
Livingston Central 73, Ft Campbell 52
Lyon County 67, Christian County 52
Murray 46, Webster County 40
Lyon County 90, Livingston Central 63
Caldwell County 68, Union County 52

Hoops Classic at Princeton

Caldwell County will host the West Kentucky Hoops Classic Dec. 27-28 at the high school gym, featuring a lineup of basketball games with teams from across the region and beyond. Several local teams, including Caldwell, Crittenden County, Mayfield and Carlisle County, will play. On Friday, Dec. 27, Caldwell County Lady Tigers will take on South Panola, Miss., at 2 p.m., while the Caldwell boys face Heritage Christian Academy at 12:30 p.m. Action continues on Saturday, Dec. 28, with Crittenden County's boys playing at 12:30 p.m. against South Panola, Miss. Caldwell's girls will play Mayfield at 2 p.m., and the Caldwell boys cap the event at 6:30 p.m., against Shades Valley, Ala. Carlisle County also makes an appearance in both girls' and boys' games on Friday and Saturday.

FOOTBALL KHSAA Playoffs

State Championship Results
Class A
Sayre 27, Raceland 22
Class 2A
Beechwood 50, Owensboro Catholic 34
Class 3A
Christian Academy 42, Union County 21
Class 4A
Paducah Tilghman 27, Franklin Co. 20
Class 5A
Bowling Green 37, Cooper 20
Class 6A
Louisville Trinity 42, Ryle 23

VOLLEYBALL Youth league registration

The Amazing Aces Volleyball program is returning for its 2025 season, welcoming girls in grades 3-6 from Caldwell, Crittenden and surrounding counties. The season, which includes weekly practices and Saturday morning games, will take place at The Hive at First Baptist Church in Fredonia, starting in January and concluding with a league tournament on Feb. 22. Registration is \$40 per player, with a discounted rate of \$25 for siblings. Sign-ups are now open and will end with an in-person evaluation on Dec. 21 at 8 a.m., at The Hive. Payments can be made via Venmo to @Bayley-Mac10 or by cash or check. Parents are encouraged to register early to assist with team assignments. Coaching volunteers are also being sought. For updates, follow the Amazing Aces Volleyball Facebook page or contact Coach Bayley McDonald at 270-601-0973.

Lady Rockets open quest for district crown

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County's girls opened Fifth District action Tuesday with a 60-34 victory at Trigg County, setting a positive course for their campaign toward another district crown.
Now, the Lady Rockets turn their attention to completing a sweep of the first run through the district's regular-season round-robin over the next week, hosting Livingston Central Friday and going to Eddyville Tuesday to face the Lady Lyons.
CCHS went up early by nearly 20 points then Trigg trimmed it back to nine at one point in the third period before the Rocket girls pulled away behind a one-two scoring punch from Anna Boone and Elliot Evans, who had 21 and 16, respectively. Center Bristyn Rushing added 11.
Home win over Union County
The Lady Rockets beat Union County 58-41 last Thursday at Rocket Arena after weathering some ball control issues in the first half. CCHS gained momentum in the third period and

started pulling away in the third period.
Junior guard Elliot Evans led the Lady Rockets with 13 points, including three treys and Anna Boone and Bristyn Rushing added 10 apiece as CCHS had balanced scoring for the third time in three games.
Winner in HoopFest
In a tough early-season matchup last Wednesday night in the Marshall County HoopFest, Crittenden County overcame an early deficit to secure a hard-fought victory against Todd Central, winning 61-59.
The Lady Rockets started sluggishly on offense, trailing early by as many as eight points. However, Morgan Stewart provided a pivotal spark off the bench, scoring a team-high 19 points and being named MVP of the game.
Todd Central entered the game with a strong resume, having been last year's Fourth Region runnerup.

Trigg County	6	17	32	34
Crittenden County	17	28	47	60



Lady Rockets Elliot Evans and Anna Boone guard the lane while Trigg County's Reese Bush drives into the paint looking for a basket during the district opener for both teams on Tuesday at Cadiz.

CRITTENDEN – Boone 21, Evans 16, Hodge 4, Federico 2, Rushing 11, Stewart 4, Matthews 2, Berry, Holeman. 3-pointers 5 (Boone 3, Evans 2). FT 11-14.
TRIGG – Norwood 2, Navarrd 10, Bush 9, Grinols 7, Jones 6, McGee, Mayes. 3-pointers 1 (Bush) FT 7-10.

Union County 13 26 36 41
Crittenden County 17 28 46 58
UNION – Davis 8, Bell 3, Steward 18, Mendoza 2, Tamayo, Curry 4, Byrd 4, Nicholes 2. 3-pointers 4 (Steward 3, Davis). FT 11-16.
CRITTENDEN – Boone 10, Evans 13, Hodge 6, Rushing 10, Federico 6, Stewart 6, Holeman 7, Matthews, Berry. 3-pointers 6 (Evans 3, Holeman 2, Boone). FT 14-17.

CRITTENDEN - Boone 12, Evans 9, Hodge 9, Rushing 4, Federico 8, Stewart 19, Holeman. 3-pointers 2 (Evans, Hodge). FT 19-25.
TODD - Taylor 28, Kay 12, Garrett 11, Harrell 4, Ballard 4. 3-pointers 5. FT 10-12.

Rockets fall in OT in district opener

STAFF REPORT
In a see-saw battle at Trigg County, the Rockets came up short in overtime as the Wildcats prevailed 72-69. The contest was a showdown between coaching cousins, Crittenden County's Matt Fralieux and Trigg's Michael Fralieux.
The Rockets led by 11 in the first half, but Trigg spun up a 16-0 run to start the third quarter, taking a lead it would hang onto until the final seconds of regulation when Rocket Chase Conyer's putback tied it at 59. Crittenden played the final 5:39 of regulation and all of overtime without its point guard after CamRon Belcher fouled out in the fourth.
Trigg opened overtime with a couple of dunks, but CCHS stayed close in the final seconds thanks to a three-pointer from Drake Young.
Loss to Union
Crittenden County improved from its first outing of the season, but lost its second game in a row, falling 61-44 to Union County at home.
CCHS led early and had it not been for a Union three at the buzzer would have

led at the end of the first period. However, the Braves – playing without two starters because its football team was headed to the state championship – picked up steam and raced out to a 20-point lead.
Senior CamRon Belcher led the Rockets with 18 points and was the only Rocket in double figures. The Rockets have beaten Union County only three times in the last 17 meetings.

Crittenden Co.	18	35	43	59	69
Trigg County	9	26	49	59	72

CRITTENDEN – LaRue 6, Porter, Belcher 16, Young 12, Travis 8, Poindexter 18, Conyer 9. 3-pointers 8 (LaRue 2, Young 4, Poindexter 2). FT 3-11.
TRIGG – Gude 23, Swann 16, Fogle 13, Brekel 8, Bridges 10, Carter 2, Shepherd. 3-pointers 8 (Fogle 4, Bridges 2, Swann 2). FT 12-26.

Union County 10 29 46 61
Crittenden Co. 8 17 25 44
CRITTENDEN – LaRue 5, Belcher 18, Poindexter 6, Conyer 5, Porter 2, Young, C.Poindexter 1, Travis 7. 3-pointers 1 (Belcher). FT 5-9.
UNION – Curry 8, C.Johnson 15, Ja.Wilson 12, Mills 2, Miller 24, J.Wilson, Tamayo. 3-pointers 5 (C.Johnson 3, Miller 2). FT 6-13.



Crittenden County forward Brayden Poindexter takes aim on a basket during the Rockets' loss last week at home against Union County.



Kaiden Travis



Braydin Brandsasse



Caden Howard



CamRon Belcher



Quinn Summers

CCHS puts 5 players on All WKC team

STAFF REPORT
Five athletes from Crittenden County High School have been named to the All West Kentucky Conference football team.
Junior quarterback Quinn Summers completed 190 of 304 passes for 2,416 yards and 27 touchdowns, with

only eight interceptions over 11 games. He also rushed for 139 yards.
Senior defensive end Kaiden Travis recorded 47 tackles, including a dozen for loss and 3 sacks.
Junior lineman Braydin Brandsasse played both ways up front and on defense con-

tributed 28 tackles, including 4 tackles for loss and 3 sacks.
Junior receiver/defensive back Caden Howard set some new school receiving records this season and led the team with 69 receptions for 956 yards and 11 touchdowns. Defensively, he added 52

tackles, 2 interceptions and 4 fumble recoveries.
Senior receiver/safety CamRon Belcher was a key offensive weapon with 58 receptions for 835 yards and 9 touchdowns. On defense, he contributed 54 tackles and 4 interceptions.

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Lady Rocket Volleyball Recognition

Crittenden County High School's volleyball team held its annual awards ceremony last week and recognized a number of girls. Award recipients are (front from left) Emerye Pollard, Freshman MVP; Emory Orr, Freshman Character Award; Jasmine Lynch, Freshman Defense Award; (second row) Hadley Myers, JV Offense Award; Lilah Sherer, Assist Award; Shelbi Belt, JV Character Award; Aly Yates, JV Defense Award; Ava Tabor, JV Most Improved; Riley Kirby, Leadership Award, Senior Award; Mary Stephens, Defense Award, Senior Award; (back) Maddie Hearrell, Freshman Offense Award; Macandliss Chittenden, Freshman Most Improved; Lacey Boone, Most Improved; Braelyn Merrill, Most Improved; Maeson Martin, JV MVP; Brooke Winstead, Most Versatile, Senior Award; Carly Porter, Offense Award, Block Award, MVP and Senior Award; Hannah Mott, 110% Award, Senior Award; Braelynn Pate, Outstanding Teammate Award, Senior Award.

Students earn spots on Quad State Band

Four eighth-grade students from Crittenden County earned spots in the prestigious 2024 Middle School Quad State Band, held in late November in Paducah. The event brought together talented middle school musicians from Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, and Missouri for an intensive day of music collaboration. Over the course of just five hours, the students rehearsed and performed a complete concert. The participating students and their band placements were Miley Hayes, Honor Band; Adilynn Curtis, Gold Band; Charlie Rogers, Gold Band and Heather Mullinix, Green Band. Alex Benoit, the school's band director, expressed pride in the students' achievements.



Quad State Band members from Marion are (from left) Miley Hayes, Charlie Rogers, Adilynn Curtis and Heather Mullinix.

Brewer joins Crittenden Sheriff's Dept.

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head has announced the addition of a new deputy. Devin Brewer, a former Kentucky State Trooper and longtime member of the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, was sworn Tuesday as a Crittenden County deputy sheriff. Brewer, who has lived in Crittenden County for more than 30 years, was most recently chief deputy in Livingston County. He is also expected to have some type of role as an animal control officer in Crittenden County.

"It was just like family."

"It was just like family," Mary Jo Shuecraft said about the care she received from general surgeon Dr. Eric Kivisto at Crittenden Community Hospital. "It was a breeze, and I can't say enough about Dr. Kivisto and his wife. You can tell they really care. You couldn't ask for a better couple!" After being diagnosed and treated for an ulcer, Mary Jo says she has had no further problems and praises the care she received from Dr. Kivisto and his team.



Mary Jo Shuecraft

Meet Dr. Eric A. Kivisto

Dr. Kivisto is a trusted general surgeon providing quality, personalized care right here at Crittenden Community Hospital. His patients appreciate his compassionate approach, and his expertise covers a wide range of surgical procedures to meet your healthcare needs.

Services Offered by Dr. Kivisto

With services like EGD, laparoscopy, and more, Dr. Kivisto provides expert care in our community, including:

- Colonoscopy
- Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal)
- Hernia Repair
- Mastectomy
- EGD (Esophagogastroduodenoscopy)

Make an Appointment Today!

You can schedule an appointment with Dr. Kivisto directly or ask your family practice provider for a referral. Call Crittenden Community Hospital to book your appointment today!



Crittenden Family Practice Clinic
Fredonia Family Care - Marion Home Health
West Gum St., Marion, KY
Family Practice: (270) 965-5238
Hospital: (270) 965-5281
www.crittendenhospital.com
Thanks for keeping HEALTHCARE local!

Looking for a home

Bagel is a four-month-old beagle mix looking for a home for Christmas. She is playful and sweet. Would be great for an active family with or without kids. She is spayed, up to date on shots and microchipped! To find out more about Bagel, call Mary Hall Ruddiman Shelter at 270-965-2006. Happy Holidays!



LET'S GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

SIP AND SHOP AT MARION & CO.
Friday, Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m.

Come Sip and Shop with us for exclusive after hours deals and giveaways.

We will have hors d'oeuvres, coffee, hot chocolate and mulled cider.

Season's Greetings from Marion Pit BBQ

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MARION PIT BAR-B-Q.

Open until 2 p.m. Dec. 24
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MARION PIT BAR-B-Q.

728 S. MAIN ST., MARION
(270) 965-7060



Living Christmas Tree director Corey Crider (at top) leads the music while his son, Cade, and father, Steve, are among singers on the second row in the front of the tree. In the other photos are Michelle Crider directing the children's choir and John Michael Gage (right) leading the Methodist hand bell choir.

TREE

Continued from page 1
Tree productions in the 1980s. He was back, perched in the tree alongside his grandson Cade Crider, who was one of the youngest singers in the adult choir. Michelle Crider directed the children's choir.

"I have been in it several years. We've had a little hiatus and not had it, but I was in it back in the 1980s when Bill Chase started it. Every time we had it after that, I was in it," said Steve Crider. "When I was in it before, I was a tenor. Now that I've gotten older, I'm a bass."

Like the evergreen tree that inspires the program it is supported by a root system that includes many hands beyond the performers. Former Crittenden County ag teacher Larry Duvall has been a common denominator over the last five decades. He and crew made up of Brennan Cruce, Braden Locke, Cutter Singleton and Fred Stubblefield, with some strong backs from the high school football team, resurrected the new tree from a previous structure that had been stored for years in the basement at Fohs Hall.

It's impossible to overlook the essential role played by the Community Arts Foundation (CAF) and Fohs Hall itself. The organizations are proven cornerstones of Marion's cultural life, ensuring that traditions like the Living Christmas Tree endure and thrive. Through their dedication, Marion remains a place where the arts are celebrated, enriching the community and fostering connections that transcend generations.

This year's production is brought to life by an extraordinary team of planners, builders and decorators whose efforts breathe life into the tree and the performance it cradles. Cameron Hernandez is in charge of lighting for the shows, and Kim Vince is key in orchestrating the effort with help from a committee consisting of others, including Amanda Alvis, Mary Anne Campbell, Allison Evans, Gaye Porter and Terri Shewcraft.

The Living Christmas Tree is a reminder that the community's shared history and collective efforts create a legacy that continues to inspire. After the performance, attendees are able to mingle with the cast and crew during a reception.

The show is free. Donations are accepted. There are 3 more shows this weekend. Friday and Saturday nights' programs begins at 7 p.m., and Sunday's starts at 2 p.m.



Crittenden Community Hospital (at top) made it snow during Saturday's parade and Santa (above) rode through town on a fire truck before greeting children at the fairgrounds.

Travis, Freedom, 911 garner first-places in parade float judging

Marion's Main Street was filled with festive cheer Saturday night as the annual Christmas Parade rolled through town, showcasing the creativity and holiday spirit of local businesses, churches and organizations. Parade entries, brimming with decorations and imaginative designs, were judged in three categories: Business, Church and Organization. Additionally, a special recognition award was presented by Partners Insurance, which sponsors and organizes the parade along with Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce.

In the Business Category, Travis Construction & Concrete captured first place with its impressive and fes-

tive float. Kentucky American Seeds claimed second place and Crittenden Community Hospital was third.

Freedom General Baptist was first in the Church category while Mexico Baptist earned second place and Deer Creek Church was third.

For the Organization category, Crittenden E911 was awarded first place, Crittenden County FFA received second place and the Lions Club Bluegrass Blowout secured third place.

Partners Insurance selected a special honoree as its favorite entry. It was Darrell and Tammy Williams whose vintage pickup featured Snoopy in the bed.

Everyone Welcome

Christmas Eve Communion

5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24

Join us for a brief Christmas Eve service including Communion as we celebrate the coming of Christ & the reason for His return

If you are not a regular church attendee, consider joining us this Christmas season.

It is an exciting time with new growth in our church. Come be a part of it.

Come as you are!
Send kids in their PJs!

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

224 West Bellville Street, Marion

STOP IN FOR A GIFT CARD OR VISIT ONE OF Marion's Restaurants THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Season's Eatings

<p>Specializing in Southern-raised Catfish. The FRONT PORCH The Southern Dining</p> <p>914 S. Main St. (270) 965-3035</p>	<p>MARION PIT BAR-B-Q</p> <p>728 S. Main St. (270) 965-7060</p>	<p>MULLIGANS BAR & RESTAURANT</p> <p>651 Blackburn St. (270) 965-7100</p>
<p>McDonald's</p> <p>129 N. Main St. (270) 965-5866</p>	<p>Bienvenidos Amigos To La Potosina Restaurante Mexicana</p> <p>113 N. Maple St. (270) 965-9787</p>	<p>SUBWAY</p> <p>214 North Main St. (270) 965-3730</p>
<p>LA DELICIA FRESH MEXICAN GRILL</p> <p>301 Sturgis Rd, Marion (270) 965-7099</p>	<p><i>A Brunch of Sandwiches</i></p> <p>515 South Main St. (270) 969-4376</p>	<p>DQ</p> <p>213 Sturgis Rd. (270) 965-4261</p>
<p>CAMEDAY PIZZA & WINGS</p> <p>108 S. Main St. (270) 965-7090</p>	<p>88 DIP</p> <p>113 Sturgis Rd. (270) 965-4538</p>	<p>Sugar Shop Donuts</p> <p>218 South Main (270) 704-2729</p>

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