



# The Crittenden Press

Newspaper out early next week | Sale & Mail on Tuesday

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AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

## Bridge Opening Delayed On two state highways

Two Crittenden County road projects that had been expected to reopen this month will now remain closed until January, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

KY 387, also known as Dam 50 Road, remains closed at mile point 0.77 for construction of a new Crooked Creek Bridge. The closure blocks access to KY 91 for most residents along a three-mile stretch of KY 387. The road has been closed since March 31, and the project is now estimated to be completed in January, weather permitting.

KY 2123 is also expected to remain closed until January. The road is shut down at mile point 1.63 for a bridge replacement project at Caney Fork, between KY 297 and KY 1668. That closure has been in place since Sept. 17, with completion likewise dependent on weather conditions.

## Cutter & Cash at Christmas

Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass will help lead a community-wide Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long at Marion Baptist Church next Sunday night, Dec. 21. The free event begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. Organizers say the sing-along is intended to bring the community together through traditional Christmas music while celebrating the meaning of the season. There will be no admission fee.

## New election filings

New filings for the 2026 election cycle include Lynn Goodrich, who filed to seek re-election as constable in District 4; Bob Rowley, who is seeking the District 6 GOP magisterial nomination; and Chad Thomas, who filed to seek re-election as magistrate in District 4 as a Republican. Thomas is a two-time incumbent who previously served as a Democrat. The filing deadline for partisan races in the May primary is Jan. 9.

## Press early next week

Due to the Christmas holiday, The Crittenden Press will be available one day early next week. The paper will be on sale and go into the mail on Tuesday. There will be no newspaper the following week, on Jan. 1, 2026.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 at the County Office Complex.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 at the library. Friends of the Library will not meet this month.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden Fiscal Court meets in special session at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23 at the County Office Complex.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23 at the county office complex.

## Figures behind Bars



### Jail Population Trends

These figures show an aggregate mean of five years of daily Crittenden County Detention Center population averages from 2020 to 2024, plus the difference compared to current calendar year average daily population and the percentage of change.

Population Status	5 Year Average	2025 Figures	Percent of Change
State Inmates	88.38	-12.57	-14%
Federal Inmates	68.69	-10.57	-15%
Other Counties	18.87	+6.08	+32%
Crittenden Inmates	14.67	+3.29	+22%

### DAILY INMATE POPULATION

These figures are based on monthly jail reports presented to the fiscal court on a regular basis. They have been aggregated over the years by The Press and represent each calendar year's figures. Financial figures for the jail are typically reported based on a fiscal year, from July 1 through June 30.

	Population Daily Avg.
<b>2020</b>	
State Inmates	95.17
Federal Inmates	73.92
Other Counties	14.17
Crittenden Inmates	13.67

<b>2021</b>	
State Inmates	82.4
Federal Inmates	80.1
Other Counties	20.3
Crittenden Inmates	10.5

<b>2022</b>	
State Inmates	91.7
Federal Inmates	63.9
Other Counties	25.3
Crittenden Inmates	13.5

<b>2023</b>	
State Inmates	99.25
Federal Inmates	57.85
Other Counties	12.78
Crittenden Inmates	13.81

<b>2024</b>	
State Inmates	75.38
Federal Inmates	67.69
Other Counties	21.82
Crittenden Inmates	19.86

<b>2025</b> 10 months through October	
State Inmates	75.81
Federal Inmates	58.12
Other Counties	24.95
Crittenden Inmates	17.96

## County under pressure to solve jail's numbers crisis

STAFF REPORT

It is a numbers game for Crittenden County Detention Center, balancing inmate populations with safety, staffing levels and the need to generate enough housing reimbursements to cover daily operations, service debt from the jail's original 2007 construction and continue providing community services at no cost to taxpayers.

While the jail reports delivering an estimated \$600,000 annually in free services – including mowing public grounds, special-detail labor and litter abatement – shifts in the inmate population during 2025 have created financial strain and raised the stakes for county government. Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which is ultimately responsible for the jail's financial solvency, has wrestled with the issue for months, at one point calling for Jailer Athena Hayes to resign. The court has no statutory authority to force her resignation, and tensions have continued to mount.

With bills coming due, including payroll this week,

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said in a special meeting a few days ago that magistrates may need to transfer additional general fund money to the detention center's account – a move that could include reallocating dollars from the road fund. The court will consider that and perhaps other moves to shore up the jail's financial situation during Thursday's regular fiscal court meeting at 8:30 a.m., at the county office complex.

Judge Newcom also plans to seek the backing of magistrates and the jailer to formally request a staffing analysis from the Department of Corrections.

Data presented during the fiscal court's November meeting show that through the first 10 months of the year, the jail has seen a notable decline in its most revenue-producing inmate categories compared with five-year averages, intensifying financial pressure on the facility.

The county had set aside just over \$237,000 in its own

See **JAIL**/page 4

STAFF REPORT

After a couple of years of failed attempts to salvage its deteriorating administrative annex building, Crittenden Community Hospital plans to tear down the structure early after the first of the year and return the site to open space, according to CEO Shawn Bright.

The annex, located on the west side of the hospital campus along U.S. 60, has been a community eyesore for several years, the CEO admits. Renovation efforts were halted when contractors discovered severe substructure failures caused by long-term water infiltration.

Bright said the problems were more extensive than initially believed.

"They ended up identifying some really extreme structural issues secondary to water damage," he said, noting the building has a long history of moisture problems dating back to its original construction more than 25 years ago.

Water intrusion rotted the seal plate sitting atop the concrete walls and damaged the ends of floor joists between the first and second floors. The only way to replace the compromised seal plate would be to "physically lift up that corner that's closest to the high school and country club," Bright said. But attempting such a lift created the risk of further structural failure.

Multiple contractors evaluated the project. According to Bright, the most recent estimate was "over \$600,000 just for them to



The hospital annex was built in mid 1990s. It will soon be torn down.

repair that section," a price that did not include restoring the exterior, completing unfinished drywall on much of the façade or addressing interior damage.

"Essentially the building is pretty much totaled," he said.

Hospital leaders also explored whether another entity could use the structure. Bright said the school district even toured the building as a potential administrative site but reached the same conclusion – the building could not be saved at a reasonable cost.

A demolition contractor has now been secured. Work is expected to begin after the first of the year, once weather conditions

See **ANNEX**/page 3

## Make believe or fantasy?

Well, now that Disney has leaned into AI full-bore, we will never fully know whether "make believe" is real or fantasy. It's simply the world we live in now.

Here at The Crittenden Press, we began embracing artificial intelligence's large language model, ChatGPT, about a year ago, using it to complete some mundane tasks and to aggregate and analyze numbers, particularly for sports coverage. We are integrating it more and more as we find new ways for it to save time in the timeless task of gathering news and reporting it across multiple platforms. Being where our readers are is important. We're certain that our digital footprint, which recently reached more than 2 million views a month, is clearly the new frontier. With help from AI, we're able to quickly regenerate and repurpose traditional print news and advertising for a large swath of digital consumers.

The hallmark of community journalism is hyper-local content, and you may see some GPT DNA in what we do, but it's not something we're blindly pulling from AI's hard drives. We're still gathering our news the old-fashioned way. With boots on the ground right here in your neighborhoods.

Frankly, though, AI is allowing us to keep the ink pouring over our newsprint. Monetizing our digital content is a growing provision in our overall business strategy, so you may or may not have noticed some subtle changes in what we do.

The Press was among the first newspapers in west Kentucky – indeed, all of Kentucky – to embrace the internet more than 25 years ago. Now, we're on the cutting edge of digital publishing and programming to bring you even greater reporting. For that, we've been honored with some of Kentucky's greatest journalistic honors over the past few years, including the Society of Professional Journalists' Al Smith Award in 2022, an opportunity to present our strategies for other professional journalists during Kentucky Press Association's annual conventions, and a National Newspaper Association award for reporting. Recently, National Public Radio recognized what we're doing and included The Press in a comprehensive report on AI in newsrooms across west Kentucky. We're honored to be able to continue serving the people of Crittenden County and beyond with quality, dependable and truthful content, whether in print or on the World Wide Web.

The latest wrench in the town crier's toolbox – artificial intelligence – is improving efficiencies in our workspace that in many ways are fending off the news desert phenomenon that plagues much of the country.

A news desert is a community that no longer has trustworthy local news coverage, typically because one or more media outlets have closed and no alternative sources of original, community-focused reporting have taken their place. As a result, residents are left without reliable information about local government, schools, public safety, elections, local businesses and community events – information that has historically been provided by local newspapers. In that vacuum, the door is



Chris EVANS  
Press Editor & Publisher  
*About Town*

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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See **NEWS**/page 4



Deaths

Maraman

Densiel L. Maraman, 74, of Marion, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Ind.

Surviving are his children, Audi Maraman and Renee Smith, both of Marion; seven grandchildren, Aliyah, Aliza, Beau, Annalese, Anaiya, Kirsten and Caleb; a sister, Rita Mills and a brother, Mike Maraman.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial visitation was held Friday, Dec. 12 at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Wright

Philip Wane Wright, 65, went to see Jesus Sunday morning, Dec. 14, 2025 at Livingston Hospital.

He was a self-employed carpenter and woodworker. He attended church at Mt. Zion General Baptist Church in Cave In Rock, Ill. After his cancer diagnosis, Wright said he was a winner either way. He would either be healed by God or he would be with God.

Surviving are His Loving God; his wife of 42 ½ years Julie; a son, Michael (Larre) Wright; a daughter, Sallie (Chris) Hunter; a grandson, Griffin Wright; three granddaughters, Brody Wright, Reese Hunter and Callie Rae Hunter; a brother, Eddie (Debbie) Wright; a sister, Melinda (Rick); two nephews, Zachery and Adam; and a host of wonderful friends.

He was cremated according to his wishes, and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Myers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Community Calendar

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

**Thursday, Dec. 18**

- Auditions for Frozen JR are upcoming for students in grades 6–12 for the Community Arts Foundation's production. For more information or to sign up, visit <https://signup.com/go/exAEZOq>.
- Line dancing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Crittenden County Public Library meets at 5 p.m. at the library.

**Friday, Dec. 19**

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

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

A public hearing will be held by Crittenden County Fiscal Court at the County Office Complex on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. during a special called meeting for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments in regards to proposed Ordinance O-25-012, related to an amendment to the Crittenden County Administrative Code.

All interested persons are invited to the hearing and may submit verbal or written comments. Any person(s) who can not attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments should call the Office of Judge-executive at (270) 965-5251 or email [yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org](mailto:yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org) by Monday, Dec. 22, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments. Copies of the proposed ordinance may be obtained at the Judge-executive office located at 200 Industrial Drive, Suite A, Marion, Kentucky.



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We also invite you to our regular  
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Come and Go Service  
in the church sanctuary  
5-7 p.m.,  
Wednesday, Dec. 24

*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*



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*Pastor: David LeNeave*







Above is April Dismore practicing CPR and (at right) is Addie Morries getting her blood pressure taken by Cheyenne Dorris while Emma Oller observes.



# Brown’s healthcare passion, drive to share knowledge is motivating CCHS students

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Jennifer Brown is passionate about healthcare, and she wants to show students that medicine can be fun.

That is why Brown, a local nurse practitioner at Marion’s Family Practice Clinic, decided to go back to school, so to speak. Her mornings are spent at the clinic treating patients and having office visits. Afternoons, though, look significantly different. That is when she heads across the highway to visit with a different clientele – her students.

Brown joined the staff of Crittenden County High School at the start of the year, filling a

vacancy in the biomedical pathway, one of five CTE (career and technical education) programs available to students. Agriculture, family and consumer studies, business/marketing and computer programming are the others.

Her goal, she said, is to transition the biomedical pathway to an allied health pathway, affording interested students even more opportunities to get a head start in healthcare.

“Allied health focuses on preparing students for immediate placement in the workforce or technical/college entry,” Brown said. “It is more patient-

and skills-centered and allows students the opportunity to graduate high school with a certification in phlebotomy or as a certified nurse assistant.”

Brown said she wants to expose students to multiple aspects of healthcare.

“I try to bring in all specialties to show students the numerous possibilities out there,” she said. “Having a partnership with Crittenden Community Hospital allows for many opportunities to shadow, intern, attend site visits, and learn from guest speakers and presenters.”

Junior Macibelle Hardesty is a student in the pathway and

is interested in sports medicine. With a vested interest in the field – her mother works in healthcare – Hardesty said she has been excited about the opportunities Brown has brought to the program and her students.

“I would like to be an athletic trainer someday,” Hardesty said, “and Mrs. Brown has opened several doors to get me as close as I can to it.”

So far this year, Brown has hosted chiropractor Dr. Megan Roberts, Dr. Jonathan Maddux and Murray State University instructor Anne Hess. Students have learned how to suture, created informational

health videos in conjunction with business/marketing students, learned about sports medicine and injury treatment, and some have taken the written and performance test to be CPR-certified through the American Heart Association for the next two years. Additionally, her classes have visited Marion’s Family Practice Clinic to view how the clinic operates and to practice taking vital signs.

Brown believes creating excitement, connecting students with opportunities and investing in young people is the perfect prescription for success.



Pictured with Jennifer Brown are Lindsey Wyatt, Jersey Rushin, McKayla Fugere, Aubrey Miller, Ashlee Sosh, Paige McMackin, Macibelle Hardesty, Brooklyn Stinnett, Ella Whitney and Hunter Kirk.



The Community Arts Foundation continues to raise the bar with original programming at historic Fohs Hall. Last weekend’s Lessons & Carols, adapted and directed by Corey Crider, was a resounding success, drawing more than 500 and included 60 cast and crew volunteers. Pictured is the children’s choir under the direction of Michelle Crider. Sound was directed by John Michael Gage, with striking lighting design by Cameron Hernandez. The program showcased a deep well of local talent, including Cutter and Cash Singleton, Lacie Duncan, Cade Crider, Hannah Peek and Adam Guess, whose Motown-inspired rendition of *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, punctuated by a superb horn section, nearly lifted the roof off Fohs Hall. Scripture readings were provided by Howard Suggs, George McClellan, Tyler Coleman, Katie Keene, Kenlee McDaniel, Brooke Hunt, Jeff Hughes, Aaron Brown and Rhonda Horack, while local vocal ensembles and a handbell choir added to the richness and reverence of the evening.

# Fohs hosts CRH ‘Very Merry Christmas’

STAFF REPORT

A festive night of music, comedy and community spirit comes to Marion this weekend as Cumberland River Homes hosts “A Very Merry Christmas Benefit” at Fohs Hall. The free holiday event is set for Friday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5:15 p.m. for early seating and a Holiday Silent Auction.

The benefit, held at Fohs Hall, 201 N. Walker St., invites the community to celebrate the season while supporting the mission of Cumberland River Homes, a nonprofit organization that provides services to nearly 90 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across western Kentucky. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

This year’s entertain-

ment lineup features a mix of Christmas classics, spirited performances and lighthearted humor. The Todd Hill Quintet, joined by vocalist Kayla Marie Little, will make its first appearance at the benefit, delivering holiday favorites with big-band flair. Comedian Jamey Ragle, a returning favorite, will bring his trademark storytelling and crowd-pleasing humor. The Cumberland River Homes Choir, featuring Julie Wedding, will also perform, showcasing the voices and talents of individuals served by the organization.

Before the concert begins, guests may browse the Holiday Silent Auction, which includes handmade items created by clients in Cumberland River Homes’ Day Training Program, along with

goods donated by community members. Auction proceeds will support CRH services and future program growth.

Several local businesses have already joined as sponsors for the 2025 benefit. Sponsorship opportunities remain available for those wishing to assist with the event.

Cumberland River Homes, a 501(c)(3) based in Salem, is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with disabilities live lives that are safe, happy, healthy and respected. Funds and awareness raised through the Christmas benefit directly support that mission.

For sponsorship inquiries or event questions, contact Braden Locke at 270-704-5333 or email [blocke@crh111.org](mailto:blocke@crh111.org).

# Fredonia’s Bennett will not seek re-election

STAFF REPORT

Republicans Casey Baker and Bobby Joe Harper have both filed as candidates for the District 1 magisterial seat, as longtime Fredonia-area magistrate Elbert Bennett has signaled that he will not seek re-election.

Bennett, 76, is a former president of the Kentucky Association of Counties and the Kentucky Magisterial Association. The coming year will be Bennett’s 24th as District 1 magistrate. Prior to that, he served 18 years as a Fredonia councilman.

Among countywide races in Caldwell

County, Rick Tosh filed as a Republican for county surveyor, while Angela Cotton filed as a Republican for jailer. The sheriff’s race is shaping up as a partisan contest, with Crittenden County Deputy and Fredonia resident Boyd Bates filing as a Democrat and incumbent Don Weedman filing as a Republican.

Roy Massey IV filed as a Republican for county attorney, and Dewayne Traf-ford filed as a Republican for coroner.

Two Republicans have filed for county clerk: David Zachary Granstaff and Jennifer Watson Hale.

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# ANNEX

Continued from page 1 improve. Some interior materials will be salvaged for other hospital projects, including a clinic the hospital is developing in Sturgis.

The hospital plans to clear and level the site after demolition.

“We’re going to bring

that building down and then clean it up and have it turned back into just green space,” Bright said. “I know that everybody in the community, as well as I am, is tired of looking at that building in the state that it’s in.”

Hospital upgrades elsewhere on the campus continue. One of the double-wide buildings be-

hind the hospital will be renovated, and work is nearing completion on a new emergency room entrance and portico on the west side of the facility. Improvements are being funded through a low-interest county loan of nearly \$700,000, which also supports new energy-efficiency measures.



## KSP holiday patrols

Kentucky State Police Post 2 is joining the nationwide “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign as holiday travel ramps up across the state. Running through Jan. 1, the effort targets impaired driving during one of the year’s busiest, and deadliest, travel periods. December has seen a significant spike in impaired-driving crashes nationwide, with federal data showing drunk-driving deaths at their highest levels in nearly 15 years. On average, one person is killed every 42 minutes in a drunk-driving crash, totaling more than 12,000 deaths annually. KSP is urging motorists to plan ahead if celebrations involve alcohol, use taxis or rideshare options, report dangerous drivers, and always wear a seat belt. The agency said impaired driving is entirely preventable and stressed its commitment to keeping Kentucky’s roadways safe through enforcement, education, and community partnerships.

## Health degees rising

Kentucky is seeing a sharp rise in students pursuing health-related degrees, according to new data released by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and reported by Kentucky Today. Enrollment in healthcare majors at the state’s public and private colleges has increased 22.8 percent since 2022, a gain of 6,953 students. Kentucky Today reports that Appalachian students saw the largest jump, up 32.1 percent, or 2,769 students. Enrollment among stu-



dents age 25 and older rose 17.3 percent, low-income undergraduate enrollment climbed 30.5 percent, and first-generation undergraduate students increased 31 percent. CPE President Aaron Thompson said the growth is occurring “exactly where it’s needed most,” noting that more Kentuckians are increasing their education levels and improving future earnings, which he said strengthens healthcare facilities statewide. The enrollment gains come as Kentucky continues to face well-documented shortages in nursing, behavioral health, imaging sciences, respiratory therapy and other critical fields. State lawmakers have passed several measures in recent years to build the healthcare workforce. Senate Bill 10 in 2022 expanded nursing-related tools and licensure processes, and House Bill 200 in 2023 created the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, which provides scholarships, clinical expansion and targeted supports through public-private partnerships. Kentucky Today reports that CPE is asking legislators for \$1 million in the next biennium to expand its Healthcare Workforce Collaborative, which since 2022 has facilitated 12 summer bridge programs, distributed \$18.8 million in student scholarships and awarded \$8.5 million in institutional grants.

## Howell promotes survey

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, has released his 2026 Legislative Survey and is asking residents of the 1st Senate District to share their views ahead of the General Assembly’s next session. The online survey is open to constituents in Calloway, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon and Trigg counties and will remain available through Feb. 18. Howell said responses will help shape legislative priorities as lawmakers prepare for the 2026 session, which begins Jan. 6. The survey is accessible through Howell’s profile at Legislature.ky.gov and is intended only for residents who live within the district. Those unsure of their legislative district may use the “Find Your Legislator” tool on the General Assembly’s website. It is also available at the Early Bird Facebook page. “As we prepare for the upcoming legislative session, I want to hear directly from the people I represent about the issues that matter most,” Howell said, noting that constituent input is especially important in a budget year when lawmakers make decisions on spending for programs affecting rural communities, agriculture and waterways. Constituents may also share their views by contacting the General Assembly’s Legislative Message Line at 800-372-7181.

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# NEWS

Continued from page 1  
opened to imposters spewing misinformation, imitation journalism and manufactured narratives posing as reality. This trend is not hypothetical. In the United States, the number of local newspapers has declined dramatically in recent decades. Since 2005, the total number of newspapers has dropped from over 7,300 to fewer than 4,500 today. In the past year alone, an estimated 136 newspapers have closed across the country – more than two per week – contributing to the expansion of news deserts and leaving roughly 50 million Americans living in counties with limited or no local news source, according to the Associated Press.

# JAIL

Continued from page 1  
budget this fiscal year to use in case the jail couldn’t meet cash flow demands. Already, most of that has been moved and spent. About \$24,000 remains, and the county may move it on over this week, too. Crittenden County’s jail population has shifted noticeably in 2025, and figures recently presented by fiscal court underscore the financial pressure that continues to mount on the detention center. A comparison of the first 10 months of 2025 with the previous five-year inmate averages shows a significant decline in the jail’s most revenue-producing inmate categories – federal and state. State inmates are averaging 75.81 per day this year, well below the five-year average of 88.38. Federal inmate numbers are also down sharply at 58.12, compared to a historic norm of 68.69. Because these two categories generate the highest per diem payments, their decline represents a substantial revenue shortfall. Conversely, inmates from other counties and those arrested locally are trending above their five-year averages. Other-county inmates are up to 24.95 per day. Per diem rate for federal inmates is \$57, state inmates \$35.34, Lyon County inmates \$36 and other counties \$40. Lyon gets a preferred rate because it has a contract with Crittenden County. There is no reimbursement for county inmates. Those are a direct cost to the jail. In October, for instances, an average of just over 18 inmates per day cost the jail \$22,440 for the month. County inmates are those serving misdemeanor sentences, being held until their court date or those charged with a felony but have yet to be convicted. One inmate on the county dime while awaiting trial has been jailed for almost three years. Jail funding pressures are being felt across Kentucky, a reality highlighted during a September meeting of the state legislature’s Interim Joint Com-

mittee on Local Government. County leaders from Webster, Knox, Hardin and Grant counties testified that rising jail costs are steadily crowding out funding for other essential services. Webster County Judge-Executive Steve Henry said more than half of his county’s general fund property tax revenue now goes toward jail expenses, while Knox County Judge-Executive Mike Mitchell reported that \$3 million in occupational tax revenue will be diverted to jail operations this year instead of local development. Hardin County Judge-Executive Keith Taul told lawmakers that even maximum property tax increases and an expanded industrial taxing district have failed to keep pace with escalating jail costs. The Kentucky Association of Counties has made jail funding its top legislative priority heading into the 2026 General Assembly. KACo members unanimously agreed after that meeting in September to pursue changes to how Kentucky’s 77 county jails share costs with the state. County governments spent nearly \$350 million on jail operations in fiscal year 2023, excluding Fayette and Jefferson counties, according to KACo. Meanwhile, the state reimbursement rate of \$35.34 per day per state inmate has not kept up with inflation or the actual cost of housing inmates, county officials say. Part of the Kentucky Association of Counties push to reform jail reimbursement plans includes lobbying the General Assembly to reimburse counties for those days felony offenders spent in local jails before sentencing. Long-term financial data presented at the Crittenden County Fiscal Court meeting a few weeks ago paint clear picture of what it costs to operate a jail. Since 2016, the jail has posted an end-of-year deficit in most fiscal cycles. Even during years that ended in the black, gains were minimal, such as \$3,207 in FY19 or \$345 in FY22. And, in FY21, the surplus of \$241,849 was boosted by one-time ARPA-COVID relief funds, the county said. More recent years have

The implications are more than numerical. Counties without robust local journalism face not only information voids but also documented declines in civic engagement, accountability and community cohesion. In some areas, just one remaining news source now serves an entire county; in others, none exists. You can read the NPR story or hear it online; we posted a link on our social media. We remain committed to serving Crittenden County – and to evolving in a way that sustains local journalism well into the future.

*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.*

trended downward again, with a \$114,135 loss in FY24 and a deficit growing daily and already around \$500,000 less than six months into the fiscal year. The combination of falling revenue-producing inmate numbers and rising internal costs, partly due to inflation, is creating a structural imbalance that county leaders continue to confront. Making payroll this week will be a major challenge and could include pulling money from elsewhere in the county budget. A typical bi-weekly payroll cost is about \$82,000, which includes government tax liabilities, insurance and pension. With pressure mounting to solve the numbers crisis, Judge Newcom wants to bring in corrections specialists to analyze the jail’s staffing-to-inmate ratios. “There is no cost to the county to achieve the analysis,” Newcom said. “We are required to submit an official request as approved by the fiscal court.” If the survey finds the jail is overstaffed or understaffed, it could prompt additional difficult options – adding more deputies at greater cost to meet safety requirements or the grim prospects of reducing the jail’s workforce. Any recommendations resulting from the analysis would need to be implemented by the jailer, Newcom said. Jailer Hayes is in agreement with the plan, saying it would be beneficial to have the analysis done. “I will request it myself,” she said. Finding a solution to these pressing issues surrounding jail finances is paramount to the broader well-being of the county because there is no bailing out of the jail business. That is not an option because the county still owes \$5.8 million on the detention center, which was built in 2007. That figure includes principal and future interest. Its annual payments amount to around \$488,000. The debt is scheduled to be retired in 2037. County officials will continue working toward a way to win the numbers game.



**From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago**  
First Sgt. Everett Morris of Marion’s National Guard unit hands Lions Club committee chairman Bob Wilson a \$500 contribution to support the club’s Christmas project for underprivileged children in Crittenden County. The donation was part of a joint holiday effort between Co. A, 1st Battalion, 123d Armor and the Crittenden County Lions Club, with Guard members and Lions volunteers working to collect toys and gifts for local families.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
**December 18, 1975**  
■ Crittenden County secured two victories, defeating Dawson Springs and Livingston Central. Coach Jack Kenney praised the team’s improved defense and highlighted Daryl Sherer’s offensive play and the squad’s balanced scoring as key factors. The Rockets showed maturity in both games and improved their season record to 3-2.  
■ Representatives of Cub Scout Pack 202 won first place in the Smithland Christmas Parade with an entry featuring a log cabin. Leaders of the pack were Mrs. George Benton and Mrs. Everett Morris.  
■ Crittenden County 4-H Council and 4-H clubs planned to display a live Nativity scene on the courthouse lawn.  
■ Cave Springs General Baptist Church announced its Christmas program for Saturday evening.  
■ Danielle Studio of Dance presented segments of the musical “The Wiz” at Henderson Community College. Seventeen local teen 4-H members joined 75 others from the Pennyrite Area for a leadership workshop.

## 25 YEARS AGO

**December 21, 2000**  
■ Dale Kemper and Dean Ingram turned their job loss at Tyco Electronics into a business opportunity by establishing D&D Automation. The company, housed in Kemper’s converted horse barn, built machinery and molds and has secured a contract with its former employer. Gloria Threlkeld, Anna Ferrell and Bonnie Nation, along with other former Tyco employees, working for D&D adjusting Safetran relays. The venture created jobs and expanded to include robotic machines and replacement parts.  
■ The community Christmas program helped more than 90 Crittenden County families by distributing gifts of clothing, food and toys. Churches, businesses and individuals sponsored 178 children, and more than \$5,200 was collected to purchase food vouchers and gifts for 317 people. Treasurer Mickey Myers said the extra funding allowed the committee to provide more for families.  
■ Crittenden Fiscal Court took a stand against Rogers Group regarding former Hanson quarry employees, refusing to do business with the company until 20 former workers were guaranteed their jobs back. Magistrate Roger Simpson said Rogers Group needed to be upfront with the workers. The county was maintaining its contract with the company until another bid deadline could be set.

## 10 YEARS AGO

**December 17, 2015**  
■ “Uncle Myron’s Christmas Review” was the hottest ticket in town at Fohs Hall. The children’s holiday performance by the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation played to a packed house. Bennett McDaniel and Anna Boone portrayed Joseph and Mary, and Blake Beck played Baby Jesus.  
■ Crittenden County Middle School’s seventh-grade basketball team won the district championship, defeating Livingston and Lyon counties. Leading scorers were Preston Turley with 11, Tyler Boone with 10, Trace Adams with 8 and Gabe Mott with 7.  
■ Carolyn Byford and other Kentucky county clerks sold birdhouses made from retired Kentucky license plates to benefit veterans. The birdhouses, made by Winston Meade, were available for a \$20 donation, with proceeds supporting veterans’ nursing homes. The previous year’s sales raised more than \$53,000, helping provide furniture and other necessities.

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

## The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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# Lament beneath Christmas light

In Sixteenth Century Coventry, England a series of pageants centered around the birth of Christ were presented by the various trade guilds. Near the end of the Pageant of the Shearmen and Taylors (Tailors), the most haunting of all Christmas carols is sung.

The wise men have visited Jesus and given him gifts. Herod, on learning he was deceived by them, went into a rage and ordered all male infants in Bethlehem to be killed. Mary and Joseph, having been warned by an angel, decide to leave for Egypt. Before they exit, three young women carrying their infant sons enter. As Mary and Joseph leave with Jesus, they sing a Christmas Hymn that mourns the loss of the innocents, murdered by a jealous, raging king.

Lully lullay, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully, lullay.  
O sisters two, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing  
By by, lully lullay?  
Herod the King in his raging  
Charged he hath this



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist  
Guest Columnist

day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.  
That woe is me, poor child, for thee,  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing  
By by, lully lullay (ed. Ben Byram-Wigfield, 2024)  
Each of the three mothers then present their futile defenses. One offers herself in place of her child. One condemns the soldiers as deceivers. One threatens to hit them over the head with a pan. The soldiers, after murdering the infants, lament the vengeance that they know is coming because of their terrible deed – on them and on Herod.

The Pageant is based on the birth narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, with a prologue from the prophet Isaiah. It clearly reflects the Middle Ages, in which it was performed and eventually written down around 1534. It does, however, remind us that the stories we read in the Gospels involved real people. The arrival of the savior of the world was met immediately with jealousy and violence. It is an

uncomfortable episode in the early life of Jesus.

The Coventry Carol, as the hymn is known today, is a powerful representation of the quote from Jeremiah 31:15 in Matthew 2:18,

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.”

Ramah was a gathering place for those being carried away to Babylon, most of whom would never return. It was where the prophet Jeremiah was released from his bonds (Jer. 40:1). The depth of this quote in Matthew is worth some thought.

In Jeremiah 31, the verse stands nearly alone in the middle of a chapter full of hope and rescue. The prophet tells them in the next verse that the mourning is temporary and that the day is coming when the people will return and there will be a new covenant. It is in 31:33 that we read, “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

In the Old Testament the people were taken to Babylon because they had failed to stay faithful to

God. The prophets warned them repeatedly – both Israel and Judah. The weeping of those taken away, while horrible, could be understood.

In Matthew we are faced with a different dilemma. If we understand the word “martyr” to be “witness,” then the very first martyrs in the New Testament are those unnamed innocents who were killed because an ungodly king could not countenance a righteous threat to his power. It is a brutal reminder that the first response of the powers that be to the “Prince of Peace” was unmitigated cruelty and violence.

The Prince of Peace would eventually be killed by those powers, but not before he unleashed teaching that would change the world. He would also demonstrate that even death could not defeat the purpose of God. I wonder if some of those women in Bethlehem were in Jerusalem when the one whose arrival led to the death of their children saw the death of yet another innocent. I wonder if any of them were there watching Mary, or maybe even talking with her.

The “men of might” may have taken innocent lives, but we celebrate the one who gives it.

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

## God’s generous grace moves us to be generous

**Question:** When our church calls for a special offering, I look around at others giving big bills and surmise, “If I had their kind of money, I could be generous too!” I figure I should give something or I’ll feel guilty and so I won’t look miserly. I know this isn’t the right way to give, but how can I change my attitude about giving?

**Answer:** Generosity has nothing to do with the amount you have to give. It is a heart issue, and as

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison

Christ’s followers, we are called to a life of generosity. Jesus taught, “For where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Mt. 6:21). If your treasure is in the time and money you invested in God’s kingdom work through His church and in giving to others, then giving to God’s work through an extra love

offering isn’t an obligation, but an opportunity to show where your heart is.

Realizing God’s abundant grace poured out on you and me, we should become a generous giver. In His pre-existent status as God in heaven, Jesus willingly surrendered His residence in heaven and came to earth on our behalf. He simply didn’t come to earth for us. He purposely died a horrible death of suffering on the cross to pay our sin-debt (Phil. 2:5-8).

Through turning from our sins and trusting Him as our Savior and Lord, we come to possess a wealth beyond our comprehension. The riches we enjoy are spiritual in nature-abundant forgiveness, mercy and hope. As we realize God’s abundant grace to you and me, we will begin to live a generous lifestyle of open-handed giving to God’s work through our church and to all in genuine need.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.

■ A blessing box containing non-perishable food and household goods is located on the Bellville Street entrance of Marion United Methodist Church.

■ 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.

■ 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.

Does your group have something planned? Let us know. We post church notes here at no charge. Email to thepress@the-press.com or call (270) 965-3191

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m. “Whatever It Takes”  
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.  
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Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown  
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Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

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  
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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.”

Marion General Baptist Church

341 West Bellville St., Marion, KY  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship Service 11 a.m.  
Evening Service 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.  
Pastor: Bro. Wesley Lynn  
Come Worship With Us!

PINEY FORK

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Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible study 6 p.m.  
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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, Missionary Disciple  
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.  
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# Yule cards tell a fascinating tale of Christmas

As a child growing up, besides the anticipation of waiting for Christmas Eve, were the weeks and days before Christmas, which fun included decorating the house with mostly hand-made and colored pictures of Christmas designs, stars, bells and wreaths, and getting numerous beautiful Christmas cards from family and friends. These colorful cards would always be displayed with thumbtacks around a door frame or sitting in the window sills for us to see everyday.

Now almost a thing of the past are these beautiful Christmas cards that were mailed to family and friends near and far. If you didn't hear from these loved ones during the year you usually would get a card remembering you at Christmas.

In today's world, most greetings and good wishes are sent by either texting, or posting on Facebook, which means the little sentimental verses inside the card are now a thing of the past. Also the mail service isn't what it used to be, and the cost of stamps now can be an added hardship if you like to send a lot of cards.

I recently stumbled upon this article printed in the archives of The Press, and enjoyed reading some of the history of how these cards got started.

### First known as Yule Greetings

The story of Christmas in America is nowhere more charmingly illustrated than in the quaint and colorful Yule greetings exchanged in this country during the last century.

These antique cards tell a fascinating, frequently nostalgic take of the customs and traditions associated with the Christmas season of our grandparents' day.

Christmas greetings had their origin as early as 1843 and were almost elusively an English custom until their sudden and widespread popularity in America some 40 years later.

The first American Christmas cards were published in Boston by a man named Louis Prang. They cost a penny each and were modest in size and design by modern standards.

Prang, who would later be known as "the father of the American Christmas card," was a German refugee who had established a successful business selling visiting cards business advertisements and announcements both here and in England.

In 1872, he began printing brief Christmas sentiments on small visit-



Antique Yule cards like these would come to you in envelopes with a matching tissue paper lining on the inside of the envelope.

ing cards and found that they sold well in England. These unique, improvised Yule greetings, some bearing floral designs on black backgrounds, were among the cards introduced to the American public at the centennial.

When Prang noted that the idea of sending Christmas greetings was well received here, he set aside other interest to concentrate on the new Yule cards. Within two years, the greetings had been enlarged to postcard size. Longer texts and pictorial designs appeared, and a series of cards with flowers, birds and animals became very popular.

Curiously, although texts were common, few if any Nativity scenes were printed on the 19th century cards. Holly and mistletoe, the traditional Christmas symbols, made an early appearance as did Santa Claus and his reindeer, popularized earlier in the century by the famous Clement Moore poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas."

There is abundant evidence of artistic designs still in use today, such as New England snow scenes, church bells, sleighs pulled by teams of horses and firesides with Christmas stockings hung at the mantel.

The great era of the Yule Christmas art and design cards flourished for only a brief span. Its decline,

beginning in 1895, resulted from the overwhelming competition of cheap prints from Europe.

Colored penny postcards, mostly from Germany and still carrying the Santa Claus and holly theme, flooded the market and this virtual monopoly continued until after the first World War.

American cards reasserted themselves in the 1920s when the impersonal postcard was superseded by more formal engraved cards with sentimental verses, again enclosed in an envelope. These have grown steadily in popularity and in artistic excellence ever since.

### November 1949

Some more good memories from the past are found in the November 1949 edition of The Crittenden Press.

Things were getting busy, stores were decorating their windows and filling their shelves with lots of things for us to buy for Christmas. The Christmas parade would be getting under way on Friday, Nov. 25, 1949.

Everything is in readiness for Marion's first Christmas Opening and Santa Claus parade to be held this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Santa Claus is due to arrive at the Marion airport about 4 o'clock and will join the mile-long street parade to pass through the main business section of the city immediately upon arrival. A group of prominent businessmen and women will meet Santa and accompany him to the city where he will join the parade.

More than 25 beautiful floats will be in the parade,

along with several high school bands and all the comic characters from the funny pages of the daily newspapers, such as Mut and Jeff, Pop Eye, Mickey Mouse and others.

In the line of march will be high school bands from Princeton, Sturgis, Morganfield, Lyon County and Rosiclair, Ill., who tap out the martial rhythms for the high-stepping drum majorettes.

Lack of space forbids us describing the floats, but the leading floats will be of a religious nature depicting the birth of Christ child and the Wise Men, while there will be several other religious floats in the parade.

The Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, American Legion, VFW Post, PTA Club Board of Education, city officials, and others will be telling of the history and use of fluor spar, this community's main product.

The King and Queen will ride a float, and others too numerous to mention.

The city will be gaily decorated with electric lights of various colors and a beautiful Christmas tree has been erected in the courthouse yard that will attract the attention of any passerby.

Marion stores are made beautiful with glistening Christmas trimmings and a nice supply of holiday merchandise topping all counters, shelves and racks of the many department stores and business houses. Some merchants will erect small trees in front of their stores just at the edge of the sidewalk which will add to the attractiveness of the gaily bedecked city.

One of the main attractions for the thousands of visitors expected to be in the city this afternoon and evening is the "Window Mistakes" each merchants plans to have in his window. There will be mistakes for the onlookers to find and the first person finding the mistake and reporting to the manager will receive a valuable prize in merchandise.

The stores will stay open after supper, until 10 p.m., to accommodate the shoppers and with plenty of extra clerks to handle the rush immediately following the address by Santa Claus at the close of the parade. Only a peek at the large display of holiday merchandise will convince any person that Marion is the logical shopping center of this section of Kentucky and many visitors will return in days to come to trade with local merchants because of the widespread advertising given the city as the result of this Christmas opening. Stores will be staying open later each night during the Christmas season.

The merchants and committees in charge have spared no expense in planning and making this the greatest and best day Marion and Crittenden

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Called session of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be held at the County Office Complex, 200 Industrial Drive, Marion, KY on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of a Public Hearing related to Second Reading of proposed Ordinance 25-012; Approval of County Clerk 2026 Fee Budget, Maximum Salary Allowance, and Policy and Procedure Manual; Review and Award 2026 Annual Operation Bids; Review claims as necessary.

## The Crittenden County Schools' School Report Card

can be viewed at the following web address:

<https://reportcard.kyschools.us/>



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# GO ROCKETS!



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**legal notices**

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court Marion, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement: Melinda DeBoe of 2270 Briarfield Rd., Princeton, KY 42445 administratrix of Timothy Grimes, deceased, whose address was 8903 S.R. 70, Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on January 7, 2026. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-50-c)

Notice is hereby given that on December 10, 2025 Vicki Burris of 4440 S.R. 506, Marion, KY 42064 and Stanley Lott of 50 Elementary Circle, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed co-administrators of Michael Elwood Lott, deceased, whose address was 50 Elementary Circle, Marion, KY 42064. Hon. Rebecca Johnson, P.O. Box 415, Marion, KY 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-administrators before the 10th day of June, 2026 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-50-c)

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Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of December 2, 2025, Pennyrlie West Park Industrial Development Authority is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Pennyrlie West Park Industrial Development Authority is Jaime Smith, who may be reached at (270) 886-9484 and/or 300 HAMMOND DR HOPKINSVILLE, KY 42240. The last known Board Members are: Michael Williams, Perry Newcom, Jaime Smith, Dakota Young, Stan Humphries, Jason Vincent. The district was noncompliant with FY2018 - Attestation Engagement Every 4 Years, FY2022 - Attestation Engagement Every 4 Years. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 8.51 Acres - \$199,900

This 8.51 +/- acre property with shop, utilities, and open ground in Crittenden County, Kentucky is a great investment or business location with plenty of space for expansion and equipment.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 20.50 Acres - \$100,450

This 20.5 +/- acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers diverse timber, food plot potential, established trails, and excellent deer and turkey hunting habitat with build site opportunities.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 30.91 Acres - \$151,459

This 30.91 +/- acres in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers prime deer and turkey hunting with food plot potential, diverse timber, trail system, and build site opportunities.

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.

Crittenden County, KY – 12.42 Acres -\$357,500

This 12.42 +/- acre tract features a brick 3 bed/2 bath one-level home with stainless steel appliances, island kitchen, covered porch and back patio. Also includes a barn, fenced pasture, workshop, and mixed use opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY – 16.41 Acres - \$335,000

This 16.41 +/- acres near Marion features a 3 bed/2 bath, 1,760 sq. ft. home with new metal roof, open concept, stainless steel appliances, partial covered deck, 3-car garage, two ponds, and pasture and woods mix.

Crittenden County, KY – 70 Acres - \$244,900

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

Crittenden Co. KY 175 Acres - \$774,900

This 175 +/- acres in Crittenden County includes a rustic 2BR, 1BA cabin, food plots, blinds, ponds, Coffield Creek, and diverse habitat. Prime layout for whitetail and turkey hunting with multiple access points.

Crittenden Co. KY 401.50 Acres - \$2,290,000

401 +/- acres in Crittenden County with a 4BR lodge, proven hunting history, food plots, blinds, creeks, pond, and diverse habitat managed for trophy deer and turkey. Turn-key and ready to hunt.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!

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Crittenden Co. & Webster Co. KY 159.913 Acres - \$499,000

This 159 +/- acre property in Crittenden and Webster Counties includes a 2BR home, garage, 2.35 miles of Tradewater River frontage, WRP habitat, blinds, food plot sites and proven hunting history.

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$288,200.00

Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$357,000.00  
Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres – \$520,725.00  
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres – \$547,400.00  
Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600.00  
Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - \$2,243,750.00  
Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - \$3,016,450.00

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 - \$35,000

This 2 +/- acre commercial lot in Marion city limits features flat terrain with shade trees, 700 feet of road frontage, utilities, and a prime build site near the park.

SOLD! Crittenden Co. KY 0.50 Acre - \$144,900

Three-bed, 1.5-bath home with open living area, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, newer roof, carport, storage, yard, washer/dryer access on half-acre lot in Marion city limits.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 13.99 Acres - \$124,900

This 13 +/- acres includes a 3BR, 2BA home in Crittenden County, quiet rural setting with outbuildings, yard, food plot areas, timbered ridges, and deer and turkey hunting opportunities.

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**THURSDAY**  
Rockets vs St. Mary at Christmas Tourn.  
Lady Rockets at Carlisle County  
**TUESDAY**  
Rockets at Murray High  
Lady Rockets at Union County

Middle school results

Here is scoring from recent Crittenden County Middle School games.

**5th District 8th Grade Tournament**  
**BOYS**  
**LAST WEEKEND’S RESULTS**  
**Semifinal Round**  
**Lyon County 50, Crittenden 9**  
Myers 7, Adamson 1, Taylor 1.  
**5th District 8th Grade Tournament**  
**Semifinal Round**  
**Crittenden 36, Trigg 25**  
Louden 4, M. Penn 7, Nelson 11, Mattingly 6, Binkley 8  
**District Championship**  
**Lyon 34, Crittenden 21**  
M. Penn 6, Hearrell 13, K. Penn 2  
  
**Final Regular Season Game**  
**John Paul 32, Crittenden 28 (OT)**  
M. Penn 3, Nelson 11, Hearrell 7, Mattingly 11, Binkley 12, Kinnis 2



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN

Wring sets LCHS record

Livingston Central senior Logan Wring last week broke the school scoring record set in 1959 by Don Ringstaff. Wring scored 40 points in the Cardinals’ victory over Crittenden County on Friday, eclipsing Ringstaff’s previous record of 1,838 with his 37th point of the game. Wring is pictured above playing defense against Crittenden’s Brayden Poindexter.

OUTDOORS  
Hunting Seasons

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

Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
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
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Deer muzzleloader	Dec 13-21
Dove	Dec 20 - Jan 11
Deer Free Youth	Dec 27-28
Crow	Jan 4 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Feb 14
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

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Rocket girls slip by Lyon, Boone now No. 2

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County capitalized on late Lyon County turnovers to escape with a key Fifth District girls basketball victory, 53-51, Tuesday night at Rocket Arena.  
The Lady Rockets improved to 5-2 overall and 2-0 in district play, while Lyon slipped to 4-2 and 1-1.  
Crittenden built an early cushion behind strong perimeter shooting and led 22-13 after one quarter, then carried a 31-25 advantage into halftime. The Lady Rockets pushed the lead to 13 in the third quarter and went ahead 45-32 before Lyon closed the gap to 45-35 entering the fourth.  
Crittenden went scoreless from the field in the final quarter, allowing Lyon to rally and tie the game at 47-all late. Lyon, however, turned the ball over on an inbounds play to end regulation.  
In overtime, Lyon again failed to convert late chances near the basket and committed another frontcourt turnover in the closing seconds. Crittenden made two free throws to seal the win.  
Boone led the Lady Rockets with 19 points, knocking down six three-pointers. She also moved into second place on the program’s all-time scoring list, passing Cassidy Moss (1,824 points) and now trailing only Taylor Guess (2,643). Jordyn Hodge added 17 points, while Andrea Federico scored 10 – four above her season average – and made key contributions on both ends of the floor.

**Girls roll at Livingston**  
Call it an ego check if you care to.  
Certainly, Crittenden County’s 73-34 loss to Calloway County on Saturday in

the Mustang Hoopla at McCracken County delivered a healthy heaping of humble pie.  
Calloway, ranked No. 1 in the First Region and arguably one of the best girls teams in all of western Kentucky, raked the Lady Rockets over the coals, killing them with a thousand cuts and nearly as many points.  
From the opening tip, the Lady Lakers were in complete command. For Crittenden, it was like being stranded on Gilligan’s Island with no rescue in sight. Behind its two Division I commits – Sayler Lowe and Jaidan Koch – Calloway sank three after three with pinpoint shooting and feasted on second-chance buckets. The Lady Rockets were stunned by a 16-3 deficit in the first four minutes and trailed 27-8 after the first period.  
With Lowe, who plans to play collegiately at North Alabama, holding Crittenden’s top scorer Anna Boone scoreless in the first half, the Lady Rockets trailed by 32 at the break. Calloway’s active defense kept Crittenden at bay throughout, while Lowe scored 24 points with ease and Koch finished with 19 points, including three of her team’s eight three-pointers. Koch plans to play college at Southern Indiana. The dynamic duo is rated as the No. 1 and No. 2 players in the First Region, respectively, according to the Courier Journal.  
Crittenden got a team-high 11 points from sophomore Jordyn Hodge. Elliot Evans finished with seven, while Boone had three. Bristyn Rushing and Morgan Stewart combined for eight points in the post.



Anna Boone guards Jenna Coursey in the Lady Rockets’ key Fifth District win Tuesday at Rocket Arena. Boone scored 19 points, moving her into second place on the program’s career scoring list behind Taylor Guess.

**Girls roll at Livingston**  
Winning at Livingston Central has rarely come easy for Crittenden County, but Friday night’s trip proved to be anything but troublesome as the Lady Rockets rolled to a 74-30 Fifth District victory.  
Crittenden overwhelmed Livingston from the opening tip, using early 3-point shooting and a relentless full-court press to sprint to a 10-0 lead and a commanding 30-6 advantage after one quarter. The Lady Rockets continued

to pile it on in the second period, taking a 46-14 lead into halftime.  
Livingston Central, which returned just one starter from last season’s squad, never found an answer. A running clock was used throughout the second half, allowing Crittenden to empty its bench while maintaining control.  
Crittenden beat Livingston for the sixth straight time and improved to 4-1 with the district win.  
Livingston Central dropped to 0-2, losing to the Lady Rockets for the 13th time in 14 encounters.

Lyon County	13	25	35	47	51
Crittenden Co.	22	31	45	47	53
LYON – P.Coatham 20, Taylor 8, Collins 12, S.Coatham 4, Coffman 7, Defew, Coursey. FG 18. 3-pointers 6 (Taylor 2, Collins 2, P.Coatham, Coffman). FT 9-12.					
CRITTENDEN – Boone 19, Evans 3, Hodge 17, Federico 10, Rushing 4, Stewart. FG 19. 3-pointers 10 (Boone 6, Hodge 3, Evans). FT 5-9.					

Crittenden County	8	18	28	34
Calloway County	27	50	67	73
CRITTENDEN – Boone 3, Evans 7, Hodge 11, Federico 1, Rushing 4, Holeman 2, Stewart 4, Berry 2, Champion, Grau, Rich, Kemmer. FG 12. 3-pointers 3 (Evans, Boone, Hodge). FT 7-8.				
CALLOWAY - Koch 19, Emery 9, Franklin 1, Haynes 7, Grooms, Arnett 1, Stark 4, Perkins 8, Lowe 24. FG 29. 3-pointers 8 (Koch 3, Emery 3, Stark, Lowe). FT 7-14.				

Livingston Central	6	14	24	30
Crittenden County	30	46	59	74
CRITTENDEN – Boone 10, Evans 15, Hodge 10, Federico 9, Rushing 8, Holeman 3, Stewart 6, Berry 2, Champion 7, Rich 3, Kemmer 3, Grau. FG 27. 3-pointers 12 (Evans 3, Boone 2, Hodge 2, Federico, Holeman, Champion, Kemmer, Rich). FT 8-14.				
LIVINGSTON – A.Leahy 3, Collins 8, T.Leahy 10, Jennings 3, Meyers 6, Palmer, Wring. FG 10. 3-pointers 2 (Collins). FT 8-9.				

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County dipped to 0-2 in Fifth District action and 0-8 overall as Lyon County displayed why it is ranked among the state’s top 20 teams, beating the Rockets 109-25 at Marion on Tuesday.  
The game was never in doubt from the jump as Lyon led by 26 after the first period and Crittenden was scoreless in the second quarter.  
CCHS will open play Thursday at 6 p.m., in the St. Mary Christmas Tournament at Paducah against the tournament host. The Rockets have lost five straight to the Vikings dating back to 2018.  
**Rocket lose at Russellville**  
Crittenden County fell to 0-7 on the season with a 73-27 loss at Russellville (3-2) on Friday.  
Russellville seized control early, leading 16-7 after the first quarter and stretching the margin to 39-14 by halftime. The Panthers continued to pull away in the second half, outscoring Crittenden 34-13 over the final two periods.  
Crittenden was led by Brady Dayberry, Brayden Poindexter and Logan Martin with 5 points apiece. The Rockets made 10 field goals, hit one 3-pointer and went 6 of 8 from the free-throw line.  
Russellville placed six players in double figures.  
**Rockets defeated at Smithland**  
Crittenden struggled to protect the basketball and convert shots Friday night as Livingston Central rolled to a 90-43 victory in CCHS’s Fifth District opener.  
Turnovers and defensive breakdowns plagued the Rockets, allowing the Cardinals a steady diet of open looks, and Livingston made the most of them. Logan Wring caught fire early, scor-



Crittenden County guard Jack Porter makes a pass during Tuesday game against Lyon County.

ing 16 points in the first quarter and finishing with a game-high 40 and breaking the LCHS career scoring record. The Cardinals built a commanding 54-26 lead by halftime.  
Crittenden did get some offensive production from Brady Dayberry and Brayden Poindexter, who scored 14 and 12 points, respectively. Together, they accounted for more than half of the Rockets’ scoring. Crittenden continues to play without returning starter Drake Young, who has missed the past three games with an injury.  
The loss dropped the Rockets to 0-6 on the season, while Livingston improved to 2-1. The Cardinals have now

won five straight in the series after Crittenden reeled off 10 consecutive victories dating back to 2019.  
  
Lyon County 36 66 92 109  
Crittenden Co. 10 10 15 25  
LYON – Kirk 22, Co.Collins 8, Ca.Collins 11, Coffman 13, Defew 8, Reddick 9, Ramey 7, Cain 2, Taylor 15, McDaniels 10, Cotham 4. FG 49. 3-pointers 14. FT 9-13.  
CRITTENDEN – Martin 2, Young 2, Ellington, Topp 3, B.Poindexter 1, Dayberry 7, Porter, Bumpus, C.Poindexter 4, Hughes, Bryant 6, Murray, Counts, Hutchison. FG 10. 3-pointers 3 (Bryant 2, Topp). FT 2-8.  
  
Crittenden County 4 26 41 43  
Livingston Central 33 54 78 90  
CRITTENDEN – Martin 3, Porter 6, Dayberry 14, B.Poindexter 12, Elling-

ton 3, Topp 2, C.Poindexter, Bryant, Counts, Jones 3, Hutchinson, Bumpus. FG 14. 3-pointers 5 (Dayberry 2, B.Poindexter 2, Ellington). FT 10-16.  
LIVINGSTON – Walker 19, Ross 3, Garner 2, Zaim 12, Wring 40, Gainey 2, Messenger 5, Chittenden, Sinks 5, Holman 2, Peck. FG 35. 3-pointers 9 (Wring 6, Walker 2, Ross). FT 11-17.  
  
Crittenden Co. 7 14 18 27  
Russellville. 16 39 61 73  
CRITTENDEN – Ellington 2, Porter, Bumpus, Topp 2, Dayberry 5, Jones 2, Martin 5, C.Poindexter 2, Hughes, Murray 2, B.Poindexter 5, Counts. FG 10. 3-pointers 1 (Poindexter). FT 6-8.  
RUSSELLVILLE – Vanterpool 10, Nourse 6, Coleman 8, Gardner 8, Dickerson 12, Coleman 5, Clayton 2, Davanport 3, Browder 9, Collier, Marrow 10, Bertran. FG 31. 3-pointers 4. FT 7-16.


**A good game plan involves a trip to Marion's Dairy Queen**



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Kristi & Kurt Beavers





Crittenden County High School held its annual football awards ceremony Sunday. Among those recognized at the event were (front from left) Joel Bumpus, Turnover Award and Greg “Dozer” Belt Award; Jay Stevenson, Most Improved Defensive Player; Dakota Sosh, Solid Rocket Award; Brayden Poindexter, RBI Leader; Tackling Points Leader, Most Solo Tackles in a Season (102) plus other statistical honors, The Crittenden Press/Paul E. Mick Leadership Award, Rocket Captain and Most Valuable Defensive Player; Caden Howard, Career Receiving Yards Record (2,895) plus other statistical award, Rocket Captain and Most Valuable Player; Quinn Summers, various statistical awards plus Rocket Captain and Most Valuable Offensive Player; Trae Taylor, 110 Percent Award; Michael Counts, Roach Award; Braydin Brandsasse, Most Valuable Lineman Award; Keegan Pierson, Marion Feed Mill/Rocket Grit Iron Award; (back) Eli Lovell, Most Valuable Special Teams Player; Mitchell Brown, Most Improved Special Teams Player and various statistical awards; Gary Hall, Most Improved Offensive Player; Aiden Musser, JV Defensive MVP; Noah Byford, Solid Rocket Award; Davis Perryman, Most Improved Offensive Player; Logan Nolan, Selfless Rocket Award; Hunter Curnel, Marion Feed Mill/Rocket Grit Iron Award; Conner Poindexter, JV Captain. Not pictured: Hayden Hughes, JV Offensive MVP.



## Chess Award

Crittenden County Elementary School third-grader Zander McFarland last weekend earned a second-place finish in the K-3 division at a McCracken County Schools chess tournament. It is McFarland's first year competing with the school's Blue Knight chess team.

# Marion City Council hears updates on a variety of fronts

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council addressed public works concerns, utility updates and long-term planning during its regular monthly meeting Monday.

During citizen comments, Ric Carder said several areas around town appear unkempt, citing candy and debris in streets, and suggested the city consider using inmate labor to help address cleanup issues. Mayor D'Anna Browning said she agreed with much of his concern.

Public Works Director Greg Tabor told the council the city's street sweeper has been out of service for two to three years and that parts for the leaf vacuum remain unavailable and that's why fall leaf collection did not begin as scheduled last month. He said renting a street sweeper is a short-term option.

Progress was reported on the city's water meter replacement project. Engineer Allen Robinson of Eclipse Engineering said 1,431 meters have been installed, with 81 remaining. Installation slows near the end of the project partly because the remaining meters serve larger users, including plants and schools. Officials expect the system to be fully operational early next year, allowing meters to be read electronically from City Hall. Robinson said the technology is among the best currently available and that the meters and 10 years of subscriptions were funded entirely through grant money. The batteries have an estimated 10-year lifespan, and some city leaders expressed a desire to begin a long-term plan for their replacement because the devices will likely all begin to fail at the same time. Robinson said battery replacement costs would likely be lower



Marion's contract engineer, Allen Robinson, unveiled a framed illustration depicting how the city's new wastewater treatment plant operates.

than full meter replacement.

Robinson also reported that the city's new wastewater treatment plant has been treating sewage for nearly a year and a half and is operating efficiently. Loan repayment figures have been calculated, and the facility is considered well run. Discussion followed regarding decommissioning the old wastewater plant on the east side of US 60 near the Marion City Limits, which Robinson explained would involve pumping out and disposing of any remaining contents and cleaning the basins. Robinson said the old plant is out of commission, but removing the old structures and reclaiming the area would be costly.


Robinson also updated the council on water line replacement projects on Country Drive, Poplar Street and West Depot Street, where aging galvanized lines have been replaced with new ones.

Council members approved the city's annual audit and discussed plans to improve transparency by posting its independently conducted audits on the city's website. An ordinance requiring future councils to publish annual audits is expected to be introduced in January.

Discussion also touched on the city's sewer plant debt, which officials said is scheduled to be paid off in 2055. Once paid, the environmental fee could be removed from water and sewer bills. There is some anticipation of further increases in the fee, because the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, which enforces the rate, had given Marion a stay months ago because of its ongoing water crisis.

A resolution concerning a new water purchase agreement with the Crittenden-Livingston Water District was tabled until the January meeting. The previous contract, signed in 2022, has expired. The proposed agreement sets a rate of \$3.78 per 1,000 gallons for five years, up from the previous rate of \$3.34. City officials said they sought a guaranteed minimum daily volume but were unable to secure that provision. Council members discussed long-term planning and potential emergency scenarios before agreeing to postpone action.

Final readings were approved for ordinances regarding nuisances, penalties for ordinance violations and a pay plan for classified and non-elected officials.

A group of students are seated at desks in a classroom, working on laptops. They appear to be engaged in a collaborative learning activity.

**Named illustration depicting**

City Police Chief Bobby West reported that the department's newest officer, Rome Dickerson, will graduate Jan. 8 from the police academy and Fire

Chief Red Howton said his department has purchased a newer fire truck from Marshall County. The city contributed \$100,000 toward the purchase, and the truck will be re-lettered, serviced and placed into operation very soon.

Officials provided a brief update on water supply conditions, noting the city uses approximately 300,000 gallons per day, with about 80,000 gallons coming from the Crittenden-Livingston Water District. Water Plant Supervisor Jeff Black said the city has roughly 78 days of water available in its lakes without rainfall, which means the city is in much better shape volume wise than it was in late summer and early

fall. Manganese levels are down, Black said, which should eliminate discoloration of water and sediment left in bowls.

Planning and zoning reports showed fewer complaints than usual. Officials said many of the issues identified involved junked vehicles or properties discovered during routine inspections rather than citizen complaints. City Administrator Adam Ledford said the city makes every effort to contact property owners and follows established legal procedures, including public notices, when enforcement action is required.

The Marion City Council will next meet on the fourth Monday in January.

# ABSOLUTELANDAUCTION

Saturday, December 20th, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

**FARM LOCATIONS:** Princeton-Olney Road  
& Old Road Bed off Archie Ortt Rd • Princeton, KY 42445

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**FARM 2**

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**TRACTS 10-18**



**FARM 3**

**81.79± Acres**  
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**TRACTS 19-20**




**FARM 4**

**112.71± Acres**  
Cruise the Timber

**TRACT 21**






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**REAL ESTATE TERMS:** The auction shall be conducted in four distinct groups: **Tracts 1-9, Tracts 9-18, Tracts 19-20 & Tract 21.** No combinations between these four groups will be permitted. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the final bid price & included in contract price. A 15% deposit is due day of auction, balance due in 30 days. The property is being sold on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, and no warranty or representation, either express or implied, concerning the property is made by the Seller or Auction Company. Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting his or her own independent inspections/investigations, inquires, and due diligence concerning the property. Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. **SURVEY:** The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer responsible for 50% of the survey cost. **DEEDS:** Farms 1, 2, 3 sell by warranty deeds. Farm 4 sells by quit claim deed.








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# Rare day in court; Paris case headed to trial

STAFF REPORT

Unprecedented activity unfolded in Crittenden County Circuit Court last week, where Judge Daniel Heady presided over a single docket that included a murder case, three attempted-murder cases and two manslaughter cases – an extraordinarily rare concentration of alleged violent crime for this community. Such cases seldom appear here, making Thursday’s lineup one of the most unusual in local judicial history.

In the murder case, it appeared for a time last Thursday that prosecutors and defense attorneys had reached a plea agreement in the long-pending murder case against Timothy W. Paris. But after extended discussions, negotiations broke down, and both sides told Circuit Judge Daniel Heady they will instead prepare for a jury trial early this spring.

Another pretrial hearing is set for Feb. 12. Judge Heady was advised that new plea offers had been floated during last week’s discussions, but no agreement was reached between Richard Walls, Paris’ court-appointed public defender, and Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Wes Hunt. Walls told the court he intends to file “quite a few” motions before the next hearing.

Paris, 41, is charged with murder in the Feb. 28, 2022, shooting death of his father, 80-year-old Jerry Paris, at the elder Paris’ home off Blackburn Church Road in rural eastern Crittenden County. Investigators allege that Paris shot his father twice with a .41-caliber handgun during a confrontation at the residence. He has been held on a \$1 million bond since his arrest.

The complaint against Paris advanced quickly in 2022. Probable cause was found in March, and a Crittenden County grand jury indicted him for murder the following month. But court activity largely stalled after that point. For more than a year, Paris did not appear in court as his representation changed and other delays emerged.

With plea negotiations now stalled, both sides are preparing for trial. Jury selection is scheduled for Friday, March 27, and three days have been

## CRITTENDEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

set aside for the trial – March 30-31 and April 1.

A Crittenden County conspiracy-to-commit-murder case returned to Circuit Court last Thursday, but hearings for all three defendants were continued as attorneys and investigators work through what prosecutors describe as an extensive, multi-agency case involving a winter shooting in the Mexico community.

The charges stem from a Feb. 10 incident in which a man in his 30s was shot in the left hip while driving along KY 70 near Jackson School Road around 4 a.m. The bullet entered through the driver’s side door of his Ford Mustang. The unnamed victim recovered after driving himself to Crittenden Community Hospital.

A months-long investigation by the West Kentucky Violent Crime Task Force, Lyon County Sheriff’s Department and Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head led to sealed indictments and the July arrests of Allison Robinson, 25, of Marion; Travis Robinson, 47, of Marion; and Jonathan Chase York, 40, of Marion. According to investigators, evidence presented to the grand jury indicated the three worked together to facilitate the murder of Joseph Bentkowski and allegedly lured him to an address on KY 70. Authorities also believe some evidence was destroyed by cutting up the firearm used in the shooting.

York is charged with attempted murder, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, tampering with physical evidence and being a persistent felony offender. His attorney was not able to be in court last week, so his case was continued.

Travis Robinson faces conspiracy to commit murder, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, tampering with evidence and a persistent felony offender enhancement. His hearing was postponed to Feb. 12 after the court was advised that transport could not be arranged from Roederer Correctional Complex in LaGrange.

Allison Robinson is charged with conspiracy to commit murder. Her case was contin-

ued to Jan. 8 after arguments over whether she should remain jailed or be released to a treatment program. Robinson, who recently had a baby and has been in substance-abuse treatment, asked the court to consider home incarceration or placement at Passages Transitional Housing Program in Elizabethtown, which indicated it would accept her, according to testimony. Her public defender, Elana Samuels, said Robinson would reside with her grandmother rather than at the location where the alleged offenses occurred if released.

Prosecutor Wes Hunt opposed any release, citing the severity of the charges, risk of flight and safety concerns. He told the court that home incarceration is not feasible in Crittenden County. Hunt said the investigation involves roughly 40 gigabytes of evidence already provided in discovery. He said the ATF initiated the case and that a joint trial is likely due to overlapping events. He referenced varying levels of culpability among the defendants but did not characterize Robinson as the least responsible.

The defense argued that suspicion against Robinson is largely based on a video recorded on her mother’s property. In that footage, she is seen ducking and covering her ears when a shot was allegedly fired, behavior Samuels said shows she could have been a bystander rather than a participant. Hunt countered that the victim was struck just centimeters from the femoral artery, emphasizing the life-threatening nature of the shooting.

Judge Heady reduced Robinson’s bond from \$250,000 to \$100,000 and said he may consider further changes later. Her next pretrial hearing is Jan. 8.

In another high-profile case, two men accused in a drug-related death in 2023 were arraigned on second-degree manslaughter charges.

Dustin McKinney, 35, and Andrew Bryan, 29, appeared before Judge Heady for the first time in circuit court. They separately face Class C felony charges filed in sealed indict-



Murder suspect Timothy Paris is at the defense podium in Crittenden Circuit Court last week flanked by public defender Richard Walls. Paris is accused of fatally shooting his father in 2022.

ments issued by the Crittenden County Grand Jury on Nov. 13. The two are charged in connection with the death of a 22-year-old man found deceased at McKinney’s home in Greenwood Heights in June 2023.

Both men are being held in the Crittenden County Detention Center.

Joseph Michael Cervantes, 34, of Marion pleaded guilty to second-degree strangulation and fourth-degree assault (domestic violence, minor injury) for grabbing the neck of his 53-year-old stepmother during an altercation at their home. The incident occurred Sept. 9. The stepmother gave a moving statement describing the assault, saying she had bruises on her neck from the approximately 20 seconds Cervantes held his hands around her throat, staring at her with hate. She told the court she continues to struggle emotionally because of the encounter. Cervantes was sentenced to five years in prison on the felony charge and 65 days on the misdemeanor, with the time to run concurrent. The commonwealth did not oppose shock probation after 90 days.

Justin E. Rose, 34, of Marion pleaded guilty to felony methamphetamine possession and trafficking charges along with other misdemeanors, and was sentenced to a year in prison. The term will run consecutive to revocations in two other cases for trafficking and possession of drugs dating back to 2018 and 2019. His total sentence will be 11 years.

Court records indicate that in November 2024, police and officials with the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services went to a home on East Mound Park and found drugs and a 9-year-old inside the residence.

Beverly A. Sigler, 58, of Marion pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine), a Class D felony. Additional charges of possession of a defaced firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors, were dismissed. The charges stem from a Jan. 17 investigation, and she was indicted in October. Sigler was sentenced to three years on the felony drug charge and given pretrial diversion for five years.

## Fed cuts rate; mortgages above 6%

The Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate last week for the third straight meeting, lowering it a quarter point to about 3.6%, the lowest level in nearly three years, while signaling it may pause further reductions despite pressure from President Donald Trump for steeper cuts. Fed officials projected just one rate cut next year and showed deep

internal divisions, with three dissenting votes and a wide split in their 2026 outlook. The move comes amid persistent inflation as consumer prices are up 25% since 2020, and a cooling job market, with unemployment rising to 4.4%. Meanwhile, the interest rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage is averaging around 6.1 to 6.5 percent.

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