

## Juvenile caught after police chase in town

A 16-year-old Marion boy is charged as a juvenile with multiple offenses relating to a high-speed chase that went through the heart of town Monday shortly after 1 p.m. The youth is alleged to have stolen a vehicle Sunday night near the intersection of Main and Gum and streets, and left it at a home in southern Crittenden County. The next day, he allegedly took another vehicle, a Toyota Camry, from a driveway in Greenwood Heights. Law enforcement engaged him in a pursuit on KY 91 North and chased the vehicle at speeds in excess of 75 mph. After proceeding through city side streets, the chase continued onto KY 120 toward Shady Grove and included multiple officers from Marion Police Department, Kentucky State Police and Crittenden County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Evan Head and deputies corralled the teen, using a "legal intervention" on Providence Road to stop the Camry after about a 30-minute pursuit. No one was injured, but the stolen car and two sheriff's cruisers were damaged.

Coincidentally, one of the victims of auto theft has now had two different vehicles stolen over the past couple of years in unrelated incidents.

## Back to the jury box

Crittenden County Grand Jury was brought back into session Wednesday afternoon to finish up a handful of cases continued from last week. The grand jury has heard an extraordinary number of cases this month and Wednesday was its final duty before a new panel is convened for 2025. A grand jury serves for one full year. It is made up of local residents. The grand jury convenes in private session to evaluate accusations against persons charged with felonious crime and decides if the evidence warrants a bill of indictment. Its job is the preliminary stage in the adjudication of a criminal case.

## Winter solstice












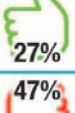








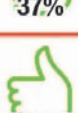
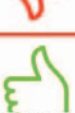












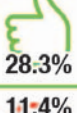



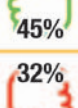




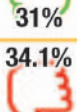
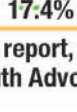
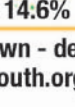




This Saturday marks the official start of winter, ushering in the shortest day and longest night of the year. Known as the winter solstice, this astronomical event occurs when the Earth's axial tilt is farthest from the sun, resulting in minimal daylight hours.

For stargazers and those who enjoy crisp winter evenings, the solstice also offers an opportunity to welcome the changing season. After Saturday, daylight hours will gradually begin to increase as we move closer to spring, which officially starts on March 20.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Conservation District meets at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 19, at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court meets at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 19 at the county office complex.
- Livingston County Fiscal Court will have a special meeting at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 23 at the county office complex.

# STATE OF KIDS

| Kids Count County Profiles  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2022 Reporting Data   |  | KENTUCKY   | CRITTENDEN   | LIVINGSTON   |
| <div>ECONOMIC SECURITY</div> <div></div> | <b>CHILDREN IN POVERTY</b><br>(below 100% of the federal poverty level)                          | <br>20.6% | <br>28.4% | <br>22.6% |
|   | <b>CHILDREN IN LOW- INCOME FAMILIES</b><br>(below 200% of the federal poverty level)             | <br>44%   | <br>46%   | <br>48%   |
|   | <b>CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS</b>   | <br>20.7% | <br>27%   | <br>27.5% |
|   | <b>HIGH RENTAL COST BURDEN</b>   | <br>44%   | <br>27%   | <br>55%   |
| <div>EDUCATION</div> <div></div>         | <b>KINDERGARTNERS READY TO LEARN</b>   | <br>48%   | <br>47%   | <br>59%   |
|   | <b>FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS PROFICIENT IN READING</b>   | <br>50%   | <br>42%   | <br>52%   |
|   | <b>EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS PROFICIENT IN MATH</b>  | <br>37%   | <br>67%   | <br>37%   |
|   | <b>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME</b>   | <br>92.2% | <br>94.3% | <br>95.9% |
| <div>HEALTH</div>   | <b>SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY</b>  | <br>12.6% | <br>17.2% | <br>16.5% |
|   | <b>LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES</b>  | <br>8.9%  | <br>6.7%  | <br>10.6% |
|   | <b>CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE</b>   | <br>95.8% | <br>93.8% | <br>96.2% |
|   | <b>TEEN BIRTHS</b><br>(rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)  | <br>22.8% | <br>35.3% | <br>28.3% |
| <div>FAMILY &amp; COMMUNITY</div>   | <b>BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH-OUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE</b>   | <br>12.3% | <br>27.5% | <br>11.4% |
|   | <b>CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE</b><br>(rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)                            | <br>45%   | <br>50.9% | <br>35.3% |
|   | <b>CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION</b>   | <br>32%   | <br>35%   | <br>31%   |
|   | <b>YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM</b><br>(rate per 1,000 children ages 10-19) | <br>17.4% | <br>14.6% | <br>34.1% |

Key: Thumbs up - improvement since last report, thumbs down - decline since last report  
Source: Kentucky Youth Advocates (kyyouth.org)

## Data sign of child welfare

BY ALLISON EVANS  
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Fifth Judicial District Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers says a "State of Kids" report issued recently by Kentucky Youth Advocates is a beneficial guidepost for charting a path toward better days for Kentucky's children.

Comparison of state and local data in 16 categories serves as a state of condition report in the areas of economic security, education, health, family and community.

Data were compiled by Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA), an independent group which partners with legislators and other elected officials to create policies that benefit youth and families. It releases research findings annually to help inform and influence recommendations to benefit Kentucky children.

The Kentucky Kids Count dashboard, available at kyyouth.org, indicates improvements or decline in the 16 categories. The latest data are from 2022.

Judge Rogers says the information presented by KYA can help legislators and child advocates understand issues facing the state's youngest and most vulnerable and how to address problems.

"I am a part of many commissions and boards that utilize KYA to steer projects to help families in need," she said. "It helps entities gauge where their focus should lie in assisting families."

KYA advocates for public policies that are good for kids, works to improve those that are not and creates poli-



Judge Rogers

See KIDS/page 9

# Following drug money

BY CHRIS EVANS  
PRESS EDITOR

Local governments in Kentucky are receiving substantial payments from legal settlements with companies implicated in the opioid crisis, but spending the funds and meeting compliance requirements is challenging for many. Here's a look at how counties like Crittenden and Livingston are utilizing their share, how much they've received and the legal constraints on spending.

Opioid Settlement Funds come from legal settlements with pharmaceutical companies, distributors and retailers accused of fueling the opioid epidemic. Kentucky counties and cities receive

their share in installments, guided by laws dictating how the funds can be used. Legally, the money must address issues tied to the opioid crisis, including prevention, treatment, enforcement and mitigation of its effects.

The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission oversees the distribution and use of funds, providing grants and guidance. However, compliance has been uneven, with many governments struggling to navigate reporting requirements.

Several counties and cities in the region have gotten significant amounts

See OPIOID/page 10

## Banked from Settlement

Here is how much area counties and cities have gotten so far from opioid settlements. There is more to come.

| AREA COUNTIES |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Crittenden    | \$209,833.90 |
| Livingston    | \$227,056.59 |
| Caldwell      | \$189,744.37 |
| Union         | \$300,534.57 |
| Lyon          | \$129,045.34 |
| Webster       | \$261,862.05 |
| AREA CITIES   |              |
| Eddyville     | \$15,548.69  |
| Princeton     | \$84,717.78  |
| Morganfield   | \$87,783.69  |
| Marion        | \$12,164.09  |
| Sturgis       | \$10,710.96  |
| Kuttawa       | \$6,407.59   |

# CCMS science teacher scores national certification

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Middle School science teacher Neal Bryant has achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

National board certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students and schools. It took Bryant three years to

complete the certification designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools, according to its website.

"Pursuing National Board



Bryant

Certification is something that has held great meaning to me," Bryant said. "I'm passionate about my profession, and achieving this certification signifies my commitment to education, but more importantly, to myself and my students."

Teachers who obtain national board certification exhibit a deep understanding of their students, content knowledge and use of data

and assessments. They participate in learning communities and provide evidence of ongoing reflection and continuous learning.

Recognized as the gold standard in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.

"The process certainly isn't

See BRYANT/page 3

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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# Deaths

## Drake

Danny Drake, 62, of Marion, died Monday, Dec. 9, 2024.

Surviving are two sisters, Melissa Drake and Debbie (Larry) Carter, both of Marion; a niece-in-law, Elizabeth Floyd of Marion; two nephews, Brett Carter of Marion and Mason (Tiffany) Carter of Florida; a great-nephew, Blake Floyd of Marion; and great-niece, Hazel Carter of Marion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cletus and Anna Drake; and a nephew, Stephen Floyd.

Graveside services were Friday, Dec. 13 at Mapleview Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Faith

Janice Faith, 79, of Marion, died Monday, Dec. 9, 2024. She was a member of the Jehovah's Witness faith.

Surviving are four children, Richard Faith, Jason Faith, Leann Faith Colapietro and Matt Faith; and four grand-

children, Trevor Faith, Logan Colapietro, Landen Colapietro and Nathan Faith.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Lenoard Faith; her parents, Robert and Pauline Easley; and a sister, Judy Watson.

Graveside services were Friday, Dec. 13 at Mapleview Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Belt

Jerry Carl Belt, 77, of Marion, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2024 at Baptist Health Paducah. He was a member and deacon at Freedom General Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mollie Kay Belt of Marion; three children, Stephanie (Michael) Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio, Melissa (Jed) Corrie of Henderson and Billy Moore of Marion; two grandchildren, Rachel Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio and Braxton Burris of Henderson; two brothers, Paul Belt of Marion and Doyle Belt of Lexington; and a sister,

Vera Frazer of Lexington. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Ray and Hazel Mardell Belt; two brothers, Ray Eugene Belt and Dennis Belt; and a sister, Sue Franklin.

Services were Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Sugar Grove Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Sugar Grove Cemetery, 10880 SR 120, Providence, KY 42450.

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SEARCH PUBLIC NOTICES published in Kentucky newspapers.

www.kypublicnotice.com

This website is provided by Kentucky's newspapers as a free service for the purpose of and engaging the citizens and maximizing the availability of this information.

## Online Condolences

myersfuneralhomeonline.com  
boydfuneraldirectors.com  
gilbertfunerals.com

Most obituaries in this newspaper are free. Ask your funeral director about custom, fee-based obituaries.

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# Christmas Eve

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**Come and Go Service**  
in the church sanctuary  
5-7 p.m.,  
Tuesday, 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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Thinking of you during the holidays...

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from Brad and Valerie Gilbert  
and the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home

# Gilbert

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# Keeping Spirits Bright

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

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

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

*God bless us all and Merry Christmas!*

OPEN ON DEC. 24 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
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# Drugs, burglary, escape among criminal activity

**STAFF REPORT**

Crittenden County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Heady heard a number of cases last Thursday involving drugs, burglary, escape and illegal hunting.

Following are dispositions of some of the cases before the court last week.

- Alexandria Jimenez, 31, of Nortonville pleaded guilty to two Class C felony charges of trafficking in a controlled substance (fentanyl). She will be formally sentenced in March. The commonwealth has recommended a five-year sentence on each count, to run concurrently.
- Jimenez was also indicted last week on another felony drug charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- At the request of her attorney, Cody Hooks of Princeton, Jimenez’s bond was reduced to 10% of \$10,000.
- Willow MacGee, 20, of

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY      CIRCUIT COURT**

Brookport, Ill., accused of leaving the scene of an automobile accident on Old Salem Road and possessing heroin, meth and marijuana, has been given an opportunity to enter into the drug court program.

She was indicted following her original arrest in 2023 on two felony drug charges, eight misdemeanors and a number of other traffic violations. MacGee had failed to show up for a court appearance not long after her indictment and was at large for months. She was later apprehended, and has been jailed here since Sept. 17.

- Steven Cordell, 46, of Marion pleaded guilty to a felony charge of third-degree burglary and third-degree criminal trespassing. Court records indicate that he was arrested following an incident that occurred on property owned by a local church. He was sentenced to five years, but probation will be granted following an assessment to determine a recommended substance abuse treatment program. Probationary requirements include completing any in-patient programs recommended by the assessment.
- Gregory S. Munsell, 30, of Princeton pleaded guilty in two cases that included charges of third-degree burglary, attempted escape and unlawful imprisonment. He is also facing escape charges in Webster County and other charges in Lyon and McCracken, according to court testimony.
- Munsell was given a three-year sentence on the charges here that stem from an incident in April when he used a crow bar to break into Victory Auto Sales on US 60 West and

attempted to escape from Crittenden County Detention Facility. In the process of that escape attempt, Munsell restrained a jail deputy inside of a secured cell vestibule.

Judge Daniel Heady sentenced Munsell to one year on the burglary charge and two years each on charges of attempted escape and unlawful imprisonment. The two-year terms will run concurrently and consecutive to the one-year sentence for a total of three years.

- Chris Allen Fitzgerald, 55, of Fredonia appeared in court for a probation revocation hearing. The judge stopped short of revoking Fitzgerald’s probation on 2022 drug trafficking charges. Instead, he is order to complete further treatment.
- Eddie Ricketts, 45, of Marion pleaded guilty to two felony charges of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and a misdemeanor charge of

illegally taking or pursuing a deer. According to court records, on Oct. 8, Sheriff Evan Head and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Randy Conway observed Ricketts sitting in a vehicle with two loaded .30-06 rifles next to him. According to criminal records, Ricketts is a convicted felon and prohibited from possession of a weapon.

He was sentenced to one year on each felony charge and 365 days for the misdemeanor with time to run consecutively.

- Eric W. Hammons, 43, of Marion pleaded guilty to a negotiated charge of first-offense failing to comply with the sex offender registry, and was sentenced on a Class D felony to one year of incarceration. He originally faced a possible sentence of 5-10 years on a Class C felony.

## Custodial Retreat

Longtime Crittenden County Courthouse custodian Rick Nelson was honored by Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and other county leaders last week upon Nelson’s retirement. He has been caretaker of the county’s public offices for 30 years.



# 33-year councilman saluted for work

**STAFF REPORT**

Longtime Marion City Council member Mike Byford sat for his last meeting Monday night and was recognized by Mayor D’Anna Browning for his lasting and loyal serving to the city.

Byford is the longest serving council member, having been first elected to the government body in 1989. There was one two-year term since then that he stepped off the council. Otherwise, he been on council for 33 years.

The mayor said his knowledge and historical reference has been invaluable to the city. Fellow councilman Dwight Sherer, who has served second longest at more than 20 years, said he and Byford had been friends since they were classmates in high school.



Mayor D’Anna Browning recognizes Mike Byford.

new sewer plant, Marion has maintained financial stability.

“In our professional judgement after reviewing the activity and statements, we find no issues of a material nature. It’s a pretty straight forward report for the city,” he told council members.

The city’s new code enforcement officer, Rick Mills, provided an activities report for the month. He mentioned working with more than 20 property owners to remediate code violations across the city.

The council set regular meeting dates for January and February on the second Monday of each month in order to avoid federal holidays. The council typically meets on the third Monday of the month.

# Union County farm sets state record with 122.2 bu/ac beans

**STAFF REPORT**

In a remarkable achievement that underscores a commitment to innovation and excellence in agriculture, Greenwell Acres of Union County has been recognized by the Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) as the first-ever member of the 120 Bushel Soybean Club.

Kirk Greenwell, 40, a partner in the enterprise, expressed pride in this significant accomplishment.

“There’s a lot of things that go into it, but I would start off by saying that we put a lot into corn and beans,” he said. “We’re making sure that we supply all the nutrients that they need. We want to make sure that they’re healthy throughout the growing season. I believe that healthy plants are going to ultimately lead to higher yields, so you focus on the things that you can control.”

The KSA’s 120 Bushel Soybean Club was established to encourage soybean farmers to pursue higher yields and share best practices across the state. In recognition of Greenwell Acres’ achievement, the farm will receive a traveling trophy that will be displayed at the Union County Extension office for a year, and the farm will receive a plaque commemorating its membership in the elite club. There is also a

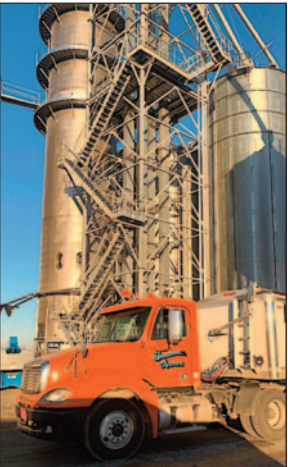
cash prize.

The yield contest focuses on a three-acre block. Greenwell Acres’ took a record-setting 122.2 bushels per acre. To put that into some perspective, in crop year 2023, the average yield for soybeans in Kentucky was 55 bushels per acre. The previous state record was 112.18 bushels per acre set in 2022 by Dennis McKay Farms in Daviess County.

With farmland located primarily near Waverly in Union County and in western Henderson County, Greenwell Acres tends to about 7,000 acres and is a family-operated enterprise that includes multiple generations. Kirk, along with his father, uncles, brother and cousins, manages the farm while some of them also engage in other agricultural businesses in Union County.

Greenwell Acres has previously been recognized as a member of the 100 Bushel Club for soybean yields, achieving this honor three times in the last five years. Greenwell attributes their recent success to a combination of rigorous nutrient management, innovative farming practices and a relentless focus on plant health.

“We ensure our crops receive the right nutrients and protection from diseases, allowing them to thrive during the grow-



Greenwell Acres’ headquarters is in Waverly.

ing season. That gives them the biggest opportunity to capture all the sunlight they can in the summertime. Soybeans are like little factories and the two things that go into it are nutrition and sunlight in order to produce the high yields.”

As the farming community continues to face challenges such as fluctuating weather patterns and market conditions, Greenwell believes that innovation and adaptability are essential for future success.

“We are always testing new ideas and products, looking for ways to improve. It’s important to think outside the box and not just do things the way they have always been done,” he said.

The contest is co-sponsored by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Soybean Board.

## ADOPT A PET



Ace is a shy guy but he warms up when he knows he is safe and loved. He is a year and a half old. A shepherd mix, Ace is smart, playful and fun! He's dreaming of a home of his own for Christmas!

## BRYANT

Continued from page 1

an easy one,” Bryant said. “It’s rigorous and challenging, but it is one that, through deeper investigation and reflection, has made me a better teacher to my students... and they deserve that.”

Established in 1987, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in an independent, nonprofit organization working to advance accomplished teaching for all students with a mission to maintain rigorous standards and expertise in the classroom.

## “It was just like family.”

*“It was just like family,”* Mary Jo Shuecraft said about the care she received from general surgeon Dr. Eric Kivisto at Crittenden Community Hospital.

*“It was a breeze, and I can’t say enough about Dr. Kivisto and his wife. You can tell they really care. You couldn’t ask for a better couple!”*

After being diagnosed and treated for an ulcer, Mary Jo says she has had no further problems and praises the care she received from Dr. Kivisto and his team.



Mary Jo Shuecraft



## Meet Dr. Eric A. Kivisto

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

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**Very Merry Christmas**

We send you our sincere wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year

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# Living Tree a huge success, chances good for remakes

Crittenden County’s Living Christmas Tree performances over five days this month have been hailed as a great success. Organizer Kim Vince says more than 800 in combined attendance saw the shows with Sunday’s final matinee being the best attended.

“We appreciate the support of the community who attended and donated and those who volunteered,” she said. “More than 100 people were involved in the organization and performances.”

The program was produced by Fohs Hall, Inc., and the Community Arts Foundation. Vince said the organizing committee will gather after the new year to determine plans for the future. It’s likely, she said, that the Living Tree will become a biennial or triennial event. Donations at the shows will be used for perpetuity of the project.

Sickness created some issues over the course of the five shows.

“None of the performance had the entire choir there,” she said.

Otherwise all went well and there was a “great reception of the handbells and children’s choir,” Vince added.

# Save Jennie Stuart files suit to stop sale of JSMC to Deaconess

A group opposing the acquisition of Jennie Stuart Medical Center by Deaconess Health of Evansville, Ind., has filed a lawsuit in Christian Circuit Court seeking to pause the transaction. The lawsuit, filed by Save Jennie Stuart, names the hospital and its 11 board members as defendants, according to a report in the Hopkinsville Chronicle.

Save Jennie Stuart alleges that the hospital’s governing board has failed its fiduciary duties by undervaluing the facility, which it claims has a “book value” exceeding \$157 million. The group criticizes the use of a four-person subcommittee for handling the deal, calling the process rushed and exclusionary.

The Chronicle reports that the hospital board defends its decision, citing a “comprehensive process” aimed at ensuring the hospital’s future. The acquisition would address current challenges, including billing system issues, and provide access to the Epic EHR system.

Save Jennie Stuart includes prominent local leaders, such as Christian County Judge-Executive Jerry Gilliam and former Hopkinsville mayors. The case is assigned to Judge Andrew Self.

The board’s vote on the Deaconess deal is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19.

# County announces holiday schedule

In observance of the Christmas holidays the offices at Crittenden County Office Complex, including judge-executive, county clerk, PVA, sheriff, the county road department, convenience center and animal shelter, will be closed Tuesday Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024, resuming normal hours of operation Thursday, Dec. 26.

# KY adjusts electric vehicle fees for 2025

Starting Jan. 1, Kentucky’s ownership fees for electric vehicles (EVs) will rise by 5% under state law to address rising road maintenance costs. Hybrid vehicle fees, however, will be eliminated.

New annual ownership fees are:

- \$126 for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids
- \$63 for electric motorcycles
- \$0 for hybrids

These fees contribute to the Road Fund, supporting road construction, maintenance, and administration. Fees will appear on vehicle renewal notices and can be paid during registration



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

at drive.ky.gov or county clerk offices.

According to a news release from the governor’s office, this change aligns with Kentucky’s growing investment in the EV sector, which includes \$11.7 billion from industry leaders like Ford and Toyota, creating over 10,000 jobs. The state is also expanding its EV Charging Program, with plans for 50 new fast charging stations by 2026. Learn more at kyevcharging.com.

# Livingston moves to recycle cardboard

With a regional recycling plan still on hold for the five-county area, Livingston County is moving ahead with an agreement with Marshall County to recycle paper and cardboard.

Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams said the service will be free for county residents. The material will be separated before its taken to Marshall County. Five enclosed trailers will be used to collect recyclable cardboard and paper at the schools, road department and at the convenience center on Cutoff Road. The public can drop off recyclable materials at school trailers during school hours.

“The convenience center already takes metal,” Williams said. “So the only things we cannot accept at this time to recycle are glass and plastic.”

Livingston, Crittenden, Caldwell, Lyon and Trigg counties are working together to restart a regional recycling effort since the West Kentucky Correctional Complex near Fredonia quit providing the services months ago. The regional group believed it had a plan that involved a Texas-based company, but that deal recently fell through.

# Area water, sewer projects remain high on region’s Top 15 list

Pennyrile Area Development District’s Water Management Council has identified top water and wastewater priorities for the region, with three significant projects in the immediate area making the list.

The No. 1 priority in the region is Phase 2 of Crittenden-Livingston Water District’s expansion project. The entire project is expected to cost upwards of \$40 million for the multi-phase, multi-year plan to double the plant’s size and improve storage and distribution infrastructure. The financial need for Phase 2 is \$33.8 million. Additionally, Phase 3 of the same project is ranked as among the top 10 projects in the region. Its funding need is \$15.1 million. There are 15 projects from nine different counties on the PADD’s priority list.

City of Marion is ranked No. 2 on the waste water’s top 15 list. Marion recently replaced its sewer plant and is looking for funding to help reduce the financial burden on local residents. It’s hoping to qualify for a Delta Regional Authority grant to help offset its \$19.4 million debt for waste water collection and treatment.

City of Smithland’s need for funding to rehabilitate a sewer lagoon is ranked No. 3. The need is \$1.2 million.

# Ag poster contest open for entries

Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has announced.

The theme of the 2025 con-

test is “Kentucky Agriculture Makes Me Proud” encouraging contestants to illustrate in words, original artwork, or photographs how agriculture gives them pride.

Students in grades K–12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Each entry must include the actual written theme and be postmarked by Friday, March 7.

Winners will be notified by Friday, April 18. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the 2025 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony next year. Winning entries will be displayed in Commissioner Shell’s Frankfort office and at the 2025 Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville. For more information, including complete contest rules and an entry form, go to kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html or contact Bethany Mattingly, director of KDA’s Agriculture Education and Outreach Division, at Bethany.Mattingly@ky.gov or (502) 782-4125.

# Morganfield parade going to Uniontown

Morganfield Christmas Parade will begin at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21. It will start at Morganfield City Park and continue down Main Street. From there, it will travel to Uniontown and join that town’s parade at 5 p.m.

# Gaming development planned at Calvert

Churchill Downs recently announced a plan to develop Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming in Calvert City. This will be the company’s eighth historical horse racing entertainment venue in Kentucky and it is expected to open in early 2026. The development will be located on approximately 4.5 acres near the intersection of I-69 and I-24 just outside of Calvert City. Marshall Yards will feature up to 240 state-of-the-art historical racing machines, a sports bar, a retail sportsbook, simulcast wagering and food and beverage offerings. Overall investment for the development is projected at \$40 to \$50 million. The development will operate as an annex of Oak Grove, Ky., Racing, Gaming & Hotel.

# Sickness shuts school down early this week

Due to widespread sickness and declining attendance among both students and staff, school was canceled for Wednesday and Thursday this week.

Friday was already scheduled as an off day to begin the holiday break.

Classes are dismissed until Jan. 7 after the winter break.

Superintendent Tonya Driver said attendance had fallen to 83 percent on Tuesday; normal is around 94 to 96 percent attendance.

# Sen. Howell recognized

Kentucky state Sen. Jason Howell was presented the Kentucky Chamber MVP Award earlier this month by former Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Craig Guess and Amy Cloud, executive director of Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives, at the Murray-Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce’s annual Legislative Preview.

Sen. Howell was among a select group of legislators who “went to bat” for business during the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly by displaying conspicuous actions to strengthen business, improve competitiveness and ensure growth.

Recipients of the Kentucky Chamber MVP Award show strong leadership for the business community by sponsoring or carrying Chamber priority legislation to final passage.



# 50 YEARS AGO

## December 19, 1974

■ Carolyn Guess’ music students pictured after a recital were David Yandell, Tony Station, Tim Harmon, Pat Brown, Steven Berry, Randy Belt, Mike Cline, Jay Berry, Cindy Brookshire, Debbie Collins, Tracy Crowell, Jeanne Hinchee, Shannon Thomas, Tammy Binkley, Terri Guess, Bonita Belt, Tracy Guess, Beverly Station, Debbie Station, Debbie Yandell, Roxanne Binkley, Sandra Myers, Tina Belt, Angela Belt, Teresa Myers, Rhonda Kirk, Gay Ann Belt, Rhonda Hannah, Lisa Kinis, Gail Croft, Sharon Workman, Angie James and Barbara Harris.

■ Crittenden County High School students presented checks for essay entries in the Voice of Democracy Contest were Gary Davidson, Valetta Little and Pam Heady.

■ David Bruce Croft, a student at Marion Junior High, won first place in the Soil Conservation essay contest. Tolu Elementary student Melinda Easley won second place. Barbara Dale of Tolu won first place in the poster contest.

■ Crittenden County’s boys basketball team notched its first win of the season with a 67-64 win over Livingston Central. Junior Keith Cosby scored a team high 26 points.

■ Reuben G. Walker Jr., was sworn in as assistant Commonwealth Attorney in the 25th judicial district in Kentucky. Walker was a Marion native.

# 25 YEARS AGO

## December 23, 1999

■ A voluntary water conservation notice given by the City of Marion as a result of low levels in Lake George, the city’s water supply, had reduced usage by 22,000 gallons. Still, low levels threatened insufficient consumer demand without significant rainfall.

■ The Blackford Memorial Bridge project received support from Crittenden Fiscal Court, supporting a grant sought in Webster County to save the century-old railroad bridge linking the two counties near Blackford.

■ Clinton Truitt and Mike Weldon earned Road Master designations by Kentucky’s Department of Highways.

■ Tiny Tot Day Care students Hayden McConnell, Emily Myers, Dustin Perry, Cameron McDaniel, Bailey Rushing and Jake Hodge performed the National Anthem before a basketball game at Rocket Arena.

■ Rocket football awards were presented to Ashley Travis, senior award; Brad Madden, senior award; Jason Brown, senior award; Joey Rich, MPV, “Dozer” Award, Hit Man Award and captain award; Matt Jent, RBI leader, most valuable lineman and captain award; Ryan Beavers, Crittenden Press Paul Mick Leadership Award; Jordan Yates, senior award Steve Thompson, most valuable offensive player; Tanner Tabor, senior award; Josh Cozart, most valuable defensive player and top tackler; Brandon Carlson, senior award; Brent Belt, most improved; Keith Wilcox, JV MVP; and Tim Grau, senior award.

■ Sheila Truitt was one of 12 winners of a Southern States photo contest out of 535 entries in the Rural Magic: Pictures of Country Living contest.

# 10 YEARS AGO

## December 18, 2014

■ Some of the actors in a children’s Christmas play titled “Angelhead” were Natalie Boone, Aria Kirk, Sara Jones, Haylee Perrin, Addy Kirby, Sofia Taft and Carly Porter.

■ Crittenden County High School’s welding team of Chris Winders, Alex Yates, Jacob Greenwell, Alex Curtis and Skyler Greenwell won first place in an event in Hopkinsville. Winders was the highest scorer in ARC welding.

■ Crittenden County High School seniors who met benchmarks in all four subject areas on the ACT were honored by the board of education. They included Lauren Beavers, Jacob Berry, Cole Easley, Cole Foster, Jason Isabel, Brayden McKinney, Hunter Stone, Chris Swilley, Sara Watson, Alex Yates and Landon Young. Reid Baker, Cole Foster and Sean Watson were recognized for on-demand writing honors.

■ Partners Insurance took over the keys to the former Terry Ford Insurance Agency upon retirement of Ford. New owners were Denise Bradley and Shelly Davidson.

■ Crittenden County’s boys basketball team remained undefeated after knocking off Lyon County 57-53. Landon Young led the Rockets with 19.

*Read Brenda Underdown’s  
Forgotten Passages column  
at The Press Online*

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# The 1800s was a bustling time for Weston merchants

In the 1800s Weston was a bustling and growing river port village. In 1846 John Wallingford and family were the only occupants of the place, and he sold goods for a living. The place was then known as Flynn's Ferry. Most of the traffic though the area at this time was pioneers traveling the Flynn's Ferry Road going to new territory up North as this was one of the principal routes.

In 1854 Richard Ford moved to the place, began a business and changed the name to Weston in honor of his wife, whose maiden name was West.

From 1854 until 1880, Weston grew very slowly, perhaps building six

Bar rooms are kept in connection with the hotels. The clerk, C. T. Davis of the American House, estimates his sales since last May at \$3,000.

Joseph L. Hughes is proprietor of the Weston Hotel and John Heath his clerk. No one knows better how to care for the wants of the weary and hungry traveler. His table is supplied with the very best of eatables, his rooms comfortable and neat and beds with snowy linen and elder down. You at once feel that you are at home. Connected with this well kept hotel is a good supply of staple and fancy groceries, as well as the choicest wines and liquors, cigars and tobacco.



**Brenda Underdown**  
County Historian

### Forgotten Passages

#### John Nunn & Company.

At their hardware store are found saddles, tin ware, a nice lot of hardware, saddlery, furniture, plow and field seed for sale. They keep the best line of cooking stoves I have ever seen in the county, and they sell for prices to suit the times. Bob Nunn is the business manager of the firm and he is an enterprising, modest and gentlemanly young man.

#### Lamb & Rankin.

Their store is new, the goods are new and everything presents a bright, cheerful, attractive appearance. This firm has recently embarked into the mercantile business, but it commands a good trade. They are dealers in dry goods, notions, shoes, hats, caps, groceries, hardware, tin ware, glassware, plows, cultivators, wagons, buggies and goats.

All kinds of merchandise for Marion is brought to the Weston dock to be picked up and hauled to their destination in Marion. Mr. Lamb, the steam boat agent, is in charge of this operation.

**John W. Cook,** keeps a coal and timber yard, He has sold coal to the steamers, about 175,000 bushels of coal. He also handles wagon and buggy timber. He has already sold 500 cords of hickory and about 80,000 feet of oak. Capt. Cook also travels to towns up North and brings back goods to sell at the local stores.



Some well-dressed unknown citizens of Weston enjoy a visit on the sidewalk. Notice some of the buildings of the old town behind them.

He just arrived on the boat Oil City bringing a barge loaded with tobacco and potatoes.

**J. W. Adams,** owner of the Weston Plow Factory, is busy striking the red-hot iron. He has recently begun business at Weston. We cheerfully recommend him and his work to the people, a better smith cannot be found in this county and we trust the people will patronize him.

**Annie Bristow Heath** is the town milliner, who is well equipped for the trimming of hats. She carries a large and elegant line of milliner, and is at all times ready to serve her customers with the courtesy that she ever practices, and those wanting the latest styles and lowest prices should call and see her wares.

**Harry A. Haynes** has the local drug store. He is the dealer for medicines, chemicals, paints, oils, fancy notions, school books and everything found in a first class drug store. He also has pure wine and liquors for medicinal purposes. Prescriptions carefully compounded at all hours day or night. Mr. Samuel C. Haynes will always be found at his post as salesman and will wait on you with accuracy and courtesy.

**C. W. Grady,** General Merchandise. In the early 1900s, Clarence W. Grady and one of his brothers owned and ran a popular general merchandise store at Weston. They carried a new stock of dry goods, notions, boots, shoes, groceries, hardware, tinware, queens ware, anything one would need. Clarence W. was the son of Robert N. Grady and Margaret Eberle Grady.

The Grady brothers were known for their well run store and their hospitality to the community. This Grady family from

Weston in later years moved to Marion and started in the grocery store business in Marion.

**Travis Drug Store** – Ewell Travis and his wife George Ann also ran a drug store in Weston. Besides medicine supplies and filling prescriptions, the store carried other notions, such as toiletries, writing paper and books.

There were other businesses during this time, but I have no history on them. The Brewer family ran a store and there was also a barbershop, a tobacco factory, a Masonic lodge and probably many more that have been lost to time.

#### The Final Days

The end of the river port town started by the whistles of the trains that lured freight and passenger service away from the riverboats that had once been the best means of travel and also for transporting of goods to the towns.

Flooding had always been a problem, but the big one of 1937 drove many out of their homes for the final time. Another factor was the economic problems of the Great Depression, World War II and the promise of regular wage paying jobs in the factories and the steels mills of the North, made people pack up and move to find these better paying jobs.

Slowly the people and families moved away, leaving their homes and the stores to the death caused by time with no one to care for them.

Weston today is a beautiful little village with several families that live there. Peaceful and secluded with a wonderful view of the mighty Ohio River which runs not far from their homes,

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And many other articles too numerous to mention. Call and examine our  
stock before purchasing elsewhere.  
Very Respectfully,  
1886 JOHN NUNN & CO.  
WESTON, KY.

John Nunn and Co.'s advertisement from an 1886 Crittenden Press. They sold most anything you would need for home and farm.

but you have to drive to Marion or Sturgis for your closest stores.  
(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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The women of Christmas

Nearly all of what we have concerning the events around the birth of Jesus in the Bible is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Their emphases are different, which accounts for some variation in their genealogies. Two are easy to spot. First, Matthew begins with Abraham and ends with Jesus. Luke begins with Jesus and ends with Adam. Matthew is making the point that Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise made to Abraham that through him all families of the earth will be blessed. Luke is making the point that this blessing is inclusive of all of God's children – Jew and Gentile. Second, Matthew includes a little scandal in his record. Matthew includes gentile women in his genealogy, all of whom had some sort of scandal attached to them – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and “the wife of Uriah” (Bathsheba). Listing these Gentile women may be his way of demonstrating inclusion. They also may be of some help to Mary who, like those women, would face scandalous questions. In Matthew's account



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist  
Guest Columnist

we also read about the violence of the infanticide prompted by Herod's fear and jealousy. It prompted him to recall the wailing of Israel's mothers at Ramah, the gathering place before being carried away by foreign armies. “Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” Rachel, the mother of Joseph, who died after giving birth to Benjamin (whom she called Benoni – “son of my sorrow”). The contrast of the birth of Jesus, who would call all God's children back to him, stands in stark contrast to the weeping brought on by the violence of power-grabbing and jealousy. Then there are the three living women in the narrative in the Gospel of Luke. Anna's role is minor until we realize what she had seen in her lifetime. We read that she was 84 when Jesus was born. That would have made her a young woman of about 24 when the Romans relieved Judea of her independence after years of unrest. It is not unreasonable to surmise

that her husband was killed by the Romans. She spent the rest of her life, as a widow, at the temple fasting and praying day and night. We need not wonder for what she prayed. She saw him and likely heard Simeon's psalm of praise and consolation. She wasted no time in telling anyone who would listen that redemption had arrived. She had seen violence and disappointment but never lost her faith that God would see her and hear her. Elizabeth was a woman too old to bear children. Had she also witnessed the invading Roman armies taking Judea? One of the measures of the hope that we have for this world is bearing children. It is in our nature to continue to believe that things will be better for the next generation. In the middle of times of uncertainty and unanswered prayers for a child, Elizabeth and Zechariah learn that they will be parents of the forerunner to the Savior of the World. Zechariah is doubtful and struck dumb. Elizabeth believes and when Mary, who went to see her when she learned she was expecting, prophesied concerning Mary's child. Then there is Mary, a young woman betrothed but not yet married from a small town in Galilee. For Elizabeth it is too late

for children, for Mary, too soon. She went to an older family member, perhaps for comfort and reassurance. Even in her state, she was met with faith rather than judgment. When Gabriel delivered the message to Mary, she said yes. What a risk she took. What faith and courage she showed. She did not fully understand, but I believe she would eventually know that this was not about the overthrow of Rome (which many were looking for) but about the anointed who will redeem. Her response to Elizabeth's prophecy? A psalm of thanks and praise. The humility expressed in the first verses of Magnificat is powerful. The rest of the song turns to prophesying the ministry of Jesus. He would indeed remember mercy. He would fill the hungry with good things. He would lift those of low standing. The faith, strength, and courage of all the women mentioned in the genealogy and the nativity stories in the gospels is an example to us all. They all lived in violent and uncertain times. They all demonstrated great humility and faith, and all were seen and heard by God. May we be like them. 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.



Anniversary

Doug and Kathy Curnel of Marion will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Dec. 20. The couple was married in Marion at the home of Bro. Alvey Winters. They have two sons, Charles and Jason Curnel; and five grandchildren, Ethan Curnel, Aiden Curnel, Lila Curnel, Raylin Curnel and Coy Curnel.

Religious Outreach

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- 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.
- Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
- 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.
- 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.
- Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.

God clearly tells how you receive Jesus as your Savior

**Question:** How can I ask God to be my savior?  
**Answer:** Young person, thank you for asking this question. I had rather answer this question than any other. God loves you and He wants you to have the very best life possible both now and eternally. But, He can't give you that life because there is a barrier between you and Him. That barrier is your sins. “For all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). Sins are all the wrong things you do that displease God.

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

The Good News is God still loves you and provides the payment for your sins. Jesus, God's sinless Son, took the punishment you deserve. “Christ died for our sins...He was buried... (then He) was raised (back to life) on the third day” (1 Cor. 15:3, 4). To receive forgiveness and eternal life in heaven, you must 1. Admit your need. (I am a sinner.) 2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent). 3. Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for you and believe He rose from the grave (John 3:16). (Receive Him as your Savior and Lord.)

If you are willing to turn from your sins and to believe Jesus died for you, tell God with a prayer like this: “Dear God, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for me and I invite Him to come into my heart and life.” If you sincerely ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life, He will. The Bible assures, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13). Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com.

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Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
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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.

SEVEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064  
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Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

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

Marion Church of God

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

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”

PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SCHOOL 10 a.m.  
WORSHIP 11 a.m.  
BIBLE STUDY 6 p.m.  
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future  
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian  
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Pastor Jesse Thornton (618) 200-0884  
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously  
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 p.m.  
South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray  
Worship service:..... 11 a.m.  
Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.  
“The little church with a big heart”

Hurricane Church

Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West  
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee  
Sun. School, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.  
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

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546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450  
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# Classifieds The Crittenden Press

The Crittenden Press

125 E. Bellville St.,  
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employment

CITY OF MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT has a full-time permanent position opening. Minimum qualifications include graduation from high school or equivalent; some experience in law enforcement is desirable, but not mandatory. A combination of experience and education will be considered for compliance with these standards. The successful applicant will work under the general direction of the Chief of Police. Primary activities will include, but not limited to patrolling and other such duties common to our department's operations. A copy of the full job description for the Police Officer's position is available from the City Administrator on request. All resumes must be accompanied by a City of Marion job application. Upon completion of a probationary period, employee benefits include; 100% of the officer's health insurance premiums, and 25% of any covered family member. We offer 10 paid vacation days and 13 paid holidays per year. Salary for a DOCJT Certified Officer is set at \$55,446.12 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Anyone interested in the position should submit a City of Marion Job Application to the City Administrator's office by 4pm on Friday, January 3rd, 2025. The City of Marion is an

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notice

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legal notice

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court, Marion, KY, do certify that the following has filed notice to Final Settlement: Melinda Gipson of 100 Twin Lake Drive, Marion, KY 42064, executrix of Charles O. Freeman, deceased, whose address was 100 Twin Lake Drive, Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on January 15, 2025. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. (1t-51-c)

Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2024 Joe E. Porter of 105 Rudd Street, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed administrator of Jason Wardlaw Porter, deceased, whose address was 3772 Mott City Road, Marion, KY 42064. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administrator before the 11th day of June, 2025 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-51-c)

Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2024 Mary Elizabeth Barlow of 2014 Carver Dr., Greenbrier, TN 37073 was appointed executrix of Fay Carol Crider, deceased, whose address was 3287 S.R. 506, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, 217 W. Bellville St., 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 executrix before the 11th day of June, 2025 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-51-c)

Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2024 Mary Elizabeth Barlow of 2014 Carver Dr., Greenbrier, TN 37073 was appointed executrix of Fay Carol Crider, deceased, whose address was 3287 S.R. 506, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, 217 W. Bellville St., 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 executrix before the 11th day of June, 2025 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-51-c)

Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2024 Mary Elizabeth Barlow of 2014 Carver Dr., Greenbrier, TN 37073 was appointed executrix of Fay Carol Crider, deceased, whose address was 3287 S.R. 506, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, 217 W. Bellville St., 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 executrix before the 11th day of June, 2025 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-51-c)

bid notice

BID FOR HEATING AND AIR UNIT INSTALLATION: The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, KY is accepting bids for new heating and air units to be installed in an existing building. Bids will be accepted until January 10, 2025. Job can be seen/assessed on-sight at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 East, Smithland, KY 42081 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the

bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties. Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in-person or by mail (Livingston County Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than January 10, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please call 270-928-2168 or email Joni Phelps at [jk-barr3@uky.edu](mailto:jk-barr3@uky.edu). The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546. (2t-51-c)

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Nestled in a tranquil rural area, this scenic hunting tract offers a diverse blend of habitat types and topography, making it a perfect retreat for outdoor enthusiasts. Features an ideal build site!

Crittenden County, KY – 2.06 Acres – \$69,000.00  
Three contiguous lots in the beautiful Hillcrest Estates #2 Subdivision offer the ideal build site!

Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres – \$244,900.00  
This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres – \$232,250.00  
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Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres – \$446,000.00  
Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

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# SportsShorts

## BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES

### AROUND THE 5TH DISTRICT BOYS

Dec 19 Lyon County at Trigg County  
Dec 20 Livingston vs Caldwell at St. Mary Tournament  
Dec 20 Trigg at Logan County

### GIRLS

Dec 19 Trigg Co. hosts Lyon County  
Dec 19 Livingston at McCracken Co.  
Dec 20 Lyon hosts McCracken County  
Dec 20 Trigg at Russellville  
Dec 21 Crittenden hosts Carlisle Co.

## Fifth District Standings

### GIRLS

| Team               | Dist | Overall |
|--------------------|------|---------|
| Crittenden County  | 2-0  | 5-0     |
| Lyon County        | 1-0  | 5-1     |
| Livingston Central | 0-2  | 2-4     |
| Trigg County       | 0-1  | 0-4     |

### BOYS

| Team               | Dist | Overall |
|--------------------|------|---------|
| Lyon County        | 1-0  | 5-0     |
| Trigg County       | 1-0  | 4-2     |
| Livingston Central | 1-1  | 2-1     |
| Crittenden County  | 0-2  | 0-5     |

## AREA BASKETBALL SCORES

### GIRLS

Lyon County 73, Massac County 36  
Lyon County 71, Webster County 43  
Stewart Co., Tenn. 52, Trigg Co. 24  
Hopkins Central 60, Trigg County 15  
Marshall Co. 63, Livingston Cent. 30  
Union County 50, Grayson Co. 48  
Caldwell Co. 55, Muhlenberg Co. 50  
Livingston 54, Ballard Memorial 53

### BOYS

Trigg Co. 53, Stewart Co., Tenn. 45  
Hopkins Central 100, Trigg Co. 35  
Lyon County 63, Union County 58  
Ohio County 66, Caldwell Co. 43

## Guess leads team in scoring

Crittenden County graduate Taylor Guess leads Lindsey Wilson's women's basketball team in scoring, averaging more than 14 points per game. The team is 9-3 after beating Oakland City 81-66 Saturday. Guess scored 14 in that contest. She is also averaging just over four rebounds a game. Guess is a sophomore guard. In high school, she set Crittenden County's career scoring record.

## VOLLEYBALL

## Youth league registration

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



## FOOTBALL

## Porter calls state 1A

Marion's Jeff Porter (pictured above second from right) was among an officiating crew that refereed the Kentucky Class A football championship recently. It was Porter's second time to officiate a state championship game. And, he played in one, too, in 1985 when Crittenden County beat Paintsville for the Class A title.

## OUTDOORS

## Hunting Seasons

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

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Deer Archery          | Sept. 7 - Jan. 20  |
| Turkey Archery        | Sept. 7 - Jan. 20  |
| Deer Crossbow         | Sept. 21 - Jan. 20 |
| Raccoon               | Oct. 1 - Feb. 28   |
| Turkey Crossbow       | Nov. 9 - Dec. 31   |
| Rabbit                | Nov. 11 - Feb. 10  |
| Quail                 | Nov. 11 - Feb. 10  |
| Raccoon Trapping      | Nov. 11 - Feb. 28  |
| Bobcat                | Nov. 16 - Feb. 28  |
| Squirrel Fall         | Nov. 28 - Feb. 15  |
| Canada Goose          | Nov. 28 - Feb. 15  |
| Coyote Night (lights) | Dec. 1 - March 31  |
| Duck                  | Dec. 7 - Jan. 31   |
| Deer Muzzleloader     | Dec. 14-22         |
| Dove                  | Dec. 21 - Jan. 12  |
| Deer Youth Free       | Dec. 28-29         |

# Rocket girls dispatch LCHS, Lyon game on hold

### STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's girls' basketball team was hit by severe illness this week. The outbreak not only caused Tuesday's basketball game at Lyon to be postponed, but also prompted school officials to cancel classes the rest of the week because of the widespread outbreak.

The district game has been rescheduled for 6 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 23.

### Girls beat Livingston

After weathering some early foul issues, Crittenden unleashed a lockdown defense in the fourth period to beat Livingston Central 55-38 going away Friday at Rocket Arena to remain undefeated.

Anna Boone had her best offensive game of the season,

scoring 20 points despite picking up two early fouls. She also had 11 rebounds.

Livingston led by a couple of points in the first half, but Crittenden stretched out a 10-point lead by the half behind three baskets from Boone. The Lady Cardinals, led by senior Victoria Joiner, who had 20 points for the game, were able to peel off a 15-5 run when CCHS went cold in the third quarter.

After leading by three to start the final period, Crittenden turned up the defensive heat and held Livingston virtually scoreless the rest of the way. Joiner had one foul shot in the fourth quarter for her team's only offense down the stretch.

|                    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Livingston Central | 11 | 20 | 37 | 38 |
| Crittenden County  | 12 | 30 | 40 | 55 |



Livingston's Neveah Jennings applies defense against Crittenden's Georgia Holeman during Friday's game at Marion.

LIVINGSTON – Joiner 20, T.Leahy, A.Leahy, Downey 6, Ramage 9, Holman 3, Jennings. 3-pointers 2 (Joiner). FT 7-12.

Hodge 8, Federico 11, Rushing 8, Stewart 2, Holeman. 3-pointers 4 (Boone 2, Federico, Rushing). FT 15-22.

CRITTENDEN – Boone 20, Evans 1,

# Sickness knocks out Tuesday's Lyon game

### STAFF REPORT

Illness and injury wiped out the Rockets' game scheduled for Tuesday night at No. 19 Lyon County. It has been rescheduled for Jan. 16. About half of the Rocket basketball team is sick and it's not an isolated problem. Livingston and Trigg cancelled their district double-header Tuesday night as well.

### At Apollo Saturday

Shorthanded due to illness and injury, a long road trip to Owensboro Saturday turned into a difficult pill to swallow as the Rockets fell behind early and lost 82-29.

The good news is several young players got into the game and earned some invaluable experience. Crittenden was behind 51-8 at the half and was never a threat to the much stronger Eagles (5-1).

For the winless Rockets, freshman Drake Young led the way with 11 points, which included three treys. He was the only Crittenden player in double figures.

|                   |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Crittenden County | 5  | 8  | 21 | 29 |
| Owensboro Apollo  | 21 | 51 | 64 | 82 |

CRITTENDEN – LaRue 3, Belcher 4, Dayberry 3, Stokes, Young 11, Candelario 6, Thomas, Martin, C.Poindexter, B.Poindexter 2, Ellington. 3-pointers 7 (Young 3, Candelario 2, Dayberry, LaRue). FT 2-2.

APOLLO – Powers 7, Jarboe 6, Badger 5, Henning 6, Johnson 4, Williams 4, Kelly 14, Green 12, Steele 7, Stacy 7, Burgeons 2, Haskins 6, Butterworth 2. 3-pointers 8. FT 2-5.

### Loss at home to Cards

Crittenden had nothing to stop Livingston Central's roll in Friday's Fifth District matchup at Rocket Arena. The Cardinals led by a comfortable margin early and handily won the Fifth District matchup 75-35.

Livingston, behind three players in double figures, beat the Rockets for the third straight time.

Livingston Central 18 41 59 75  
Crittenden County 7 20 29 35  
LIVINGSTON – Walker 13, Hargrove 14, Drew Hosick 9, Laim 9, Wring 12, Davidson 5, Stone 9, Paris, Garner, Munoz 3, Schrupp. 3-pointers 8 (Walker 2, Wring 2, Hargrove, Hosick, Davidson, Munoz.  
CRITTENDEN – LaRue 6, Belcher 11, T.McLean, Young, Candelario 6, Martin, C.Poindexter, Murray, Travis 2, B.Poindexter 3, Conyer 7. 3-pointers 5 (Belcher, LaRue 2, Candelario 2). FT 8-10.



Crittenden's Coby LaRue (above) looks for an outlet pass from the wing as Livingston's Mason Hargrove applies the defense. Below, Livingston's Logan Wring tries to wrestle the ball away from Rocket Brayden Poindexter.



Crittenden County High School held its annual football awards ceremony Sunday. Among those honored were (front from left) Kaiden Travis, Most Valuable Lineman and 4-Year Senior awards; Braiden Brandsasse Greg Dozer Belt and Roach awards; Caden Howard, RBI Impact, Record-Breaker, Trash Can Turnover, Captain and Most Valuable Player awards; Cam'Ron Belcher, Most Valuable Special Teams Player, Feed Mill Grit Iron, 4-Year Senior and Record-setter awards; Quinn Summers, Record-setter, Captain, Crittenden Press Paul E. Mick Leadership and Most Valuable Offensive Player awards; (back) Adri Berry, Record-setter and First Female Player awards; Brayden Poindexter, Most Valuable Defensive Player and Tackling Points Leader awards; Noah Byford, 110 Percent Award; Trae Taylor, Most Improved Defensive Player Award; Conner Poindexter, JV Captain Award; Eli Lovell, JV Offensive MVP; Carson Yates, Solid Rocket Award; and Mitchell Brown, Most Improved Special Teams Player. Not pictured: Trent Todd, JV Defensive MVP; Michael Porter, Selfless Rocket Award; Blake French, 4-Year Senior Award; and Dakota Sosh, Most Improved Offensive Player Award.



Crittenden County basketball cheerleaders (front from left) are seniors Kayleigh Weathers, Tallyn Tabor, Aliyah Maraman, (second row) Rianna Maness, Jillissa Taylor, Amelia Johnson, Gracie Orr, (third row) Kaylin Coleman, Aubrey Miller, Maddie Jones, Hayden Peak, Emme Lynch, Lindsey Wyatt, Nai'Zayah Bell, Hope Reavis, Hannah Jent, Bella Williams and Jersey Rushing.



Best wishes for a winning season

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# Understanding KEES college money

STAFF REPORT

High school students in Kentucky can earn thousands of dollars toward college tuition through the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, or KEES. Funded by the Kentucky Lottery, the program rewards students for academic performance and standardized test scores, said Crittenden County High School Counselor Stefanie Shoulders.

Students can qualify for KEES money starting in their freshman year of high school by maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average. Awards range from \$125 per year for a 2.5 GPA to \$500 per year for a 4.0 GPA. Over four years, a student with straight A's can earn \$2,000 for college.

KEES also provides a bonus for students who perform well on standardized tests. For instance, a student scoring a 15 on the ACT receives an additional \$36 per year, while a perfect score of 36 adds \$500 annually. Bonus awards are also available for qualifying SAT scores, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Advanced International (CAI). Dual-

### How Do Students Earn KEES Money? Yearly GPA Rewards

■ Students earn between \$125 and \$500 per year based on their high school GPA, starting from a minimum GPA of 2.5. For example:  
2.5 GPA = \$125/year  
4.0 GPA = \$500/year

Over four years of high school, a straight-A student could accumulate \$2,000 a year for college.

■ There is a Bonus for ACT or SAT Scores. Scoring 15 or higher on the ACT (or 830 on the SAT) earns a bonus, ranging from \$36 to \$500 based on the score. Example: An ACT score of 28 adds \$375 per year to the student's KEES total.

credit courses are weighted, allowing students in these programs to earn higher KEES awards.

The funds can be used at any participating college or university in Kentucky. For students pursuing a major not offered in the state, KEES awards may be applied at out-of-state schools that participate in the Academic Common Market.

Unfortunately, trade schools or certificates of higher learning do not qualify for KEES, Shoulders explains.

Students must maintain good grades to keep their KEES funding during college. First-year students are required to have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to retain their scholarship. In subsequent years, the threshold rises to a 3.0 cumulative GPA. If a student falls below these standards, the scholarship amount may be reduced or lost entirely.

KEES provides additional opportunities for students from low-income families. Those eligible for free or reduced-price lunch can earn supplemental KEES awards for scoring well on AP, IB or CAI exams. These supplemental awards, which have no limit, can significantly increase the total funding available.

The program operates automatically, with no application process required. High schools report GPAs to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority at the end of each school year and students can track their awards online at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com). After

### ■ How do I check KEES awards for my student?

Students and parents can monitor awards online at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) by creating an account.

high school graduation, the scholarship is disbursed directly to the student's college, split evenly between fall and spring semesters.

KEES funding is available for up to eight academic terms and must generally be used within five years of high school graduation. For students graduating early, an Early Graduate Award will be calculated based on the student's three-year GPA average.

Kentucky education officials say the KEES program provides vital financial support for families and incentivizes academic excellence. With the potential to earn up to \$10,000 over four years of college, the scholarship can significantly reduce the financial burden of higher education.

Shoulders also reminds students that dual credit courses taken in high school are a great way to get ahead on college, which saves parents a great deal on tuition in the future.

| KEES Award Amounts |              |             |              |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Per Year           |              |             |              |
| GPA                | Award Amount | ACT Score   | Bonus Amount |
| 4.0                | \$500        | 28 or above | \$500        |
| 3.9                | \$475        | 27          | \$464        |
| 3.8                | \$450        | 26          | \$428        |
| 3.75               | \$437        | 25          | \$393        |
| 3.7                | \$425        | 24          | \$357        |
| 3.6                | \$400        | 23          | \$321        |
| 3.5                | \$375        | 22          | \$286        |
| 3.4                | \$350        | 21          | \$250        |
| 3.3                | \$325        | 20          | \$214        |
| 3.25               | \$312        | 19          | \$179        |
| 3.2                | \$300        | 18          | \$143        |
| 3.1                | \$275        | 17          | \$107        |
| 3.0                | \$250        | 16          | \$71         |
| 2.9                | \$225        | 15          | \$36         |
| 2.8                | \$200        |             |              |
| 2.75               | \$187        |             |              |
| 2.7                | \$175        |             |              |
| 2.6                | \$150        |             |              |
| 2.5                | \$125        |             |              |

### Frequently Asked Questions

■ **Do I have to apply for KEES?**  
No application is necessary. High schools automatically report GPAs to KHEAA, which calculates and tracks awards.

■ **Does KEES expire?**  
Students can use KEES funds for up to eight academic terms and within five years of high school graduation.

■ **What happens if I graduate high school early?**  
Early graduates receive an Early Graduate Award based on their three-year GPA average.

## OPIOID

Continued from page 1 from the settlement. Crittenden has to date received \$209,833.90 while Livingston has received \$227,056.59. Cities are also receiving a share of the money. Marion has so far gotten \$12,164.09 and Princeton has received \$84,717.78.

Crittenden County has been proactive, spending \$20,297.35 across fiscal years

24 and 25.

County Treasurer Yvette Martin has received guidance from the Kentucky Association of Counties on how to determine what expenses qualify under the settlement policy. The treasurer's settlement dated Oct. 31 shows a balance of more than \$207,000 in the county's opioid account.

Much of what has already been spent has gone to support local substance-abuse and recovery programs. Crit-

tenden County Drug-Free Coalition, MBC Outreach and Recovery Services, Celebrate Recovery and Agency Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) are among the beneficiaries.

The county provides a meeting place for substance abuse programs inside a former church building it owns near the corner of Bellville and Court streets. Utilities at the counseling center have been the greatest single expense at around \$8,000 over the past

two years.

The county used settlement funds to donate \$4,550 to the local D.A.R.E. America program to buy a lion costume to use during interactions with young children. Since then, the D.A.R.E. program has gone dormant, because the certified deputy overseeing the program took a job in another county.

Crittenden County has taken \$3,000 for administering the settlement funds and the rest has been spent on outreach

and recovery, in particular to pay for testing kits and laboratory testing.

Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams, who took office last month following a special election, says he's still working to understand how his county can spend its settlement money.

Marion is in the same situation. None has been spent from its settlement proceeds, largely because leaders are unclear about qualified expenses.

# Everyone Welcome

## Christmas Eve Communion

5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24

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



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

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

*Come as you are!*  
*Send kids in their PJs!*

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