

## Fingers Crossed!

### So far, no fatal auto crashes in county

With just weeks remaining in 2025, Crittenden County has yet to record a single automobile-related fatality this year. If that holds through December, it would mark the second time in four years the county has gone an entire calendar year without a fatal crash. There were no fatal wrecks in 2022, three in 2023, and one in 2024.

Over the past two decades, Crittenden County has averaged 2.6 traffic-related deaths per year. That long-term rate has steadily declined in recent years, dropping to an average of 1.8 over the past five years and just 1.3 over the past three.

## Tax bills due this month

Crittenden County taxpayers who missed the November dis-count period will now pay face value of their tax bills throughout December. In January, there is a 5% penalty. After Jan. 31, there is a 10% penalty and an additional add-on fee to the sheriff for late collection. If you have not received your tax bill, contact the sheriff's department.

## No parking on Main St.

There will be no parking along Main Street in downtown Marion from 3 p.m., until after Saturday's Christmas Parade. Both sides of Main Street from Depot Street to the traffic light at Bellville Street will be coned off starting two hours before the 5 p.m., parade. Local law enforcement cautions parents to be especially attentive to children seeking candy by going into the street as motorized vehicles pass by. Judges and Master of Ceremonies Cutter Singleton will be located on the balcony of Frazer Law Office. The Chamber of Commerce and Integrity Insurance are organizing the parade. Judges will select the top three entries in categories of Business, Church and Organization.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4 at the county office complex.
- Community Prayer will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8 at city hall.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8.
- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Rocket Arena conference room.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the courthouse.
- Marion City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Marion Welcome Center.

# Legacy of Liberty

## Local leaders planning June celebration to mark Quarter Millennium anniversary

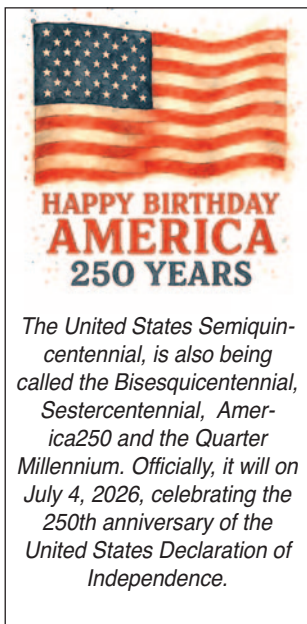
STAFF REPORT

Planning is underway for a communitywide celebration marking the nation's 250th anniversary, and the Community Arts Foundation (CAF) is spearheading the effort to coordinate a two-day event that organizers hope will highlight history, patriotism and local participation.

Kim Vince of CAF said an initial planning session held recently generated a broad range of ideas for "Legacy of Liberty," set for June 26-27, 2026 in Marion.

"I want to stress that the only thing set in stone is the date and location," Vince said, explaining that planning is in its earliest stages, but almost certainly an opening ceremony with reading of the Declaration of Independence, vendors, a Chautauqua interpretor, children's activities and museum tours will be among the features.

"Much of it is really still



up in the air because of budget," Vince said.

Sponsorships and donations would be readily accepted to help fund the celebration.

The committee will meet again at 5 p.m., Dec. 8 at Fohs Hall to continue brainstorming and orches-

trating a plan. Anyone interested in helping or having ideas should attend the meeting.

Preliminary discussions include a week of window painting on downtown businesses to build anticipation leading up to the celebration.

Events on Friday, June 26, might include a parade featuring veterans, Americana-themed floats and historic vehicles. Other activities under consideration are an American-history trivia competition and a movie night with a historical film.

Saturday's potential activities center around an outdoor opening ceremony. Suggestions for the program include a color guard, community choir, presentation and reading of the Declaration of Independence and a keynote speaker. Additionally, a vendor fair with food and other wares, pedal-tractor pull, pet show or parade, a

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At Lake George are Division of Water Director Sarah Marshall and her team along with engineer Ben Webster who helped develop the plan to stabilize Marion's hobbled reservoir. The group was here late last month and visited the county water district, too.

# State's team visits area to survey water infrastructure

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet officials spent a full day before Thanksgiving in Crittenden and Livingston counties for a comprehensive review of local water infrastructure improvements and upcoming needs.

Sara Marshall, director of the Division of Water, and members of her staff met with local leaders in Marion before touring several key sites. The group reviewed dam rehabilitation work at Lake George, visited Old City Lake and Marion's water plant, and later traveled to the Crittenden-Livingston Water District's treatment

■ CLWD approves rate increase that goes into effect this week. See page 3.

facility on the Cumberland River south of Salem.

Participating in the day's discussions and tours were Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom, Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams, Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning, Marion Water Plant Superintendent

See TOUR/page 3

# Football field, track among plans

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Schools has released a comprehensive District Facilities Plan that calls for significant renovations and new construction across all campuses, addressing aging infrastructure, safety needs and long-term instructional priorities.

A public hearing on the new blueprint for on-campus development and maintenance will be held at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Rocket Arena.

The plan maintains the

district's current configuration of P-5 elementary, 6-8 middle and 9-12 high school grades. Enrollment projections over the next six years show slight increases at the elementary and high school levels, with totals expected at 579 students for the elementary school, 278 at the middle school and 385 at the high school.

The most extensive work is planned for the combined middle and high school campus, where several building sections date back as far as 1960.

Major renovations would replace failing roofs, upgrade HVAC systems, modernize electrical service, install new windows and doors, improve interior finishes and replace aging plumbing fixtures and water heaters. Additional projects include renovated administrative areas at the middle school, updated restrooms near the gym lobby and new covered canopies for parent drop-off and for the connector to Rocket

See PLAN/page 8

# Where do you find it?

There are moments when quiet feels like a gift. In Crittenden County, where gravel roads give way to tree-lined ridges and forgotten fencerows, peace still exists in its truest form. From my office in town to my home tucked deep in the netherlands, there's a distance not just in miles but in spirit, the kind of remoteness that invites thought and clears the mind. You'll find me working remotely more these days, where production is increased at least threefold.

Where I live, there's no house in sight. My nearest neighbor is more than half a mile away. For years, until the ice storm broke a swath through the trees, I couldn't even see a distant porchlight. Now, on clear nights, I sometimes catch a faint glimmer of Fredonia – a reminder that civilization is out there, though mercifully not too close.

Just under 15 minutes gets me to Marion. I can run – yep like "Run Forrest, run" – from town to home in an hour and a half, if I had to. Or the walk would take a little more than two. I've threatened to do both because running, or walking, (like driving) provides a stretch time for introspection, for sorting through ideas, for simply breathing. There's a kind of stillness in rural Crittenden County that feels rare in a noisy world. That's why I love it so.

But even our most secluded corners – the ones that feel utterly alone – are nowhere near the most remote place on Earth.

That distinction belongs to Point Nemo, a spot in the South Pacific Ocean so far from land that astronauts passing overhead in the International Space Station are often the nearest human beings. Its coordinates, 48°52.6' S, 123°23.6' W, lie roughly halfway between New Zealand and Chile. The nearest specks of land, tiny islands barely big enough to name, are about 1,670 miles away in every direction.

No one lives there. There's no island, no reef, nothing but endless rolling water. Believe it or not, it's where old spacecraft are sent to die, the so-called "spacecraft cemetery," because there's virtually zero chance of debris ever bothering anyone. When the ISS arcs above every ninety minutes, its crew of six or seven people, which are about 250 miles up in orbit, become, for a few brief moments, the closest humans to that desolate patch of ocean. Never had heard about until listening to an off-beat podcast last week.

If you wanted to visit Point Nemo, though almost no one ever does, you'd likely launch from Punta Arenas, Chile, the southern tip of South America. From there it's nearly 1,700 miles of open water. A sailboat might take two weeks; even a fast research vessel would need five to seven days to reach the coordinates. You'd find nothing but sea and sky – the ultimate place to be alone.

When I think of that, I can't help but compare it to our own quiet corners of western Kentucky. My little clearing in the woods feels remote enough to hear my own thoughts, yet in truth, I'm never more than a half mile from traffic, about 2 miles from the nearest water tower or a quiet afternoon from a neighbor's voice if I really need it. Astronauts over Point Nemo glide silently above a planet that can feel both vast and intimate, depending where you are at any given moment.

There's comfort to be found in isolation. Whether in a cabin outside Marion or on a research vessel in the Pacific, solitude doesn't have to mean loneliness. Sometimes it's simply the space we grant ourselves to listen... to nature, to memory, to the slow thump of our own heartbeat in a world that rarely pauses or quietyens down.

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



Chris EVANS  
Press Editor & Publisher  
About Town



Deaths

Howard

Janice Kaye (Asher) Howard, 69, of Uniontown, Ky., died Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, surrounded by her loving children.

She loved to garden, cook, drive heavy equipment and coal mine. She especially loved Christmas.



Surviving are five children, Becky (John) Howard of Uniontown, Mary (Randy) Loveless of Marion, Bobby (Kayla) Howard of Uniontown, Melissa Howard Lee of Knoxville, Tenn., and Jimmy Lee Howard of Lexington; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Payton and Paige Snyder; Brock (Trista) Langston; Kayson Pierson; Zane McBride; Andrea Loveless-Stone (Cory); Tanner McBride; Landon Thomas; Lilee Loveless; Haydn Jones; Brody Jones; Ross Lee; Seth Lee; Westley Meadows; Isabella, Rosie and Lola Howard; Craeton Sandoval; Everett, Delaney and Caroline Snyder; and a special cousin, Kathy (Walter) Hazelwood.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Howard; a sister, Vickie Meuth; and her parents, Robert Lee and Dorothy Edna (Todd) Asher Jr.

Memorial services are at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m., in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services in Salem.

Friends may visit with the family on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may also be left online at [boydfuneraldirectors.com](http://boydfuneraldirectors.com).

*Paid obituary*

Guess

Terry Eugene Guess, 68, of Salem died Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025 at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital Paducah.



He attended Salem Methodist Church. He was an ironworker by trade and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Nancy Guess; two sons, Chad Guess of Paducah and Ethan (Jena) Guess of Smithland; a sister, Sue Paris of Salem; three brothers, Jim (Julie) Sisco of Paducah, David (Kelly) Tabor of Allerton, Ill., and David (Wanda) Trail of Ledbetter; 6 grandchildren, Carson Dale Guess, Hallie Jean Guess, Lauren Guess, Amaria Guess, Dathyn Guess and Gideon Guess, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Janet Sisco; and his mother, Nelda Sisco.

Services were Saturday, Nov. 29 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services, with Bro. Steve Tinsley officiating.

Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

*Paid obituary*

Atwood

Joyce Atwood, 80, of Fredonia, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025 at Caldwell Medical Center.

She was born Nov. 22, 1945, to the late Adron and Dorothy Gilbert Prowell. A devoted member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Atwood lived her life with a quiet strength and a generous heart. She cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren above all else, finding her greatest joy in their laughter, milestones and the moments they shared together. She

also enjoyed playing cards from time to time, especially when it meant gathering with friends and family.

Surviving are a daughter, Shelia (Jadie) Blackburn of Fredonia; two grandchildren, Kacey (Jason) Nesbitt and Ryan (Staci) Blackburn; and three great-grandchildren, Cameron Nesbitt, Anna Beth Blackburn and Ryder Blackburn.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Phillip Eugene Atwood; and a brother, Joe Prowell.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Dec. 3 at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Anthony Dyer and Bro. Dwayne Vinson officiating. Burial followed in Fredonia Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Gideon's International, Lyon Caldwell Camp, P.O. Box 254, Princeton, KY 42445.

*Paid obituary*

Byarley

William Earl Byarley, 85, of Marion, died Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025 at Salem Spring-

lake Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He was a member of the National Guard, and in addition to having worked at Moore's Business Forms and Rayloc, he was also a former employee for the Kentucky Highway Department and a lifelong farmer.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Pearl Byarley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Coy and Ludie Stacey Byarley; a brother and three sisters.

Graveside services were Saturday, Nov. 22 at Mapleview Cemetery under the direction of Myers Funeral Home.

*Paid obituary*



Cheekwood tour sparks partnership talks

Braden Locke and Kim Hunt Vince, representing Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation, spent the afternoon on Saturday, Nov. 22 touring Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Museum of Art and Mansion Estate in Nashville with Cheekwood's VP of Construction David Cobb. The trio discussed potential collaboration and information-sharing between the two cultural entities.

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for information on obituaries, funeral arrangements, pre-need arrangements and background information about the funeral home.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 4

- Line dancing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Early American Heritage Project begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Park.

Saturday, Dec. 6

- Livingston County PACS will host a toy drive from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ledbetter Dollar General Store. For more information contact the Livingston County PACS office at (270) 928-2827.
- Marion Christmas Parade begins at 5 p.m. Supper with Santa begins at 6 p.m. at the Crittenden County Lions Club building.

Monday, Dec. 8

- DIY Evergreen wreath begins at 5:30 p.m. at St. William Parish hall.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

- Line dancing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the VFW building located at 412 S. College St. in Marion. Refreshments will be served.



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**Community Arts Foundation**



**FOHS HALL**



**LESSONS & AROLS**

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Saturday, Dec. 13

**2:30 PM**  
Sunday, Dec. 14

**Fohs Hall**  
Marion, Ky.

**Featured Singers & Musicians**

**Community Choir** **Children's Choir** *Directed by Michelle Crider*  
**Marion Methodist Church Handbells** *Directed by John Michael Gage*  
**Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass**

Michelle Crider Cade Crider Lacie Duncan Adam Guess Hannah Peek  
Teresa Beavers George Wheistone Bek Schmidt Payne DeHaven Declan Bingham  
Isaac Carter John Michael Gage Gordon Hein Brennan Cruce

**Featured Readers**

Aaron Brown Tyler Coleman Rhonda Horack  
Jeff Hughes Brooke Hunt Katie Keene  
David LeNeave Kenlee McDaniel Howard Suggs

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# CLWD approves rate hike on this month's water

## Price tag for multi-phase expansion continues to climb toward \$70 million

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden-Livingston County Water District (CLWD) leaders last week reviewed system repairs, upcoming projects and financial matters during their November board meeting, where members also approved a temporary moratorium on new water line extensions.

Maintenance and Distribution Supervisor Jared Franklin reported that leak activity has begun to settle after a busy few months. He said crews handled 20 service repairs and 12 main repairs in October. M&G Services is continuing meter installations and was expected to help repair a leak on the 12-inch Wilson Hill line.

Superintendent Abbie Adamson said water-loss figures reflect recent progress. Losses measured 32 percent in September and dropped to 26.5 percent in October. She said crews had repaired every

known leak except the Wilson Hill line and expects loss percentages to improve once all monthly figures are finalized.

Plant Manager Von Summers said the new clearwell continues to make a noticeable impact on service to the south side of the Cumberland River. The district sent about 80,000 gallons a day to Marion last month, totaling more than 2 million gallons. Usage is down slightly, which Summers said is typical for this time of year.

Plant operator Denver Robertson announced his intention to retire in February or March but expressed willingness to stay on part-time as needed.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding potential water line extensions. Despite having been awarded several hundred thousand dollars for extension projects, the board approved a moratorium on new line exten-

sions until the district's expansion project is complete. Engineering on already funded extensions will continue. Officials noted that both Crittenden and Livingston counties still have roadways without public water service, but until the plant is capable of meeting demands, there will be no build out of new lines.

Project consultant Tim Thomas said zone monitoring and leak-repair initiatives are eligible uses for the district's available funding. Approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 could be redirected to those efforts. While CLWD cannot move forward with new line extensions at this time, he said roughly \$700,000 remains available and about \$116,000 may be at risk of being returned to the state if not used. Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom suggested that some of those funds could go toward design work for future distribution lines to avoid sending money back.

In other action, the board

formally approved the 13.07 percent water-rate increase previously authorized by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. The new rate structure will be billed in January and reflect usage beginning in December. The adjustment is expected to generate about \$402,000 in additional annual revenue for the district. A household using 4,000 gallons per month will see its bill rise from \$67 to about \$75.73.

The PSC's order also includes approval of revised tap-on fees and a reduction in certain service charges. The standard 5/8-inch residential tap-on fee will increase from \$750 to \$1,950 to more accurately reflect installation costs. Adamson said the district has historically lost money on new connections because labor, materials and compliance expenses exceeded the fee charged.

The rate increase proposal followed a June 2024 study by Kentucky Rural Water Association that concluded the district needed more than

\$500,000 in additional annual revenue to meet projected expenses. PSC staff recommended a slightly smaller adjustment after reclassifying some maintenance work as capital improvements and questioning certain administrative costs.

CLWD serves about 3,700 customers in Crittenden and Livingston counties. Its three-phase expansion project will ultimately double treatment capacity from 2 million to 4 million gallons per day. Capital coninutes to be sought for that multi-phase project. Thomas has been instrumental in raising funds necessary for the broad project. Total grant funding to date equals about \$23 million and low-interest loans amount to \$7.5 million, of which about half will be forgivable. Yet the estimated cost of the overall project continues to increase as costs go up. Right now, the district is looking at a final cost of around \$65 to \$70 million for the entire project.

## Livingston EMS, county approved for \$10K grant

STAFF REPORT

Livingston Fiscal Court last week conducted routine business and reported on activities around the county.

Both the fiscal court and Livingston County EMS have been awarded a Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) grant. Combined, the agencies can receive up to \$10,000. EMS is considering using its portion to purchase lift-assist equipment, and the county plans to apply its share toward new security cameras inside the County Office Building's common areas and outside the building.

The court approved a request from the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce for a \$300 donation to help purchase equipment for the Christmas in the Courtyard event, and \$1,000 to the local PACS office for Christmas Miracle, a program to help kids with gifts at Christmas.

Judge-Executive Michael Williams told magistrates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### LIVINGSTON COUNTY Fiscal Court

will begin a Smithland Flood Plain Management Service Study to evaluate potential flood-control solutions. The study comes at no cost to the county.

Animal control issues were also discussed after Lyon County's animal control officer abruptly resigned. Livingston and Crittenden counties are assisting Lyon until a replacement is hired, and officials plan to explore other arrangements. Caldwell County is also without an animal control officer. At the next Livingston Fiscal Court meeting, magistrates are expected to consider increasing the monthly payment to Crittenden County for animal control services. Livingston houses its stray dogs at the Crittenden County Animal Shelter, which has been losing money in recent months.

Road department updates included work on Kelly Drive, where drainage issues were re-

solved. Threlkeld Road concrete work has been completed to prevent further erosion, and new salt brine equipment has been purchased, with hopes of having everything ready in preparation for winter. This should be a cost-saver, as less road salt will be needed. The Vanhooser Road bridge, which is closed after a state inspection, will be replaced with a box culvert. It has arrived, and installation is expected in mid-Dec.

Magistrates last week also approved giving a surplus police cruiser to the City of Grand Rivers, which pays for a Livingston County part-time deputy to patrol the city. The current police cruiser has reached its usability life.

Lastly, the county reported a major cost reduction on its Windstream telecommunications bill, which has dropped from \$1,300 to \$150 per month.

## Sandwich Generation 1 in 4 adults are caring for adult, raising a young child

Approximately one in four adults simultaneously cares for someone over age 65 and raises a child under 18, according to a 2023 report in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. This group is called the "sandwich generation." With average life expectancy increasing, many middle-aged adults now find themselves caring for both their aging parents and their dependent children at the same time.

The sandwich generation faces normal financial pressures, such as child care and education costs, retirement savings, health care needs and basic living expenses. What makes this population unique is that they have co-occurring responsibilities that often draw from the same limited pool of resources – time, energy and money.

Balancing dual caregiving roles can be challenging, especially with multiple competing priorities. If you are a "sandwiched" adult, consider these tips to reduce the financial stress associated with caring for an aging loved one.

**Keep budgets separate**

If you provide care for an older adult, it is important to keep their finances separate from yours if they plan to apply for assistance through government agencies.

When applying for benefits, do not hide or transfer a loved one's assets to qualify, as this can have negative legal consequences. Use your loved one's resources to pay for their expenses and keep detailed records.

**Explore assistance programs**

Search for community and government assistance programs that can help with living or medical expenses, long-term care costs, meal delivery



services, transportation to medical appointments and more. Additionally, research local free or low-cost senior programs, senior centers, adult day care options and caregiver support groups.

There are many useful state and national resources you can explore online:

- Medicaid at [medicaid.gov](https://www.medicicaid.gov).
- Medicare at [ssa.gov/medicare](https://www.ssa.gov/medicare).
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at [ssa.gov/ssi](https://www.ssa.gov/ssi).
- Senior Services at [hhs.gov/programs/social-services/programs-for-seniors](https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/programs-for-seniors).

Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living at [chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dail](https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dail).

National Aging in Place Council at [ageinplace.org](https://ageinplace.org).

**Seek caregiver support**

Dual caregiving can be exhausting. If you feel overwhelmed, remember you are not alone. Talking with a counselor, chaplain or friend can help. Also consider meeting with a financial planner who specializes in eldercare. They can create a financial plan that balances everyone's needs.

Caregivers may qualify for unpaid time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), whcih allows qualifying employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year to care for an immediate family member. Some employers offer paid eldercare leave options; they may permit you to use sick days or personal leave to care for loved ones, or they might offer shared leave banks for caregiving needs.

For more information about available eldercare and caregiving resources and support, contact the Crittenden County Extension Office at 270-965-5236.

*Rebecca L. Woodall is Family Consumer Science Agent in Crittenden County.*

## Hart's legacy will lead Marion's parade

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce's Legacy Award winner, the late Keith Hart, will be honored posthumously as grand marshal of this year's Marion Christmas parade. Hart, who died Sept. 16 at age 71, was a longtime community leader, businessman and school board chairman whose impact on Marion stretched across five decades.

A Morganfield native and Murray State graduate, Hart co-owned and operated Marion Feed Mill for more than 40

years alongside his close friend and business partner, Charlie Hunt. He was active in numerous civic organizations, including the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Park Board and the Chamber of Commerce, where he once served as president. He also spent 15 years on the Crittenden County School Board and was instrumental in



Keith Hart

the construction of the current high school gym. Hart coached little league football for many years and was known as "Coach Hart" long after his players grew up.

Hart was honored with its Legacy Award at the Chamber's annual gala in October. The Legacy Award recipient serves as the holiday parade's grand marshal.

This year's parade will honor Hart's lifelong service to Marion and his dedication to the people and organizations he supported throughout his life.

## Baker will serve as Fredonia's Marshal

STAFF REPORT

Fredonia native Nicky Baker has been selected as this year's grand marshal for the annual Christmas parade. Baker, a lifelong resident and farmer, is a 1970 graduate of Fredonia High School and has long been active in community projects. He worked with David Williams to develop Woodman Park and later helped add playground equipment.



Nicky Baker

Baker played a key role in reorganizing the Fredonia Riding Club and helped start the Caldwell-Lyon Cattlemen Association, which later inducted him into its State Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Fredonia Heritage Society and an elder at Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he has served in several capacities.

He and his wife, Gary Beth, have been married 43 years. They have two children, CC (Crystal) of Woodstock, Ga., and Nan (Chris) Watson of Fredonia, and six grandchildren who call him "Papa."

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Continued from page 1

band and other activities are being kicked around as options.

Local institutions are expected to play a significant role, including the Crittenden County Historical Museum and Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. An Early American

Heritage group could create a Revolutionary War encampment and artifact display.

Indoor programming at Fohs Hall could feature a flag-history presentation, an improv performance based on American themes, a juried art show of public submissions and a Chautauqua-style portrayal of Henry Clay.

Several light-hearted contests have been discussed, including a hot-dog-eating contest and an apple-pie-eating competition.

Organizers expect to refine and finalize events over the coming months as community groups determine their level of participation.

## TOUR

Continued from page 1

Jeff Black, members of the CLWD board, CLWD Superintendent Abbie Adamson, CLWD Board Chairman T.L Maddux, consultant Tim Thomas, project engineers and others.

The visits come as the City of Marion and CLWD have secured roughly \$32 million in grants and low-interest loans for ongoing and planned water projects. Only about \$3.5 million of that total will require repayment by CLWD.

### CCLEPC PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC), pursuant to Section 324, Title III (3) of the 1986 Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11001 ET,SEQ., the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right to Know requirements of the SARA Law and the Open Meetings and Open Records Provisions of KRS 61.800, 61.805, 61.810, 61.823, 61.826, 61.835. Members of the public may contact the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) by writing Mr. Jason Hurley, Chairman of the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) at, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 or contact by phone at (270) 965-5251. The Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) conducts meetings at 275 Industrial Dr., Marion, KY or at other locations, in accordance with the KY Open Meetings Law. Members of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820.

Records of the planning committee, including the county emergency response plan, safety data sheets, and inventory forms, or any follow-up emergency meeting notice may subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., CST, M-F, at 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 as required by the KY Open Records Law. The local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA Law, is (270) 965-3500.





## Plans to remodel vacant building on Sturgis Road

Local businessman Kenny Locke has purchased the three-story building on Sturgis Road which was sold at auction a few weeks ago. It formerly belonged to the estate of Jerry Stone. The building has been vacant for many years.

Locke plans to renovate the old building, perhaps installing higher ceilings and eliminating one story, turning it into a cab-inetry and kitchen design shop and office space. He also is considering a drive-thru coffee shop.

### Candidate filings for Crittenden & area counties

Here is a look at 2026 county election filings for Crittenden and surrounding counties. The following county-by-county list reflects candidate filings through the end of November. Candidates have until Jan. 6.

In **Crittenden County**, all candidates to date are Republicans. For countywide offices, Perry Newcom and Nathan Ratley have filed for judge-executive. Bart Frazer and Chad Nelson filed for county attorney. Daryl Tabor is seeking re-election as county clerk. Evan Head and Ray Agent filed for sheriff. Todd Perryman is running for property valuation administrator. Athena Hayes and Robbie Kirk filed for jailer, and Brad Gilbert for coroner.

District magistrate filings include Danny Fowler and Rob Horack in the 1st District, Matt Grimes in the 2nd, and Robert Kirby and Pam Todd in the 3rd. Brennan Cruce filed in the 5th District. Paul Beard filed for 3rd District constable.

In **Caldwell County**, Judge-Executive Kota Young has an-

nounced that he will not seek re-election. Young was 22 years old when he was elected mayor of Princeton then followed that with one term as county judge.

Otherwise, here are the filings for other offices. All candidates are Republican. Jennifer Watson Hale and David Zachary Granstaff filed for county clerk. Don Weedman filed for sheriff, Angela Cotton for jailer, De-wayne Trafford for coroner and Rick Tosh for county surveyor. Magistrate candidates include Bobby Joe Harper and Casey Baker in the 1st District, Jeff Boone in the 2nd, Brent Stallins in the 3rd and Jeff Simms in the 4th. Brian Hicks filed for 2nd District constable.

In **Livingston County**, all candidates are Republicans unless noted. Countywide filings include Sonya Williams for clerk; Allen Wilson for county attorney; Michael Williams and Tina Gay Tinsley for judge-executive; Donald Crawford, Glenn Gordon, Shannon Edging and Shawn Malston for sheriff; Benjamin Keith Guill for jailer; and Jeffery Lynn Armstrong for coroner. Magistrate candidates include James Mark Long in the 2nd District, Brad Hunter in the 3rd and Klay Southern in the 4th. Chip Birman filed for 3rd District constable. Kayla Curry has filed for a nonpartisan seat on the city legislative body.

In **Lyon County**, Democrats filing include Bobby Cummins for 1st District magistrate, Jeffery Fowler for 3rd District magistrate, Kris L. Dunn for coroner, Steve Galusha for jailer and Jordan Hunter Stone for judge-executive. Republican filings include Jaime Smith for judge-executive; Clayton Timmons for clerk; Lee Wilson for county attorney; Brent White for sheriff; and Quin Sutton for 2nd District magistrate.

In **Union County**, Democratic filings include Jerri Floyd for 2nd District magistrate and Sam McLeod for 1st District constable. Republican candidates include Adam R. O’Nan for judge-executive; Garrick Thompson for clerk; Megan Randolph for county attorney; Jason O. Thomas for sheriff; Jason L. Newton for jailer; and Jeffery “Peachy” Paris for coroner. Republican magistrate candidates include Rick Wyatt and



Dylan Floyd in the 1st District, Brian French, Jake Mason and Stephen Hendrickson in the 3rd, Dakota Jones in the 4th, and Joseph “Bo” Girten and Michael Turner in the 5th.

In **Webster County**, Democratic filings include Valerie Newell for clerk and Jeffrey D. Kelley for property valuation administrator. Republican candidates include Ryan Morgan Hammack for judge-executive; Wm. Clint Prow for county attorney; William “Billy” Braden for sheriff; and Cameron Shelton and Nathan Mitchell Stinchcomb for jailer. Republican magistrate filings include Chad E. Townsend in the 1st District, Bob Hardison in the 2nd, and Tony Felker, Ken Stuart, Taryn Bailey Zaretske and Charles M. Syers in the 3rd.

### SBA offers assistance for businesses that were drought impacted

U.S. Small Business Administration has opened low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private non-profit organizations in western Kentucky affected by drought conditions that began Sept. 23.

Counties included in the declaration are Caldwell, Calloway, Christian, Crittenden, Graves, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken and Trigg. Stewart County, Tenn., is also eligible.

The SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program assists small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries and private nonprofits that suffered economic losses tied directly to the drought. The agency cannot make disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers or ranchers, except aquaculture operations.

Loans are intended for working capital needs such as fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that could not be paid because of the disaster. Physical damage is not required to qualify.



### From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago

Crittenden County High School junior varsity cheerleaders strike a confident pose during a practice session in the old Rocket gym. Pictured are Denise Holloman (center), Donna Kirk, Kanley Gilland, Patty Beavers, Linda Conger and Brenda Sisco. The group was part of a growing school-spirit movement in the mid-1970s as pep squads, boosters and cheer teams helped energize Rocket athletics.

## 50 YEARS AGO

### December 4, 1975

■ Morris Caudill retired as district conservationist from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service after 17 years of service.

■ The Rocket boys’ basketball team fell to Trigg in their season opener. Scoring was led by Danny Hodges with 14, and Keith Cosby, Pat Perry and Daryl Sherer with 12 each.

■ The Lady Rockets started the season 1-1 after losing to Webster County and beating Lyon County 55-40. Markeata Brown scored 17 against Webster and 19 against Lyon.

■ Recital participants in Mrs. Bruce Guess’ music program included Tammy Binkley, Lisa Kinnis, Steven Berry, Gail Croft, Beverly Stallion, Barbara Harris, Pat Brown, Tracy Guess, Debbie Collins, Bonita Belt, Cindy Brookshire, Gay Ann Belt, Terri Guess, Mike Cline, Dianne Cherry, Tracy Crowell, Randy Belt, Jay Berry, Tim Harmon, Tony Stallion, Lisa James, Debbie Yandell, Sandra Myers, Angie James, Teresa Myers, Rhonda Kirk, David Yandell, Rhonda Hannah, Roxanne Binkley, Sharon Workman, Angie Belt, Tanya Travis and Jennifer Hill.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### December 7, 2000

■ The middle and high school speech team members worked with kindergarten and Head Start students, writing letters to Santa. Abby Adams and Katie Keene entertained the students with various activities and showed off some of their Student Technology Leadership Program trinkets.

■ The Crittenden County Middle School speech team participated in its first tournament. Wes Hunt and John Brantley won first place in the seventh-grade acting category. Abby Adams, an eighth-grader, placed sixth in solo acting, contributing to the team’s overall sixth-place finish.

■ During the shotgun turkey season, Bill and Steven Smith tag-teamed two toms. Bill bagged an 18-pounder with an 8.25-inch beard and five-eighths spurs, while Steven’s gobbler had seven-eighths spurs, an 8-inch beard and weighed 17 pounds.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### December 3, 2015

■ Crittenden County’s girls’ basketball team won its first game against Dawson Springs. Cassidy Moss led the team to a 57-45 victory with 16 points. Behind her were Amanda Lynch with 7 and Francesca Pierce with 5.

■ The 4-H Dog Club built raised beds for the Mary Hall-Ruddiman Canine Shelter. McKenna Myers and Aria Kirk worked on the beds, using materials provided by the shelter. Kristi Beavers, the shelter’s manager, initiated the project, and Leslea Barnes from the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension praised the kids’ efforts to save the shelter money.

■ The Crittenden County Elementary School coloring contest, sponsored by Food Giant and Magic 102.7 WMJL, was a success, with four winners. The kindergarten winners were Alex Hewitt and Cheyenne Dorris, and the first-grade winners were Gunner Topp and Autumn White.



The holiday season is packed with music, cheer and community spirit as many events celebrate local talent and holiday joy.

Here is a sampling of what Marion and Crittenden County have to offer this season:

- Crittenden County FCCLA is collecting new toys for the Merry Little Family Christmas through Dec. 8. Donations should be for children 5th grade and younger. Drop-off locations: Crittenden County Public Library, CVS, both Dollar General locations, Game Day, Federal Credit Union, Crittenden County Hospital, KB Pharmacy, H&H, Farmers Bank and First United Bank. More information: katie.allsbury@stu.crittenden.kyschools.us.
- Dec. 4, 6 p.m., the CCHS Band will have its holiday concert at Fohs Hall, featuring classic carols and holiday favorites. The event will include a silent auction and a donation bucket.
- Providence will host two days of Christmas festivities on the first weekend of December, separating its traditional holiday events into back-to-back celebrations.
- Providence Christmas Community Event will be Friday, Dec. 5 from 4 to 8 p.m., at the Providence Community Center. Families can enjoy free activities, rides, treats and other seasonal attractions. The Providence Lighted Christmas Parade will follow on Saturday, Dec. 6. Lineup begins at 4 p.m., and the parade starts at 5.

Registration is available online.

- Dec. 6, 10 a.m., will be A Charlie Brown Christmas Literacy Event at Fohs Hall. Enjoy story time, crafts and photos with Santa as families celebrate reading and the timeless message of Charlie Brown’s Christmas. This event is sponsored by Community Arts Foundation.
- Dec. 6, 10 a.m., is the Christmas in Kuttawa event. Experience the thrill of ice skating at Christmas in Kuttawa. The event is free and includes ice skating, train rides, mule rides, a Grinch slide, a 30-foot igloo with crafts, a giant snow globe and free Wendy’s chili, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Hosted by the City of Kuttawa and the Lake Barkley Chamber of Commerce.
- Dec. 6 is the annual Marion Christmas Parade in downtown Marion, beginning at 5 p.m. Registration to participate is free with forms available at Integrity Insurance on East Bellville Street in Marion where Denise Byarley and her staff are coordinating entries. Participants may register floats, trucks or other entries and provide information for parade announcements.
- Santa will be at the Lions Club’s Agriculture Building at Crittenden County Fairgrounds starting at 6 p.m., Dec. 6. Children visiting Santa will get a free meal consisting of chili, hot dog and cookie. Adults can make a donation for a meal. Photos with Santa are encouraged.
- Extension will have on Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m., a DIY Evergreen Wreath event at St. William Parish Hall on South Main Street in Marion. Make and take home your own evergreen wreath. All materials provided; participants are encouraged to bring gloves.
- In Eddyville on Dec. 12, at 6

p.m., will be the annual Christmas Parade. Eddyville’s holiday celebration will feature floats, golf carts, games and festive entertainment as part of the city’s Christmas in the Park. To register call 270-388-2226.

- Deer Creek Baptist Church will host its annual Live Nativity Scene on four consecutive evenings 6-8 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 13 through Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the church at 69 Deer Creek Road in the Sheridan community.
- Community Arts Foundation will have at 7 p.m., on Dec. 13 and at 2:30 p.m., on Dec. 14 an event titled Lessons and Carols at Fohs Hall. Experience the beauty of the season through scripture and song, blending choral and instrumental music with readings that reflect the true meaning of Christmas.
- Salem’s Lighted Salem Christmas Parade rained out in late November is rescheduled for 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. This year’s theme is Winter Wonderland. No Santas are allowed on floats, as one will be provided by Salem Fire & Rescue.
- Cookie Craze hosted by Crittenden County Extension will be at the Lions Club Building at 5:30 p.m., on Dec. 15. Decorate cookies and learn holiday baking tips. There will be an optional cookie exchange, too. Bring two dozen cookies and recipes if you’d like to participate.
- Crider Performing Arts Studios will present at 6 p.m., on Dec. 16 an Holiday Recital at Fohs Hall. Come celebrate young performers as students from Crider Performing Arts Studio take the stage in a joyful showcase of talent and creativity.

*Have an event to promote?  
Text info to 270-965-3191*

## The Crittenden Press

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# Gratitude begins with remembered blessings

Before we can be thankful for anything, there are at least two conditions that must exist. The first is understanding what is being done for us. The better our understanding the deeper the gratitude. The second is either memory or imagination. Memory in the sense of recalling something that was done for us that we could not have done for ourselves. Imagination in the sense of realizing that whatever I am experiencing right now was just made more possible, bearable, or pleasant by the presence of another person.

If we have developed the practice of gratitude in our lives, we say thank you for something as mundane as another holding a door open for us. The opposite of gratitude is entitlement – that sense of upset experienced when someone doesn’t do something for us that they have no obli-

gation to do. I remember many things that have been done for me during my life. As the years have passed, I have become more grateful because my understanding has grown. This is what happens to most of us as we grow out of our teens and early twenties and start families of our own. This is why there is sometimes a tinge of sorrow at funerals for not saying “thank you” enough to a beloved parent, mentor, or aunt or uncle.

Memory goes beyond just those things that may come to mind. There is memory in family heirlooms. There is memory in an old recipe. There is memory in that old clock on the wall. Imagine all the people that old dish has seen through the years; the conversations that it heard. When families gather, stories are told and retold. Sometimes to the

point that younger people imagine they were present at events before they were even born. This is what happens to us when we are connected to our past. Remembering as believers in God is a necessary part of our worship. This is why community is so important. This is why tradition matters – even if they need to be tweaked or change from time to time. Along with that memory comes the appreciation of what has happened in the past that we should be so blessed as to be able to pass faith from one generation to the next. The book of Psalms is about remembering what God has done. They are songs that remind us that God is righteous and just. They remind us that he is our Creator. They remind us that his laws are good and beautiful, if we could but learn them and graft them into our hearts. Three back-to-back Psalms tell the story of God saving his people despite their forgetting what he had done for them. Psalm 105 tells of the rescue of Israel from Egypt and giving them a place to live. Psalm 106 tells of how

they “forgot his works” (106:13). Near the end of the Psalm we read, “Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes, and were brought low through the iniquity. Nevertheless he regarded their distress, when he heard their cry. He remembered for their sake his covenant, and relented according to his steadfast love.” (106:43-45, RSV). The Psalm ends with the cry, “Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.” And in Psalm 107, he does. It is a song about rescue from all the trouble that they (and we) were in. The response is, “Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to the sons of men!” (107:8, 15, 21, 31). But to give thanks there must be memory and appreciation. This means that we tell the whole story. The successes and the failures, because both have something to teach us. Tell stories of hurt and forgiveness. Tell stories of tenacity and great love. Stories of our lives, told

in the context of our faith, strengthens those who hear them. When we don’t tell the stories, the next generation forgets. It forgets its roots. This is why just after we read the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5 we read in the next chapter, “These words that I command you shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut. 6:6-7). This is not only about keeping the commandments. It is about remembering the past as we live in the present. Dr. Sean Nistrath is a minister in Madisonville, Ky. He holds a doctoral degree in ministry. You may contact him at sean.nistrath@outlook.com.

Marion Baptist Church

WELCOME

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Open to the Public  
9am to 3pm  
Monday thru Friday

Walking Track  
Gymnasium

# Living a Godly life points others to Christ

**Question:** I recently became a Christian. I see some church attenders who are not living what I consider a Christian life. I want to live a life that makes a difference for the Lord. How do I do that?

**Answer:** Being a good servant of Jesus Christ isn’t easy. The critical characteristic of living for Him is godliness. The Apostle Paul instructed young Timothy, “Train yourself to be godly. For physical training

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison

is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come” (1 Tim. 4:7, 8). Without godliness, the structure of our lives as believers falls apart. The specific qualities of godliness are listed in 1 Tim-

othy 4:12. They are godly speech and conduct, love, faith and purity. People are listening to our words and watching our action. Since the Bible defines God as love, it isn’t surprising that a godly life is a life of love. As we deepen our faith in God through studying the Bible, holiness will increase in our lives. Moral purity begins with what we think about. So, feed your mind on clean and wholesome thoughts. Godliness is the by-prod-

uct of your spiritual health. It requires effort on your part. So, train yourself in godliness by taking truth from God’s Word (the Bible) into your mind and submit your inclinations to its instructions. Becoming godly takes commitment and continual effort, but it yields great benefits here and now and it prepares you for what comes after death (1 Tim. 4:8). 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.
- 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.

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53rd Annual

Founder's Day

Sunday, Dec. 7

Services begin at 10 a.m.  
Bro. Curt Greenfield, pastor

Meal To Follow in the Fellowship Hall  
Sunday School & Evening Worship Cancelled

Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion, Ky.

WORSHIP

with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.  
Rodney Phelps, Pastor (270) 704-2400  
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com  
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St. William Catholic Church

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" Bro. Jamie Baker  
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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

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

Marion Church of God

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

6651 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.

Marion Church of Christ  
546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

Speaker: Greg Rushing

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  
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 Discipeler  
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 am. • 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.



# Tracing the early history of Sugar Grove and its families

All sections of our county have many things of historical interest and beautiful scenery for us to see. Some areas we have more information about, as the earlier generation took the time and interest to record some of the knowledge they had of the area.

Through these writing of many years ago, we have more information about some areas of the county than others. Such is the case of the Sugar Grove and Deanwood area. Some of the earliest history we have was written by Mr. Joseph N. Dean and Miss Ruby Dean. Here is some of the history around the Sugar Grove Church area that they took the time to record and share.

### Bellah and Lamb Family

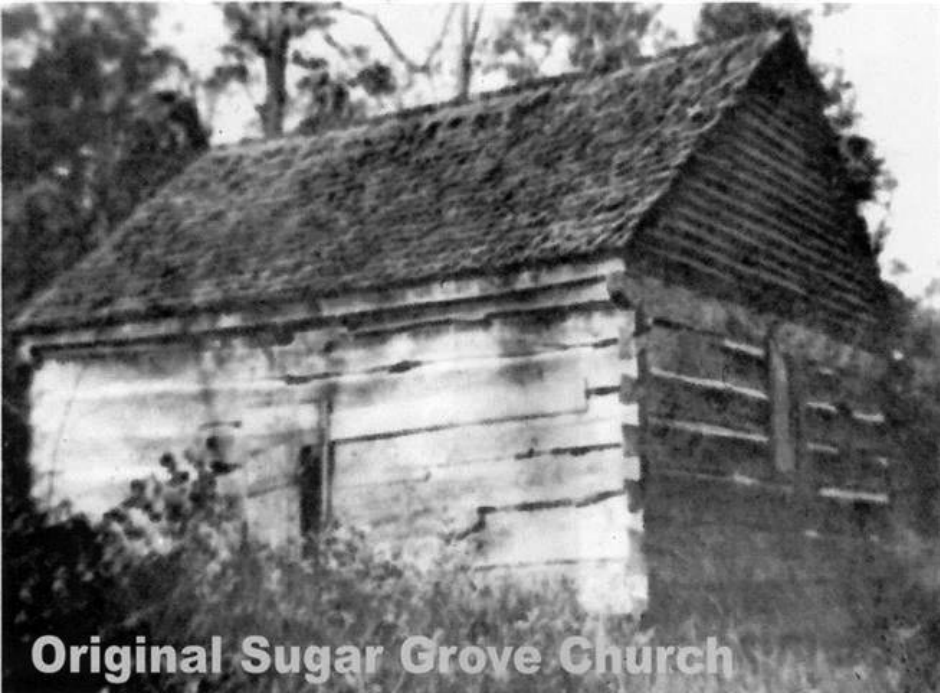
Ruebin Bellah was born in 1776 in Rowan County, N.C. His father, Samuel Bellah, moved from North Carolina to Oglethorpe County, Ga., about 1792. Here Ruebin married Barbara Whatley in 1802. A year or more later they moved to Crittenden County, Ky., and probably lived with his aunt, Comfort Lamb, until he could build a cabin home. Ruebin's home was built a few yards from the place where Sugar Grove Church now stands.

The Lambs, his uncle and aunt, lived one half mile east of his place. Ruebin cleared a number of acres of ground here which for many years afterwards was called the "Old Bellar Field." A part of this old field in now the Sugar Grove Church ground and church cemetery. A little way from this on the west side is a deep hollow that has been known for many years as the "Beller Holler," and in the basin of this hollow is a spring that was called Beller Spring.

The church cemetery was first used in 1885 when Harvey Lamb was buried there. He died March 27, 1885. The next person to be buried in the cemetery was Elizabeth Murray Hodges, wife of Littleton J. Hodges. She died Jan. 24, 1886. Since then the number of mounds have increased rapidly. And many who sleep beneath the mounds are descendants of pioneers John and Comfort Bellah Lamb.

Ruebin and Barbara Bellah had several children, but this story is about two of them, a little boy and girl. There is a tradition of a tragedy that befell them while they lived at the Beller field place.

At the time, the Ruebin Bellah family lived at the old Beller field place, where the church house is now. Most of the Indians had left this section and gone to regions beyond the Ohio and Mississippi rivers; however, there were a few who pretended to be friendly with the white people and roamed about and



The first Sugar Grove Church was built of logs in a wooded area among countless Maple Sugar trees, from which the church took its name.

hunted, and the new settlers expected no harm from them.

But when two of the Bellah children were found some distance from the house, going to the spring for water, they were seized by one or more Indians and scalped, but it seems that they did not try to kill them. When the little boy and girl, in some way, reached their home and told their father what had taken place, he immediately started in pursuit with his rifle. He over-

took them several miles from home and shot and killed one of them. Then a battle started and Ruebin killed the second one, the third one escaped, by then the father felt that he had avenged the brutal deed and was satisfied to turn his face towards home as no doubt darkness would soon overtake him.

The boy and girl were about seven or eight years old at that time and they recovered from their wounds. The family moved away a little later and we have no further account of them. (The Bellah family moved to Galletin Co., Ill., with the John and Comfort Lamb family.) As to the facts, there is no doubt of the scalping of the children by the Indians at that time and place. The story has been told the writer (J. N. Dean) by many old people who were told about it years and years ago.

### Sugar Grove Church

The first Sugar Grove Church was built in a narrow thickly wooded valley near a beautiful spring which flowed from the hillside among countless maple sugar trees, from which the

church took its name.

The windows were made seven or eight feet from the ground and formerly had heavy wooden shutters for protection from Indians. Sugar Creek flowed in its banks not too far from the site of the church. The church was built on a small incline that looked over the meadow and creek.

In 1884 the church members, with the help of the community, built a new frame church about three-fourth of a mile northwest of the old church on higher ground and more convenient to get to.

When the old white oak hewn logs were taken down, they were found to be perfectly sound, and if they could have spoken would probably have protested against being moved, as they could render service for another century.

When the new church was built, the congregation marked the old historic location with a monument and an engraved marker. It still marks the location today.

### Ruby Dean shares Sugar Grove School history

Miss Ruby Dean tells of the old Sugar Grove School that was located a little farther down the road from the present day church.

Sugar Grove schoolhouse was located down the hill and up again about one-fourth mile past the present day church site. If you had passed this school house in the early 1900s you would vow that it belonged on the hillside where it appeared to be wedged and seemed to have been there forever. It was built in 1889 or 1890.

Miss Dean taught school there in the early 1900s. Her story says not a lot could be done with our hillside playground, batting the ball usually placed it into the road and down the hill it went.

Girls made playhouses and leaf hats. The boys dug into the dry, bare bank and made a furnace, complete with stove pipes and fire where potatoes and apples were roasted.

The last teacher was Arrie Joyce, her students consisted of Maudie, Imogene, Martha and Wayne Hunt. After health problems in 1952, she did not return to teaching and the four pupils were transferred to Shady Grove School.

Perry James bought the building and lot in 1965, intending to tear it down, but he discovered very good timbers in it, so instead of tearing it down he built onto and below it. Some of the James family still lives there today.

This old road used to continue on through the countryside and connect with the Blackburn Church Road, cutting off many miles from the way you have to travel to reach the Blackburn Church Road today.

Several families lived along this road, some of the families were Woodside, Hazzard, Corley, Walker and Johnson. Many years ago, the families of Lamb, Wilson and Deboe lived on this road. The historic John and Comfort Lamb home that was located on this road was destroyed by fire in October 2015.

This old road after you go so far is almost impassable and is privately owned by people from Madisonville. As you turn around and



The last teacher at Sugar Grove School was Miss Arrie Joyce. Her students were Maudie, Imogene, Martha and Wayne Hunt. The school closed in 1952 and the students were sent to Shady Grove.

continue back towards the Sugar Grove Church you can see an old road bed located near the church. This long ago traveled road would take you across the Beller holler to the Towery Rd. About half way between the roads and located on a rise is the Allen-Phillips Cemetery. Many pioneer families of this area are buried here.

We have a beautiful county and many scenic

views to greet us along our way. So much history and stories that are now silent are just about lost to time. But the people and these places helped make our county what it is today.

(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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**December 31, 2025**

is the last day to change your political party affiliation and still be eligible to vote in the May 2026 primary election

Kentucky primaries are closed, meaning you can vote only for the party you are registered with

**GoVote.ky.gov to change parties or visit the County Clerk's office**

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# Library Surplus

### CRITTENDEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

For sale by sealed bid:  
**Electronic**

**Technology**

1. Wall-mount Hand Dryers, new, never used, set of 2, plug-in
1. (8 items, 1 bid per item, or number of items) HP Elite Desk 800 CPU tower, Windows 10 pro Operating System, no software
2. (2 items, 1 bid per item, or number of items) Dell OptiPlex 7010 mid-size tower, Windows 10 pro Operating System, no software

The Crittenden County Public Library will accept sealed bids for the above items from 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 through 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 2025, during regular library hours. Contact CCPL at (270)965-3354 for sale details and bid forms. Items can be viewed on the library website at <https://crittendenlibrary.org>. Note: Surplus items may be donated to a Kentucky public library system or government agency operating in Crittenden County, or any philanthropic, education, cultural, governmental, or other 501(c)(3) not-for-profit groups.

**All bids due on or before 5pm Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025.**



# Classifieds

## The Crittenden Press

The Crittenden Press

125 E. Bellville St.,  
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Advertising deadline  
is 5 p.m., Monday

Prepaid ads of 20 words or less are \$6 for one week, with a 10-cent charge for each word over the initial 20. Run the same ad for consecutive issues for only \$4 each week. Now, all regular classified ads are placed on our Web site, [www.the-press.com](http://www.the-press.com), at no extra charge. You can also reach more than one million readers with one call! Contact the classified department for more information about placing a 25-word classified in 70 newspapers for only \$250. It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at (270) 965-3191. All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

### for sale

NEW DynaGlo portable kerosene heater, 500 sq. ft., still in the box. (270) 704-5859. (1t-48-p)

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### sales

8 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday & Saturday, Dec. 5 & 6 and Dec. 12 & 13 at Rozann's Place in Salem. New & slightly used toys, would make perfect Christmas gifts plus new & gently used tools, Christmas décor and more. A little bit of everything! (2t-49-p)

### for rent

3 bedroom 2 bath mobile home, \$600 rent, \$600 deposit, in town; 2 bedroom 1 bath mobile home, \$600 rent, \$600 deposit. 270-704-3234. Possibly lease to own. (TFC)

### services

CONCRETE WORK: Parking lots, garages, steel buildings, walls, sidewalks, driveways, room additions, rock driveways, clean ditches. Call for quote (270) 724-4672, Joe Mattingly Concrete Construction. (12t-52-p)

### notice

No hunting or trespassing on Don Herrin Farms LLC. Will prosecute. (1t-48-c).

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### bid notice

The City of Marion KY Tourism Commission is accepting bids on a 4'x8' 10mm and a 4'x8' 8 mm RGB Electronic Message Center double face unit with 4G wireless data plan and a minimum of a 5 year warranty. Bid to include installation, excluding electricity and sign base construction. Bids must be received by December 12, 2025 at P.O. Box 174 Marion KY 42064 Contact 270-965-5015 for more information. (1t-48-c)

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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, Coeffield 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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# Democrat decline here makes primary questionable

The first three weeks of 2026 candidate filings have given Democrats in Crittenden County little reason to head to the polls for next May's primary election.

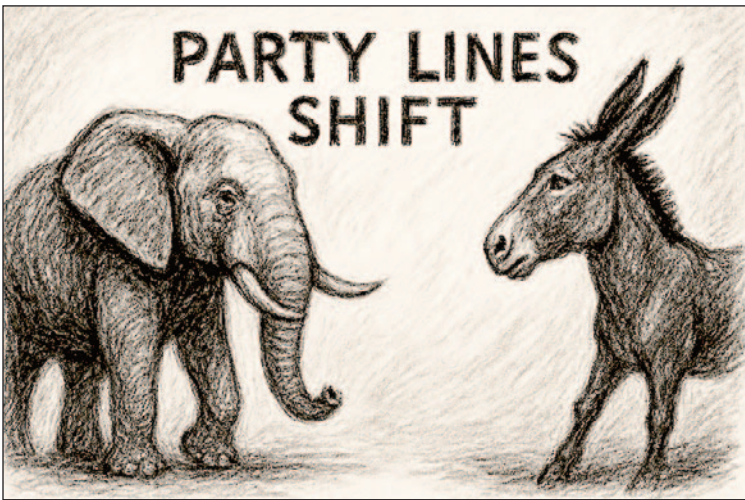
Through November, not a single local Democrat had filed to seek elected county government office on the ballot in 2026. Further, just one Democrat each has filed to seek the U.S. Senate and First District congressman nomination.

Unless two or more candidates from the same party seek election to a particular office, that race will not appear on the spring ballot. With a closed primary system in Kentucky that prohibits voters from crossing party lines in May and nonpartisan races not on the ballot until the general election, that means Crittenden County's almost 1,800 Democrats and nearly 700 third-party registrants may not have local options to vote for in the spring.

There is still time for that to change, but the window to run as a Democratic or Republican candidate closes on Jan. 6.

"We have seen a rash of voters recently switch parties because of political views or simply so they can have a say in selecting local leadership next year," said Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor. "And some potential candidates are considering the same either out of conviction or because they feel they simply cannot win in November as anything but a Republican."

There are currently almost



4,000 registered Republicans in the county.

Voters have until Dec. 31 to change parties and still be eligible to vote in next year's primary. That can be done online 24/7 at GoVote.ky.gov or in the county clerk's office. Likewise, candidates need to complete any party change prior to the close of 2025.

"This is no way a judgment of either party, but it has become difficult for Democratic candidates to overcome straight-party voting in the general election," Tabor said.

Straight-party voting requires only one mark on a ballot to cast a vote for every candidate representing the respective party in November. In 2022, there were 1,018 straight-party Republican votes in local elections against only 178 for Democrats. In last year's presidential election,

there were 1,594 straight-party Republican votes versus 313 for all other parties combined.

Partisan offices on the ballot in 2026 are judge-executive, sheriff, county attorney, county clerk, jailer, PVA, coroner, surveyor, magistrates, constables, state representative, U.S. senator and U.S. representative. Nonpartisan races include mayor, city council, school board and Conservation District supervisor.

The lack of options for Democrats is not a recent phenomenon locally. The party's majority in the county began to steadily dwindle in 2009, shortly after President Barack Obama was elected. In October 2014, Republicans overtook to become the majority in Crittenden County and have remained so.

During that period, Republicans have gained seats in

Crittenden County's Political Party Shift		
	Republican	Democrat
Straight party votes November 2024	1,594	279
Straight party votes November 2023	1,147	301
Straight party votes November 2022	1,014	178
Straight party votes November 2020	1,892	381
May 1978 registration	2,372	2,524
October 1990 registration	2,151	2,606
May 2002 registration	2,606	3,385
October 2008 registration	2,694	3,310
October 2014 registration	3,061	3,043
Nov. 20, 2025, registration	3,963	1,778

many parts of the nation, the party widely represented by the color red on maps of election results.

In the most recent year of county government elections, 2022, the only primary race for Democrats was a U.S. Senate party nomination. That resulted in a turnout of 348 Democratic voters countywide. Six months later, the only Democrat elected to county office in 2022 was District 4 Magistrate Chad Thomas, who was unopposed.

At the close of November, there were 1,768 Democrats in Crittenden County. That is down from 3,310 at the time of President Obama's election, a loss of almost 100 registered voters per year. To start 2025, there were 1,852 Democrats in

the county.

Conversely, there are currently more than double the number of Republicans at 3,970 at the end of November. There were 2,694 local members of the GOP in November 2008.

For decades in the 20th century, Republicans held the majority in Crittenden County, but sometime during the 1970s, that changed and Democrats outnumbered their counterparts for almost 40 years. According to registration statistics available in the county clerk's office, Democrats peaked in May 2002 at 3,385 voters versus 2,606 Republicans. Twelve years earlier, Republican registration had bottomed out at 2,151.



Janet Thomas (right) was the \$100 Crittenden Cash winner during the Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Saturday last weekend. She chose to spend her Crittenden Cash at Hodge's Sports & Apparel and posed with Hodge's representative Karen Gatten. The Chamber gave away 100 goody bags in less than 20 minutes Saturday during its annual promotion to encourage local shopping. The Chamber, Tourism Commission and local businesses supported the program.

## PLAN

Continued from page 1

Arena.

Two high-profile athletic projects would include construction of an eight-lane track surrounding the new football field and stadium, and a new girls' softball complex complete with concessions, restrooms and a press box.

At Crittenden County Elementary School, which contains building sections more than 40 years old, planned upgrades include new windows, fresh flooring, acoustical improvements, updated kitchen equipment, new water heaters and HVAC equipment. The school would also receive a 1,598-square-foot media center expansion, a new 5,500-square-foot gymnasium and a new science classroom. The plan also recommends creating a second exit from school property to ease traffic congestion.

The high school's annex building, constructed in 1999, would receive a new roof, HVAC and geothermal improvements, and an enclosed, climate-controlled connector to the high school

with a secure entrance. Rocket Arena would undergo mechanical upgrades to its geothermal well field and water-source heat pumps, along with new HVAC controls, water-treatment systems and security enhancements.

Districtwide needs include fire alarm and sprinkler improvements, additional emergency lighting, accessibility upgrades and expansion of security systems. The plan also calls for a new central office and new bus garage to replace aging support facilities.

Although several discretionary projects are listed, such as new middle school office spaces, JROTC facilities and technology upgrades, their costs are not included in the district's total need calculation.

Final cost estimates for the full plan span multiple pages and include more than \$30 million in recommended improvements.

The proposal received preliminary approval by the Crittenden County Board of Education on Nov. 13 and will be on the on the table later this month for final adoption.

Saluting Local Partners who Support Crittenden County Basketball Digital Coverage

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Judge-executive

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107 S. Main St.  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.965.5251 (o)  
270.704.0457 (c)  
Perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org

District 1 Magistrate

Dave Belt (R)  
308 Chandler Farm Rd.  
Sturgis, KY 42459  
270.704.0199 (c)  
Dave.Belt@crittendencountyky.org

District 2 Magistrate

Matt Grimes (R)  
301 State Route 297  
Marion, Ky. 42064  
270.704.9832 (c)  
matt.grimes@crittendencountyky.org

District 3 Magistrate

Robert Kirby (R)  
1698 Chapel Hill Road  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.889.1504 (c)  
Robert.kirby@crittendencounty.org

District 4 Magistrate

Chad Thomas (D)  
701 Hebron Church Rd.  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.965.9727 (h)  
270.339.4949 (c)  
Chad.Thomas@crittendencountyky.org

District 5 Magistrate

Travis Perryman (R)  
1700 Jackson School Road  
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District 6 Magistrate

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**BASKETBALL**  
**Upcoming Ball Games**  
**THURSDAY**  
Lady Rockets at Marshall County  
Rockets vs NCCA at Marshall County  
**FRIDAY**  
Rockets at Fort Campbell  
**SATURDAY**  
Lady Rockets at Breckinridge County  
Rockets at Hickman County  
**MONDAY**  
Rockets at Hopkins Central  
**TUESDAY**  
Lady Rockets host McCracken Co.  
Rockets host Union County

**Middle school results**  
Here is scoring from recent Crittenden County Middle School games.  
**7th Grade Lady Rockets**  
**Crittenden 33, Union 22**  
M.Penn 4, Nelson 2, Hearrell 7, Mattingly 10, Binkley 6, K. Penn 4.  
**Crittenden 36, Lyon 24**  
M.Penn 8, Nelson 5, Hearrell 12, Mattingly 6, Binkley 2, Moss 3.  
**Crittenden 32, Livingston 26**  
M.Penn 3, Nelson 4, Hearrell 10, Mattingly 5, Binkley 9, Bock 1.  
**7th Grade Rockets**  
**Crittenden 57, Livingston 30**  
Crittenden: Moss 31, Martin 6, Polk 8, Merrill 2, Taylor 8, Palmer 2  
Livingston: Johnson 7, Williams 13, Paris 6, Day 4  
**Crittenden 36, Caldwell 29**  
Moss 14, Merrill 4, Boone 2, Martin 2, Polk 9, Topp 4, Taylor 1.  
**8th Grade Lady Rockets**  
**Crittenden 43, Union 24**  
Louden 10, M.Penn 8, Nelson 11, Hearrell 2, Mattingly 8, Binkley 4.  
**Lyon 41, Crittenden 13**  
M.Penn 11, Nelson 11, Hearrell 1.  
**Caldwell 55, Crittenden 28**  
Myers 5, Sherer 4, Moss 6, Maraman 1, Brown 4, Adamson 8  
**Livingston 41, Crittenden 33**  
Louden 2, M. Penn 9, Nelson 10, Hearrell 4, Mattingly 4, Binkley 4.  
**8th Grade Rockets**  
**Crittenden 62, Livingston 11**  
Crittenden: Myers 11, Sherer 11, Adamson 6, Brown 8, Maraman 8, Moss 12, Merrill 2, Polk 2, Topp 2  
Livingston: Johnson 5, Jeffre 2, Ross 2, Land 2.

**FOOTBALL**  
**State semifinals scores**  
**Class 6A Semifinals**  
South Warren 36, Ryle 20  
Trinity 50, St. Xavier 7  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m.**  
South Warren (13-0) vs. Trinity (12-2)  
**Class 5A Semifinals**  
Owensboro 49, Woodford Co. 6  
Pulaski Co. 17, Atherton 0  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.**  
Owensboro (12-2) vs. Pulaski Co. (12-2)  
**Class 4A Semifinals**  
Boyle Co., 34, Corbin 33  
Franklin Co. 21, Paducah Tilghman 14  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.**  
Boyle Co. (13-1) vs. Franklin Co. (14-0)  
**Class 3A Semifinals**  
Christian Academy Lou. 56, Bell Co. 20  
Murray 27, Lloyd Memorial 20  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.**  
Christian Aca. of Lou. (14-0) vs. Murray (14-0)  
**Class 2A Semifinals**  
Owensboro Catholic 41, Beechwood 40  
Lexington Christian 34, Belfry 29  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Friday, Dec. 5, 3 p.m.**  
Lex. Christian (11-3) vs. O'boro Cath. (13-1)  
**Class 1A Semifinals**  
Raceland 17, Pikeville 10  
KY Country Day 31, Campbellsville 13  
**Championship at Kroger Field**  
**Friday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.**  
Raceland (12-1) vs. KCD (12-1)

**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
Dove	Nov 27 - Dec 7

# Lady Rockets open in rhythmic form

STAFF REPORT  
A well-tempered, rhythmic offense came out of the chute Monday night with remarkably balanced scoring and good ball movement to begin the season with a 30-point victory over an improved Caldwell County girls' squad.  
Crittenden more than doubled the Lady Tigers' scoring in the opening period, then rolled to a 69-39 victory as a warmup for what the Lady Rockets will face ahead. Over the coming week, Crittenden will run the gamut – playing two of the top three teams in the First Region and Breckinridge County, a Third Region perennial power.  
Crittenden will need to keep clicking offensively facing those stalwarts. Against Caldwell, the Rocket girls dropped seven threes as sophomore Jordyn Hodge led the scoring with 17. Seniors Anna Boone and Elliot Evans added 12 and 10, respectively, and CCHS got 17 points from the pivot between Bristyn Rushing and Morgan Stewart. Senior forward Andrea Federico added nine.

Caldwell County	11	23	30	39
Crittenden County	23	38	52	69
CALDWELL – Clark 9, Thomas 8, Thompson 8, Whitaker 5, Shearer, McCoy 8, Hawkins 1. 3-pointers 1 (Thomas). FT 12-21.				
CRITTENDEN – Boone 12, Evans 10, Hodge 17, Federico 9, Rushing 8, Holeman, Stewart 9, Berry 2, Champion 2, Grau, Rich, Kemmer. 3-pointers 7 (Boone 2, Evans 2, Hodge 2, Federico). FT 8-10.				



Anna Boone (2) and Elliot Evans (22) double team Caldwell County guard Tink Clark in the backcourt as Crittenden County dominated the Lady Tigers in the season opener for both teams.



**Boys vs Webster Canceled**  
Crittenden County's boys' basketball opener scheduled for Tuesday night was canceled due to weather. The Rockets will now open the season Thursday night at the Marshall County Hoopfest against New Covenant Christian from Hardin, Ky. Tipoff is at 4 p.m. The Lady Rockets will play host Marshall County in the Hoopfest at 6 p.m., right after the boys' matchup. Pictured above is freshman Edan Bryant during last week's scrimmage against Fulton.

## DeBurgo calling it quits as head coach

STAFF REPORT  
Crittenden County High School's winningest soccer coach, Jessica DeBurgo, has announced her resignation as head coach of the Lady Rocket soccer program after five seasons.  
DeBurgo, 35-47-4 during her tenure, leaves with the most wins of any coach in program history. Her teams posted two out of the four seven-win seasons in school history, including an 11-6-2 campaign in 2022 when she

was named district coach of the year.  
The Lady Rockets went 7-11-1 this fall, advancing to the district championship and earning a regional tournament berth after a dramatic semifinal win over Lyon County.  
“Our win over Lyon County was the highlight of the season,” DeBurgo said. “To come out on top when it mattered most was huge for the girls.”  
She credited assistants

Heather Bloodworth and former head coach Ken Geary, along with players and parents, for helping elevate the program.  
“It's taken a village,” she said. “I'm proud of what we've built and of the girls who've helped raise the bar for Lady Rocket soccer.”  
The Lady Rockets were also presented the Sportsmanship Award this fall by the Western Kentucky Soccer Officials Association.



A Crittendne County coyote with a rabbit in his mouth.

## Nighttime coyote now open in state

STAFF REPORT  
Nighttime coyote hunting season opened Monday in Kentucky, allowing hunters to use lights, infrared and thermal optics through March 31 and again May 16 through June 30.  
Under state regulations, lights or night-vision equipment may not be mounted to or used from a mechanized vehicle. Hunters with a Mobility-Impaired Access Permit or a Hunting Methods Exemption Vehicle Permit may hunt from a stationary vehicle,

but lighting and optics still cannot be connected to the vehicle.  
After daylight hours on public lands, only bows, crossbows or shotguns loaded with multiple-projectile shells are permitted. Night hunting is prohibited in any county or area where a deer or elk firearm or muzzleloader season is open.  
Officials urge hunters to review the Kentucky Hunting & Trapping Guide and check for additional rules on the specific public land they plan to hunt.



Rocket seventh grader Noah Moss and his team will have a first-round bye in this week's middle school tournament and will play on Saturday morning against the winner of the Caldwell County vs Livingston County game.



Here are the career totals ranked by most wins:

1. Jessica DeBurgo — 35-47-4
2. Karen Nasserri — 16-21-8
3. Ken Geary — 14-67-1
4. Summer Riley — 14-59-5
5. Michael Gibson — 12-32-3



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# City continues push for tougher stance against local violators

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council has taken another step toward stiffening penalties for local ordinance violations, including damaging city streets and sidewalks and for nuisance properties with junked vehicles, overgrown yards and rubbish.

Last week, the council introduced Ordinances 25-18 and 25-19, which amend Chapters 91 and 92 of the city code. Both measures will be up for final reading and possible adoption at the council's December meeting.

Ordinance 25-18 focuses on damage to streets and sidewalks and other right-of-way violations regulated under Chapter 91. The amendment would set fines between \$50 and \$500 for damaging a street or sidewalk, with the possibility of up to six months in jail. All other Chapter 91 violations would carry a minimum \$200 fine.

Chapter 91 covers a wide range of activities in city streets, alleys, sidewalks and other public ways. Residents, utilities or contractors must obtain an opening permit before cutting or digging into a street, alley, sidewalk or public way, and must post a cash deposit to cover the cost of restoring the surface. The city administrator or another authorized official oversees how pavement or sidewalks are opened and restored, and if the work is not completed properly or in a reasonable time, the city may step in, use the deposit and bill the permit holder for any additional costs.

Anyone who digs in a street, sidewalk or alley must place adequate barriers around the excavation and, at night, maintain red warning lights so drivers and pedestrians can see



the hazard. Separate rules also require at least two illuminated red lamps at each end of any obstruction, plus more if the work area extends beyond 50 feet. Each day a hole or obstruction is left without proper protection counts as a separate offense.

The code also requires that the city supervise sidewalk construction and repairs.

Another section of Chapter 91 deals with obstructions and maintenance of streets and sidewalks. It prohibits unloading heavy materials directly onto pavement without protection, blocking public ways with fences or buildings, piling materials or clutter on sidewalks, and failing to remove ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours. Property owners, tenants or others in control of a property are responsible for clearing adjacent sidewalks or paying the city's cost to do so.

Property owners may not allow hedges, trees or shrubs to grow over sidewalks in a way that obstructs travel. The chapter also lists a series of specific prohibited acts on improved streets and sidewalks, including dragging telephone poles, using drag sleds, running tractors or machinery

with iron cleats or rough treads, operating vehicles on bare rims, mixing concrete or mortar on the pavement, dumping or burning leaves and rubbish on sidewalks or streets, dumping coal in the roadway, obstructing gutters, driving over curbs or sidewalks, washing vehicles so that runoff drains into the street and hauling heavy machinery or moving houses over improved streets without authorization.

Chapter 91 also makes it unlawful to remove, damage or destroy any part of a street or sidewalk or structures that support them, and it states that anyone who does so is responsible for repair costs in addition to any fines. Another provision requires all homes and businesses in the city to display a numerical street address that can be seen from the road, either on the building or, if the structure is set back, on a mailbox or sign.

Under existing law, the penalty section of Chapter 91 provides fines of \$25 to \$500 for damaging streets or sidewalks and up to six months in jail, with a maximum \$100 fine for other violations. Ordinance 25-18 would raise those

amounts by setting higher minimums for street and sidewalk damage and for other violations in the chapter.

Ordinance 25-19 updates the penalty section of Chapter 92, which deals with public nuisances. Under the amendment, maintaining a public nuisance could be charged as a misdemeanor with fines ranging from \$50 to \$500, up to 30 days in jail, or both. Each day the violation continues would count as a separate offense. In addition, other provisions would set fines of \$50 to \$500 per day for violations, giving the city a stronger tool to address ongoing problem properties.

Chapter 92 outlines what the city considers a public nuisance. It defines "junked motor vehicles" and "appliances" broadly to include wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, abandoned or discarded items left on public property or private lots. Leaving junked cars, trucks, refrigerators, stoves, televisions or similar items outside an enclosed building is generally considered a nuisance unless they are on property used for repair and remodeling, or are temporarily displayed for a short-term sale such as a garage sale lasting no more than 48 hours and limited to six times a year.

The nuisance rules also apply to properties where pools of water are allowed to sit and become stagnant and foul. Another section makes it unlawful to allow junked, wrecked or nonoperative mobile or manufactured homes, as defined under state law, to accumulate on land in the city when they are not inhabited and create a public nuisance, health hazard or source of filth.

Chapter 92 includes sepa-

rate rules for rubbish and weeds. It defines "excessive growth" as weeds or grass more than 15 inches high within 300 feet of a city street, state highway or federal highway, unless the City Administrator grants an exemption. "Rubbish" includes trash, refuse, organic waste, animal remains, construction debris and other materials that may become unsightly, unsanitary or hazardous. Property owners, occupants or those in control of land may not allow rubbish piles or excessive weed growth that create a nuisance or health hazard.

The nuisance ordinances give the City Administrator authority to enforce these rules. The city may enter property to inspect junked vehicles or appliances, identify their owners and remove items declared to be a nuisance after notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the owner does not abate the nuisance, the city can remove it, then place a lien on the property to recover its costs, with that lien recorded at the County Clerk's office and accruing interest until paid.

Existing penalties in Chapter 92 range from \$5 to \$100, or up to 30 days in jail, for maintaining a public nuisance, with each day counted as a separate offense, and \$25 to \$250 for rubbish and weed violations. Ordinance 25-19 would significantly increase the fine range and clarify that nuisance violations can be prosecuted as misdemeanors with daily penalties attached.

Both Ordinance 25-18 and Ordinance 25-19 will return to the Marion City Council for a second reading and potential final passage at its December meeting.



## Red Wall arrives in Crittenden County

Members of the Crittenden County Rescue Squad are pictured with its newly acquired Grain Bin Rescue Equipment. The "Red Wall" and grain auger were purchased with a donation of \$1,354.00 from the Crittenden County FFA organization, a donation of \$1,600 from Judith Williams from Owensboro, Ky., and pledges from other local farmers. The "Red Wall" is a specialized barrier used to go around the person in the grain bin to protect them from more grain surrounding them, and an auger to remove the grain. Crittenden County Rescue Squad is the first in this area to obtain this equipment. The total cost of the equipment was \$5,170.00. The Rescue Squad is still accepting donations towards the purchase of this equipment. Pictured are (from left) Paul Beard, Vice President Logan Nasser, President Mark Farmer, James Mayes, Michalia Latham, Chief Don Arflack and Mattie Nasser.

## 2nd case of whooping cough confirmed here

Whooping cough cases continue to climb in Kentucky, where state health officials confirmed a third infant death late last month and a second case in Crittenden County Schools was confirmed this week. The Kentucky Department for Public Health warned in a Nov. 24 advisory that pertussis, a "highly contagious" respiratory infection, is spreading more widely nationwide, driven in part by declining vaccination rates.

State officials said none of the infants who died in Kentucky over the past year had been vaccinated, and their mothers were also unvaccinated. These are the first pertussis-related infant deaths reported in the state since 2018.

As of Nov. 19, Kentucky had recorded 566 whooping cough cases in 2025, already surpassing the 543 confirmed in 2024. It marks the state's largest spike in pertussis infections since 2012. Many of the cases have occurred in young infants and school-aged children, including the two confirmed locally.

Health officials expect

additional cases in the coming weeks and urge families to stay current on recommended immunizations.

Whooping cough typically begins with mild cold-like symptoms,

such as a runny nose or light cough, but can progress after one to two weeks into violent coughing fits that cause vomiting, difficulty breathing and the signature "whoop" sound.

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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, inquiries, 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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