



# The Crittenden Press

Things are Looking Up for Chloe « Page 8

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

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ONE DOLLAR

## Wildfire season is underway in KY

As of Saturday, Kentucky is currently under wildfire season regulations, which means no outdoor burning during daylight hours between 6 a.m., and 6 p.m., anywhere within 150 feet of a woodland or brushland. Fines are applicable for those violating the prohibition.

## Press price will go up to \$2 in March

As outlined in the accompanying article on this front page, The Crittenden Press will be going up in price to \$2 per single copy starting with the first issue of March. This is the first price increase for single paper sales in almost 20 years and is necessitated by the obvious, which is higher production costs.

## By the Numbers

### Population trends

Here are Crittenden County previous and estimated population rates, according to the most recent United States census data. Crittenden County is the 103rd largest county in Kentucky. Since 2010, the population has dropped (-3.66%).

YEAR	POPULATION	GROWTH	% CHANGE
2029	8,872	-17	-0.19%
2028	8,889	-17	-0.19%
2027	8,906	-17	-0.19%
2026	8,923	-17	-0.19%
2025	8,940	-17	-0.19%
2024	8,957	-17	-0.19%
2023	8,974	-17	-0.19%
2022	8,991	47	0.53%
2021	8,944	-59	-0.66%
2020	9,003	196	2.23%
2019	8,807	-93	-1.04%
2018	8,900	-111	-1.23%
2017	9,011	-122	-1.34%
2016	9,133	-41	-0.45%
2015	9,174	-6	-0.07%
2014	9,180	0	0%
2013	9,180	-42	-0.46%
2012	9,222	-27	-0.29%
2011	9,249	-48	-0.52%
2010	9,297	-	-

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 20 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at Rocket Arena.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the county office complex in Smithland.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the courthouse.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27 at the library.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, March 3 at city hall.



Marion native will appear again on Chicago Fire in March

## Back on Fire

STAFF REPORT

Matt Collins, a Marion native and Murray State University graduate, is returning to NBC's Chicago Fire in a new role that spans multiple episodes this season. The 38-year-old actor will appear in episodes 15 and 16, with a potential third episode later in the season.

"I can't talk a lot about it be-

cause of spoilers," Collins says of his upcoming role, "but essentially I'm just a regular Joe who's in a car accident, and the person that I hit... Well, it doesn't go well for them."

Collins' journey into acting began at Crittenden County Middle School, where he par-

See **FIRE**/page 4

## Pot Hole Season



## Cold, wet winter takes toll on streets, roads

STAFF REPORT

While Kentucky Department of Highways addressed the worst potholes along Marion's Main Street last Thursday, both city and county officials continue to battle deteriorating road conditions across Crittenden County.

County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom reports that his road crews are tackling the "worst of the worst" potholes, but winter weather has complicated repair efforts. The county recently purchased 150-200 tons of cold mix asphalt from Smith Contracting in Lake City, though supplies are "dwindling pretty fast," according to Newcom.

"This time of year, the problem is you just can't get cold mix," Newcom explained, noting that prices con-



See **HOLES**/page 9

### Life & Times of a Pothole

Potholes are a common roadway nuisance, forming when water seeps into small cracks in the pavement and weakens the underlying layers. As temperatures fluctuate, the water expands when it freezes and contracts when it thaws, widening the cracks. Repeated traffic then breaks down weakened asphalt, eventually creating a hole. Over time, if left unrepaired, potholes grow larger as vehicles displace loose debris, making the road rougher. Harsh winters, heavy rainfall and frequent traffic all accelerate pothole formation. Potholes are repaired using different methods depending on the size and conditions. A temporary fix involves filling the hole with a cold asphalt mix. A more permanent solution is hot mix asphalt, where the pothole is cleaned, filled with heated asphalt and compacted for durability.



A contingent of local leaders visited Frankfort and met with legislators and other cabinet leaders last Thursday. Pictured are (front from left) School District Superintendent Tonya Driver, Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning, Crittenden-Livingston Water District Superintendent Abby Adamson, (standing) Livingston Judge-Executive Michael Williams, School Board Chairman Chris Cook, Sen. Jason Howell, Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom, Lake Barkley Partnership Executive Director Garrett Clark, Rep. Jim Gooch, County Attorney Bart Frazer, Crittenden County Economic Development director Steve Watson and PADD Executive Director Jason Vincent.

## Local leaders take issues to capital

### Water, roads key topics

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom, Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning and Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams were among a contingent of local leaders who last week met with legislative and cabinet leaders in Frankfort. The General Assembly is gathered for its off-year 30-day session, a period in which no budget is set. During their visit, Newcom said the group engaged in discussions on pressing issues, including road funding, water infrastructure and economic development.

Newcom highlighted ongoing concerns over

the state's road system, particularly in rural areas. Newcom and others met with Transportation Secretary Jim Gray and other officials, including Deputy Secretary Mike Hancock and Department of Rural and Municipal Aid Commissioner Bobbi Jo Lewis. Addressed was a continued decline in gas tax revenue, which remains a primary funding source for road maintenance in rural areas like Crittenden and Livingston counties.

"The gas tax is taking another drop, and it's going to be another pretty significant reduction in revenue for the road system," Newcom said. "It's a shame that back in 2015, the Senate passed a bill to stabilize the

See **CAPITAL**/page 3

## Price hike: We have to do it

The heart of any community beats strongest when its stories are told, its concerns are addressed and its triumphs are celebrated. For generations, our newspaper has been your steadfast companion, ensuring that milestones, challenges and triumphs in this community have been recorded and shared. Today, I write to you not only as publisher of this newspaper, but as a neighbor who values the unique role we play in preserving local journalism and archiving our community's history.

Beginning in March, the price of our newspaper will increase. We have anguished over how much to raise the price in order to keep pace with inflationary pressures on our business and your homes. This decision was not made lightly, and I want to be transparent about why this change is necessary.

The newspaper industry has faced profound challenges in recent years. Rising costs in paper, ink, printing and distribution – coupled with a huge decline in advertising revenue – have forced many papers to close their doors or sell out to larger chains that strip them down into cold shells of their former selves.

Additionally, inflationary pressures that businesses across the country are feeling have tightened the noose here. It's difficult to believe, but it has been almost 20 years since we raised the price of our single copy sales on racks and newsstands. It is tough to recall any other product or service that hasn't increased in price since George W. Bush was president.

So, starting with the March 6 edition, single copies will cost \$2. That is actually in line with almost every other weekly newspaper in western Kentucky. Some cost more.

Despite many hurdles, we have remained committed to providing you with reliable, timely and always hyper-local news. However, to ensure we can continue this mission, adjustments must be made.

Local journalism is not just about the stories we publish and the ancillary benefits we provide on our website, social media and video platforms – it's about the fabric of our community. Without a trusted local newspaper, many voices go unheard, the line between truth and gossip is blurred and critical issues can be overlooked. Now more than ever, we should be aware of these challenges.

By increasing our cover price, we are taking a necessary step to ensure our sustainability and independence. Our subscribers will see a bump, too, particularly those outside of the immediate area where delivery has become more difficult and more costly – and outside of our control. All subscribers can find cost-savings in embracing our electronic edition over the traditional hand-held newspaper.

We need your continued support. Buying the paper, subscribing and encouraging local businesses to advertise with us are ways to keep



Chris EVANS  
Press Editor & Publisher  
About Town

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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### Deaths

#### Garrett

Woodford Lee Garrett, 81, of Marion passed away February 15, 2025 at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Survivors include his son, Marty Garrett of Clay; daughter, Marilyn Garrett of Clay; grandchildren, Jared (Ali) Garrett of Pensacola, Fla., and Amber Garrett of Providence; great-grand-



children, Liam Garrett and Arie Garrett of Pensacola, Fla., Adyline Day and Aliza Scarrlett of Providence; sisters, De-wenlia Faye Martin of Sullivan and Donna Kay Erickson of Marion and brother, Wallace “Wally” Garrett of Eddyville as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dewey and Hazel Garrett and son, Ryan Garrett.

Funeral Services are scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion with burial following at Rosebud Cemetery. The family will receive visitors

from 10 a.m., until service time at the funeral home.

#### Hicks

Mary Linda Hicks, 74, of Marion, died Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab. She was a member of Marion General Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband, Kenneth Hicks of Marion; three daughters, Kimberly (T.J.) Tabor of Burna, Lydawn (John) Moxley of Marion



and Hazel (Brad) Garrett of Sturgis; six grandchildren, Cory Jones, Heather Cooper, Kendra Jones, Trenton Day, Danielle Tinsley and Grace Garrett; 18 great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Paul and Wayne Allen.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas Oscar and Hazel Marie Allen; a granddaughter, Kiara Chittenden; and a brother, David Allen.

Memorial services are at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23 at Gilbert Funeral Home. The family will receive visitors from noon until service time at the funeral home.



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### Community Calendar

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

- Thursday, Feb. 20**
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
  - Crochet Class will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Extension Annex.
- Friday, Feb. 21**
- Dessert Auction pickup will be from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office.
- Monday, Feb. 24**
- Marion's VFW will have breakfast at the post from 7:30-10 a.m. Cost is \$8 or make a donation.
  - The Geology Club will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Mineral Museum.
- Tuesday, Feb. 25**
- Hooks & Needles will meet at noon the Crittenden County Public Library.
  - Lesson Leader Training will be at 10 a.m. at the Extension Office.
  - International Day will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Lions Club Building
  - Master Logger Training will be at 8 a.m. at the Extension Annex
- Wednesday, Feb. 26**
- A Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.



### Suggs participates in KEEP Day

Aerie Suggs (pictured at center on back row), a member of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, recently participated in KEEP Day at the Kentucky Capitol as part of the State Equine Task Force. Serving in this leadership role for the current and upcoming school year, Suggs joined fellow 4-H youth from across the state to network with industry leaders, meet legislators and explore opportunities in equine education. The group also toured historical sites, including the Old State Capitol and the Vietnam Memorial.

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# Local students earn listing on WKCTC’s Dean, President lists

Several local students have earned academic honors for the Fall 2024 semester at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. A total of 918 full-time and part-time students were recognized for their achievements on the President’s Honor List and Dean’s List.

To qualify for the President’s Honor List, full-time students must achieve a perfect 4.0 GPA, while those named to the Dean’s List must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Full-time students must complete at least 12 credit hours of coursework, while part-time students must complete 3–11 credit hours and have accumulated at least 12 KCTCS credits.

**Crittenden County**  
President’s Honor List (Full-time) – Hannah Grace Faughn, Ava C. Henry, G’Anna Nicole Sizemore, Emma Marie Stoner, Alexis Tolley.

President’s Honor List (Part-time) – Adam Preston Beavers, Connie F. Caylor, Candice Brooke Draper, Michael Paris Kirk, Matthew Nesbitt, Amber Raine Smiley, Nicole Rashelle Tabor, Elle Wallace, Kelly Brook Wesmolan.

Dean’s List (Full-time) – Elizabeth Marie Campbell, Alaina G. Driver, Kekoa Anthony Kuamoo, Raylee Jade Robinson.

Dean’s List (Part-time) – Stephanie Camp, Jennifer Lynn Daugherty, Ellie Lu Rome Guess, Carly Towery.

**Livingston County**  
President’s Honor List (Full-time) – Codey Bailey, Rylee Grace Culver, Bryanna Marie Dunning, Sierrah Nicole Eklund–Stytz, Gina Marie Gilland, Dylan J. Lohman, Rebecca Elizabeth Lowrance, Lexie Paige Mathis, Ashleigh Lauren Mayhugh, Brenden Floyd Mitchell, Derek Shane Russell, Sydnie Sue Wood.

President’s Honor List (Part-time) – Jason Ryan Culver, Chelsey Culver, Sarah Davidson, Tana Shay Durard, Laken Gail Givens, Blake Christian Jewell, Constance Delaine Johnson, Anthony L. Rinella, Lauren Shea, Ella Charlene Travis, Katherine Wright, Aidan Matthew Wyatt.

Dean’s List (Full-time) – Kaya Mackenzie Adrian, Madison Grace–Anne Bartholomew, Tina A. Dunkerson, Jody Gingerich, Gabriel Reese Lawless, Sy Noble McDonald, Charles Gabriel Seely, Sofie R. Watson, Kenneth William Wilson.

Dean’s List (Part-time) – Taylor Elyse Davenport, Scott Newman, Danyelle Taylor Thompson, Babi J. Wood.

**Lyon County**  
President’s Honor List (Full-time) – Salvador Campanur Coronado, Deven Guess, Michael Keith McQueen, Haylee Jean O’Daniel, Dhyan Patel, Hunter Cole Patterson, Jonathan Chi Quan, Madison Marie Russell, Derald Lee Weeks.

President’s Honor List (Part-time) – Andrew Bounds, April Grace Daut Higgins, Michaela Johansen, Amber Elizabeth Marshall, Jake Jamieson Neely, Micaela Jade Suarez, Anna Berlyn Yanez.

Dean’s List (Full-time) – Deanna Nicole Balentine, Noah Jacob Blackburn, Eric Scott Chapman, Amber Ann Chapman, Britt Deckert, William Douglas Fultz, Joseph Thomas James, Cassandra Ann Lamb, Jessica Ann Ohara, Dalton Michael Phillips, Pamela Jean Pinnegar, Hanna Nicole Reed, Kendell Josiah Tobey.

**Caldwell County**  
President’s Honor List (Full-time) – Rianynn Darlene Carson, Danny Z. Hall Jr., Iri H. Harkness, Ariel R. Mayan, Hannah Nicole Miller, Corbin S. Nichols, Michael Lee Oney, William Gabriel Paul, William K. Riggle, Michaelyn Jo Sample.

President’s Honor List

(Part-time) – Kaitlyn Elizabeth Alexzandria Amaya, Alicia Nicole Shearer, Addi Vinson.

Dean’s List (Full-time) – Eric Kyle Alderson, Savannah Ray Beckwith, Alexzandria Dennison, Benjamin Goodaker, Gavin Dale Peek, Jesseka Sadler, Ali C. Southard, Allison Rene Turahev.

Dean’s List (Part-time) – Emma Grace West.

## Students listed by Austin Peay

Braxton Boggs of Ledbetter, Dana Curry of Sturgis, and Jaylei Davis of Morganfield have been awarded scholarships for the 2025–2026 academic year at Austin Peay State University. The university recognizes these students for their hard work and academic excellence.

## Old Miss graduate

Sierra Ellsworth of Princeton graduated from Mississippi State University in fall 2024, earning a Master of Agriculture from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She was among approximately 1,500 students recognized during the university’s December commencement.

## Free veterans trip to Frankfort’s Wall

Patriot Tours, LLC, in partnership with West Tennessee Motorcoach, is offering a free Veterans Tour on April 17 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The trip includes a guided tour of the Vietnam Memorial in Frankfort, with breakfast provided by Akridge Farm Supply and lunch from Lone Star Building Supply. The bus departs from the Fredonia Bus Terminal at 7:45 a.m. and is expected to return by 6 p.m.

Additionally, the company is organizing a Pigeon Forge trip from April 28 to May 1, featuring three nights at the River Bend Hotel, entertainment such as The Dixie Stampede and The Comedy Barn, and visits to attractions like The Titanic Museum and Ober Tram. The cost is \$590 per person for double occupancy or \$690 for single occupancy, with a sign-up deadline of April 1.

For reservations, contact Denis Hodge at (270) 704–0643.

## Simpkins completes master’s working now toward PhD

Dayton Simpkins, a 24-year-old Marion native and 2018 graduate of CCHS, earned a master’s degree in physics from Missouri University in December. This achievement follows his undergraduate career at Murray State University, where he completed a double major in physics and mathematics in 2022.

Simpkins is currently pursuing her PhD, focusing on groundbreaking research in biological physics. His work involves studying DNA manipulation and protein interactions, specifically investigating the Mycobacterium Smegmatis Topoisomerase I protein. This research could have significant implications for tuberculosis treatment development.

Using advanced techniques including Magnetic Tweezers, Fluorescence Microscopy, and Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET), Simpkins’s research aims to better understand protein behaviors at the molecular level. Simpkins’ work specifically focuses on using small,



closed circular DNA to manipulate proteins that cleave DNA strands, potentially leading to breakthroughs in understanding similar proteins involved in tuberculosis.

## Don’t forget KY shutting down its tax-paying portal

Kentucky Department of Revenue will temporarily shut down its online tax services for two weeks starting Feb. 26, as the agency transitions to a new business tax portal called MyTaxes.

During the shutdown, which extends through March 13, business taxpayers will be unable to access the current OneStop portal. The new MyTaxes system is scheduled to launch on March 14.

"Business taxpayers should take immediate action to secure their historical tax records," said the Department of Revenue in a statement. The agency emphasized that after 4 p.m., on Feb. 26, all previous tax return information stored in OneStop will be archived and no longer directly accessible to users.

To access archived records after the transition, businesses will need to contact the Department directly, a process officials warn could be time-consuming. The Department strongly recommends that businesses print or download any necessary historical tax data before the Feb. 26 deadline.

The agency is actively communicating about the transition through a series of seven planned notifications to affected taxpayers. Business owners can expect to receive their new MyTaxes login credentials by March 14.

The Department also stressed the importance of ensuring all contact information, particularly email addresses, is up to date in the current OneStop system before the transition begins.

For more information about the transition or to access the current OneStop system before the shutdown, businesses can visit the Kentucky Department of Revenue website.

## March gardening classes by Extension

Some gardening classes are being hosted by the local Extension Service over the coming weeks.

Grow Your Own Garden Series features classes on March 11 for Preparing Your Garden, March 25 for Lettuce and Radish and April 22 for Cucumbers and Summer Squash. The classes all start at 5:30 p.m., at Crittenden County Extension Service Annex off US 60 East just north of town. Participants will learn about garden basics and how to grow each vegetable listed. These classes are open to all and will count toward Community Christmas credit. Call the Extension office for more information at 270–965–5236.

## Women in Ag event planned for area

The 35% Women in Ag Conference is scheduled for March 14 at the Union County Expo Center in Sturgis. The event, hosted by the Cooperative Extension Service, runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and focuses on grain, livestock, and horticulture.

The registration fee is \$30, which includes materials, lunch, and a T-shirt.

Conference hosts include

agricultural agents Dee Heimgartner of Crittenden County, Jessica James of Henderson County, Vicki Shadrack of Webster County, and Katie Hughes of Union County.

For more information, contact the respective agents at their county extension offices.

## Farmers can apply for \$1K in CAIP funds

Farmers in Crittenden County have an opportunity to enhance and diversify their operations through the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), which is now accepting applications.

Funded by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, CAIP provides cost-share assistance to agricultural producers, helping them invest in various aspects of their farm businesses. The program covers a wide range of agricultural enterprises across 11 investment areas, including large and small livestock, forage, horticulture, timber, technology, energy efficiency, farm infrastructure, water enhancement, marketing, and value-added production.

This year, Crittenden County has been awarded \$28,500 in funding. Eligible producers can qualify for a prorated reimbursement of up to \$1,000. Farms of all sizes are eligible, but applicants must have a Farm Service Number, which is available from the Farm Service Agency office in Salem. A new requirement this year mandates that all applicants be Kentucky residents, as verified by documentation.

Completed applications will be scored based on responses and values provided by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The first cut-off date for applications is March 7. After that, funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the allocation is exhausted.

For more information, visit the Crittenden County Conservation District office at 118 E. Bellville St. in Marion or call 270–965–3921. Additional details and guidelines are available online at [www.kyagr.com/agpolicy](http://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy).

## Local officials join opposition to cuts

Crittenden County officials have joined a growing chorus of local government leaders opposing two Kentucky House bills that would eliminate or phase out state vehicle property taxes. Both County Clerk Daryl Tabor and Judge–Executive Perry Newcom have expressed strong opposition to House Bills 60 and 108, citing significant concerns about lost revenue for local governments.

The Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association (KCJEA) Legislative Committee is closely monitoring the

bill while Kentucky County Clerks Association is opposing both measures and Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) and Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) has also announced its opposition to the proposed legislation.

The bills would eliminate (HB 60) or gradually phase out (HB 108) the state's 45-cent per \$100 vehicle property tax rate. According to Tabor, this would cost the Crittenden County Clerk's Office approximately \$16,000 annually under HB 60, or \$80,000 over nine years under HB 108's phase-out plan.

Officials note that these losses would ultimately impact county fiscal courts through reduced excess fees. In Crittenden County's case, the clerk's office would have faced a deficit exceeding \$10,000 in 2024 that would have required fiscal court funding to cover.

Local leaders emphasize that without a clear plan to replace this revenue, the proposed tax cuts would create additional financial strain on county governments already operating with limited resources.

## Farm Bureau taking scholarship apps

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) is currently accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors across Kentucky for the 2024–25 academic year. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

The program offers scholarships in more than 50 categories, including opportunities for nontraditional students. In 2023, KFB awarded \$790,950 in scholarships to 575 Kentucky students through both state and county-level funding.

To qualify, applicants must be children of KFB members and graduate high school in the year they apply. Recipients may use the funds for various educational expenses, including tuition, housing, and books.

"Kentucky Farm Bureau is deeply committed to supporting Kentucky's next generation of leaders," said KFB President Eddie Melton, highlighting the organization's longstanding dedication to education.

The scholarship program is administered through a partnership between the KFB Education Foundation and county Farm Bureaus. Interested students can view available scholarships and submit applications at [kyfb.com/scholarships](http://kyfb.com/scholarships).

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## FIRE

Continued from page 1  
ticipated in the speech team. In high school he was part of a production of Shakespeare's MacBeth. While at Murray State University, he discovered his passion for acting almost by accident. "I saw an Acting 101 class and thought 'Sure, it'll be easy, why not,'" he recalls. "Then I got in there and thought 'Okay, this makes sense for me.'"

He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in theater studies.

This isn't Collins's first experience with the Chicago television universe. He previously appeared in episodes of both Chicago Med and Chicago Fire before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the entertainment industry. Living in Chicago, he balances his acting career with work as a leasing agent, which gives him the flexibility to pursue auditions and take acting classes.

Collins has been active in Chicago's theater scene, with his most recent stage role in a play called Southern Gothic. He's taken classes at the renowned Second City, known for its improv training.

"Improv is really, really good on your resume," he notes. The actor acknowledges the challenges in his field, particularly since the pandemic.

"A lot of the storefront theaters closed because of COVID, so there haven't been as many opportunities," he explains. "The big theaters are still feeling the financial strain, so they've been bringing in bigger name actors from LA and New York. It makes it even tougher, but I just kind of take whatever you can get."

Viewers can catch Collins's upcoming appearances on Chicago Fire later this season on NBC, with the episodes expected to air in the coming weeks. The most episode was No. 12, Collins said.



# Do you see what I see?

The Christmas Song “Do You Hear What I Hear?” begins with the wind pointing out a star to a lamb and ends with a mighty king encouraging everyone to pray for peace. If we didn’t know the story of the birth of Jesus and the imagery of the song, we would never connect the wind blowing a message to a lamb with everyone praying for peace. For someone unfamiliar with the story of the birth of Jesus, this song would take some explaining.

It may also be that even after an explanation, the full impact would not be felt by the newly informed. I have had this experience with some jokes from other cultures. I hear them and I don’t think they are that funny. After they are explained to me, sometimes I see why they are funny, but they still don’t make me laugh. I don’t feel it because I don’t feel the impact that the words have on that culture. I have also told a few jokes that worked well at home, but didn’t translate well. Sometimes to the point of being offensive.

It is hard for us to truly grasp how differently we see the world from others. Sometimes it is because of where we are looking. I have been to a few basketball games where some of the people I went with didn’t know the score at the end, but they could tell me all about the drama that was happening in the stands – which I didn’t notice at all. I didn’t see what they saw.

This extends to how we read the Bible as well. I was having a conversation with a Honduran friend a couple of weeks ago about the book of Job. He pointed out to me that there are some very poor and oppressed people in his country that are alright with what happened to Job. The rich have that coming to them. They do not find comfort at the end when Job’s wealth is returned to him. Where is the justice in that? If I am going to talk about the book of Job with those folks, I had better understand what they see – even if I don’t feel it.

Last weekend I, along with millions of others,

watched the Super Bowl halftime show. It soon became clear to me that what I saw and what others saw were not even close to the same thing. I have learned that when there are strong reactions in opposite directions to an event, one of the reasons is that people are not seeing the same thing. I have had to learn that, when this happens, the first thing I need to do is listen rather than defend.

Kendrick Lamar’s half-time show did not speak to me when I saw it live. It is because I do not understand the language or the genre in which it was performed. I need to educate myself. I don’t think I will ever enjoy that type of music, but I can learn to appreciate it and listen to what is being said rather than how it is being said.

On the surface, after reflection, I noticed a few things. There were no sexually provocative costumes. The language was hopeful, yet honest about where we are as a nation. There were no “wardrobe malfunctions.” There was clear imagery – game controller and a divided American flag are two easily seen examples.

A few years ago, a young man stayed with us for about a year. He attended open mic nights at clubs to perform his lyrics. After hearing some of them I challenged him

a little. I suggested that he could do more than reflect the reality of his life. I suggested that he could use his words to fashion a better world while still acknowledging the pain. I saw that last Sunday night.

I had to slow myself down enough to read various reviews and talk to people who did not see what I saw. I needed some things explained to me. I don’t feel it the same way they do, but I now understand why they do.

Here are a couple of thoughts to help us in this process of learning to see what others see.

“He who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.” (Prov. 18:17, RSV)

“Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” (James 1:19, RSV).

And there is this gem from Sirach 37:8

“Be wary of a counselor, and learn first what is his interest --

for he will take thought for himself --

lest he cast the lot against you.”

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

## Showing humility is critical to restoring a broken relationship

**Question:** I have spoken strong, harsh words to my brother over somethings he has done. Now, he doesn’t want me to visit him or talk to him over the phone. I miss visiting with him. What can I do to restore our relationship?

**Answer:** In the Bible we find Jacob bargaining for his brother Esau’s birthright (a double portion of the inheritance). Later he tricked his father Issac into giving him the blessing the first son

ASK  
the  
PASTOR

By Bob Hardison



usually got. The twin brother’s relationship was severed. When Jacob sought forgiveness and restoration after years of separation, he showed humility. “(Jacob)himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But

Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed and they wept” (Gen. 33:3, 4). Like Jacob and Esau, we may need reconciliation with a family member. You both gain peace when restoration is fully achieved.

Here’re some possible ways to achieve reconciliation:

**1. Take responsibility.** Identify some destructive behavior you did and address it.

**2. Take the initiative** to reconcile your broken relationship.

**3. Display humility.** It’s necessary to humble yourself before the one you’re estranged from. Humility opens doors to talking.

**4. Forgive.** If you’ve been hurt, choose to let go of any offense.

**5. Give a peace offering gift.** Jacob gave gifts to Esau, and it helped.

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

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REQUEST FOR BIDS:  
Mowing for the City of Fredonia

The City of Fredonia is now accepting bids for the 2025 mowing season.

Mowing bid packets will be available at Fredonia City Hall during normal business hours.

All mowing bids are due to Fredonia City Hall by March 7, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Fredonia City Hall at (270) 545-3925.

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315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.  
Rodney Phelps, Pastor  
(270) 704-2400  
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com  
Follow us on Facebook

St. William Catholic Church



Sunday Mass 11 a.m.  
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  
Pastor: Morgan Smith  
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



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

Emmanuel Baptist Church



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

Pastor: David Brown

We invite you to be our guest

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.

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Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

Freedom General Baptist Church



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  
Join us for praise & worship  
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.

SEVEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH



219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064  
Sunday evening service 5 p.m.  
Wednesday night service 6:30 p.m.  
- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us -  
Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church



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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18

PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem

Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God



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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church



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

PINEY FORK



CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.  
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Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible study 6 p.m.

Sugar Grove



Cumberland Presbyterian  
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.  
Reverend Greg Cain 270-245-4013  
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church



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

Frances Community Church



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

Hurricane Church



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

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.

Bro. David Perryman, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ



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



# Bank Street was a beehive of activity

What a resilient group of businessmen Marion had in those early days when, more than once, fire had destroyed their businesses. Soon after the devastating fire of March 25, 1905, they were already making plans to rebuild their establishments.

Just a few short months from the fire in June, Marion was rebuilding from the ashes and many new buildings and offices were under construction.

One that drew much of the attention was Bank Street (now East Carlisle Street) and what a busy place it was, if fact, a beehive of activity. On account of all the activity, the street was given the nickname of Busy Bee Street.

**Updates of buildings**  
On June 29, 1905, the brick work is almost completed on the block containing James & James offices. (The space where Emily Shelby's beauty shop used to be). Preparations are now being made for laying the foundation of the Hotel Crittenden, which will be adjoining James & James offices on Bank Street. (The Hotel Crittenden was what a lot of people remember as the Crittenden Hotel.)

**Jenkins building and occupants**

By Dec. 8, 1905, the new Jenkins building was finished and ready for occupants. (The Jenkins building was located directly behind the Marion Bank, it went to the alley.) There were 12 offices on the second floor of the Jenkins building; they are being occupied very quickly. The building was equipped with steam heat and electric lights throughout which made it comfortable, and it was commodious and up to date. It was given the nick name of the Bee Hive building.

Offices 3 and 4 have been taken by dentist Dr. Frederick W. Nunn who moved in this week and is now pretty well straightened up. The front office of his suite is beautifully finished, the walls being of a delicate pink and the drop near the ceiling blends from the pink to a delicate turquoise green, which covers the ceiling. This color scheme is finished off with strips of dark mahogany beading. The floor is varnished



Carlisle Street in 2003, before remodeling was done and a new front applied. Offices were located on the street level and also upstairs. The building on the right was known as the post office building and beside it were several office spaces in use.

and of oil finish. Dark green shades and full-length cream lace curtains are at the windows. The window seat will be upholstered in plush with hangings to match. This office contains a leather upholstered couch,



Brenda Underdown  
County Historian

**Forgotten Passages**

library table dressing stand and chairs. The operating room opens to the left and contains a beautiful new cabinet, the operating chair and a table. The color scheme in this room is dark and light blue. The walls are of dark blue, the drop between the walls and ceiling are of a dull orange and the ceiling light blue finished in the same way as number 3.

Partitioned off in one corner of the operating room is a small laboratory, which contains the working materials and tools.

Dr. Nunn has recently added to his outfit a somnoforme inhaler with which arrangement he is enabled to extract teeth without pain. This arrangement fits over the mouth and nose and the patient falls asleep in less than 20 seconds after inhaling the liquid. Dr. Nunn invites the public to call and see him in his new office.

Office Number 5 has been occupied by Z. A. Bennett and J. B. Kevil. They have purchased the agency of the farm department of the Continental Fire Insurance Company. Bennett, Kevil & Co. will write fire insurance for the Milwaukee Mechanics.

Numbers 6 and 7 are

occupied by twin brothers Joe B. & James W. Champion and W. H. Clark, attorneys-at-law.

Attorneys Champion & Champion, who were temporarily working from an office in the Carnahan building on the corner of Main and Salem streets, are now in their new quarters. They are large and commodious offices, being supplied with steam heat and all modern improvements.

Attorney W. H. Clark has also installed several new articles of furniture to his office fixtures including a handsome new bookcase.

Dr. G. E. Shively, mayor-elect, has engaged and occupied number 9. He has furnished it neatly and beautifully. The floor is covered with a handsome drugget, the windows with dark green shades and little sash curtains. The walls are decorated with pictures tastily arranged. A large leather upholstered couch, table desk and chairs complete the furnishing.

The new offices of The Crittenden Record Press has its quarters in this building facing Bank Street. The Press force consisting of Robert E. Wilborn, foreman, Mrs. May Wilborn, Elmer Franklin, Cleveland Stone, and also Valentine Threlkeld, on 'press days.'

At McConnell's Parlor Barber Shop in suite No. 2. Walter McConnell, Winfred Sleamaker and Ed Shelby are there to please their customers.

At the Marion Saddlery & Harness Co., Dave Moore is the man in charge and in the room adjoining, M. L. Rison does repair work on shoes. In the story above, Dr. George W. Stone, ccu-list, has a suite.

H. F. Foster, who was one of the Bank Street barbers and suffered in the fire of March 25, has moved back into his new shop in the Jenkins Building. Mr. Foster runs two chairs and has added to his new shop a bathtub and appliances for hot and cold baths.

His wall fixtures are very pretty and most modern patterns, besides he has an elegant mug case with fountain attached, a shining chair, and his lobby chairs are very comfortable and are similar to the late office pattern.

Across the alley, the new Haynes and Taylor's Drug Store was completed in the post office building. On its opening day, it had over 500 ladies come in and register for a nice box of Freeman's face powder or a bottle of delicate perfume. Curtis Asher presided over the soda fountain, and he was kept busing all day and night serving ice cream, Coco Cola, phosphates, and other goodies.

The new Post Office building (where Marion Dry Cleaners operated for many years) was also completed and open for business. In the postal building offices were Miss Mary Cameron, Mrs. Henrie Lamb and Miss Leaaffa Wilborn, who is the Wall Street Agent for the Record-Press.

A party who kept count one day recently estimated that not less than 1,000 people entered the buildings at the various shops and places of business on this street during the 24 hours, and they were hunting everything from a copy of the Crittenden Record-Press to a set of teeth on a good plate. Sometimes there

## Press Building Directory

Busy Bee Block, Next door to Post Office Building, Carlisle Street.

UP-STAIRS	
J. B. Kevil & Co., Insurance,	Suite 1
J. B. Kevil, Abstractor, Surveyor	" 2
Dr. Fred W. Nunn, Dentist	" 3
Miss Mable Manner, Assistant	" 4
Dr. J. B. Peppy, Physician	" 5
Herbert Rodgers, Artist, water colors and china painting	" 6
Crittenden Hotel, Parlor bed rooms	" 7
Prof. Lawson, Band Instructor, Practice and Recitation and Y. M. C. A. Rooms	8 to 10

GROUND FLOOR	
Yates Bros. Piano Store	
Loren Yates, Pressing, Cleaning and Repairing	
Postal Telegraph Office	
M. E. Cameron, Magazine Agency and Book Store	
Crittenden Record Press, Main Office	
McConnell Widens & Specs, Parlor Barber Shop, Hot and Cold Baths	
G. Hammond, Watch and Clock work	

BASEMENT, ENTIRE FLOOR	
Crittenden Record-Press Job Department and Press Room	
and entire mechanical works	

This advertisement from The Crittenden Press in 1911 showed the places of business located on Busy Bee Street.


are a dozen at one time in Dr. Nunn's office and equally as many in McConnell's barber shop.

These businessmen and their shops were indeed out to make their places of business the best around, and they were glad to be back in business after having only temporary quarters to work in after the fire.


The barbershops were open from 8:00 a.m. until

8:00 p.m. and on Saturday night they were open until 12:00 a.m.

Marion was an exciting, busy and growing town during this time in history. (Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at [OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com](#)).



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[www.homesteadauctionrealty.com](http://www.homesteadauctionrealty.com)

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### MONEY FOR ON-FARM IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE



## KADF

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Application Available from:  
**CRITTENDEN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
118 E. Bellville St.  
Marion, KY 42064  
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
or online at:  
[visit: kyagr.com/agpolicy/2024-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications](http://visit.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2024-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications) CAIP Program

### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are now available for Crittenden County's CAIP program. CAIP is a cost-share reimbursement to farmers who make qualifying on-farm investments, up to \$1,000.00 reimbursed.

**Application Period:**  
first cut-off is March 7!  
*Applications accepted first come-first serve! Until funds are gone!*

**For More Information:**  
270-965-3921, ext. 3  
or Email: [Cindy.Jenkins@usda.gov](mailto:Cindy.Jenkins@usda.gov),  
[Cynthia.Jenkins1@usda.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Jenkins1@usda.gov),  
or **Bob Guess**,  
[Robert.Guess@ky.nacdnet.net](mailto:Robert.Guess@ky.nacdnet.net)

All applications are scored based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.



## CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY

# Reorganization Meeting

## Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025

**Registration begins at 5 p.m.,  
Meeting at 5:30 p.m.**

Crittenden County Fiscal Court Room  
200 Industrial Drive, Marion, KY 42064



Classifieds The Crittenden Press



The Crittenden Press

125 E. Bellville St., P.O. Box 191 Marion, KY 42064 (270) 965-3191 information@the-press.com

Open weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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, 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.

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Classified advertising works! Customers tell us they sell their items faster than they expect by listing in The Crittenden Press! Call (270) 965-3191 to post a classified ad.

agriculture

5x6 hay bales for sale, starting at \$45 per roll. Additional hay stored inside, call for pricing. Delivery available. (270) 704-0886. (8t-9 p)

for rent

1 bedroom (small) efficiency apartment, includes all utilities, \$400/month and \$400 deposit. Call (270) 704-3234. (4-tfc) je

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-16-p)

notice

Advertise your job opening, event, items for sale, auction etc. in this newspaper plus 83 other Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), The Sturgis News, The (Princeton) Times Leader, The (Providence) Journal-Enterprise, The Union County Advocate, The Henderson Gleaner, The Livingston Ledger and The (Madisonville) Messenger and for only \$250. Save time and money by making one call for all! For more information, contact the classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at advertising@the-press.com.

legal notice

Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2025, Sally Mahoney of 120 Daytona St., Paducah, KY 42002 was appointed executrix of Tom Chase McKenney, deceased, whose address was 1212 Bridwell Loop, Marion, KY

42064. Robert Frazer, 200 S. Mln St., Marion, KY 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 13th day of August, 2025, and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Meliss Guill, Clerk (1t-7-c)

bid notice

BID FOR HEATING AND AIR UNIT INSTALLATION The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, KY is accepting bids for new dual fuel heating and air units to be installed in an existing building. Bids will be accepted until February 28, 2025. Job can be seen/assessed on-sight at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 East, Smithland, KY 42081 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties. Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in-person or by mail (Livingston County Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than February 28, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please call 270-928-2168 or email Joni Phelps at jkbarr3@uky.edu. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546. (2t-8-c)

statewide

ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB

KYANA GIANT INDOOR Swap Meet. 58th Year! Sat. March 8 • 8am - 6pm; Sun. March 9 • 8am - 4pm. KY Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. 7 Acres, 1150 Spaces Inside, Heat & Air. 100 Space outside car corral. Admission \$10. Children under 12 Free. Info: www.kyanaswapmeet.com or Chester Robinson, 502-619-2916; Maureen Vannatta 502-619-2917

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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 29.5 Acres - \$132,900

This diverse hunting property offers an exceptional blend of varied terrain and habitat types, made even more unique by its history as an old quarry.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 117 Acres - \$575,000

This phenomenal hunting property offers outstanding opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl enthusiasts, making it a must-see for the avid outdoorsman. Includes 44+/- acres of open ground!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 119 Acres - \$699,000

Nestled in a picturesque setting, this diverse hunting property offers not only prime outdoor opportunities but also the comforts of a 4-bedroom, 2-bath lodge. Includes 7+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

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Whether you're a seasoned hunter or looking for a tranquil retreat, this diverse tract delivers a perfect balance of functionality and natural beauty. Includes 32+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 312.43 Acres - \$1,475,000

This diverse hunting tract with a 4BR/2BA lodge is a rare find, offering exceptional opportunities for hunting, recreation, and relaxation. Includes 39+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

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Crittenden County, KY – 2.06 Acres - \$69,000

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

Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250

Situated in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000

Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$303,600  
Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$375,375  
Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$548,550  
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$575,575

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PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 38.14 Acres - \$129,900

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PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 37.184 Acres - \$164,900

Situated in an area renowned for big bucks, this property offers the perfect habitat for deer and turkey hunting, plus the added convenience of a cozy cabin!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 17.3541 Acres - \$169,000

Nestled within the embrace of tranquil countryside, this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers the perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. Includes a 32' x 48' metal barn.

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## BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES

**Around the Fifth District**  
**BOYS**  
Feb 20 Livingston at Mayfield  
Feb 20 Lyon at Calloway County  
Feb 21 Rockets host Hopkins Central  
Feb 21 Livingston hosts Caldwell Co.

**GIRLS**  
Feb 20 Livingston at Mayfield  
Feb 20 Crittenden hosts McLean Co.  
Feb 21 Livingston hosts Caldwell Co.  
Feb 21 Trigg at Graves County

## Fifth District Standings

GIRLS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Crittenden County	5-1	19-7
Lyon County	5-1	19-8
Livingston Central	1-5	9-16
Trigg County	1-5	7-19
BOYS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	6-0	21-6
Livingston Central	3-3	8-18
Trigg County	3-3	8-19
Crittenden County	0-6	0-25
Through Sunday		

## 5th District Tournaments

Ties in Fifth District standings were broken using RPI rankings as of Wednesday of this week. At Press time, it appeared that Crittenden's girls and Livingston's boys would prevail in tie-breakers based on RPI. If so, the district schedule will be as below.

**GIRLS**  
**At Trigg County**  
**Monday, Feb. 24**  
\*Crittenden Co. vs Trigg County, 6pm  
\*Lyon County vs Livingston, 7:30pm  
**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
Championship, 7pm  
\*Could change based on RPI

**BOYS**  
**At Trigg County**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
Lyon County vs Crittenden Co., 6pm  
Livingston Central vs Trigg Co., 7:30pm  
**Friday, Feb. 28**  
Championship, 7pm

## 2nd Region Tournaments

**GIRLS**  
**At Christian County**  
**Monday, March 3**  
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Tuesday, March 4**  
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Friday, March 7**  
Semifinal games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Saturday, March 8**  
Championship, 6pm

**BOYS**  
**At Madisonville**  
**Wednesday, March 5**  
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Thursday, March 6**  
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
Semifinal games, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Tuesday, March 18**  
Championship, 7pm

## SOCCER Registration under way

Crittenden Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) is now accepting registration for the spring 2025 season. Divisions are available for players born between 2013 and 2022, with fees ranging from \$55 to \$65 depending on the age group. A \$10 discount is offered for families with multiple children. Practices for 12U and 10U teams begin the week of March 10, with an end-of-season tournament scheduled for May 10 in Lyon County. Practices for 4U, 6U and 8U teams start the week of March 24, with games concluding the week of May 5. All players are required to have a ball, cleats and shin guards. For more information, contact Summer Gardner at (270) 704-9999 or Brittney Buell-Schneider at (270) 969-1721.

## OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

Raccoon	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
Raccoon Trapping	Nov. 11 - Feb. 28
Bobcat	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Squirrel Fall	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Canada Goose	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Coyote Night (lights)	Dec. 1 - March 31
Duck	Dec. 7 - Jan. 31
Wild Turkey Youth	April 5-6
Wild Turkey	April 12 - May 4
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

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# An emotional tale of two knees and a hungry heart

STAFF REPORT  
After nearly two years away from the game she loves, Crittenden County High School junior Chloe Hunt made an inspiring return to the basketball court Thursday night in a JV game against Henderson County. The emotions of the moment overwhelmed her as she stepped onto the court for the first time.

"I was very nervous and I got emotional when I first went in during the second quarter," Hunt revealed. "I had tears falling, but nobody said they noticed. I was nervous, shaking, but I was so excited to be out there."

Hunt's basketball career was derailed during the summer before her sophomore year when severe knee swelling led to the discovery of a serious condition. Her growth plates had begun closing down on the cartilage in her knees, cutting off blood supply to the bones. Years of playing through knee pain, initially diagnosed as Os-good-Schlatter disease in fifth grade, had taken their toll.

The road to recovery included multiple surgeries on both knees, beginning with an osteochondral allograft transplant on her right knee in January 2024, followed by the same procedure on her left knee in April. Additional procedures were required, including a scope in September to address persistent pain and swelling. Even after steroid treatments and ongoing physical therapy, the path forward remained uncertain.

"I have hit a lot of road blocks and I have bounced back," Hunt said. "I am still



After two knee surgeries and continued difficulties during recovery, Chloe Hunt pulled on No. 34 and was back on the court for the first time since 2022.

in a lot of pain, but we're going to see if I can play through it."

Through it all, Hunt remained dedicated to her team, refusing to step away despite her mother Megan's concerns about the emotional toll it was taking.

"It's been excruciating... She's been through some really low moments," Megan Hunt shared through tears.

The emotional weight of being sidelined has been particularly challenging.

"I have just tried to stay positive and that's what I showed to everybody, but I was keeping a lot to myself," she admitted.

Being unable to play with her closest friends and teammates hit her especially hard.

"I'm proud of them. I really am. They're doing a lot of great things and I just wish I could be out there with them."

Mom thought for a time that her daughter might be

best served to step away for a while.

"Not that I don't want her to be part of the team, but just watching the torture... I just felt like she was torturing herself," her mother said. "It's hard to sit there, right down there beside her and know what she is going through."

Megan Hunt is the team's scorekeeper and is right beside the team bench game after game; her daughter nearby, idled by pain in her knees and even greater pain in her heart.

Yet Chloe's persistence paid off. The moment she stepped back on the court last week, it brought joy to everyone in attendance. Though admittedly out of game shape, her performance exceeded expectations. Her mother noted the immediate change in her daughter's demeanor.

"She was like a totally different kid... just seeing that

smile, that spark back. It helped my heart a lot," her mother explained.

With her doctor's blessing to play within her pain tolerance, Hunt plans to continue practicing and working her way back, supported by what her mother calls their "amazing basketball family" known as Rocket Nation. She's already looking ahead, determined to make a full comeback with the varsity team. Before the surgeries, Hunt was projected as the team's starting point guard.

"I plan to be on the floor next year," she declared.

"We really want to thank everyone for all of the prayers, the support, the thoughts and well wishes and everybody in the whole Rocket Nation," Megan added. "They've been just amazing throughout this for her. We could never repay any of that."

# Lady Rockets lose by 10 to Henderson

STAFF REPORT  
The Lady Rockets were scheduled to play Madisonville early this week, but that game appeared in jeopardy at press time. This week's newspaper had an early deadline due to the weather forecast, so please see The Press Online for further sports details.

**Henderson wins by 10**

Once under the hump it can be difficult to get over it. And so it was Thursday as Crittenden County fell behind early and was never able to fully close the gap down the stretch in a 70-60 home loss to Henderson County.

It was a showdown of the region's top two teams based on KHSAA RPI power ratings, but Crittenden was playing less than full strength with guard Elliot Evans still out with an ankle injury. Despite the loss, the Lady Rockets made a game of it, closing to within four points in the second half.

CCHS jumped out to a 6-0 lead after the jump, but the Lady Colonels (22-4) reeled off a 15-0 run that proved too deep for Crittenden to overcome. HCHS got several second and third chance buckets in the first half and led by as many as 15 before Crittenden rallied late in the opening half and settled for a seven-point halftime deficit.



Lady Rocket junior Georgia Holeman works against a Henderson County defender.

An offensive spurt in the third allowed CCHS (19-7) to move to within four right before Henderson reeled off the fatal blow with a run that put it ahead by 18 heading into the final frame. There, however, Crittenden closed the gap and coach Shannon Hodge appeared somewhat content that her girls were able to make a game of it down the stretch.

Anna Boone led three Crittenden girls in double-figure scoring with 19 points. Jordyn Hodge had 18 and Andrea Federico a dozen.

It was the first time in 10 years that Crittenden had played so closely with Henderson, yet it was the first time this season that the Lady Rockets had lost two straight. The teams could very well meet again in the re-

gional tournament.

Henderson Co.	22	38	58	70
Crittenden Co.	13	31	42	60

HENDERSON – Locher 7, Hall 2, Gish, Kemp 4, Rideout 22, Cansler 9, Green 19, Gibson 7. 3-pointers 5 (Cansler 3, Gibson, Locher). FT 7-7.

CRITTENDEN – Boone 19, Hodge 18, Federico 12, Rushing 5, Stewart 1, Holeman 5, Berry, Champion. 3-pointers 4 (Hodge 2, Holeman, Rushing). FT 16-22.

# Rockets have one game left

STAFF REPORT  
With one game left in the regular season on Friday, it looks like Crittenden County may go winless unless the boys can upset Hopkins Central (10-15).

The Rockets were to have played Hopkinsville on Tuesday, but that game was canceled. Hopkins Central has beaten CCHS nine of last 11 times the teams have met.

Crittenden will play No. 1 seed Lyon County in next week's Fifth District Tournament.

**Trojans drop 15 threes**

Webster County's long-range aerial bombardment of three pointers Friday night punched the lights out early as Crittenden County fell 73-30 on the road.

The Trojans dropped 15 treys en route to the blowout victory, their sixth straight victory over the Rockets dating back to 2022. Webster improved 10-15 on the season.

Meanwhile, the Rockets got double-digit scoring from Coby LaRue, who led the team with 10 points. CCHS is 0-25 on the season.



Crittenden County	3	14	20	30
Webster County	20	34	55	73

CRITTENDEN – LaRue 10, Porter 6, Dayberry 3, Cowser, Stevenson, Poindexter 2, Ellington 4, Murray, Jones 2, B.Poindexter 3, Myers. 3-pointers 4 (LaRue 3, Dayberry). FT 9-9.

WEBSTER – Bardwell 14, Pumps 4, Hardison, Davis 14, McDyer 10, Phelps 5, Alstadt 13, Newton 1, Hardrick 4, Messamore 2. 3-pointers 15. FT 6-12.



Emmitt Ellington (above left) and Hudson Stokes (directly above) are among several freshmen who have been called upon to fill key varsity roles during this challenging season for Crittenden County.





Kindergarten Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) first place Cooper Atchison and third place Caison Young. Not pictured was second place Ava Beard.



Second grade Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) first place Easton Burton and second place Dawson Curtis.



5-6 grade Rockets hoops

Crittenden County's little league program has gotten quality game experience against area opponents this season. Clockwise from left are Knox Champion alongside teammate Eli Taylor and Mason Williams in a recent win over Livingston County and Addie Nelson and Aria Kirk during a win over Trigg County.



LIST OF STREETS  
Currently on City Priority Repair List

- South Blackburn from US 60 to Marion Country Club entrance.
- West Carlisle from a 4-way stop to South Weldon.
- North College from First Street to Second Street.
- East Elm Street from South Main to South College.
- E. Mound Park from North Main to North College.
- Intersection of Cherry and Rochester streets.
- Keeling from Travis to Bridwell Loop.
- Travis from Keeling to North Yandell.
- Thorough Greenwood Heights starting at Harmon Drive to Summit to Hillcrest and Whipperwill to city limit (this is a cut through from Fords Ferry Road to US 60 East).
- Moore Street from US 60 West to just past Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center, and to include part of alley between Moore and US 641 near the former Free Will Church.

from the paving list due to ongoing waterline replacement projects funded by grant money. These areas will be repaved after the waterline work is completed.

Both city and county officials encourage residents to remain patient as they balance immediate repairs with longer-term maintenance plans and storm recovery efforts. The county plans to use hot mix asphalt during summer months, which typically provides more durable repairs than cold mix alternatives that are used to patch holes right now.

# CCES Writing Contest Winners



First grade Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) second place Alexandria Vasquez, first place Bentley Gilbo and third place Jolea Sigler.



Fourth grade Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) second place Braylen Brown, third place Jasely Guess and first place Chelsey Lynch.



Third grade Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) second place Hadley Sherer, first place Chase Winders and third place Annalese Maraman.



Fifth grade Love My School Writing Contest winners were (from left) second place EmmaShae Holland, first place Adrianna Adamson and third place Kynslee Shepherd.



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## HOLES

Continued from page 1  
tinue to rise with each batch purchased. For some chip and seal roads that have extensively deteriorated, the county has found it more effective to spread new rock rather than attempt individual pothole repairs.

One major project on the county's radar is Nunn Switch Road, where crews plan to completely rebuild the base before laying a new topping when the weather breaks later this year. However, difficult weather conditions have delayed a good bit of the reconstruction work.

Meanwhile, in Marion, City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield reports that city crews are addressing potholes on municipal streets such as Old Morganfield Road, North College and Chapel Hill, though their efforts are constrained by ongoing winter storm cleanup. Marion and Crittenden County recently received an extension on their state of emergency declaration through May 5 for storm recovery efforts. The city administrator said crews are concentrating efforts on cleaning up storm debris, trying to beat the May deadline.

The city announced last week that it will be moving forward with its 2024-25 paving plans, with approximately \$200,000 in its municipal aid fund, of which \$65,000 will be reserved for emergencies. The City Council will review priority streets in March before opening the project for bids, with paving work expected to begin in late fall.

Several city streets, including portions of West Elm, Poplar, and North Maple, will be temporarily removed



# Feds charge Florida man in connection with campground case

STAFF REPORT

A Florida man with a lengthy criminal history is facing federal firearms charges following a violent domestic incident at a Crittenden County campground last October.

Davie Julian Rodriguez, 31, was indicted Feb. 11 by a federal grand jury in the Western District of Kentucky for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The charges stem from an incident at Riverview Park in Crittenden County, where Sheriff Evan Head responded to a domestic violence call on Oct. 20. Upon arrival at the campsite along the Ohio River, Sheriff Head was directed to a camper where a woman was reportedly being held against her will.

According to court testimony, the sheriff observed Rodriguez through a window sitting at a table with a loaded



Rodriguez

magazine nearby. The victim, a woman from Marion, was bleeding and begging to be released while Rodriguez allegedly threatened her life. Sheriff Head entered the camper with his service weapon drawn and ordered the victim to leave the camper.

During the subsequent arrest and search, authorities discovered four firearms in the camper, including a loaded Glock Model 17 9mm semiautomatic pistol with a round in the chamber. The search also revealed evidence of violence, including blood spatter on the walls and pools of blood on the floor. Additional firearms, pre-packaged marijuana and suspected fentanyl and oxycodone were found in Rodriguez's truck.

The victim reported that Rodriguez had held her captive in the camper, pressed a handgun to her head and threatened to kill her. Sheriff Head testified that she showed signs consistent with strangulation.

Rodriguez's criminal history includes a 2015 federal conviction in Miami for being a felon in possession of a firearm, as well as 2012 state convictions in Miami-Dade County for burglary of an unoccupied dwelling and grand theft. If convicted on the new federal firearms charge, Rodriguez faces up to 15 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, according to federal court records.

Charges in Crittenden County related to the case are expected to be dismissed in light of the federal indictment. A determination will be made next month.

# Judge Heady sets one case for trial; determines sentencing in 10 others

STAFF REPORT

Eleven cases were heard in Crittenden Circuit Court last week with sentences imposed or recommended and probation revocations issued in three of those. One case was set for trial late next month.

•A case involving Jonathan Richard Luis Kentfield, 41, of Marion was set for trial on March 31. A pretrial hearing will be held on March 13. Kentfield was indicted last year on felony charges of procurement or promotion of a minor under the age of 12 involving sexual or other prohibited activities (electronic means) and distribution of obscene material to a minor, first offense.

Kentucky State Police investigated the matter. The police citation says that the investigating officer received a complaint about the situation that reportedly occurred on Aug. 23, 2023. As part of the probe, Kentfield's smartphone was confiscated and searched. On it, police allege that sexually explicit material was found and that material was alleged to have been sent to an 11-year-old girl. Police also stated that evidence of the situation was found in the victim's journal.

•Carla Belt, 51, of Marion pleaded guilty to felony charges of first-degree wanton endangerment and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor charges of third-degree terroristic threatening, resisting arrest, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Court records indicate that on Oct. 6, Belt threatened to shoot responding lawmen during an incident in rural Crittenden County. The defendant had also pointed a shotgun at a man in the parking lot of Mexico Baptist Church. Authorities were summoned to the scene, and Belt had barricaded herself inside a nearby residence. According to court records, Belt then allegedly made threats against the responding officers. In time, Belt was forcefully removed from the residence, at which point a shotgun was discovered, according to police reports.

Circuit Judge Daniel Heady sentenced Belt to one year for wanton endangerment and one year for possession of meth, along with 365 days on the other charges. The time will run consecutively for a one-year sentence. Probation was denied.

•Levi Brennan, 27, of Marion pleaded guilty to a number of charges and was sentenced to nine years in prison, which will run consecutive to more than eight years he is currently serving for other convictions.

Brennan's charges from the two cases settled last week stem from theft, a police chase, and eventual apprehension by local law enforcement back in October 2023. He was sentenced to five years on two charges of being a felon in possession of a handgun, four years for stealing a firearm, and four years on possession of methamphetamine. Other misdemeanor charges amounted to two years. Some of the time will run concurrent, and some consecutive, for a total of nine years.

•Colton Stephens, 23, of Henderson entered an Alford plea to a felony charge of abuse of a child (12 or under) and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, with the time to run consecutive to other felony cases in Henderson and Union counties, which will result in a 9½-year cumulative sentence.

•Leroy Yoder, 35, of Marion pleaded guilty and was sentenced on three felony charges, including two counts of third-degree rape (victim under age 14) and one count of first-degree sexual abuse. An investigation by Kentucky State Police led to the charges, and Yoder was indicted in November 2023.

Court records say that in November 2022, Yoder had intercourse with two alleged victims under the age of 14. Another victim under the age of 16, according to court records, was allegedly subjected to "sexual contact" by the defendant.

Judge Heady sentenced Yoder to one year on each count, with the time to run concurrently. Yoder was taken into custody to begin serving the sentence. The Commonwealth's attorney opposed probation in the case.

A companion case against Vernon Yoder, 38, of Marion was continued until May.

•Sara Riley, 36, of Marion pleaded guilty to a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanors for hindering apprehension, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Riley initially found herself under investigation for hindering apprehension of Chris McKinley, who was wanted by police in two other cases. When arrested, Riley was in possession of the drugs and paraphernalia. She was sentenced to three years on the felony and lesser time on the other charges. The sentences will run consecutively for a total of three years.

•Rebecca Rednour, 36, of Hopkinsville pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone), attempting to promote contraband, and tampering with physical evidence, as well as a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. She is accused of attempting to introduce contraband to the Crittenden County Detention Center on Sept. 17 by trying to toss drugs over a wall and into the recreation area. Upon a plea agreement, the Commonwealth is recommending a one-year cumulative sentence. Rednour will be formally sentenced on March 13.

•An auto theft case against Destinee E. Claycomb, 29, of West Point, Ky., was dismissed because she faces a felony charge based on the same incident in Livingston County, from where the auto was stolen. To continue prosecution in both cases would constitute double jeopardy, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wes Hunt.

•Probation was revoked for Arianna Page Hagan, 25, of Maceo, Ky., who admitted to violating the terms of her probation by leaving a rehab facility before her treatment was complete. She had originally been convicted here in 2023 on drug charges. Based on a number of mitigating circumstances, the Commonwealth did not oppose further probation and a return to treatment.

•Christina M. Abeglen, 40, of Marion had her pretrial diversion set aside for violating the terms of her early release on an embezzlement conviction in 2024. She admitted to relapsing and doing drugs. The court ordered a 60-day sanction and will re-sentence her in the original case, which carries a term of five years. Sentencing will be on April 10.

•William D. Sherer, 51, of Marion had his probation revoked in two cases, both involving drugs. Sherer admitted to the judge that he had used meth in violation of the terms of his probation. He was ordered to complete a five-year and one-year sentence in cases from 2021 and 2023, respectively.

## PAPER

Continued from page 1

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Chris Evans has been editor of The Press for more than 30 years. You can reach him via email at [thepress@the-press.com](mailto:thepress@the-press.com).

## Fitzgerald gets almost 20 years in federal case

STAFF REPORT

Kenneth Brian Fitzgerald, 47, has been sentenced to 19 years and 10 months in federal prison for drug trafficking and firearms offenses, following a hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky.

Fitzgerald, who previously pleaded guilty to two counts of methamphetamine distribution and two counts of being a felon in possession of firearms, received a sentence slightly higher than the minimum proposed in his plea agreement. The offenses occurred in late July and August 2023 in Crittenden and Muhlenberg counties.

The sentence, handed down by the federal court in January and formally ordered last week, includes a five-year supervised release period following imprisonment.

During the investigation, local authorities discovered significant quantities of methamphetamine and multiple firearms at Fitzgerald's residence.

Under terms of his sentence, Fitzgerald must comply with standard and special conditions during his supervised release, including mandatory drug testing, substance abuse treatment and strict prohibitions on firearm possession. While the court waived fines due to his inability to pay, Fitzgerald must pay a \$400 assessment fee through a structured payment plan during his incarceration.

The sentence represents a significant reduction from the initial guideline range of 30 years to life imprisonment. Fitzgerald will serve his sentence without the possibility of parole.

Similar state charges in Crittenden County were dismissed last week in light of the federal sentencing.

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