

The Crittenden Press

Kentucky Joins 18 other States | Mobile DL Page 3

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

TWO DOLLARS

Dam 50, Glendale bridge work done

The Dam 50 Road Bridge on KY 387 in northern Crittenden County reopened last week, ending a closure that had been in place since March for replacement of the bridge over Crooked Creek.

KY 387, also known as Dam 50 Road, serves as the primary access route from KY 91 North to the former Dam 50 site, now Riverview Park. The park, which features modern campsites, experienced a significant decline in campers and traffic during the roughly 10 months the bridge was closed. State highway officials estimate an average of 111 vehicles travel this section of KY 387 each day.

Also, KY 2123 in Crittenden County's Glendale community has also reopened to traffic following completion of a \$330,000 bridge replacement project over Caney Fork Creek. Bridge approaches on KY 2123 are compacted gravel, and motorists are urged to use caution. Paving is expected to be scheduled this spring. An average of about 68 vehicles travel this section of KY 2123 each day.

Motorists are reminded that a bridge on KY 506 remains closed for replacement until late April. That closure is near the Caldwell County line, between KY 1077 in Crittenden County and KY 902 in Caldwell County.

Sheriff warns of scam

Local officials are warning residents about an ongoing phone scam that has hit the area hard in recent days, with at least one individual reportedly losing more than \$2,000.

In the scam, callers claim the victim missed jury duty and falsely identify themselves as being from the sheriff's office. The caller then pressures the person to provide money or personal information, often threatening arrest or jail time if payment is not made immediately.

Residents are urged to hang up immediately if they receive such a call. Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head said law enforcement agencies do not call individuals to demand money, fines or payments over the phone, and they will never threaten arrest as a way to collect funds.

Sheriff Head reminds the public to never give personal or financial information over the phone to unsolicited callers. Anyone who believes they have been targeted or victimized by this scam should report it to local law enforcement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

• Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 at its office complex.

• Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 at its office on East Bellville Street.

• Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19 at city hall.

• Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19 at city hall.

• Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20 at the Marion Welcome Center.

• Marion City Council meets at 5 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 26.

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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CRITTENDEN COUNTY Zero Fatal Crashes in 2025



Year	Fatal Crashes	Total Deaths									
2006	2	4	2011	2	2	2016	1	1	2021	2	2
2007	5	5	2012	2	2	2017	4	4	2022	0	0
2008	2	2	2013	2	2	2018	3	3	2023	3	5
2009	1	1	2014	3	4	2019	2	2	2024	1	1
2010	4	5	2015	3	3	2020	3	3	2025	0	0

Counting Our Blessings

Local officials trace factors in trend toward less deadly traffic

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky's highways and county roads are often defined by curvy contours, rolling terrain and narrow two-lane corridors that carry far more risk than their traffic counts might suggest. Yet recent local experience in Crittenden County shows that perhaps the right mix of luck, law enforcement, engineering and emergency response can dramatically bend the safety curve, even as Kentucky roads as a whole



Sheriff Head

continue to rank on the higher-risk side nationally.

In 2025, Crittenden County recorded zero traffic fatalities, a statistic that stands out sharply in a rural region where serious crashes are often unavoidable. Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head cautions against complacency, but credits consistent law enforcement visibility for some of the progress.

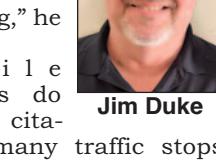
"We've been blessed, and just pray that it continues for the safety of our entire community," Head said.

According to the sheriff, being seen matters as much as writing tickets.

"Visibility and a regular law enforcement presence

on the roads are the biggest deterrents to speeding," he said.

While deputies do issue citations, many traffic stops end with verbal or written warnings aimed at correcting behavior before it leads to a crash. In 2025, the sheriff's office recorded 73 total collisions – all non-fatal – and issued 44 traffic citations, fewer citations than in each of the previous two years. Perhaps not coincidentally, 2025 was



Jim Duke

See NONE/page 3

Citing wrongful termination and more

Former admin suing city

STAFF REPORT

Former city administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield has filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Marion, alleging she was wrongfully terminated.

In a 20-plus page complaint, Ford-Benningfield contends that Mayor D'Anna Browning ignored city policies and violated her constitutional rights.

In the complaint, Ford-Benningfield says she had more than 20 years of municipal government experience and had received praise for her performance until she raised concerns about an employee who was hired by city hall. After doing so, she alleges her

working relationship with the mayor deteriorated and that she was ultimately given an ultimatum to resign or be terminated, without being provided a reason or due process. She maintains she never resigned and that her departure amounted to a constructive discharge.

The lawsuit names the City of Marion, Mayor Browning and the city's legal advisor Bart Frazer as defendants.

The lawsuit alleges retaliation in violation of the First Amendment, denial of due process under the Fourteenth Amendment, violations of the Kentucky Open Records Act, and un-

lawful employment practices under federal and state civil rights laws. Ford-Benningfield also claims discrimination based on age and gender, noting she was 62 at the time of termination and was replaced by a younger male with significantly less experience and a higher salary.

After Ford-Benningfield's departure, the city hired Adam Ledford to serve as its administrator on a temporary basis. Ledford had been Marion's city administrator just prior to Ford-

See CITY/page 3

Three seek judge's post in May primary

STAFF REPORT

Three candidates have filed for judge-executive, two for jailer and two for sheriff in Crittenden County, and all candidates for local offices in 2026 primary election are Republicans. The primary will be held Tuesday, May 19. Friday was the last day to file for partisan office seeking.

Candidates interested in running in non-partisan races like city council and school board have until June 2 to file for the Nov. 3 general election.

On Thursday, candidates will meet at 2 p.m., at the county office complex to draw for position on the ballot. The date and time for this procedure are set by statute. If candidates cannot attend, they may send a per-



See ELECTION/page 9

If you're the thesaurus, pick a word

If a thesaurus had a say in who you are, where would it position you?

Not under your job title. Not beside your last name or your reputation at the coffee shop. I mean really file you, on a page in a space full of synonyms that try their best to describe the way you move through the world, the way you respond, summing up the DNA that makes you who you are.

That question hit me the other day in church as the preacher was talking about the *Logos*, a term that has captivated my attention for decades, and created sleepless awakenings at 3 a.m. The impregnation of this theme stuck like a burr in a wool sock and I knew it had to be written at some point. Lo and behold, this is the week.

A thesaurus doesn't define words like a dictionary does; it lines them up shoulder to shoulder and asks you to choose which one you like best. It doesn't say you are this. It asks, which one fits?

Somewhere in the archives of my early years as a journalist is a well-worn thesaurus. It's whereabouts unknown today because it would be as useless as buggy whip in an automobile. Today, the World Wide thesaurus is at your fingertips and powered by artificial intelligence, or something perhaps a bit weaker. I digress.

So imagine this. You walk into a big, dusty book labeled *You*. The pages aren't numbered by age, but by character. Somewhere inside are defining words that follow you around, whether you like them or not.

Where do you land?

Under Reliable? Perhaps, with words like Steady, Dependable, Consistent? Or does the book nudge you closer to Restless, with Impatient, Roaming, Unsettled tapping you on the shoulder?

Maybe your page reads Kind and is flanked by Gentle, Patient, Forgiving. Or maybe, if we're being honest, you're documented closer to Stubborn, hanging out with Hardheaded, Unmoving, and like Sinatra sang: "My way." But that's two words.

And here's the part that matters. The thesaurus doesn't lock you in. Words migrate. Pages get dog-eared. Some entries fade with use; others get bolder with age. The words that fit you at 21 may not today like those brown corduroy pants. Back then, a lot of us lived under Misunderstood or Invincible. Maybe more simply Stupid.

These days, many of us have been quietly refiled under Wiser, which includes Cautious and Observant.

So here's the question I'm asking, and maybe one worth asking yourself over a cup of coffee or a long drive home: If someone else cracked open the thesaurus and went looking for you, what section would they find dog-eared? And maybe more important, are those the words you'd choose?

Because sooner or later, we all get categorized. The trick is deciding whether we're still writing the entry, or letting someone else do it for us.

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.

Deaths

Miller

Jewell Allen Miller, 64, of Marion, died Friday, Jan. 9, 2026 at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah.

He was a U.S. Army National Guard veteran. He worked at Perry's Sawmill and Marion Hardwood for over 30 years and was of the Baptist faith.

Surviving are two daughters, Tammy (Nathen) Lloyd of Tunnel Hill, Ga., and Chastity McLean of Booneville, Ind.; a son, Adam Lacefield of Owensboro; two step-daughters, Patricia Martin of Marion and Chancey Coleman of Madisonville; four sisters, Cindy (Bobby) Cornwell of Dixon, Rosetta (Eddie) King of Henderson, Bonnie Wismer of Henderson and Michelle (Danny) Nelms of Salem; a brother, Mike Miller of Madisonville 12; grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and very special friend Shirley Jones.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn Faye Miller; a daughter, Sandra Louise Miller; four brothers; Leon Miller, Thomas Miller, Roy Miller and Billy Miller; and three sisters Becky Rickbough, Donna Miller and Flora Miller. His parents were Edward and Alice (Rushing) Hallum.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Jan. 13 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Condolences may be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

Dunkerson

Lena Wave Dunkerson, 95, of Burna, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation Center.

She was a graduate of Livingston High School's class of 1948 and was a member of Dyer Hill Baptist Church.

Surviving are two sons, Ricky (Vickie) Dunkerson and Barry (Tina) Dunkerson, both of Burna; five grandchildren, Corey (Sarah) Dunkerson, Kacey (Hunter) Sullivan, Ashley (Michael) Haney, Kailey Dunkerson and Molley Dunkerson; five great-grandchildren, Delaney, Dakota, Deagan, Ivy and Holland; and a niece, Tana Doorn.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Gary Dunkerson; her parents; stepfather, Earl Phillips; stepmother, Ophelia Damron; two brothers, Joseph Damron and James (Jimmy) Damron; and a step-brother, Danny Shuecraft.

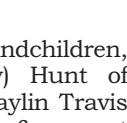
Funeral services were Sunday, Jan. 11 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

Paid obituary

Hobbs

Dorothy Marie Hobbs, 77, of Marion died Jan. 8, 2026 at her home in Marion. She was a member of Crooked Creek Baptist Church.

Surviving are her daughter, Melinda (Michael) Travis of Marion;



two grandchildren, Jacob (Ashley) Hunt of Marion and Kaylin Travis of Smithland; five great grandchildren, Macy, Shane, Owen, Cade and Olivia; two brothers, Richard Leo Winters; special friend, Paul Crowell and special caregiver, Phyllis Buchanan.

Hobbs was preceded in death by her husband, Mike Hobbs; parents,

Visitation is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16 at Morgan's Funeral Home.

Services are at 1 p.m. at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Terry Davis officiating. Burial will follow at Piney Fork Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Memorial contributions may be made to Oneida Baptist Institute, Christian School for Children,

700 N. Main Street, Oneida, KY 40068.

Paid obituary

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

Thursday, Jan. 15

• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

• 4-H Art Club will meet at 5 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Monday, Jan. 19

• The Crittenden County Extension office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

• Extension District Board meeting is scheduled for noon at the Crittenden County Extension office.

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Court sentences man in case where missing wreath found

STAFF REPORT

A Dawson Springs man pleaded guilty to an amended misdemeanor charge stemming from a 2024 burglary investigation at an unoccupied home in rural Crittenden County.

Antony Y. Petrakis, 45, of Dawson Springs, pleaded guilty last week in Crittenden Circuit Court to first-degree criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor, after the charge was amended from a Class C felony. He was sentenced to 365 days in jail, to run concurrently with time he is already serving on a Hopkins County felony case from 2019. Petrakis has more than six years remaining on that sentence after his probation was revoked following the new charge. He has already been held more than a year since his arrest on the Crittenden County charge.

The victim in the case is listed as the estate of William Ralph Paris, and the court or-

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

dered that property be returned to the estate. A co-defendant previously pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay restitution after being found in possession of some of the stolen items, some of which could not be returned.

The case stems from an Oct. 12, 2024, burglary at an unoccupied home off KY 506 that belonged to the estate of a recently deceased man. Thousands of dollars in items were taken, including surveying equipment, a cellphone and a decorative holiday wreath. Investigators said extensive damage was done to the home as the intruder attempted to remove a window air-conditioning unit and force entry through windows and doors, eventually gaining access through the front door using tools from an outdoor shed.

Crittenden County Sheriff's Deputy James Duncan traced

CIRCUIT COURT

the stolen cellphone to an apartment complex in Dawson Springs. With assistance from Dawson Springs police, officers identified the suspect's apartment after locating the distinctive holiday wreath hanging on the door. Petrakis was arrested Oct. 30, 2024, and initially charged with second-degree burglary, theft, criminal mischief and possession of burglary tools.

• Michael Lee Cruzen, 32, of Marion, pleaded guilty to four felony charges stemming from a firearms incident involving a woman and her two teenage children.

Cruzen entered guilty pleas to two counts of felony first-degree wanton endangerment and two counts of misdemeanor second-degree unlawful imprisonment. Prosecutors said he discharged a firearm in close proximity to the victims during the incident.

He was sentenced to one year on each felony count and 365 days on the misdemeanors, with all time to run concurrently, for a total sentence of one year. Because a firearm was involved, the case qualifies as a violent offender offense, requiring Cruzen to serve 85 percent of the sentence before becoming eligible for release.

As part of the plea agreement, one count of wanton endangerment and one count of unlawful imprisonment were dismissed. Those dismissed counts involved the adult victim; the remaining charges pertained to the two children. Prosecutors also opposed probation.

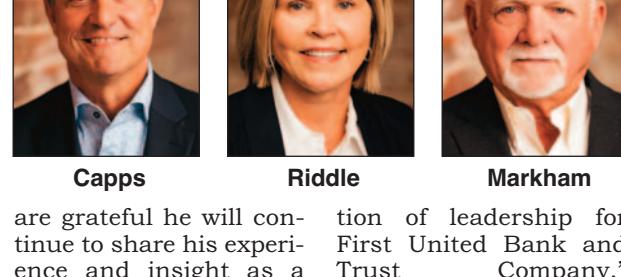
• Josh Hunter, 44, of Marion, was found to have violated terms of his probation in a flagrant non-support conviction. The court sanctioned him for failing multiple drug tests and ordered him to spend 30 days in jail, and did not oppose

weekend work release.

• Richard Hardin, 43, pleaded guilty to a felony drug charge and misdemeanor charges of trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia. Court records say that in September of last year, Hardin located a key to a home in Marion, entered it and took a photo of himself while inside and sent it to someone. Marion Police Department and Crittenden County Sheriff's Department responded to the call and found Hardin in possession of methamphetamine.

He was sentenced to three years on the meth charge, his second offense, and 365 days on the two misdemeanors. Upon recommendation from the commonwealth, the court probated the sentence for five years so long as he completes court-ordered treatment and other provisions of probation. He is applying for acceptance into the Drug Court program.

Bank's leadership changes



Capps

Riddle

Markham

First United Bancorp has announced a planned transition in its board leadership, with longtime Chairman Jerry T. Markham stepping down from that role while remaining a member of the board of directors.

Markham was one of the bank's founding members when it opened March 29, 1996, and has served as chairman of the board since January 2012. Board members credited him with guiding the institution through nearly three decades of growth while maintaining its focus on community banking.

"Jerry Markham has been instrumental in shaping First United Bank and Trust Company from its inception," the board said in a joint statement. "His vision, dedication and leadership have been foundational to our success. We

are grateful he will continue to share his experience and insight as a board member."

The board has appointed Kenwyn Riddle as chairwoman, effective Jan. 1. Riddle has served on the board since 2011 and is a longtime business leader in the Madisonville area. She is the daughter of bank founder Kenneth O. Taylor and attended the University of Kentucky and Brescia College. Riddle also served for 15 years as treasurer for St. Vincent de Paul.

Tim Capps has been named vice chairman. Capps has served on the board since July 2020 and is a graduate of Murray State University. He is president of Par 4 Plastics and is involved in regional economic development, serving on multiple boards across western Kentucky.

"Kenwyn and Tim represent the next genera-

tion of leadership for First United Bank and Trust Company," Markham said. "Their combined experience in business development and community engagement positions the bank well for continued success."

Riddle said she is committed to continuing the bank's mission of community service.

"It is an honor to build on the strong foundation established by Jerry and the founding board members," she said. "Serving our communities will remain our guiding principle."

Founded in 1996, First United Bank and Trust Company is a community bank with \$598 million in assets serving Western Kentucky. The bank recently earned a five-star superior rating from BauerFinancial, an independent bank rating firm.

Newly seated grand jury issues five indictments

STAFF REPORT

The newly seated 2026 Crittenden County Grand Jury met last week and indicted four individuals on a variety of charges.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens convened by the circuit court to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to formally charge someone with a felony or certain serious crimes. The grand jury reviews evidence presented by the Commonwealth's attorney, may hear testimony from witnesses, and then decides whether to return an indictment, which is the formal charging document. Grand jury proceedings are conducted in private, and the grand jury does not decide guilt or innocence, only whether enough evidence exists to move a case forward to circuit court.

• Jeffrey R. Patterson, 56, of Marion was indicted on a felony charge of cultivating marijuana, five or more plants, first offense.

CRITTENDEN Grand Jury

• Roderick Mills, 62, of Marion was indicted on a single felony count of impersonating a police officer. Authorities say he impersonated a law enforcement officer during an illegal traffic stop on Aug. 5 at Liberty Fuels on the south side of Marion.

• Dustin McKinney, 35, and Andrew Bryan, 29, were both indicted on a superseding indictment to clarify the proper version of Kentucky statutes for which they were previously indicted. Both face second-degree manslaughter charges, Class C felonies, in the fentanyl-related death of a 22-year-old Marion man in 2023.

• Brian Keith Odom, 43, of Eddyville was indicted on a felony charge of flagrant non-support. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

NONE

Continued from page 1 an average year for non-fatal collisions. There were 63 in 2023 and 83 in 2024.

Over the past 20 years, there have been only two years when there were no traffic deaths in Crittenden County and both have come in the past four years, which many hope is a signal of safer roadways.

The past five years have been the least deadly period on Crittenden County roadways in the last two decades.

Improvements in highway safety can be attributed to a variety of factors.

Engineering changes on the roadway itself have proven decisive. Over the past several years, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has invested heavily in safety-focused design statewide. According to transportation spokesperson Carrie Dillard, more than 3,500 highway construction projects totaling over \$6.7 billion have been awarded in the last five years alone. "The constant work in engineering safer roadways, intersections and bridges is making a difference," Dillard said, noting that statewide fatalities are down 7 percent compared to this time last year.

In Crittenden County, a 2019 Highway Safety Improvement Program project targeted a seven-mile stretch of US 60 from Rosebud Hill to the Crittenden-Union County line. That work in the northern quadrant of the county corrected roadway banking, widened shoulders and improved drainage. Comparing five years before and after construction, total collisions dropped from 93 to 27, injuries fell from 52 to 12, and fatalities dropped from two to zero. A high-friction surface treatment applied prior to construction further reduced crashes, especially during rain.

Duke emphasized that not every serious crash becomes a fatality. In rural counties far from trauma centers, survival often hinges on speed. "Crittenden County has been very fortunate to have quick access to air medical services," he said.

On another typically hazardous stretch of roadway in the eastern part of the county at Deanwood Curve on KY 120, the state lowered the speed limit to 35 mph and installed large warning signs and chevron markers.

Sheriff Head said the payoff has been measurable, particularly in those known problem areas. Crash numbers have declined in both Deadwood and around the Rosebud.

"In the past, it seemed like every time it rained, there was a wreck at Rosebud," Head said.

Improvements in highway safety can be attributed to a variety of factors.

Engineering changes on the roadway itself have proven decisive. Over the past several years, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has invested heavily in safety-focused design statewide. According to transportation spokesperson Carrie Dillard, more than 3,500 highway construction projects totaling over \$6.7 billion have been awarded in the last five years alone. "The constant work in engineering safer roadways, intersections and bridges is making a difference," Dillard said, noting that statewide fatalities are down 7 percent compared to this time last year.

In Crittenden County, a 2019 Highway Safety Improvement Program project targeted a seven-mile stretch of US 60 from Rosebud Hill to the Crittenden-Union County line. That work in the northern quadrant of the county corrected roadway banking, widened shoulders and improved drainage. Comparing five years before and after construction, total collisions dropped from 93 to 27, injuries fell from 52 to 12, and fatalities dropped from two to zero. A high-friction surface treatment applied prior to construction further reduced crashes, especially during rain.

Duke emphasized that not every serious crash becomes a fatality. In rural counties far from trauma centers, survival often hinges on speed. "Crittenden County has been very fortunate to have quick access to air medical services," he said.

Air Evac Lifeteam has



Rite Temp, a local HVAC company, is constructing a new warehouse and fabrication shop adjacent to a recently acquired building on Main Street in Marion that will serve as its new headquarters. The recently purchased building previously housed Belt Realty. Work on the exterior of the 30-by-70 shop began with framing last week, and by Friday the exterior was complete. Rite Temp owner Ira Hancock said the company has about 16 employees between the Marion operation and its Fires Heating and Air Conditioning location in Paducah. The development on the south side of town is less than a block from another new building where Rocket Tire is working on its new location at the corner of Main and Gum streets.

KY joins Mobile ID for DLs

Kentuckians can now download Kentucky Mobile ID, a secure digital version of a standard or REAL ID driver's license or state ID that is accepted at Transportation Security Administration checkpoints for air travel at more than 250 airports.

The mobile ID, verified through records maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, allows users to confirm their identity at TSA checkpoints while sharing only the information required for verification. Officials emphasized that the digital ID does not replace a physical driver's license or ID, which should still be carried.



A Kentucky Mobile ID is stored on a smartphone and protected by the device's PIN, Touch ID or Face ID. If a phone is lost or stolen, the digital ID remains locked, unlike a physical card that could be misused. The app's authenticity is confirmed through KYTC licensing records created when a driver's license or state ID is issued.

Kentucky joins 18 other states on the app.

CITY

Continued from page 1

-Benningfield.

She seeks lost wages, liquidated damages, emotional distress damages, reputational damages, attorney's fees, and other relief. The case was filed in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky in Paducah, and includes a demand for a jury trial.

Ford-Benningfield is represented by Eddins Domine Law Group in Louisville.

Contacted by The Press for a response, Mayor Browning said the city does not have a statement at this time, citing pending litigation. She did say the city has filed a claim with its insurance carrier through the Kentucky League of Cities with regard to the legal action. The insurance carrier will provide independent legal counsel to handle the matter.

Ford-Benningfield was hired in the spring of 2023. Her tenure ended in October.

Duke attributes that outcome to several converging factors, including stronger enforcement, better compliance with traffic laws, meaningful improvements to road conditions and perhaps the least visible, but maybe the most critical factor, is trauma response time.

Duke emphasized that not every serious crash becomes a fatality. In rural counties far from trauma centers, survival often hinges on speed.

"Crittenden County has been very fortunate to have quick access to air medical services," he said.

Air Evac Lifeteam has

SIC posts academic honoree's listing

Southeastern Illinois College has released its academic honors lists for the fall 2025 semester, recognizing students who earned placement on the President's List and Vice President's List.

Among the Kentucky students named to the President's List, which requires a perfect 4.0 GPA, are Josie Jackson of Eddyville; Keeley Waddell of Morganfield; and Cora Syers of Sturgis.

Kentucky students earning spots on the Vice President's List, reserved for students with grade point averages between 3.25 and 3.99, include Cailey Divine of Morganfield.

To qualify for either list, students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours during the fall or spring semester, or six credit hours during the summer term, while maintaining strong academic performance.

Cumberlands names Dean's List qualifiers

University of the Cumberlands has announced students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester in recognition of academic achievement.

Local honorees include Ainsley Elder and Holly Sigler, both of Morganfield; Tyler Gentry of Sturgis; Kendra Johnston of Ledbetter; and Olivia Noffsinger and Laura Stephenson, both of Princeton.

The Dean's List is compiled by the Office of Academic Affairs and recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance during the semester.

Local students are recognized at SNHU

Southern New Hampshire University has named several area students to its Fall 2025 President's List, recognizing full-time undergraduates who earned a grade-point average of 3.700 or higher during the September-December term.

Local honorees include Kallyn Jackson and Samantha Rhoades of Marion and Alexi Farr of Princeton.

To qualify, students must complete at least 12 credits over a 16-week term or paired eight-week terms within the fall session.

Guess among Dean's List at Lindsey Wilson

Lindsey Wilson University has recognized local students for academic achievement during the 2025 fall semester.

Taylor Guess, of Marion, and Pryor Lamb, of Sturgis, were named to the Dean's List at Lindsey Wilson University.

The Dean's List honors full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00



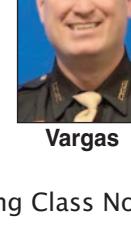
scale and remain in good academic standing for the semester.

Founded in 1903 and affiliated with The United Methodist Church, Lindsey Wilson is a private liberal arts university located in Columbia. The university offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs and sponsors 29 inter-collegiate varsity athletic teams.

Livingston deputy completes training

Livingston County Sheriff's Office announced that Deputy Brandon Vargas has graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy, completing Class No. 564.

Vargas began the academy July 14, 2025, and completed the 22-week program, which included four weeks of online instruction followed by 18 weeks of in-person training. Class No. 564 was only the second DOCJT class to complete training at the Madis-



Vargas



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

onville location.

During the academy, Vargas earned the Fit for Duty Award, which recognizes recruits who demonstrate exceptional physical fitness, resilience and readiness for the demands of law enforcement service.

KU joins 811 B4UDig, eliminates extra call

Customers of Kentucky Utilities and excavators working within the utility's service area can contact Kentucky 811 to have underground electric lines marked, eliminating the need to notify the utility directly.

The change follows Kentucky Utilities expanding its membership in Kentucky 811 and is intended to simplify the process of requesting utility line markings before digging. Contacting 811 is required by law and helps prevent costly repairs, fines, serious injuries or death. The service is free.

"We're always exploring new opportunities to improve our customers' experience and make it easier to do business with us," said Peter Waldrab, vice president of electric distri-

bution at LG&E and Kentucky Utilities. "Expanding our Kentucky 811 membership to all LG&E and KU service areas simplifies the process for requesting underground utility line markings and helps ensure customers and excavators are digging safely. Keeping everyone safe is our top priority."

Kentucky Utilities and sister utility Louisville Gas and Electric have also launched a video series, "Digging into Safe Digging," to answer common questions about excavation projects. More information is available at lge-ku.com/811. Customers can dial 811 or visit Kentucky 811 online to submit a locate request before beginning any digging project.

Phelps named to Dean's List UE

Marley Phelps of Marion has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at University of Evansville, the university announced.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must carry a full academic load of at least 12 credit hours and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

The University of Evansville is a private institution founded in 1854 and located in Evansville, Ind. Known as the Purple Aces, the university offers more than 75 majors, competes in 17 NCAA Division I sports and provides a study abroad program at Harlaxton College in England.

Additions to last week's death list

Last week, The Press published its annual compilation of deaths from the previous year. In aggregating the list, the following names were inadvertently left out.

Robert C. Bradford, 93
Opal Naomi "Honey" Jamison, 101
Caryon Sue Tabor, 70
Charles Ronnie Glore, 74
Arnold K. "Jerry" Jerome, Jr., 83
Charles (Doug) Curnel, 80
Raymond Everett Belt, 85
Steven Douglas Mitchell
Cynthia "Darleen" Pierce, 75
Noble Cook Travis, 91

County offices are closed for MLK holiday

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, the Crittenden County Office Complex, Crittenden County Road Department, Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter will be closed Monday, Jan. 19. Normal hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 20.

In addition, the Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter will be closed Saturday, Jan. 17, through Monday, Jan. 19. Normal hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 20.

*Between Printed Editions
Tune in to The Press Online
for breaking news.
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STAFF REPORT

Representatives from Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell counties met Monday night at the Marion Public Library to continue planning a regional celebration marking the nation's 250th birthday in June, an effort that has steadily gained momentum since organizers first gathered in late November.

What began with roughly a half-dozen local history enthusiasts has grown to more than 20 participants this month, drawing in educators, civic leaders and community volunteers from all three counties. Organizers noted the shared pioneer-era history of the region – when Crittenden and Caldwell were part of Livingston County – as a driving force behind the collaborative approach.

Plans discussed Monday outlined a two-day schedule centered on heritage, education and community involvement. A Friday evening parade, tentatively set for 5 p.m., would feature an American heritage group and a large display of U.S. flags, with local entertainer Cutter Singleton serving as master of ceremonies.

Saturday's concept focuses on

bringing American history to life through interactive displays representing multiple eras and perspectives, including Native American history, African American experiences, women's history, the Civil War and the emergence of 20th-century technology.

Organizers are exploring a walk-through history format with multiple sites across Marion, tied together with a "punch card" activity that encourages visitors to experience each location. An observance ceremony will be held in the Fohs Hall campus.

Committee members also discussed a self-guided driving tour using GPS and short historical vignettes highlighting significant regional sites.

Organizers say plans are still in the brainstorming phase, but the growing participation reflects strong regional interest in creating a meaningful, inclusive observance of the nation's 250th anniversary. Additional meetings are planned as subcommittees of the larger group have been identified and chairpersons appointed.



Planning meetings are open to everyone. The next meeting will be at the library in Marion at 5 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 9.

THROW BACK THURSDAY
OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879



From the Press Archives – 17 Years Ago

A changing of the guard was underway on East Carlisle Street in January 2009 when longtime Marion Dry Cleaners owner Paul Vaughn turned over the keys to former Crittenden County High School football coach Frank Pierce. Vaughn, who had owned the business since 1991 and also operated similar cleaners in Hopkinsville, Dawson Springs and Paducah, officially retired but agreed to stay on in a consulting role as long as needed. Pierce, then 47, renamed the business Coach's Cleaners and took ownership, continuing full-service operations that included traditional and dry cleaning, pressing and alterations for garments, curtains, rugs and other fabrics. Daily operations remained in familiar hands, with longtime employees Tink Hicklin, Velma Lynch and Emma Lou Morris continuing their work.

10 YEARS AGO

January 14, 2016

■ Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce recognized Beavers Brothers Car Wash as its Business of the Month for January. The car wash had been in business since 1968. Accepting the award were Kristi Beavers, Curt Beavers and Jerry Beavers.
■ Miss Purchase District Fair Queen 2015 Ashley Cali Parish, of Marion, and Miss Crittenden County Fair Queen 2015 Sierra Fields, of Morgantown, competed in Miss Kentucky Fair Queen in Louisville.
■ The Crittenden County Rockets finally secured their first victory of the season, defeating Dawson Springs 62-55. Leading scorers for the game were Dylan Hollis with 18, Will Tolley with 14 and Colby Watson with 13.

25 YEARS AGO

January 18, 2001

■ The Lady Rockets' senior forward Kayla Beabout scored 20 points and grabbed 22 rebounds, leading the Lady Rockets to a victory over Dawson Springs in the Class A Second Region Tournament. This was the third tournament win in the last four years for the Lady Rockets.
■ The Crittenden County chess team competed at the Lexington Winter Scholastic Chess Tournament. Alex Kirby and Dillon Courtright led the charge, earning trophies in the primary division, while the elementary team, guided by Justin Asbridge and Marcus George, also made a mark. Martin Schiller and Ryan Dunn spearheaded the high school team's second-place finish, setting the stage for an exciting journey to the state competition.
■ Rockets junior forward Matt Stone came off the bench to ignite a 24-12 rally in the third quarter and helped his team break a five-game losing streak with a 71-56 home victory over Providence. Stone was the leading scorer of the game with 21 points.

50 YEARS AGO

January 15, 1976

■ Marion dentist Dr. Donald L. Wight was named chairman of the Crittenden County School Board. Willard Easley was elected to a second term as the five-member board's vice chairman.
■ David Perryman was named Player of the Week for his efforts in games against Providence and Lone Oak. Perryman scored 27 points, grabbed six rebounds and had four assists. He was 5 of 13 from the field against Providence and 6 of 12 against Lone Oak.
■ Denise Hamilton, Mary Byrum, Linda Cook and Cloyce Hughes were installed as officers for 1976 of the Crittenden County Democratic Women at the organization's meeting. Hamilton was named treasurer, Hughes president, Byrum secretary and Cook vice president.

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

The Crittenden Press

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Rest, wisdom, and renewal for the year ahead

By this time in January, we have had time to fail keeping at least one of our New Year's resolutions. I have done something unusual this year. I have delayed starting two of mine until February – for reasons that are not worth explaining. I still make them every year. My success rate is around 50%, which I consider pretty good for me.

Along with the newness of the year, there is also the getting back into life that happens after the extended "holiday season." For me it begins the opening day of Modern Firearm Deer Season and ends the first week of January, which is when I celebrate my birthday.



Sean Niestrath
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

There is a time of malaise that sometimes settles in this time of year. The lights come down and winter is still in front of us. The days may be getting longer, but the sky is still cloudy and cold days are ahead.

It is a good time to consider habits that promote refreshment. It is not often hard to know what to do. It can be hard to do it. With that in mind, here are a few reminders for us to stay refreshed as we settle into our resolutions.

Rest. After God created the heavens and the earth, he rested. It is possible to understand that the first commandment given to mankind is to take time to rest. There is a lot to

do in this world. It is easy to get so caught up in life that we forget to rest. This does not mean only rest from work. There are other things from which we can rest. We can rest from social media (or any media). We can rest from trying too hard to make things better – breathe. We can rest from being so hard on ourselves – or others. We live in such a time that it is easy to be in a constant state of anxiety or moral outrage – be kind to yourself and others – take a break. We can't fix everything. We can't fix anything if we are always emotionally and physically spent. "Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest." (Exodus 23:12).

Music. Listen to some music that is uplifting. I like classical music. It helps me to clear my thoughts or put better ones in my mind. Most of us have a "soundtrack"

for our lives. Retreat into that from time to time. It helps me to center on who I am. "And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him." (I Samuel 16:23).

Seek Wisdom. Looking to others who have lived through troubled times in the past (Bonhoeffer, C.S. Lewis, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the prophets of the Old Testament, John Hus, Abraham Lincoln) gives me perspective. It helps tone down the hyperbolic rhetoric and reaction that we have habituated toward. The Proverbs is always a good calming read.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make

straight your paths.

Be not wise in your own eyes;

fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

It will be healing to your flesh

and refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8)

Find or create good news. Do something for another person. Find out the good things happening in your community and follow those stories.

Find those people who are working to make things better for all of us. Work with them if possible. There is nothing as knowing you have done something to make the world better tomorrow than it was today.

Take the small victories and then do it again . . . and again. "May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he

searched for me eagerly and found me." (I Timothy 1:16-17)

Turn. Turn toward those things that pull us to be better human beings. Turn toward those people who encourage us.

"Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord," (Acts 3:19)

Be patient with yourself. Failure is a signal that we need to learn something else or connect with people who can help us. Be patient with the process, get up (or accept help to get up), and try again. There are possibilities for refreshing all around us. Seeking them out intentionally will keep us all moving in the right direction.

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.

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



Only Jesus can take care of our need for forgiveness

Question: Why do Christians say, "You must trust Jesus for forgiveness of sins and to go to heaven?" Is it enough to just be a good person? I live a moral life that is better than a lot of the people I see going to church. I help people all the time. I'm a nice person. Why should I trust in Jesus?

Answer: The reason is every person has the problem of sin in his life. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). To put that in everyday language, it is: People choose to disobey God and go their own way. This results in separation from God.

Sin leads to eternal death, but God wants you to live with Him for all eternity. God has given the only solution for our sin problem. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live a life without sin so He could die

the death for sin we deserve. He paid the penalty for our sin on an old rugged cross. God raised Jesus from the dead, and His resurrected life means He is God. Through faith in what Jesus did for us we can have forgiveness of sin and a relationship with God now and throughout eternity.

Jesus' death paid the price for forgiveness for all, but it does not come to us automatically. We must trust Him as our Savior and Lord. To do so, we need to repent (turn from our sins and ask God's forgiveness). Then, by faith receive Jesus Christ into one's heart and life and live for Him. Next, start attending church. That will help you grow in your faith. Follow up those actions by being baptized as an expression of your faith.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

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

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

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.

■ Fredonia Unity Baptist Church's clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

■ The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

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87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)

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Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

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Victory gardens, victory drives and war bonds

For several years after the start of World War II, Dec. 7, 1941, the words heard in the homes of Crittenden Countians were Victory Gardens, Victory Drives and War Bonds. With approximately one-twelfth of the total population of Crittenden County in the armed forces with Crittenden County soldiers, sailors, marines or coast guardsmen in 100 Army camps and at every major battle front of the world, prayers were going up from Crittenden County homes morning, noon and night for the safe return of these same fighting men.

From the archives of The Crittenden Press, we learn of some of the actions being taken in our home town and county in the year 1943 to help the cause to win the war and bring our young safely back home.

Grow Victory Gardens

Here's the most important community job outside of our War Bond drive that we've undertaken since the war began. It's our big community Victory Garden program. We're all putting our shoulders to the wheel. Our goal is a Victory Garden for every family.

Everybody must cooperate in this vital work. Plan your gardens now. Make them as big as you can handle efficiently. If you had a Victory Garden last summer, have a bigger and better one this year. You'll be doing the patriotic thing and you'll cut your food bills too. You will have fresh vegetables for your table all summer and food stored away for winter.

Victory gardens mean health, economy, and practical PATRIOTISM. Have a Victory Garden for your family, for your country. Every bit of food produced by the individual consumer means more food for the men fighting for us.

Salvage Drive For Fats And Hosiery Opens

Mrs. C. A. Hollowell, county director of fats and hosiery, is to open a campaign to collect the needed materials today. County community heads will be announced soon with the block plan of collection to be used in Marion.

Stores in Marion receiving fats and grease are Aubrey Grady and Co., C. W. Grady & Son, Krogers, Red Front, Easley, Small, W. T. King and Hillis Hunt. County stores to receive the same will be announced in a short time.

Mrs. Hollowell said that four cents a pound will be paid by the stores for the grease or fats which

*** **We've All Got a Job to Do...**

Grow VICTORY GARDENS THIS SUMMER!

RAISE MORE FOOD—and Save All We Raise!

Some of the advertisements that appeared in The Crittenden Press from 1943 featuring Victory Garden and Ration Yates & Cochran.

are to be used in manufacture of explosives by the nation. Either sweet or rancid fats are acceptable as are tallow. Place in tin cans and do not use glass containers.

Mrs. Hollowell said that housewives had been asked to discontinue making of soap at home in order that the fats and greases required may be used for extraction of glycerin content. Fats taken from

cooking of cabbage or greens is an excellent source of salvage. Strain before taking to stores and save an average of one teaspoonful daily.

Mrs. Hollowell said that the state director had indicated that unless more fats were saved, present allotments of lard, shortening and other greases may be reduced for retail purchases.

Hosiery

Silk and nylon hosiery are also included in the campaign with boxes for collection purposes being established at Taylor & Co., Kentucky Theater and H. V. Stone in Marion, and McDaniels & U Co. Salem. The cast-off hose are to be used for purposes of making waterproof powder bags.

Soldiers Smokes Campaign By YBM Club Here

Each cigarette package to bear name of sponsor

No amount has been set as a goal, but all moneys so collected will be used for purpose of buying the cigarettes. Jones said that each package would bear tag of Marion, KY, in order that the recipient may know as to whom the donor might be.

Victory Scrap Metal and Rubber Drive

Crittenden Quota is

915,000 pounds, heavy and light scrap wanted.

Supt. Hollowell to dis-

miss school Tuesday and

Thursday mornings for

purpose of aiding Marion

collection.

The drive was ordered

by authority of WPB

Savage Division and is

operative in all parts of

STOVE RATIONING EFFECTIVE

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

COAL and WOOD HEATING STOVES RANGES and COOK STOVES WILL BE RATIONED

We have an adequate supply of **COAL HEATERS** including the famous Warm Morning Heaters

BUY NOW

T. H. Cochran & Co.

Phone 81 Marion, Ky. March 1943

SPECIAL NOTICE

After October 1 we will be compelled to ask our customers to **BRING THEIR OWN COAT HANGERS**

as we are unable to get enough hangers to supply our trade

GUY C. ROSE

YATES TAILOR SHOP

9-3 thru 9-24, 1943

can do this if we work together and try hard enough.

Crittenden Came Through

Crittenden County did indeed come through and beyond their quota of \$140,000, selling more than \$370,000 in bonds.

This was more than 264 percent of its assigned quota. From figures available from other Kentucky counties no other nearly approached it in the sale percentage of their assigned quotas in the 3rd War Loan. The U. S. Coal and Coke Company was at the head of the procession in the sale of bonds.

We have much to be proud of in our history and people.

(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).

the nation. All Marion residents are asked to have scrap collected and ready for collection as soon as possible and notify Hollowell at once. In addition, pupils will call at every house in the city seeking scrap.

County residents are asked to collect every pound on farms, both heavy and light types, and to notify P. R. Taylor who will route trucks for the purpose of collection. Due to gasoline rationing, Taylor asks that all persons who can possibly do so bring the scrap to Marion and dispose of same to local dealers unless the weight is so that trucks will be needed for the purpose.

County Supt. J. L. Paris said that county school instructors would be instructed to have pupils visit each farm home in respective districts. All types of scrap metal are needed in the drive, both heavy and light, and any person having large boilers or other such articles are to notify Taylor and he will have same cut in order that it can be moved.

All metal collected will be diverted into manufacturing channels for war ammunition and machinery. Even small items, such as a metal coat hanger, has become inaccessible. Mr. Guy Rose of Yates Tailor shop has asked customers to bring their own coat hangers from home for their cleaned garments as they are unable to get enough hangers to supply their businesses.

The metal used for making them has been restricted for the war

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SportsShorts

BASKETBALL Upcoming Ball Games

FRIDAY

Rockets & Lady Rockets host Livingston - Homecoming game

SATURDAY

Rockets at St. Mary

TUESDAY

Lady Rockets host St. Mary

GIRLS ALL A CLASSIC

Semifinals at Dawson Springs

Caldwell Co. 53, Livingston 51
Lyon County 54, Crittenden County 51
Championship
Lyon County 76, Caldwell County 33

BOYS ALL A CLASSIC

Semifinals at Fort Campbell

University Hts. 75, Dawson Springs 67
Lyon County 83, Crittenden County 24
Championship
Lyon County 85, University Heights 68

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
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
Coyote trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Bobcat	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Crow	Jan 4 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Feb 14
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round



Bloodworth



Berry

COACHING

CCHS names new AD; head soccer coach

Crittenden County High School has named its new soccer coach for next fall and a new athletic director beginning this summer.

Heather Bloodworth will be the soccer coach. A longtime educator with Crittenden County Schools, Bloodworth has served the past four seasons as an assistant soccer coach.

She replaces Jessica DeBurgo, who stepped down following the 2025 season as the program's winningest coach in school history. A Lyon County native, Bloodworth played varsity soccer in high school and later coached youth soccer for eight years while serving on the Crittenden Youth Soccer Association board.

Austin Berry will become Crittenden County Schools' athletic director on July 1, district officials announced this week. Berry, a three-sport athlete in high school, is currently an assistant high school football coach and a middle school math teacher. As a student-athlete at CCHS, Berry earned

all-district honors in basketball, was a two-time All-West Kentucky Conference selection, an all-state honorable mention in football and won a regional championship in track. He played football at Murray State University for three years, lettering in his final season in 2008. His coaching background includes two years as a graduate assistant, three years as a defensive assistant and the past five years as the Rockets' offensive coordinator.

Berry will replace outgoing athletic director Madison Champion Carter, who was credited by the district with implementing new initiatives and improving organization and communication among athletes, coaches and parents.

FOLLOW THE ROCKETS AT THE PRESS ONLINE

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@CrittendenPress on Twitter



Falling to Lyon County in the All A Classic semifinal round last week at Dawson Springs was a tremendously disappointing loss for the Lady Rockets, particularly the seniors who had won three straight regional titles in the small-school tournament and had advanced to the state semifinals last season. Pictured above is senior Anna Boone working around the defense as Lyon's Piper Cotham fires up a shot. At right, Crittenden's Jordyn Hodge struggled for possession with Lyon's Trinity Taylor.



Lady Rockets get bounce-back win over Trigg

STAFF REPORT

After a disappointing early exit from the All A Classic, the Lady Rockets bounced back Tuesday with their third straight regular-season district win, dominating Trigg County 59-30. Crittenden County controlled the game from the opening tip to complete a clean sweep of its first trip through league play.

Defense fueled the early surge as Trigg managed just two points over a long stretch spanning the first and second quarters. Crittenden used a 16-2 run to seize control, capped by a 3-pointer from Jordyn Hodge at the first-quarter buzzer for a 17-10 lead. The Lady Rockets carried a 25-12 advantage into halftime after a sluggish scoring stretch by both teams.

The margin widened quickly after the break as Crittenden opened the third quarter with the same intensity, pushing the lead to 36-12 midway through the period. Trigg briefly answered behind sophomore Cali Jones, but the Lady Rockets' depth and pressure took over again in the fourth quarter as the bench emptied late in the lopsided win.

Hodge led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers, while Anna Boone added 17. Boone now sits six points shy of the 2,000-point milestone for her career and will have a chance to reach it Friday night when Crittenden hosts Livingston County as district play begins its second rotation.

CCHS knocked out of All A

A case of frostbite from too much Northern Exposure numbed Crittenden County just enough Thursday night to let a fourth straight Class A Second Region championship slip away in the closing seconds against Lyon County at Dawson Springs.

A frigid first half of shooting put Crittenden in the ice house, down 17 points at one stretch. Whether it was the rim on the north end of the Dawson Springs gym or just the basketball gods evening things out, that same end of the floor put a deep chill on Lyon County's offense after halftime.

Call it the northern slope, the Cuatro Curse or simply a long night at the office, but Lyon County outworked Crittenden for much of the game. Behind top scorers Piper

Cotham and Lily Coffman, the Lady Lyons won nearly every 50-50 ball and swept the offensive glass clean. Their defense walled off the lane and forced Crittenden to live on the perimeter. The Lady Rockets made eight 3-pointers, but only seven two-point field goals, and leaned heavily on the foul line, where a quarter of their points came, including a third of their first-half total.

Behind top scorers Anna Boone and Jordyn Hodge, Crittenden slowly thawed.

Boone poured in 10 points in the fourth quarter as Lyon struggled to find a friendly roll at the north end, allowing the Lady Rockets to chip away, then surge, briefly taking the lead twice in the final minutes.

The final three minutes were played on a knife's edge.

The teams traded leads and empty possessions, neither able to create separation.

Boone tied the game late at the line, but Lyon answered just enough, converting free throws in the closing seconds after Crittenden was forced to foul. With time expiring, Elliot Evans got a clean look from the corner for the tie, but the

three-ball drew iron and nothing more as the horn sounded with Lyon holding a 54-51 escape.

For Crittenden, it was a difficult pill to swallow. This has been their tournament with 10 regional titles, three straight, and four of the last five. Lyon County went on to win big against Caldwell County and claim the regional crown. They will play in the All A State Tournament next week at Owensboro.

Trigg County 10 12 22 30

Crittenden Co. 17 25 44 59

TRIGG – Norwood 5, Grinols 8, Jones

10, Mayes 1, Navarrd 6. FG 12. 3-pointers 3 (Navarrd 2, Norwood). FT 3-6.

CRITTENDEN – Boone 17, Evans 3, Hodge 22, Federico 6, Rushing 6, Holeman, Stewart 2, Berry 1, Champion, Grau, Rich, Kemmer 2. FG 22. 3-pointers 6 (Hodge 4, Evans, Boone). FT 9-10.

Crittenden Co. 9 18 35 51

Lyon County 16 29 35 54

CRITTENDEN – Boone 24, Evans 3, Hodge 19, Federico, Rushing 4, Stewart 1. FG 15. 3-pointers 8 (Boone 4, Hodge 3, Evans). FT 13-18.

LYON – Taylor 6, P. Cotham 22, Collins

5, Coursey 4, S. Cotham 4, Coffman 10, Perry 3. FG 21. 3-pointers 5 (P. Cotham, Collins, Coffman 2, Perry). FT 7-12.

Second half collapse leaves Rockets in defeat

STAFF REPORT

Trigg County's lead went from near zero to 30 in the first 12 minutes of the second half and buried the Rockets 80-47 in a Fifth District matchup after a highly competitive start to the game Tuesday at Rocket Arena.

Crittenden County traded the lead several times in the opening half and trailed by just one point at the break, 27-26. The game was played at a frenetic tempo, with hurried possessions and miscues on both sides.

The tone changed quickly after halftime. Trigg found its rhythm offensively while Crittenden struggled to get good looks, a stretch compounded by 23 second-half Rocket turnovers. The Wildcats pushed the lead to 33-27 midway through the third quarter, then closed the period with a decisive run.

Trigg outscored Crittenden 29-11 in the third quarter and continued to pull away in the fourth, building a lead as large as 32. Junior guard Landon Swann led Trigg with a game-high 35 points, including six 3-pointers. Emmitt Ellington and Conner Poindexter scored 10 points each for Crittenden.

The win was Trigg County's first district victory, improving the Wildcats to 4-9 overall. Crittenden fell to 1-17 overall and 0-3 in district play and will host Livingston on Friday for homecoming.

Rockets lose to Lyons

Lyon County continued its dominance over Crittenden County on Friday night, pulling away early and cruising to an 83-24 victory in the All A Classic semifinal round at Fort Campbell.

Lyon jumped out to a 27-5 lead after the first quarter and never looked back, extending a streak that now stands at 19 straight wins against Crittenden County dating back to 2020. The Lyons led 52-14 at halftime and 72-16 after three



Rocket first-year skipper Kenny Jackson was working the sideline hard while Brady Dayberry pushed the ball up the floor Tuesday night against Trigg County.

quarters. Crittenden shot fairly well in the opening half, particularly from long range, but had trouble getting up enough of them.

The loss came two days after Crittenden snapped a 51-game losing streak with a win over Heritage Christian in the opening round of the small-school tournament, a result that briefly shifted momentum for the Rockets before they ran into a deep and powerful Lyon County lineup.

Lyon placed 11 players in the scoring column and finished with 35 field goals.

Crittenden struggled to find consistent offense against Lyon's pressure. Freshman Roane Topp led the Rockets with 11 points, while Ellington added 6 and Brayden Poindexter scored 6.

Lyon County went on to win the All A

Second Region title for the third straight season.

Trigg County 12 27 56 80

Crittenden Co. 13 26 37 47

TRIGG – Gude 14, Dixon 12, Swan 35, Travis 6, Brouard 4, Shepherd 4, McCormick 2, Lawson 3. FG 27. 3-pointers 8 (Swan 6, Dixon, Lawson). FT 18-28.

CRITTENDEN – Ellington 10, Porter 3, Bumpus 2, Topp 5, Bryant, Jones 8, Dayberry 4, Myers, Martin

2, C. Poindexter 10, Hughes, Murray, B. Poindexter 6, Counts, Hutchison. FG 18. 3-pointers 6 (Ellington 2, Topp 3). FT 3-4.

Lyon County – Collins 8, Kirk 13, Ca. Collins 4, Coffman 11, Defew 10, Redick 2, Ramey, McDaniels 4, Cotham 10, Akridge 6, Cowan 5, Cain 8, Taylor 2. FG 35. FT 5-7.

Crittenden Co. 5 14 16 24

Lyon County 27 52 72 83

CRITTENDEN – Ellington 6, Porter, Bumpus, Topp

11, Dayberry, Jones, Myers, Martin, C. Poindexter 1, Murray, B. Poindexter 6, Hughes, Counts. FG 11. 3-pointers 5 (Ellington 2, Topp 3). FT 3-4.

Lyon County – Collins 8, Kirk 13, Ca. Collins 4, Coffman 11, Defew 10, Redick 2, Ramey, McDaniels 4, Cotham 10, Akridge 6, Cowan 5, Cain 8, Taylor 2. FG 35. FT 5-7.

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Three file for judge-exec post; Salem incumbent unopposed

STAFF REPORT

Livingston County's 2026 primary election ballot is shaping up with sharp contrasts, featuring crowded races for the county's top offices while at least one longtime incumbent faces no opposition.

The most competitive contests are for county judge-executive and sheriff, where multiple candidates have filed to appear on the May ballot. In contrast, the Salem-area magistrate seat held by Brad Hunter appears settled, with the incumbent drawing no challengers.

The race for county judge-executive in Livingston County includes three candidates, setting



up a competitive primary and a general election in the fall. Incumbent Michael Williams is seeking re-election after winning a 2024 special election to fill the remainder of a term vacated by former judge Garrett Gruuber. Also filing on Friday, the final day to register, was Democratic candidate Teris Swanson, who had been appointed by

the governor as interim judge-executive before she and Williams squared off in the November 2024 special election. Williams defeated Swanson with 54 percent of the vote, 2,682 to 2,287. Republican Tina Gay Tinsley has also filed to run for county judge-executive.

The sheriff's race is equally crowded, with four Republican candidates. Glenn Gordon, Shannon Edging, Donald Crawford and Shawn Malston, all seeking the GOP nomination. With no Democratic candidates filed for sheriff, the Republican primary will effectively determine the next sheriff.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY CANDIDATE FILINGS

2026 Election

Dec. 1, 2025.

MAGISTRATE

District 1

Bill Lipham (Republican) filed Dec. 2, 2025.

District 2

James Mark Long (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

Chuck Walker (Democrat) filed Dec. 29, 2025.

District 3

Brad Hunter (Republican) filed Nov. 13, 2025.

District 4

Klay Southern (Republican) filed Nov. 21, 2025.

Terry Teitloff (Democrat) filed Dec. 5, 2025.

Zack Champion (Republican) filed Dec. 18, 2025.

CONSTABLE

District 3

Chip Birman (Republican) filed Nov. 5, 2025.

Gary Allen Ivy IV (Republican) filed Jan. 8, 2026.

SMITHLAND CITY COUNCIL (NONPARTISAN)

Kayla Curry filed Nov. 14, 2025.

Glenda J. Gentry filed Dec. 10, 2025.

SMITHLAND MAYOR (NONPARTISAN)

William "Bill" T. Hesser filed Jan. 6, 2026.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Bart Frazer (Republican) filed Nov. 5, 2025.

Chad Eric Nelson (Republican) filed Nov. 5, 2025.

CORONER

Bradley R. Gilbert (Republican) filed Nov. 6, 2025.

PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR

Todd Perryman (Republican) filed Nov. 5, 2025.

MAGISTRATE

District 1

Robert S. Horack (Republican) filed Nov. 6, 2025.

Danny Allen Fowler (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

District 2

Matt Grimes (Republican) filed Nov. 10, 2025.

District 3

Robert Kirby (Republican) filed Nov. 12, 2025.

Pamela A. Todd (Republican) filed Nov. 25, 2025.

District 4

Chadwick Wayne Thomas (Republican) filed Dec. 12, 2025.

District 5

Brennan P. Cruce (Republican) filed Nov. 5, 2025.

District 6

Craig B. Gilland (Republican) filed Dec. 30, 2025.

Bob Rowley (Republican) filed Dec. 15, 2025.

CONSTABLE

District 3

Paul Beard (Republican) filed Nov. 12, 2025.

District 4

Lynn Goodrich (Republican) filed Dec. 10, 2025.

District 5

Gregory J. Rushing (Republican) filed Jan. 5, 2026.

Caldwell has no candidates for PVA

STAFF REPORT

Two Republicans have filed for the District 1 magistrate post in Caldwell County, which encompasses the Fredonia and Farmersville areas.

Casey Baker, a Kentucky energy administrator; and Bobby Joe Harper, a local businessman, are each seeking the District 1 magisterial seat that longtime Magistrate Elbert Bennett had held. Bennett has chosen to not seek re-election.

In the race for county judge-executive in Caldwell County, Republicans Jeff Simms and Chris Noel are seeking their party's nomination while Democrat James Trent Fox, has also filed, ensuring a contested general election race.

The sheriff's race includes Republican Don Weedman and Democrat Boyd James Bates of Fredonia, ensuring a fall general election.

Two Republicans are competing for jailer, a post currently being temporarily filled since the death of Jailer Willie Harper, who was elected



in 2022. Running for that position are Republicans Angela Cotton and William "Billy" Baker.

The county clerk's race has drawn three candidates. Republican incumbent Jennifer Watson Hale will face GOP challenger David Zachary Granstaff. Also, Democrat Jennifer French has filed, ensuring a fall general election race.

No candidates have filed to run for property valuation administrator, a position that requires pre-certification to be a candidate. Ronald Wood, who has served as PVA for 20 years, is not seeking re-election.

Under Kentucky law, anyone seeking the office of property valuation ad-

ministrator must be pre-certified before their name can appear on the ballot, a process overseen by the Kentucky Department of Revenue. Prospective candidates must meet constitutional age and residency requirements and pass a written qualifying examination administered by the department, earning a score of at least 70%. If no one in a county becomes certified in time to file, state law requires the Department of Revenue to offer an additional examination specifically for counties without qualified candidates. That test is expected this spring and could lead to candidates for the fall general election. Should the office still attract no certified candidates, the department may schedule another examination, and if a vacancy is not filled, the governor may appoint a qualified individual to serve as PVA until the position can be filled through the election process.

CALDWELL COUNTY CANDIDATE FILINGS

2026 Election

COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

Jeff Simms (Republican) filed Dec. 16, 2025.

Chris Noel (Republican) filed Jan. 5, 2026.

James Trent Fox (Democrat) filed Jan. 9, 2026.

SHERIFF

Don Weedman (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

Boyd James Bates (Democrat) filed Dec. 5, 2025.

JAILER

Angela Cotton (Republican) filed Nov. 26, 2025.

William "Billy" Baker (Republican) filed Jan. 6, 2026.

COUNTY CLERK

Jennifer Watson Hale (Republican) filed Nov. 6, 2025.

David Zachary Granstaff (Republican) filed Nov. 25, 2025.

Jennifer French (Democrat) filed Jan. 9, 2026.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Roy Massey IV (Republican) filed Dec. 3, 2025.

CORONER

Dewayne Trafford (Republican) filed Nov. 19, 2025.

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Rick Tosh (Republican) filed Nov. 21, 2025.

MAGISTRATE

District 1

Casey Baker (Republican) filed Nov. 26, 2025.

Bobby Joe Harper (Republican) filed Nov. 10, 2025.

District 2

Jeff Boone (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

Clint Joiner (Republican) filed Jan. 7, 2026.

District 3

Brent Stallins (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

Chance Oliver (Democrat) filed Jan. 8, 2026.

District 4

Matt Lane (Republican) filed Dec. 18, 2025.

Randy Jordan (Republican) filed Dec. 22, 2025.

George B. Kilgore (Republican) filed Jan. 6, 2026.

CONSTABLE

District 1

Barry Fralix (Republican) filed Jan. 9, 2026.

District 2

Brian Hicks (Republican) filed Nov. 7, 2025.

MAYOR (CITY OF PRINCETON)

Tajuania J. Davis (Democrat) filed Jan. 9, 2026.

WITHDRAWN CANDIDATES

Jeff Simms (Republican), Magistrate District 4 – Withdrawn.

Kevin Lane (Republican), Magistrate District 4 – Withdrawn.

Zakkary Luther Eubanks (Republican), Jailer – Withdrawn.

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