



# The Crittenden Press

MPD reports activity for 2024 « Page 10

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

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ONE DOLLAR

## New deputy joining county sheriff's Dpt.

Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head has announced some personnel changes at the sheriff's department. Effective next week, Bobby Beeler will become a deputy and Boyd Bates will resign from the force. Beeler recently resigned from Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

## Eddyville man charged in connection with alleged park robbery

An Eddyville man has been arrested in connection with an alleged robbery at Marion-Crittenden County Park that police believe occurred on Saturday, Jan. 4. Lyon County Deputy David Carroll and Kentucky State Police located Lonnie L. Lee Jr., 21, of Eddyville at a home on Calhoun Road in Lyon County on Sunday, Jan. 12. Lee was wanted in Marion for his alleged involvement in the incident at the park. He was charged with first-degree robbery and was lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center.



Lee

Marion Police Department opened a case after individuals from Murray contacted Marion E-911 Dispatch, reporting that they were robbed at gunpoint during what was supposed to be an arranged transaction for a pair of Nike shoes. Police believe others may have been involved in the incident. Shortly after the investigation began, the department shared a photograph on the MPD Facebook page showing two men in a local convenience store. Anyone with information that could assist in the investigation is asked to contact the Marion Police Department at 270-965-3500.

## Cancer mortality rates are dropping

American Cancer Society reports a 34% drop in U.S. cancer mortality rates from 1991 to 2022, preventing 4.5 million deaths. However, cancer rates are rising among women and younger adults. Women under 50 now face cancer rates 82% higher than men, up from 51% in 2002. Pancreatic cancer remains a major concern, with rising cases and a five-year survival rate of just 8%.

Kentucky continues to struggle with some of the nation's highest cancer rates, driven by smoking, obesity and limited access to care. The state leads in lung cancer diagnoses and deaths. Cancer remains the second-leading cause of death in the U.S. deaths projected in 2025.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 27 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion Planning and Zoning Commission meet at noon Thursday, Feb. 6 at city hall.

# Amid expansion, CLWD names new head

## Water utility hires superintendent from within

STAFF REPORT

Amid a multimillion-dollar expansion and after about five months without a superintendent, Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) late last week promoted from within, naming office manager Abbie Adamson to head the utility.

Water district board members met in special session Thursday in Salem. Four of the six members were present, including Chairman T.L. Maddux, who gaveled the group into closed session for about 30 minutes before emerging to announce that Adamson, 38, of Morganfield, would become superintendent effective Jan. 27.

A graduate of Crittenden County High School, Adamson holds an asso-

ciate degree in applied science from Madisonville Community College. She has served as CLWD office manager for about 12 years. Maddux and others on the board expressed confidence in her ability to lead the utility as it works to double its size over the coming years. In 2023, the district announced a roughly \$30 million plan to improve distribution and holding capacity and to expand its plant at Pinckneyville from 2 million gallons a day to 4 million. The district serves about 10,000 customers, including wholesale municipal buyers in Grand Rivers, Ledbetter, Salem, Smithland and Marion.

Adamson's father and brother – Dave Belt and Scott Belt – are magistrates in Crittenden County. She said the family's civic-mindedness will be beneficial in her new post.

Board member Tony Travis, a retired

See **CLWD**/page 8



Adamson

# Girls are in state tournament for record 10th time

STAFF REPORT

For Crittenden County's Lady Rocket basketball program, winning never gets old. This week, the Lady Rockets are showcasing their skill and tradition on one of the state's biggest stages – the All A Classic State Tournament.

The tournament opened Wednesday at Owensboro's SportsCenter, with quarterfinal games scheduled for Friday, semifinals Saturday and the championship set for Sunday.

Guiding the Lady Rockets is Shannon Hodge, whose 32-year coaching career has turned a small, rural program into a perennial state small-school challenger. With this unequaled 10th All A Classic State Tournament appearance by a Second Region team, Hodge has proven that desire, preparation and belief pays dividends.

A former Lady Rocket herself, Hodge has built more than just a winning program.

See **COACH**/page 9

## Quick Facts for State

■ Crittenden County's opening round game was scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday in the All A Classic Girls Basketball Tournament in Owensboro to face 15th Region champion Martin County, which improved to 7-4 after beating Betsy Layne 41-40 last week in that region's title game. In statewide power rankings, Crittenden County is ranked 32nd, while Martin County is ranked 67th out of 267 teams in Kentucky.

■ If they advance, Crittenden County will play at 1 p.m. Friday against the 14th or 7th Region champion. The semifinal round is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, with the championship game at noon Sunday at Owensboro's SportsCenter.

■ PrepSpin will provide exclusive live game video broadcasts. The cost is \$14.95. Additionally, the All A Classic will produce a network radio broadcast. Details on how to watch or listen to the game are available at [allaclassic.org](http://allaclassic.org).



Coach Hodge cutting down the net after her team won an unequaled 10th All A Second Region championship.

# Opioid money, rent hike, jail on magistrates' plate

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court has officially appointed the Crittenden County Drug Coalition as the advisory committee to oversee the use of opioid settlement funds allocated to the county through the National Opioid Settlement. These funds, restricted to approved opioid remediation purposes, will be distributed over several years to address issues stemming from opioid dependency and abuse. The Drug Coalition will recommend how these funds are used, ensuring compliance with settlement agreements and prioritizing programs for mitigation, reduction, and treatment of opioid-related challenges. Final decisions on fund expenditures will be made by the Fiscal Court based on the coalition's recommendations.

State and local governments across the country are receiving billions of dollars in settlements from companies that made, sold or distributed prescription painkillers and were accused of fueling the

## CRITTENDEN COUNTY

## FISCAL COURT

opioid crisis. More than a dozen companies will pay the money over nearly two decades. So far, Crittenden County has received more than \$200,000, and the City of Marion has received over \$12,000.

Magistrates also approved funding requests from the opioid settlement, most of it for case management drug testing. The Crittenden County Detention Center, which is contracted to handle a large portion of local testing, was approved for a \$5,000 payment at the request of the Drug Coalition. Another \$3,000 was provided to the coalition for its annual expenses. An additional \$875 was approved for the jail for court-ordered drug screenings, and \$520 was approved for MBC Outreach.

### Inmate fee going up

Magistrates approved an increase in inmate housing fees, raising the daily rate from \$32 to \$40 for all non-

contract counties. The change, retroactive to Jan. 1, also affects Crittenden County inmates, who are required to pay for the days they spend in jail.

This adjustment does not impact Lyon County, which has its own contracted rate.

To aid in collecting payments from local inmates after their release, the detention center has partnered with a new firm, Pay My Jailer.

"No one is surprised that they have to pay more for housing an inmate," Jailer Athena Hayes said.

### Jail budget adjustments

The jail's financial condition remains a concern. Although revenue was up in December, expenses also increased. Hayes attributes the higher costs to inflationary pressures.

County Treasurer Yvette Martin said December included a rare cycle of three pay periods, which also taxed

the jail's cash flow.

In response to a revenue shortfall in the first six months of the county's fiscal year, which began July 1, 2024, adjustments were approved at last week's meeting to the jail and general fund budgets.

In November, the detention center reported receipts of \$338,177.79, with disbursements of \$311,579.58. However, December saw an increase in receipts to \$391,487.27, alongside higher disbursements of \$399,191.26, attributed to escalating expenses.

To address the budgetary shortfall, the jail's spending plan was reduced by \$83,242.87. Additionally, the general fund was reduced by \$24,371 to help offset the difference in expected revenue.

### County attorney office space

The fiscal court is evaluating options for the county attorney's office space as County Attorney Bart Frazer plans to sell his office build-

See **FISCAL**/page 8

The Crittenden Press

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# Deaths

## Wring

Clara Marlene Wring, 86, of Salem, died Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services. She loved plants and flowers and to cook and bake. Most importantly she loved to worship her Lord and Savior. She was a member of Pinckneyville Baptist Church.



Surviving are her four children, Debbie (Joey) Loyd of Burna, Cheryl (Gary) Driver of Salem, Kevin (Darlene) Wring of Salem, and Eric (Ashley) Wring of Burna; seven grandchildren, Amanda (Richard) Poe of Cerulean, Justin (Dakota) Loveless of Smithland, Wesley Wring of Marion, Eli Wring of Marion, Isaac Wring of Salem, Lauren Wring of Burna, and Logan Wring of Burna; and four great-grandchildren, Waylon and Maddie Wring of Salem, and Landon and Tally Kate Loveless of Smithland; a brother, Barry (Shirley) Kirves of Evansville; a sister, Janice (Carl) Mobley of Evansville; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Wring; and her parents, Harold and Clara Kirves.

Funeral services were Sunday, Jan. 19 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Tyners Chapel Cemetery. Paid obituary

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## Slaton

Donald E. “Red” Slaton, 86, of Madisonville, died Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025 at Deaconess Midtown in Evansville.



He was born July 15, 1938 in Marion, to the late Clifton Slaton and Ruth Drury Slaton.

He retired as a carpenter and was a proud member of the Chicago Carpenters Union. He was a Vietnam veteran with the United States Army. He loved reading, fishing, gardening, woodworking, and watching Gunsmoke. He was always tinkering and working out in the garage.

Surviving are three daughters, Holly (Rob) Medley of Madisonville, Amy Slaton of Madisonville and Lisa (Juan) Ayala of Crown Point, Ind.; two sons, Jim Bauer of Muhlenberg County and Chaney (Sara) Bauer of Madisonville; and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Slaton.

Funeral services were Saturday, Jan. 18 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home. Burial will follow at a later date. Paid obituary

## Dunkerson

Gary L. Dunkerson, 75, of Salem died Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield.



He was a truck driver and he attended New Union Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years Brenda; a son, Anthony “Tony” (April) Dunkerson of Salem; a grandson, Austin (Lillie) Dunkerson of Salem; a granddaughter, Ashleigh Dunkerson of Paducah; a great-granddaughter, Aurora of Salem; a sister, Velva “Bo” Jacobs of Ledbetter;

and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Aubrey “Orb” and Wilma Riley Dunkerson; two brothers, Glendal Vernon “G.V.” Dunkerson and Aubrey, Jr. “Sonny Boy” Dunkerson; and three sisters, Mary Croft, Nelda DeWeese and Sandra “Sammie” Porter.

Funeral services were Monday, Jan. 20 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. David Davis and Bro. Chris Damron officiating. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

## Hardin

Billy “PeeWee” Deon Hardin, 79, of Marion died Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025 at his home.



He was a truck driver for 47 years. He enjoyed visiting and talking with people. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Crayne.

Surviving are a daughter, Lisa (Terry) Guess of Frances; two sons, Bill (Tonya) Hardin of Benton and Brent (Christy) Hardin of Cadiz; a sister, Linda (Mike) Sutton of Frances.

He was preceded in death by his parents, C.D. and Evelyn (Tharp) Hardin; a brother, Eugene Hardin; and a granddaughter, Camryn Hardin.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Steven Kirk officiating.

Burial was in Crayne Cemetery.

## Wrenn

Wayne Alan Wrenn, Jr., 66, of Marion, died Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at Baptist Health, Madisonville. He had worked at Dollar General and Food Giant.

Surviving are a son, Cody of Marion; two daughters, Livvy of Henderson and Kayla of Anchorage, Alaska; two brothers, Frank and Tony; and four sisters, Monique, Camille, Suzanne and Sabrina.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Visitation is from 3-5 p.m.. Friday, Jan. 24 at Gilbert Funeral Home. A private committal service will be held at a later date.

## Nichols

Theodore Nichols, Jr., 67, of Marion, died Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. He attended Carter's Community AME Zion Church in Queens, NY.

Surviving are his wife, Jennifer Lee Nichols of Marion; five children, Shakeema Wright, Michael Nichols, Jakai Perez, Jemiah Nichols

and Nakira Nichols; two stepsons, Demetric Moss and Shawnte Moss; 16 grandchildren; his mother, Catherine Nichols; three brothers, Lorenzo, Keith and Kevin Nichols; and two sisters, Edna Mundy and Kimberly Nichols.

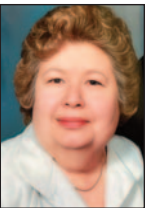
He was preceded in death by his father, Theodore Nichols, Sr.; a son, Luther Johnson; and a brother, Alfonzo Nichols.

Services will be held at a later date.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Fritts

Robbie Deane Lynn Fritts, 95, died at the Willows Legacy of Ham-burg in Lexington. She spent her time serving others. From a young age she took on the role of a second mother to her five siblings after the passing of her father when she was 13. As she grew older, she and her husband Donald T. Fritts opened Fritts Drug Store, in Morganfield, where she was bookkeeper for 30 plus years. Prior to that she worked at the Kentucky State Employment Office for 16 years in Frankfort, Mayfield and Henderson. She also served as a teacher, starting in the one-room schools of Sullenger and Hebron and then continued to teach at the Morganfield First Baptist Church where she taught the four-year-old Sunday school class and led WMU.



She loved all of her “families,” starting with the family she grew up with and extending to the family she and Donald T. built together. She was a loving daughter and sister, wonderful wife, caring mother and a dot-ing grandmother. This caring continued to her extended “families” including her church family and the family at Fritts Drug Store. She was special in that she never met a stranger and would often make attempts to find connections with each person she encountered. She was an avid reader, life-time UK basketball fan, and extremely skilled needle crafter.

Surviving are her children, Donna (Ken) Fritts Armstrong of Lexington and John Fritts of North Hollywood, Calif.; two grandchildren, Beck and Ashley Armstrong; a sister, Lois Faye Lynn of Louisville; and a brother, Fred Lynn of Salem.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Donald T. Fritts; parents, William and Wilma Lynn; siblings, Charles Lynn, Dorothy Lynn Wade and Billy Ray Lynn; brother-in-law, Bob Anderson and sisters-in-law, Sally

Lynn, Betty Lynn and Jeanne Lynne.

Services are at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 31, 2025 at Morganfield First Baptist Church. The family will receive visitors from 11 am until service time at 1 pm at the church. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. The family wants to thank caretakers at the Willows Legacy in Lexington and asks that donations be made to the Morganfield First Baptist Church Missions programs. Paid obituary

## Kinnis

Verna Mae Kinnis, 91, passed away peacefully at Baptist Hospital in Paducah. She was born to the late Vernon T. McClure and Odie Lorena Owen.



Surviving are a daughter, Saburina (Morris) Hodge of Eddyville; a son, Demetrius (Leigh Ann) Kinnis of Marshall County and her daughter, Mariah Wyatt. She leaves behind cherished grandchildren Nathan (Kindra) Hodge and their daughter Maddie Hodge of Brighton, Mich., and McKinzey (Pastor Jonathan Brazell) Brazell and with their children Annie, Lola and Everett of Corpus Christi, Texas; a beloved sister, Dale (Pastor Don Beverly) Beverly of Eddyville; and a brother, Billy Owen of Beaver Dam.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Kelly Odell McKinney and her second husband, Frank Edward Kinnis; brothers, James, Troy, Danny and Oliver McClure; and a sister, Dean Wilson.

Her greatest love in life was her faith in Jesus Christ. She was an active member of Seven Springs Baptist Church near Dycusburg for over 30 years, where her church family brought her immense joy. Later, she built her home in Eddyville and moved her membership to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church near Eddy Creek. There, she served faithfully as the church pianist until she could no longer drive. Her church family and their love enriched her

life beyond measure.

Services were Friday, Jan. 17 at Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville. Pastor Don Beverly and Pastor Jonathan Brazell lead this celebration of her life. She had one special request for her funeral: that the plan of salvation be shared so

that everyone could come to know the Jesus she loved so deeply.

We are comforted knowing Verna is now in the presence of the Lord. Her unwavering faith and love for her Savior remain an inspiration to all who loved and knew her.

Paid obituary

## Community Calendar

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

### Thursday, Jan. 23

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Crittenden County High School SBDM meets at 3:30 p.m., in the school library.

### Saturday, Jan. 25

- Crittenden County Extension Service and H&H Home and Hardware are teaming up for Organize DIY at 10 a.m., at H&H on Sturgis Rd. Learn tips for getting organized and build your own plastic tote storage unit. Pre-registration required by calling the Extension office at (270) 965-5236.

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

- Crittenden County Extension Service's Hooks & Needles club meets at 1 p.m., at the Extension annex.

### Saturday, Feb. 1

- Crittenden County High School Beta Club's Frosty Paws 5K at 10 a.m., at Marion City-County Park. Proceeds benefit the Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter.



Pictured with Jamison during a 101st birthday celebration are her granddaughters (clockwise from left) D'Anna Browning, Karen Cruce and Danielle Hunt.

## Organic eating key to 101st

Naomi Opal Jamison of Marion celebrated her 101st trip around the sun Friday, Jan. 17

Alongside family and friends at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center. Affectionately known as “Honey” by her children and grandchildren and many townfolk, Jamison has lived a life deeply rooted in healthy, organic living.

Growing up, her granddaughter D’Anna Browning recalls Honey’s pantry stocked with wheat germ, and most

meals prepared with ingredients from her own garden.

Alongside her husband, Pat, she cultivated orchards, grapevines, and a variety of vegetables and fruits native to Kentucky. They sourced most of their dairy and minimal meat from the Amish community, ensuring their diet remained wholesome and natural.

Pat continues to harvest local honey from his hives, a testament to their dedication to clean living.

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY

GRAND JURY

# Half dozen individuals indicted

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Grand Jury this month issued indictments in half a dozen felony cases. A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence; it merely decides whether enough evidence exists to continue prosecution of a case in circuit court.

Following are cases heard by the grand jury where indictments were handed down.

•Haley Elizabeth Gable, 21, of Marion, was indicted on a Class C felony charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (drug unspecified), a Class D felony charge of trafficking in marijuana, and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Court records indicate that Crittenden County deputies Robbie Kirk and Shante Moss went to a residence in Marion on Oct. 4 to serve civil court documents and smelled burned marijuana. Upon further investigation, marijuana and mushrooms were found in the home. The complaint also states that Gable's smartphone produced evidence of drug trafficking.

•Terri Henry, 45, of Dawson Springs, was indicted on a Class C felony charge of second-degree burglary and Class D felony charges of theft by unlawful taking (under \$10,000) and first-degree criminal mischief by complicity, as well as a misdemeanor charge of possession of burglary tools.

Court records indicate that she and an accomplice allegedly burglarized a home in rural Crittenden County in October. The home belonged to the estate of a man who had recently died. Law enforcement tracked a cell phone ping to her apartment in Dawson Springs.

On the door was a decorative wreath allegedly stolen from the house, and other items were found in the apartment, according to Deputy James Duncan, who investigated the case.

The accomplice, Antony Y. Petrakis, 44, of Dawson Springs, is also charged in connection with the alleged burglary.

•Christopher McKinley, 39, of Marion, was indicted in two cases, including one involving the striking of the police chief with a motorcycle while trying to elude capture.

In the first case, McKinley is indicted on a Class D felony charge of tampering with physical evidence, a Class C felony charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and misdemeanor charges of third-degree fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

In the second case, McKinley is indicted on Class D felony charges of first-degree wanton endangerment of a police officer and second-degree fleeing or evading police. He is also charged with misdemeanors and traffic violations, including second-degree criminal mischief, failure to maintain required insurance, operating on a suspended or revoked license, failure to comply with the helmet law, and having no or expired registration plates.

In September, local police attempted to serve multiple warrants at an apartment complex on the north side of Marion. McKinley allegedly fled the scene on a motorcycle, striking Marion Police Chief Bobby West, who suffered minor injuries. McKinley remained at large for just over two months.

On Dec. 4, McKinley

was apprehended after attempting to flee law enforcement officers outside his residence. He fled into nearby woods on the north side of town, behind a Dollar General. Sheriff Evan Head and Chief West pursued McKinley, who was found hiding in dense brush. Despite orders to surrender, McKinley initially refused, prompting officers to use a Taser to gain compliance.

A search of McKinley and his belongings uncovered drug paraphernalia, scales, and a pouch containing methamphetamine, hypodermic needles, and other items.

•Lonnie Moore, 52, of Marion, was indicted on a Class C felony charge of second-degree burglary and misdemeanor charges of third-degree terroristic threatening and resisting arrest.

Moore allegedly broke through the window of a family member's home on Nov. 25 and threatened her life. The victim filed an emergency protective order against Moore. Police later found him down the road from the alleged victim's home. He refused to get out of his vehicle, and officers had to remove him by force.

•John P. Henry, 46, of Marion, was indicted on a felony charge of cultivating marijuana (five or more plants) and misdemeanor charges of second-degree possession of a controlled substance (hallucinogen) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Investigators reportedly discovered marijuana plants and mushrooms at Henry's home in November while visiting on an unrelated matter.

All are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Crittenden County Detention Center



### DETENTION CENTER REPORT

January 16, 2025

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count is an average for last month.

- Federal Inmates \$57 Per diem
- State Inmates \$35.34 Per diem
- Lyon County Inmates \$36.00
- Other County Inmates \$32.00

JAIL CENSUS	Dec 2024	Avg	Nov 2024	Avg	Monthly Average 2024
State Inmates	73.2		69.77		75.38
Federal Inmates	62.5		57.43		67.69
Other County Inmates	27.1		25.27		21.82
Critenden County Inmates	24.8		29.63		19.86
<b>TOTAL INMATES</b>	<b>187.6</b>		<b>182.1</b>		<b>184.75</b>
Highest Daily Count	200		190		195.67
Lowest Daily Count	184		171		178.75

Last Month	REVENUE	December 2024	November 2024	Monthly Average 2024
State Housing Payments		\$80,151.12	\$73,966.62	\$81,220.16
Federal Housing Payments		\$110,352.00	\$98,211.00	\$116,235.25
Federal Transport Payments		\$12,264.69	\$9,663.65	\$13,566.71
Lyon Co. Housing Payments		\$26,604.00	\$22,896.00	\$21,399.00
Other County Housing Payments		\$2,560.00	\$3,072.00	\$1,802.17
Weekend/Work Release		\$704.00	\$832.00	\$477.33
<b>TOTAL HOUSING</b>		<b>\$232,635.81</b>	<b>\$208,641.27</b>	<b>\$234,709.79</b>

Last Month	ANALYSIS	December 2024	November 2024	Monthly Average 2024
Cost of Crittenden Inmates		\$24,576.00	\$28,448.00	\$19,290.67
Numbers of Co. Housing Days		768	889	602.83
County Daily Housing Rate		\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates		24.8	29.63	19.86

## Jail revenue up, inmates down in '24

STAFF REPORT

At Crittenden County Detention Center, looking back over the past five years, inmate populations are down about 5% if you consider the average daily population over each of the 12 months. Housing fee increases have helped the jail overcome lower numbers, but it's still falling short of budgeted figures for this fiscal year. Jailer Athena Hayes has attributed that to a change in philosophy statewide but stated a few weeks ago that the trend appears to be moving again toward higher inmate popula-

tions, here and across the state. The average daily bed count in calendar year 2024 was 185, almost identical to the average in 2023, which was 184.

Over the three-year period from 2020 to 2022, the daily count did not average below 190, with 2020 showing the largest daily population rate at 196. In calendar year 2024, which is different from the jail's fiscal year that ends June 30, housing revenue was \$2.8 million, the highest over the past five years. However, increased costs are putting a strain on

the jail's finances. The county last week made budgetary adjustments to help the jail meet cash-flow demands. The county also approved a rate increase for non-contract county inmates. See related article from the fiscal court meeting in this issue.

In calendar year 2023, the jail's housing revenue, which includes payments from state, federal and other county sources, was \$2.5 million. It was \$2.7 million in 2022, \$2.76 million in 2021 and \$2.6 million in 2020.

## Bill would lower driver permit age to 15

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky House Bill 15 has been proposed, which aims to lower the minimum age to obtain a driver's permit from 16 to 15 years old. House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Steven Rudy (R-Paducah), who introduced the bill, noted that Kentucky is an outlier compared to neighboring states, most of which allow learner's permits before age 16.

The bill, introduced in the House on Jan. 8, has bipartisan support. However, AAA has expressed concerns, warning that younger drivers may lack the maturity to make sound decisions behind the wheel. Despite this, Rudy emphasized that the measure would not be mandatory but would provide an option for parents who choose to allow their teens to get permits earlier.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

GRAND JURY

# Six indicted on felony cases

STAFF REPORT

Livingston County Grand Jury last week returned indictments against several individuals on various charges. It is important to note that an indictment is an allegation and does not constitute a determination of guilt or innocence.

The following were indicted last week and their cases sent to Livingston Circuit Court.

•Destinee Claycomb, 28, of Louisville, was indicted on a felony charge of theft by unlawful taking (automobile) and misdemeanor second-degree criminal mischief.

•Nicholas J. Mattocks, 42, of Princeton, was indicted on a felony count of theft by failure to make required disposition of property.

•Anthony M. Alvarez, 35, of Marion, was indicted on a charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl) and possession of drug paraphernalia. According to court documents, Alvarez was observed by law enforcement driving a white van that failed to stop behind the clearly posted stop bar at the stop sign at the intersection of US 60 and Lakeview Drive in Ledbetter. A

traffic stop led to a search of the vehicle, where deputies located a black zipper bag in the glove box containing two syringes and a spoon with multiple pieces of a blue pill believed to contain fentanyl. Alvarez also has a pending traffic case in Crittenden District Court for reckless driving.

•Edgar Hernandez, 41, of Ledbetter, was indicted on felony charges of first-degree wanton endangerment and first-degree criminal mischief, as well as misdemeanor and traffic violations including first-offense DUI (aggravating circumstances), having no operator's license, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, and possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle. Hernandez was arrested on Oct. 12 when deputies responded to a traffic accident at US 60 and McCullom Lane in Ledbetter. The citation alleges that Hernandez denied being the driver of a Nissan Rogue Sport that crashed into another vehicle causing heavy damage. He claimed another person was driving

and fled the scene because they were intoxicated; however, investigators found no evidence supporting this claim. An open Modelo beer was discovered in the vehicle, and Hernandez later registered a 0.239% blood alcohol content on an Intoxilyzer, more than three times the legal limit of 0.08% in Kentucky.


•Darci Nicole Driver, 40, of Burna, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Driver was arrested on Sept. 5 after deputies observed a vehicle fail to use a turn signal when making a right-hand turn at the intersection of US 60 and Lakeview Drive in Ledbetter. A traffic stop led to a search of the vehicle, during which a purse was allegedly found containing two rolled-up baggies, a cut straw, and a powdery substance believed to be methamphetamine.

•Arvil S. Crowley, 65, of Paducah, was indicted on a Class C felony charge of first-degree strangulation (domestic violence related).

## Looking for a home

Comet has had a rough life. He was found abandoned in LBL, barely surviving. He was literally skin and bones. Despite his dire circumstances, he has been the best boy! His tail never stops wagging. He loves people, other dogs and doesn't even mind cats. Come check him out at Mary Hall Ruddiman or call 270-965-2006. He's really the best guy and needs a good life for the rest of his.





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**Samantha Samuels, APRN, FNP-BC**  
Jessica Sigler, PMHNP  
Jennifer Johnson, APRN, FNP-BC  
Family Clinic



**Theresa White, APRN**  
Eddyville Family Clinic

**Livingston Care Clinic** (270) 988-3839

**Grand Lakes Clinic** (270) 362-8246

**Eddyville Family Clinic** (270) 388-0620

**Family Clinic (Marion)** (270) 704-4131



## Fredonia water bills join CLWD lost in mail

Residents served by the Fredonia Water System and the Crittenden–Livingston County Water District (CLWD) are dealing with issues stemming from lost January water bills due to postal system errors, local leaders say. Neither utility plans to send replacement bills in the mail, and customers are encouraged to take proactive steps to ensure their accounts remain current.

CLWD officials have confirmed that all January bills were lost in the postal system. The bills were incorrectly routed to Louisville from the Evansville sorting center and cannot be located.

The district will not impose late penalties for January bills.

Customers can obtain their bill amounts by calling the office in Salem at 270–988–2680.

The district requests that customers avoid contacting the water plant at Pinckneyville unless it’s a water-related emergency, as plant staff do not have access to billing information.

With approximately 3,600 customers, the majority of whom are not enrolled in auto pay, the district has been logjammed by calls. The district apologizes for the inconvenience and appreciates the patience of its customers, said Abbie Adamson, the office manager and soon-to-be superintendent.

Similarly, the Fredonia Water System has reported that its customers have not received their January bills due to postal issues. Replacement bills will not be sent, and customers should contact Fredonia City Hall directly. Customers can obtain their bill amounts by calling Fredonia City Hall at 270–545–3925. City office hours are 8 a.m., to 4 p.m., weekdays.

## Lawsuit seeks to reopen KERA case

A student-led lawsuit filed Tuesday in Franklin County Circuit Court alleges that Kentucky’s education system has backslid over the past two decades, leaving students without the equitable and adequate education guaranteed by the state constitution. The Associated Press reports the suit is spearheaded by high school students statewide, including members of the Kentucky Student Voice Team, and names state education leaders and top Republican lawmakers as defendants.

The plaintiffs argue that funding disparities between wealthy and poor districts have widened since the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990, which once served as a national model for education reform. "Generations before us fought to reimagine Kentucky schools, and we are here to ensure that promise is renewed for every student," said Danielle Chivero, a Lexington high school student and one of the plaintiffs.

The Associated Press noted that the lawsuit revives the debate over KERA, claiming the state has failed to maintain adequate funding levels, with the state's share of education costs dropping from 75% to 50% since the 1990s. The suit also highlights broader issues, including declining literacy rates, inadequate counseling resources, and gaps in civics education.

Defendants, including state education officials and Republican legislative leaders, declined to comment on the pending litigation. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear’s office did not address the lawsuit directly but reiterated his push for increased edu-

cation funding to support universal pre-K and competitive teacher salaries.

The case is expected to take years to resolve and may ultimately reach the Kentucky Supreme Court. Plaintiffs say their goal is not to blame teachers but to address systemic inequities. “This lawsuit targets systemic failures, not individual schools or teachers,” said Luisa Sanchez, a student plaintiff from Boyle County.

## Bill proposes closing loophole in powers

State Sen. Chris McDaniel, R–Ryland Heights, has refiled a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to increase gubernatorial accountability regarding pardons and commutations, introducing new limitations on when a governor may exercise that authority, according to a report from Kentucky Today.

The measure, designated Senate Bill 126, has been introduced by McDaniel in multiple legislative sessions. It proposes amending Sections 77 and 240 of the Kentucky Constitution to suspend a governor’s pardon and commutation power starting 30 days before a gubernatorial election and lasting until the day of the next inauguration.

“This proposal is designed to ensure that governors remain accountable to the voters for their actions,” McDaniel said, as reported by Kentucky Today. “While it does not remove the governor’s constitutional authority to issue pardons, it addresses a critical loophole that became evident following the 2019 gubernatorial election.”

McDaniel’s effort is rooted in the controversial actions of former Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, who issued hundreds of last-minute pardons during his final days in office after losing his 2019 re-election bid to Democrat Andy Beshear. Many of those pardons involved individuals convicted of serious crimes. The proposed amendment aims to prevent similar situations by placing reasonable restrictions on the timing of such decisions.

## New water line on West Depot Street

Work commissioned by the City of Marion is underway on West Depot Street to replace an aging cast iron water line with a new six-inch line. A contractor is cutting a 36-inch-deep channel in the street to accommodate the upgrade.

The line serves about 30 customers, including the jail, and all connections will need to be reestablished. The project is expected to take 8 to 10 weeks, depending on weather conditions.

Funding for the replacement comes from the city’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation.

## County shelter gives monthly animal report

Crittenden County Animal Shelter reported 47 dogs taken in during December, with 33 sent to rescue groups, eight adopted, and five reclaimed by their owners. Two dogs died due to medical issues, while no dogs escaped or were euthanized. By Dec. 31, the shelter housed 30 dogs, with 42 in foster care.

Donations totaled \$913 for the month, with an additional \$100 collected in reclaim fees, bringing total receipts to \$1,563.

## Riverview Park cools for winter camping

Riverview Park, formerly known as Dam 50, experienced a fairly quiet Decem-



ber as winter weather further reduced camping activity. During the month, the park recorded 5 RV nights and no tent nights, reflecting a seasonal dip in visitor numbers. Despite the lower activity, the park’s amenities, including its seven concrete RV pads with full hookups for power, water and wastewater, remain a valuable draw for travelers seeking a peaceful winter getaway.

December’s revenue included \$1,280 from RV site reservations. Additional fee and tax revenue brought total deposits for the month to \$1,419.67. With total expenses amounting to \$1,226.22, the park ended the month with a net income of \$193.45.

All collected revenue is directly reinvested into ensuring the quality of these amenities. Affordable pricing remains a hallmark of the park, with tent sites available at \$5 per night and RV sites at \$20 per night with full amenities, both reservable through CrittendenCountyKy.org.

Riverview Park facilities include a seasonal dock, restrooms, pavilion and recreational areas.

## Nominations sought for farming award

Kentuckians are invited to nominate a farmer or forester for the 2025 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell announced.

“This award honors farmers who showcase exceptional conservation practices,” Shell said. “The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is proud to partner with the Sand County Foundation to recognize a farm family devoted to managing our natural resources.”

The \$10,000 award, named for conservationist Aldo Leopold, celebrates private landowners dedicated to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management. The award is presented in 28 states by the Sand County Foundation, a leader in private land conservation.

Nominations can be submitted by others or self-nominated. Applications are available at sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/2025-CFN-Kentucky.pdf and are due by March 31, 2025. Completed materials must be emailed to KentuckyLCA@sandcountyfoundation.org.

The award has been presented in Kentucky since 2013. The 2024 recipients were Mike and Tammy Wilson of Whispering Hills Farm in Anderson County.

For more information, visit leopoldconservationaward.org.

## Fires on Dean’s List

Campbellsville University has announced for the Fall 2024 semester. Victoria Fires of Princeton has earned a place on the Dean's List, which recognizes students achieving a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher while completing at least 12 credit hours.

Patricia Cheatham and Tiffany Knight of Waverly were named to the President’s List for having a 4.0 GPA.

## Glore joins security team at Lyon County

Perry Glore has been sworn in as the newest Court Security Officer (CSO) Deputy. A Lyon County native, Glore brings extensive law enforcement experience, having previously served as sheriff in Crittenden County

and as a sheriff’s deputy in Florida.

## Globetrotters at MSU

The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters are set to bring their unique brand of basketball entertainment to Murray. The event will take place at the CFSB Center at 7 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 27. Limited seats remaining, say organizers. Tickets can be purchased online.

The Harlem Globetrotters are a globally recognized exhibition basketball team known for their entertaining blend of athleticism, showmanship and comedy. Established in 1926, the team has thrilled audiences in over 120 countries with their impressive basketball skills, including dazzling ball-handling, gravity-defying dunks and signature trick shots. Beyond their on-court antics, the Globetrotters are also known for their community engagement and philanthropic efforts, promoting goodwill and sportsmanship worldwide.

## TikTok back online

Local TikTok users experienced an outage over the weekend, with the app going offline late Saturday night. A message informed users that a U.S. law banning TikTok had taken effect, rendering the app unavailable. However, by Sunday, TikTok was back, attributing its return to efforts by President-elect Donald Trump.

A notification welcomed users back, crediting

Trump's intervention for restoring service. Trump announced plans to issue an executive order delaying the ban, allowing the platform's 170 million U.S. users to regain access. TikTok has pledged to work with the incoming administration on a long-term solution to remain operational in the country.

## Get heating bill help

Kentucky households facing heating crises can now apply for assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) Winter Crisis component. Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through March 31 or until funds are exhausted. Eligible households can receive help with various heating fuel types, including electric, gas and propane. Assistance is paid directly to fuel vendors, and households may reapply if they experience multiple crises. To apply, contact the PACS office in Marion.

## Frosty 5K at park

Crittenden County High School's Beta Club is hosting the Frosty Paws 5K on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m., at Marion–Crittenden County Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter. Registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt, with runners and walkers of all ages encouraged to participate. Shelter dogs available for adoption will be present at the event.



## 50 YEARS AGO

### January 16, 1975

- Ten local residents, including Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tucker, attended the Bicentennial Ball in Frankfort. The event, held in the Capitol, featured dignitaries like Gov. Wendell Ford and was televised across six regions.
- Western Kentucky University’s Dean’s List was announced. Local residents on the list were Jeff McKenney, Susan Fletcher, Melissa McKenney, Paula Nunn Porter, Dianna Simpson and Alan Temple.
- Square dancing returned to Marion, with caller Paul Marcum inviting residents to join events at the Elementary School.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### January 20, 2000

- Emily Merrick won the annual Crittenden County Elmnenary School spelling bee, correctly spelling the word “Blissful” after a competitor spelled the word incorrectly. Second place went to Trishia Maclin and Morgan Lynn was third.
- Maddie Ryan, a seventh grader at CCMS, won the county writing contest sponsored by Crittenden County Conservation District. She received a \$100 cash prize, a \$50 Savings Bond and her essay was advanced to the area contest. Second place in the contest went to Clint Baker and third place winner was Aaron O’Neal.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### January 16, 2015

- Crittenden County Elementary School celebrated its December "Rocket Role Models," including Madison Holeman, Jacob Carder, and Katie Perryman, for their outstanding achievements.
- Local residents attended a Senior Health Fair, with Nancy Hunt providing insights into sleep disorders and healthy routines.
- The Blue Knights chess team won several trophies at a Lexington match. Brooke Winstead, Robert Jackson, Thomas, Jackson, Hayden Hildebrand, Seth Morris, Abbey Swinford and Nai’Zayah Bell were among those who placed high in the event.

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

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# We should be a source of grace

The hymn “Amazing Grace” has sometimes been called America’s comfort hymn. The story of its author, John Newton, is well known. He worked on ships that carried slaves from Africa to the Americas. He was even enslaved himself for a brief period of time. Through his work with William Wilberforce, a member of the British Parliament, the slave trade ended in the United Kingdom in 1807.



**Sean NIESTRATH**  
Faith-based columnist  
*Guest Columnist*

Amazing Grace is a beautiful hymn and deserves its place in our religious hymnals. However, what is missing from the hymn is the other side of grace. While I believe it to be implied in the life of its author, the hymn itself leaves us at the beginning of a process that might be mistaken for the destination.

Indeed, for nearly a century (and decades after through law), the slavery and mistreatment of other human beings continued after the founding document of our nation proclaimed that “all men are created equal.” People sang “Amazing Grace,” forgetting the last paragraph of Newton’s Thoughts on the African Slave Trade, “Though un-

willing to give offense to a single person in such a cause, I ought not to be afraid of offending many, by declaring that if, indeed, there can be many, whom even interest can prevail upon to contradict the common sense of mankind, by pleading for a commerce, so iniquitous, so cruel, so oppressive, so destructive, as the African Slave Trade.”

I have a good friend who has been gifted with the ability to say a lot with just a few words. “If you want to receive grace, go to God. If you want to experience grace, extravagantly tip woeful service.” It is this second thought that identifies what stops us from realizing the power of grace.

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, the WWII era professor/pastor and martyr wrote a profound book as the church in Germany was lurching toward populism and eventually cooperating with “the final solution.” The Cost of Discipleship still holds up well today. In his discussion on grace he said, “Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like

cheapjacks’ wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church’s inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite... Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does every thing, they say, and so everything can remain as it was before.”

He later describes costly grace, “Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner...Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

There is a thought among some Christians that the church is the incarnation (made flesh) of God. It is not a long journey to make if one accepts what Paul says about the church being the body of Christ. We

acknowledge this with sayings like we are “the hands and feet of Jesus.” This extends beyond good works. It should move into our very being so that, having been recipients of grace, we are also a source of grace for all who encounter us.

Grace is much more than a gift from God. It is a life-altering change of perspective. It is a challenge to live courageously in a world that has an insatiable appetite for receiving grace but little desire to extend it to others.

An anonymous hymn, There Is a Sea, poetically describes the Sea of Galilee (a body of water that receives and gives and is living) and the Dead Sea (which receives good water but does not give). Some time later this verse was added by Lula Klingman Zahn,

“Which shall it be for you and me,  
Who God’s good gifts obtain?

Shall we accept for self alone,

Or take to give again?  
For He who once was rich indeed

Laid all His glory down;  
That by His grace our ransomed race

Should share His wealth and crown.”

Want to experience grace? Give it when it is not deserved.

*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.*

# We fulfill our purpose as we serve others in love

**Question:** Maybe it is just my perspective, but I think we are becoming more self-centered. It’s more of “What can I do for myself,” than “How can I help you.” Is my observation correct?

**Answer:** Yes, I think you are right. People seem to be focusing more on “My needs” and we have drifted away from helping our neighbors. According to Jesus, our neighbor is anyone in need (Lk. 10:25-37). For many,

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison

the desire to help meet the needs others has become unimportant.

There’s a better way to live than always focusing on self-interests. When we shift from how can I make myself happy to looking for how we can help others, we become

happier.

God’s Word teaches us to go out of our way to help others. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. There, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people....” (Gal. 6:9, 10). When we are serving, we may be tired, but we are to keep making an effort to help.

Out of love, we should find

tangible ways to help others. Words are helpful. Handshakes are nice. But when we walk alongside of another person and seize an opportunity to do something practical to help him, that’s an expression of love beyond words. We fulfill a primary purpose in our lives when we serve others. As we do so, we’ll become energized and experience inner fulfillment.

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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.  
175 Mexico Rd.  
(270) 965-4059  
MexicoBaptist.org

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  
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 Captured by a vision... Youth Activities: 6 p.m.

Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown  
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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

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

Marion Baptist Church

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

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Wednesday night service 6:30 p.m.  
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Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church

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

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”

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Bible study 6 p.m.  
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Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian  
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455  
Reverend Greg Cain 270-245-5013  
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.  
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# Some noted men of the county during 1894

The Crittenden Press published a three-part illustrated edition of the paper containing information about some noted men in 1894. These papers contain a wealth of information on people, businesses, and events that were important to the city and county at the time. I have found these papers to be a vital source of our county's past, revealing the people and events that helped shape it.

A. J. Bennett was born and reared on a farm in Livingston County. Several years ago he moved to Crittenden and is now one of our leading citizens.

He owns a fine farm in the then-famous Tolu corn belt of the county, and his industry as a farmer, his skill in the management of a farm, place him among the leading agriculturists of Southern Kentucky. He is a citizen full of enterprise and one who delights in the prosperity of the country. He has a splendid home, surrounded by the fruition of his labors.

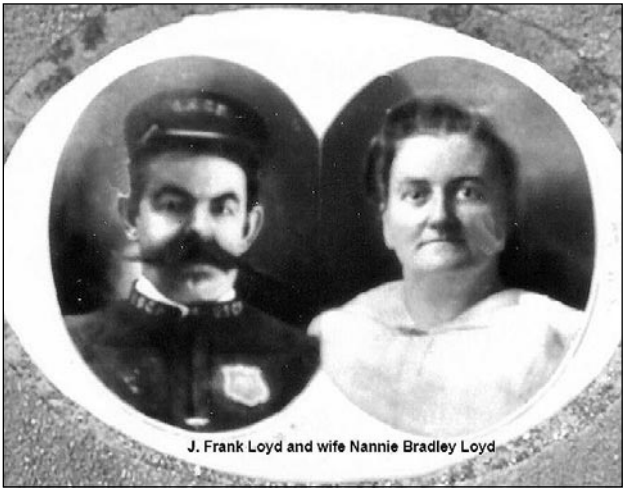
Mr. Bennett takes great interest in political matters. He is a staunch Democrat, and last year his name was frequently mentioned in connection with the race for the legislature.

No man stands higher in the estimation of the people who know him than Judson Bennett, and such citizens make Crittenden a leading county in the proud galaxy of counties that constitute the good old Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(A. Judson Bennett was born Feb. 14, 1847 and died Sept. 6, 1928. He is buried in the Maplevue cemetery.)

The senior member of the firm of Walker & Olive, the leading furniture dealers in the county, was born in this county in 1833, near the Ohio River and lived on their farm there until 1868.

In 1868 he was elected sheriff, defeating Robert Coffield, the ex-postmaster of Marion. In 1872



J.F. Loyd was one of Marion's well respected marshals and also held several other positions within the city. This picture is on his tombstone in Maplevue Cemetery.

he was re-elected and is regarded as one of the best sheriffs the county



Brenda Underdown  
County Historian

Forgotten  
Passages

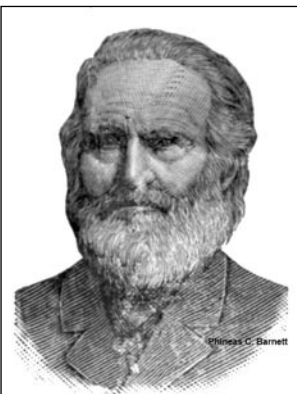
has had. For a while he sold goods at Marion, and handled leaf tobacco several years, finally embarking in the furniture business with Mr. Jesse Olive.

Mr. Walker is regarded as one of the best citizens of the county. In all positions, whether as a private citizen or an officer, he has remained popular with the people. The firm of which he is the senior partner carries a large stock of furniture of all descriptions and handles building lumber of all kinds. They have a splendidly equipped undertaking department.

(Robert Newton Walker died Jan. 24, 1906 and is buried in the Maplevue cemetery. He was married to Sarah J. Clement, she died May 18, 1918 and is also buried at Maplevue.)

"He is the best Marshal Marion ever had," that is a remark one hears applied to our present city marshal, Mr. J. F. Loyd, every day, and nobody disputes the truth of the assertion; if there be any man wedded to duty and its demands it is Frank Loyd.

It never gets too hot or too cold for him to look after the work he has sworn to perform, and in the discharge of official duty he knows neither neighbor, friend, nor foe, and Marion may well congrat-



Phineas C. Barnett was an early Crittenden County pioneer who lived near Tolu. He had a large farm and also raised horses. There is no marker for his grave.

ulate herself upon securing such a man to wear the uniform as her chief peace officer.

Mr. Loyd was born on a farm in this county August 23, 1864, and is a son of Mr. Wm. P. Loyd, one of our best farmers. In 1883 Frank concluded to try his fortune in the west; he attended the State Normal School at Warrensburg, Mo., one year and having secured through the influence of a friend, a school in the Indian Nation, he set out to take charge of his new work, but en route he was taken ill and had to return to Kentucky.

In 1891 and 1892 he served as deputy sheriff

under Sheriff Cruce and distinguished himself as a painstaking, watchful, faithful officer, earning him the position of Marion's marshal with ease.

At present he is marshal, assessor, tax collector, and street commissioner, and under him the streets are improving, the taxes are being collected promptly, and evil-doers around Marion do not find smooth sailing. Marion is proud of her faithful officer.

(Mr. Loyd died June 26, 1922. He was married to Nannie E. Bradley. They are buried at Maplevue Cemetery, with a large impressive stone, which is graced with their picture.)

Phineas C. Barnett is one of Crittenden's many honored and revered old men. He was born in Warren County Feb. 16, 1809. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolution and fought in a North Carolina company. P. C. Barnett went with his father to Missouri and remained until he was seventeen years of age. He then returned to Warren County and a little later went to Cumberland College at Princeton.

In 1835 he came to this county and settled on his farm where he has lived ever since giving most of his time and attention to farming. From 1851 to 1871 he was engaged in merchandising to some extent, and buying and handling tobacco.

Mr. Barnett is eighty-five years old, but the spirit of youth seems to stay with him. He delights in horseback riding, occasionally goes fox hunting, enjoys a fishing party, and is full of quaint sayings that delight his many friends. He takes the same interest in farming as ever and still nourishes the Kentuckian love for fine horses, some of which he has col-

lected around him.

(Mr. Barnett must have died soon after this article was printed, as he died July 1896 according to his obituary. He was married to Jenette Threlkeld. They are buried in the Barnett Family Cemetery on the original homestead off of the Monroe Westmoland Rd. near Tolu. She has a stone, but if he had one, it was likely destroyed over the years by cattle.

Although the Barnett name has disappeared from our county, it lives on through Barnett Chapel Church and Barnett Chapel Road, named in honor of this family.)

(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).

## THANK YOU

The family of Angela Tosh would like to express their appreciation for the prayers, phone calls, food, flowers, gifts and any expression of sympathy and kind words during our loss.

Thank you to Bro. Noble Cobb for his comforting words and Bro. George Hollis for the beautiful music. A special thank you to the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home for their kindness during this difficult time.

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**NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 19.6 Acres - \$88,500**  
This property offers an exceptional blend of features tailored for deer and turkey hunting enthusiasts. The landscape is marked by areas of exposed rock that add a rugged charm and unique character.

**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!

**NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 193 Acres - \$799,000**  
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!

**REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY - 64.3284 Acres - \$241,231.50**

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

**Crittenden County, KY – 2.06 Acres - \$69,000**  
Three contiguous lots in the beautiful Hillcrest Estates #2 Subdivision offer the ideal build site!

**Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900**  
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**  
Sited 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**  
These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

**PENDING! Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,690 Acres - \$23,500,000**

With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and multiple lodges with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity!

**PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 83 Acres - \$259,900**  
Nestled along the picturesque Piney Creek, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike.

**PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 38.14 Acres - \$129,900**  
This unique offering combines a timbered hunting tract with a scenic lakefront lot on Maple Lake, providing exceptional recreational and development opportunities.

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

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legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2025 Charlotte Chandler of 377 State Route 1077, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed executrix of Larry Alvis Samuel, deceased, whose address was 2230 State Route 506, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, 217 W. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 16th day of July, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date

shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-3-c)

Notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2025 Laura Holcomb-Hubinger of 6436 Goldrush Blvd., Charlestown, IN 47111 was appointed executrix of Nancy Holcomb Saavedra, deceased, whose address was 955 Marion Rd., Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, 217 W. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 15th day of July, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-3-c)

Notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2025 Barry Lynn Workman of 833 Blackburn Church Rd., Marion, KY 42064 and Donna Workman of 833 Blackburn Church Rd., Marion, KY 42064 were appointed co-executors of Ava Lois Belt, deceased, whose address was 103 Leland Avenue, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-executors on or before the 15th day of July, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

Crittenden District Court  
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-3-c)

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chase (Restrictions may apply.) Call 1-866-850-6999

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**Notice of Public Hearing  
Zoning Map Amendment**

A request for a Zoning Map Amendment for the property located at the corner of Adam Street and Old Morganfield Road, identified as PVA Parcel Number 070-00-00-013.05 and 070-00-00-013.09 has been filed with the Marion Planning Commission. A request to rezone the property/properties from AG-Agricultural District to C2- General Business District will be considered. A public hearing will be held at 12 p.m. (Noon) on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 before the Marion Planning Commission at the Council Chambers in City Hall, 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky. For further information contact the City of Marion at (270) 965-2266.

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 12-16-2024**  
**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES OF APPOINTED CITY OFFICERS AND THE PERSONNEL PAY PLAN**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, as follows:Section 1. This ordinance shall replace Ordinance 12-12-2023. Effective for the first pay period of January 2025, the annual salary for the positions set forth below shall be as follows:

SALARIED	
(not including incentive pay)	Annual Salary
ADMINISTRATION	
City Council (\$40/month)	\$480.00
City Mayor (\$175/month)	\$2,100.00

Section 2. Effective for the first pay period of January 2025, the Personnel Pay Plan of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, is hereby amended as follows:

HOURLY					
	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5
ADMINISTRATION					
City Clerk	\$16.85	\$17.40	\$18.00	\$18.40	\$19.00

Section 3.

In addition to the compensation set forth above in Section 2, each current employee of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, hired on or before December 31, 2022, shall receive compensation in the sum of \$742.00 to be paid to the qualifying employee for the third pay period of December 2024, if still continuously employed by the City at that time. This is for general and consistent services rendered to the City of Fredonia for an employment period of no less than 365 days. Neither the Mayor nor the members of the City Council shall be eligible for any compensation contemplated within this section.

Section 4.

In addition to the compensation set forth above in Sections 2 and 3, each current employee of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, hired on or before December 31, 2022, shall receive compensation in the sum of \$1,000.00 to be paid to the qualifying employee for the third pay period of December 2024, pending an unmodified/unqualified result of the City Audit. This is for honorable and detailed services rendered to the City of Fredonia which has been shown with a successful unmodified/unqualified City Audit rating. Neither the Mayor nor the members of the City Council shall be eligible for any compensation contemplated within this section.

Section 5.

This ordinance has been written in accordance with KRS 83A.070.

**So passed on First Reading this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.**

**So passed on Second Reading this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.**

This Ordinance shall be in effect upon publication.

ATTEST:

JIM SEIBERT  
CITY OF FREDONIA, KENTUCKY

RACHAEL VICKREY, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF FREDONIA, KENTUCKY



July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						17

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				21

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	17

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						15

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						15

FYI

Instructional Days = 85 first semester  
85 second semester  
Total Instructional Days=170  
Total Instructional Hours for each School:  
NLES & SLES: 1082 Hours  
LCMS: 1113 Hours    LCHS: 1105 Hours

2025-2026 School Calendar  
Livingston County Schools

840 Cutoff Rd  
Smithland, KY 42081  
270-928-2111 (Fax) 270-928-2112

Aug 1 & 4 Flexible Planning Days (G) - No Classes  
Aug 5 Required Planning Day for All Staff  
Aug 6 Opening Day for Staff - No Classes  
Aug 7 First Day of Classes for Students  
Sep 1 Labor Day Holiday-No Classes  
Oct 6-10 Fall Break - No Classes  
Oct 13 Required Planning Day for Certified Staff-No Classes  
Nov 24-28 Thanksgiving Break-No Classes  
Nov 24 & 25 Flexible PD Day - No Classes  
Dec 22-Jan 5 Christmas Break-No Classes  
Jan 5 Required Planning Day for Certified Staff-No Classes  
Jan 6 Students first day of second semester  
Jan 19 MLK Jr. Holiday - No Classes  
Feb 16 Flexible PD Day - No Classes  
Mar 16 Flexible PD Day - No Classes  
April 6-10 Spring Break No Classes  
May 14 Last Day of Classes for Students  
May 15 Closing Day for Staff - No Classes

TEST DATES

State Assessment Window-Last 14 Days of Calendar  
April 27th-May 14th  
9 Weeks Grading Periods  
Tentative Grading Period Ending Dates:  
1st Nine Weeks Friday, October 3rd (41 days)  
2nd Nine Weeks Friday, December 19th (44 days)  
3rd Nine Weeks, Friday, March 6th (42 days)  
4th Nine Weeks, Thursday, May 14th (43 days)

Weather/Emergency Makeup Days

November 24-25 May 15th  
February 16th May 18th-22nd  
March 18th

As a last option, the board reserves the right to designate April 6th, 7th and 8th as make-up days. All other days will be added to the end of the calendar.

FYI

Start/End Times for School Day  
SLES & NLES: 7:43-2:50  
LCMS: 7:52-2:50  
LCHS: 7:50-2:50

FYI

Parent teacher conferences will be scheduled by each individual school

Approved by the LCBOE

Holidays (4)

Opening/Closing Day

Planning (no school for students) (5)

Professional Development (4)

Non-School Day

First & Last Day of School

Governor's Cup Advance  
Crittenden County Middle School eighth grader Dreagen Hill placed fifth in social studies written assessment on Saturday at Lyon County Middle School during the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition's District Governor's Cup contest. Hill competed against other middle school students from Lyon, Trigg, Caldwell and Dawson Springs. He now advances to regionals in February.

# Livingston getting new cellular towers

STAFF REPORT  
Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams says there is good news for smartphone users. Verizon is building new cellular towers that will boost signal strength in the northwestern part of the county.

The North Carolina company building the towers is also looking for a location in Ledbetter to lease space for a third tower.

Simultaneous construction of the first two will begin this spring, Williams said. One will be built near the Roy Ringstaff Ballpark Complex just east of the Cumberland River bridge. The other will go up off Lockhart Road, north of U.S. 60 near the old Ledbetter Elementary School.

Williams said Verizon cellular service is currently spotty in the low-lying areas of the county, particularly for phone calls between Smithland

and Ledbetter.

While the judge is encouraged about the prospect of better service for that carrier, he's still working on improvements to AT&T service – something that, he said, appears to be more challenging.

Williams said the tower-building company pays a monthly fee and is currently exploring possible sites in Ledbetter but has not yet found a location.

# Livingston releases 25-26 school dates

STAFF REPORT  
Livingston County Schools have released their 2025-2026 academic calendar, with the first day of school for students set for August 6, 2025, and the last day scheduled for May 14, 2026.

Students will enjoy several breaks throughout the year, including Fall Break from October 6-10, Thanksgiving Break from November 24-28, and Christmas Break from December 23 to January 2. Spring Break is set for April 6-10. Additionally, there will be no

school on September 1 for Labor Day, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and February 16 for a flexible professional development day.

The district has also designated weather makeup days on November 24-25, February 16, March 16, and May 15-22, with additional days added at the end of the calendar if needed.

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled individually by each school. The full calendar, including grading periods and planning days, is available for review through the district.

# FISCAL

Continued from page 1  
ing on Main Street. Judge-Executive Newcom said the new owner is requesting a rent increase of \$1,200 per month for the space, which would bring the total monthly cost to \$1,500, including utilities.

Frazer emphasized his desire to scale back his private law practice and focus more on his role as county attorney. He pointed out that other elected officials are provided with office space. Newcom said there is no room at the new county office complex for Frazer and his staff of two

clerks.

If the rent increase is approved, it would take effect on March 1. However, Newcom questioned where the additional \$1,200 would come from since it's not in the county budget for FY25. While there is no space at the office complex, Newcom noted that four small rooms are available at the former armory that could be utilized.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield said there is one empty office at city hall, but it probably isn't big enough for three people.

To determine the feasibility of the request, the court appointed an ad hoc committee com-

prised of Magistrates Robert Kirby and Chad Thomas, along with Judge Newcom and County Treasurer Yvette Martin. The committee will assess the space requirements and compare the proposed rent with alternative solutions, including the potential use of the armory space.

The discussion will continue next month after the committee reviews the options and makes a recommendation. Cobie Evans, who is purchasing Frazer's building, was not present at the meeting, but Frazer answered questions on Evans' behalf, cautioning the court that he was not authorized to negotiate for the new owner.

Crittenden County Fiscal Court meets monthly, typically on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m., at the county office complex. Meetings are open to the public and comments are heard by magistrates.

# CLWD

Continued from page 1  
former employee of the district, has served as interim superintendent since the board removed its previous superintendent. He was recently reappointed to a new four-year term on the board.

Mayors from Marion and Grand Rivers and judge-executives from Livingston and Crittenden counties attended the meeting. Each offered their support to Adamson and the utility as CLWD continues to develop a stronger regional base through expansion and upgrades. Grand Rivers Mayor Tom Moodie said leadership at the district

has his city's support but urged the district to be mindful of its mission going forward. He pointed out that Grand Rivers is the district's biggest wholesale customer and that the town in southern Livingston County, straddling two area lakes, is growing rapidly. He and Grand Rivers utilities manager Jeff DeWeese echoed concerns and pressed CLWD to avoid "procrastination" when updates to the system are necessary.

"Our contract with the district is for 40 years, and we are already into it 20 years," Moodie said, suggesting leadership's attention to a stronger, more sustainable vision for CLWD's future.

In other business, CLWD's board announced that it has already received funding from grants totaling about \$3.7 million. Part of the money was spent on preparation work already done for the expansion plan, and the balance was deposited into an interest-bearing Farmers Bank account.

Tim Thomas, a consultant working for both CLWD and Marion, said it's a bit unusual for grant money to come in this far ahead of a project's launch. Thomas has been largely responsible for accessing millions of dollars for CLWD's plans and Marion's response to its ongoing water crisis.

# Renovations coming to Lake Barkley Resort

STAFF REPORT  
Details were recently unveiled about a \$17 million renovation of Lake Barkley State Resort Park that will include closing the lodge and pool after Labor Day in September.

WKDZ Radio reported that at a recent meeting of the Cadiz/Trigg County Tourist Commission, state park manager Ashley Joiner said plans are in place for the exterior upgrades, including roofing and lighting,

along with a redesign of the pool area. Bids are expected to go out in February and March.

Interior guest room renovations will be planned later.

A concern for the tourist commission is the extended period of revenue that will be lost during construction, which is expected to take at least a year.

During that time some jobs at the lodge could have to be frozen, and nearly a quarter of the

county's transient room tax will no longer be coming in.

Lodging in the cabins, cottages and Little River Lodge will still be available, along with the Windows on the Water restaurant, beach, campgrounds, golf course, marina, hiking trails and the convention center.

The work is part of last year's passage of Kentucky House Bill 6, allocating over \$66 million in upgrades for various state parks.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DECEMBER 2024

Activity Report

Here is Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head's monthly activity report for his department.

2024

Dec.

Total

Collisions Investigated

8

83

Complaints

62

785

Papers Served

60

619

Service Attempts

5

68

Total Service Attempts

101

1239

Transports

8

53

Special Detail

53

695

Training Hours

0

470.22

Verbal Warning

8

60

Courtesy Warning

8

90

Criminal Citation

15

206

Officer Assist

4

67

Building Checks

48

684

Total Manhours

1,031.3

9,902.3

Bailiff Court Hours

104.8

1,056.3

Cases Opened

7

95

Felony Arrests

5

75

Followup Investigations

16

190

Misdemeanor Arrests

12

115

Motorist Assists

4

95

DUIs

0

15

Traffic Citations

13

194

General Policing

158

1932

Call for Service

23

273

Vehicle Inspections

40

664

SHERIFF

EVAN HEAD

# FINANCIAL FOCUS®

## Is buying a home always the right move?

January 23, 2025

It's widely thought that home ownership is a key to building wealth – but is it? And should you consistently make sacrifices to buy your own home?

Let's start with the first question: Is owning a home essential to building wealth? It would probably be more accurate to say that home ownership can be helpful in building wealth. Building home equity – essentially, the difference between the size of your home's value and what you still owe – is certainly valuable. Plus, the bigger your equity, the less you might have to take out in a new mortgage if you ever want to buy a different home.

Now for the next question: How much should you sacrifice to buy your own home? This isn't an easy question to answer because buying a home isn't just

a financial issue – it's also an emotional one. Many people simply like the feeling of owning a home. If you fall into this category, you might be willing to make many sacrifices to join the ranks of homeowners.

However, if you're relatively young and you are part of a single or even a dual-income household, you may well find that your other priorities are more important than home ownership, at least for the moment. These priorities can include paying off student loans, reducing other debts, paying for child care, meeting health care costs and even saving for retire-

ment. With all these expenses, you might not be able to take on a big mortgage, along with real estate taxes, homeowners' insurance and the inevitable but costly repairs that come with owning a home.

In addition to the danger of becoming "house poor" by paying too high a percentage of your income on your mortgage, you could face another issue by sinking too much money into your home – and that's liquidity. A home is much more illiquid than savings or investment accounts, so if you needed money in a hurry, and most of yours was tied up in your

home, you might be in a jam. You could tap into your home equity through a loan or a line of credit, but that's basically taking on even more debt, though these loans and credit lines typically offer lower interest rates than other forms of borrowing.

So, here's the bottom line: You don't need to feel that you are missing out on a chance to build wealth by not buying a home immediately – especially if you would feel extremely stretched by the mortgage payments, given how expensive homes are today. You won't hurt yourself – and, in fact, you'll likely help yourself

Grant Rogers  
Financial Advisor

— by taking care of your most pressing priorities first.

Of course, this doesn't mean that you can never become a homeowner. If you would still like to own a home someday, you could start saving for a down payment, keeping the money in a liquid, low-risk account. Just as importantly, though, you should plan on how owning a home can fit into your budget and how it will affect your cash flow. If you can manage it, you may indeed find that there's no place like home.



BASKETBALL

UPCOMING GAMES

**Around the Fifth District BOYS**

Jan 24 Livingston at Trigg County  
Jan 24 Lyon hosts Dawson Springs  
Jan 25 Crittenden at Hopkinsville  
Jan 25 Trigg hosts Hickman County  
Jan 27 Crittenden at Tilghman  
Jan 28 Crittenden hosts Caldwell Co.  
Jan 28 Livingston at Lyon County  
Jan 28 Trigg hosts Heritage Christian

**GIRLS**

Jan 23 Livingston hosts Muhlenberg  
Jan 23 Lyon at Madisonville  
Jan 24 Livingston at Trigg County  
Jan 24 Trigg hosts Livingston Central  
Jan 25 Livingston hosts Hickman  
Jan 27 Trigg hosts Mayfield  
Jan 28 Lyon at Livingston Central

**Fifth District Standings**

GIRLS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Crittenden County	4-1	14-3
Lyon County	4-0	15-4
Livingston Central	0-3	5-9
Trigg County	0-4	2-12

BOYS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	3-0	11-4
Trigg County	2-1	6-10
Livingston Central	2-1	4-10
Crittenden County	0-5	0-16

Through Tuesday's games

**BASEBALL**

**Baseball Clinic**

Crittenden County Dugout Club will host a multi-session Youth Baseball and Softball Clinic from 8 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15 at the County Recreation Center (former armory). Clinic is limited to 16 players per session. Sessions last an hour and a half. Cost is \$20 if paying through Venmo or \$25 paying in cash or check. Watch for further registration information on Dugout Club Facebook Page.

**FOOTBALL**

**2025 football schedule**

Crittenden County High School football coach Gaige Courtney has released next fall's Rocket football schedule. It includes a new non-district opponent, Union City, Tenn., which is a traditional west Tennessee power. Crittenden's Class 2A District will change a bit for 2025. The league will include Mayfield, Caldwell, Trigg County, Todd Central and Fort Campbell. Non-district games are Marshall County, Union County, Webster County and Hopkins Central.

**2025 Rocket Scrimmages**  
Aug. 8 at Murray  
Aug. 15 at Madisonville  
**Rocket Regular Season**  
Aug. 22 at Marshall County  
Aug. 20 Union County  
Sept. 5 Webster County  
Sept. 12 Union City, Tenn.  
Sept. 19 at Mayfield  
Sept. 26 at Trigg County  
Oct. 3 Todd Central  
Oct. 17 at Fort Campbell  
Oct. 24 Caldwell County  
Oct. 31 at Hopkins Central

**NFL final four matchups**

Kansas City Chiefs are heading to their seventh consecutive AFC Championship after defeating the Houston Texans 23-14 last weekend. They will face the Buffalo Bills, who edged out the Baltimore Ravens 27-25. In the NFC, the Washington Commanders secured their first conference championship berth since 1991 with a 45-31 upset over the Detroit Lions. They will meet the Philadelphia Eagles, who topped the Los Angeles Rams 28-22 last weekend, in the title match. Conference championships are this weekend, with winners advancing to Super Bowl LIX on Feb. 9 in New Orleans.

**OUTDOORS**

**Deer, Turkey hunting ends**

Monday was the last day to hunt wild turkeys and deer with archery equipment. Bow season opened in early September. It's the longest running big game season. Crittenden archers took 323 whitetails during the season. With all weapons, local hunters took 2,607 deer. In Livingston, archers got 149 of the total 1,624 and in Caldwell they took 215 of a 1,769 total harvest.

All A bracketology favorable for CCHS

The All A Classic Girls Basketball State Tournament tipped off Wednesday in Owensboro, featuring 16 teams vying for the title. Crittenden County (14-3), ranked 32nd in Kentucky by RPI, is positioned in the lower bracket and was scheduled to open tournament play against Martin County (9-4), which enters the competition ranked 67th. A CCHS victory in the opening round would set up a second-round matchup against either Knott Central (10-3), ranked 42nd, or Whitefield Academy (12-3), ranked 56th.

The Lady Rockets are play-

ing in their 10th All A Classic State Tournament. That is the most of any other team in history from the Second Region. The CCHS girls have won four of the last five regional titles and three straight.

This year's draw has perhaps the clearest path Crittenden has ever had to a championship game as most of the top-rated teams are in the upper bracket.

If Crittenden advances past the second round, potential semifinal opponents include Metcalfe County (15-3), Danville Christian (11-5), Walton-Verona (12-5), or



Menifee County (12-4), Walton-Verona, ranked 73rd, previously handed Crittenden a tough 80-65 loss during the Bowling Green holiday tournament. Metcalfe County is the only lower bracket team ranked higher than CCHS. They are No. 18 in KHSAA's power rankings.

The upper bracket features several top contenders, including No. 3 Covington Holy

Cross (18-1), ranked third, and No. 6 Bethlehem (13-1), ranked sixth. Other upper bracket teams include Mid-dlesboro (10-4), Owensboro Catholic (11-3), Louisville Holy Cross (7-8), Bishop Brossart (12-4), No. 30 Lexington Christian (16-3) and No. 46 Mayfield (12-4).

The only tournament teams among the Courier-Journal's Top 25 are 8th-ranked Holy Cross, 10th-ranked Bethlehem and No. 23 Owensboro Catholic, all on the other side of the bracket from Crittenden County. See more tournament details on front page.

Rockets still seek first W

**STAFF REPORT**

Crittenden County lost Tuesday for 16th straight time, falling 79-24 at Union County.

The Braves improved 8-5 by jumping ahead by more than 20 points early. CCHS lost for the 16th time.

**Matinee loss to Warriors**

The Rockets lost 57-48 to Community Christian (9-7) in a matinee game at Murray State's CFBS Center on Monday during a multi-game event hosted by Graves County on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Coby LaRue continued scoring well, posting 18 points with four treys for CCHS while Drake Young had 14 poitns, and four threes.

**Wring, LaRue hot on threes**

Crittenden County had reason early Friday to feel a bit better about its offense. A few minutes into the game at Livingston Central, the Rockets were ahead 7-1 and arguably playing their most competitive quarter of basketball in some time. Then, following an intentional foul whistled on CCHS senior center Jonah Reddick with 3:36 left in the first period, Livingston captured the momentum, reeling off 18 straight points and taking command of the game en route to a 93-60 Fifth District win.

The Rockets had plenty of opportunities to cool Livingston's steam during that early going, but empty possessions left the door open for the Cardinals, led by junior Logan Wring, who was back for the first time since his team played at Crittenden in December. He had been on the shelf for about a month due to a fractured bone in his hand. Wring scored 30 points, and teammate Bryson Walker had 26.



Coby LaRue spots up a three at Livingston.

Crittenden did give the Cardinals a little scare in the third quarter. Colby LaRue sank a three-pointer two minutes into the second half to draw the Rockets within single digits, 43-34. However, the Cardinals' sharpshooting over the next three minutes put them back in control. Still, there was reason for celebration by the Rockets, who played better at times, and LaRue scored a career-high 24 points, making six of the 14 three-point shots he took.

Together, the teams made 27 treys. CCHS had 13 as freshman Drake Young nailed four.

The Rockets are now 0-5 in league play with one more stop at home against Lyon. Livingston improved to 2-1 in district play with both victories over the Rockets.

**Rockets fall at Lyon**

The Rockets took their third dose of Lyon County Thursday at Eddyville and it was just as bitter as the first two. Crittenden lost the district matchup 77-38.

CCHS had already played the Lyons and lost twice this season, once in the All A.



Lady Rocket Jordyn Hodge gets off a shot at Livingston Central.

CCHS wins at Livingston

**STAFF REPORT**

Crittenden County lost one of its top scorers in the first half, but had more than enough firepower to handle Livingston Central 55-24 Friday in a Fifth District matchup.

The win gives CCHS a 4-1 mark in the league standings and 14-3 overall. Livingston falls to 0-3 in district play and 5-8 overall.

Coach Shannon Hodge's only concern coming off the lopsided win at Livingston was how quickly junior guard Elliot Evans would bounce back from a second-quarter ankle sprain. She never returned to the lineup, and it didn't really matter, but she will be needed this week when the girls play in the All A Classic State Tournament.

Crittenden Co.	15	35	43	55
Livingston Cent.	9	16	22	24
CRITTENDEN – Boone	11,	Evans	6,	Hodge
15,	Federico	13,	Holeman	2,
Berry	2,	Stewart	2,	Matthews,
Rich,	Champion	2,	Grau.	3-pointers
3 (Evans	2,	Hodge).	FT	8-10
LIVINGSTON – Jennings	2,	Joiner	10,	Downey
2,	T.Lahey	2,	Ramage	8,
Dalmer,	Burns,	Tharp,	Collins.	3-pointers
2 (Joiner).	FT	6-11.		

COACH

Continued from page 1

She's crafted a culture of excellence that prioritizes relationships, community and character. Her players know that victory is not just about the scoreboard but also about the lessons and connections they take with them for life.

Hodge's career is decorated with milestones, including selection to the Kentucky Basketball Court of Honor, over 400 career wins, seven district titles and a very rare Second Region championship that led to the Sweet 16 in 2011. Few small schools can say they've won a KHSAA regional title. Those are typically gobbled up by the much larger schools in the area.

Hodge is the winningest girls' basketball coach in Crittenden County history, an achievement fueled by her ability to inspire confidence in her players.

"I don't enter any game I don't think we can win," Hodge said. "This tournament is something we feel capable of competing in year after year because we've built that confidence and expectation."

Hodge's journey from standout athlete to one of Kentucky's most successful high school basketball coaches is testament to her relentless dedication and passion. After earning All-American honors at Centre College, she returned home to build a coaching career that has transformed the Lady Rockets into perennial contenders in the region.

Hodge attributes much of her success to relationships she cultivates with the team and the broader program. Whether it's sharing pancakes with her team on a snowy game day or celebrating victories with generations of Lady Rocket alumni, she focuses on building connections.

"I take great pride in being a Lady Rocket alumni," said Lee Anna Boone, who played in the mid 1990s and now has a second daughter playing under Hodge.

"Shannon is a woman of great integrity. She truly cares about her players and their lives on and off the basketball court," Boone added. "She has high expectations and always pushes them to be their best. She is a Godly example to them as a coach on the court and in life."

Winning, Hodge says, is the result of a positive culture.

"When you have a kinship, respect, and love for the people you play with, you're able to overcome adversity together," she explained.

Her approach extends to nurturing the program's future. From hosting younger players at games to handing out pieces of the championship net, Hodge ensures the next generation sees themselves as part of the Lady Rocket legacy.

Hodge's influence isn't confined to the basketball court. Known for her unwavering faith and moral compass, she's a role model for her players and peers alike.

Jeff Doom, a former rival coach at Lyon County and current All A Regional Tournament director, said Crittenden County is blessed to have a coach with so much compassion and love for her program.

"She's a friend before and after the game, but during the game, she's your toughest competitor," Doom said.

Assistant coach and former Lady Rocket Jessie (Mathieu) Johnson highlighted Hodge's deeper impact.

"She understands that basketball is bigger than her. It's the platform God has given her, and she has stewarded it well. Coach Hodge makes you a better person just by being around her," she said.

With her freshman daughter now wearing the Lady Rocket jersey, Hodge's story continues. Her commitment to excellence and her ability to see potential in every player ensures that the Lady Rockets' legacy remains bright. After a pivotal victory over district rival Lyon County in last week's All A regional championship, Hodge took a moment to reflect.

"I looked up in the stands after we won and saw Angie Hobbs (O'Leary), who I played with, and several other people who I had coached. Then I saw the younger kids, those elementary girls who are the future of our program."

Shannon Hodge sees things that many others do not. Perhaps that is why she has become accustomed to winning.

"It really never gets old," she said.

**GO TEAM!**  
*Good Luck*  
*Crittenden County*  
**Rockets!**

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# MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity figures for every month of 2024. The chart also includes annual totals for 2016 through 2024, and an annual average of those nine years.



MPD 270.965.3500  
Police Chief  
Bobby West

2024	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2,019	2018	2017	2,016	9y Avg
Miles driven/patrolled	1,750	1,340	2,018	1,553	1,504	2,930	1,788	1,630	2,512	2,413	1,516	2591	23,545	24,766	39,844	41,460	37,101	34,380	33,312	32,000	32,496	33,212
Criminal Investigations	10	16	14	8	18	11	16	11	10	12	13	11	150	133	146	132	113	144	203	207	209	160
Domestics	7	8	7	6	10	8	8	7	7	5	11	4	88	82	74	105	90	116	92	106	156	101
Felony Arrests	1	5	2	3	5	7	3	3	4	6	3	6	48	55	62	64	71	38	27	61	29	51
Misd. Arrests	2	5	13	8	6	5	4	3	2	8	13	12	81	93	99	94	80	97	113	113	86	95
Non-Criminal Arrests	5	13	8	19	10	4	7	9	7	9	11	10	112	99	121	87	65	78	99	78	70	90
DUI Arrests	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	6	8	9	6	12	10	16	9
Criminal Summons	0	0	2	25	1	6	2	2	4	6	3	0	51	46	31	29	14	20	41	43	37	35
Traffic Citations	6	9	8	17	37	4	26	19	17	16	32	21	212	189	201	238	141	247	287	185	268	219
Other Citations	13	25	27	56	29	2	16	22	16	24	30	25	285	307	332	246	155	254	273	236	257	261
Traffic Warnings	5	1	5	3	2	9	1	4	5	4	4	12	55	48	31	58	35	141	123	97	118	78
Parking Tickets	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	4	2
Traffic Accidents	9	0	11	1	3	9	9	6	4	7	5	5	69	63	67	72	50	78	81	62	91	70
Security Checks/Alarms	58	54	63	55	55	55	52	81	61	61	59	66	720	741	478	478	610	754	617	658	934	666
Calls for Service/Complaints	179	188	241	206	236	250	240	245	207	222	215	149	2,578	2,463	2,119	2,000	1,987	2,287	2,681	2,196	3,407	2,413

# City traffic accidents down in past 5 years

STAFF REPORT

An analysis of the Marion Police Department’s law enforcement activity from 2016 to 2024 highlights several trends across key operational metrics. The data reflect changes in patrol activity, investigations and arrests over the nine-year period.

Officers patrolled 23,545 miles in 2024, marking a significant decrease from the pandemic years. During the pandemic, officers tended to spend more time in their cruisers because personal contact was limited.

The highest mileage occurred in 2021, while the lowest was recorded in 2024.

The nine-year average for miles patrolled is 33,212.

The department conducted 150 criminal investigations in

2024, an increase from 133 in 2023.

The lowest number of investigations occurred in 2020, with 113 cases, again, a situation perhaps marked by COVID-19 when patrolling was up and individual contact was at its lowest.

The nine-year average for criminal investigations is 160.

After a dip during the pandemic, criminal investigations have increased slightly but remain below historical highs.

Reported domestic incidents ranged from a high of 156 in 2016 to a low of 74 in 2022. In 2024, 88 incidents were recorded, below the nine-year average of 101. Reports of domestic incidents have generally declined since 2016, with recent years consistently below the nine-year average.

Felony arrests peaked at 71 in 2020 and have since declined to 48 in 2024. That high figure in 2020 was largely skewed by a small number of individuals with multiple charges. The lowest number of felony arrests was 27 in 2018. The nine-year average for felony arrests is 51.

Misdemeanor arrests were highest in 2017 and 2018, with 113 each year. By 2024, misdemeanor arrests dropped to 81, below the 9-year average of 95.

Year-to-year figures for criminal investigations and arrests (both felony and misdemeanor) showed significant fluctuations without consistent long-term trends.

Traffic-related activity shows significant year-to-year variability across all metrics.

Officers issued 212 traffic ci-

tations in 2024, a modest increase from 189 in 2023. However, citation numbers have fluctuated, with the lowest recorded at 141 in 2020 and the highest at 238 in 2021.

Traffic accidents reported in 2024 totaled 69, an increase from 63 in 2023. The highest number of accidents, 72, occurred in 2021, while 2020 marked the lowest, with 50 accidents. Over the past five years, traffic accidents have declined compared to the four-year period from 2016 to 2019. In the past five years, the city has seen an average of 64.2 accidents per year, whereas that figure was 78 during the previous four-year period.

Figures are provided monthly by the Marion Police Department and accumulated by The Press.

## Countywide FELONY CASES

Here are the number of individuals charged with felonious crimes by year. These figures do not represent total number of felony charges, only cases.

2024	64
2023	79
2022	55
2021	46
2020	43
2019	65
2018	46

**2024 Felony Charges By Agency**

48 Marion Police Dept.  
75 Crittenden Sheriff’s Dept.

## McMican Rd. complex will be added to city precinct GOP gains in off-year voter registration

Voter registration numbers are rising in Crittenden County following the recent presidential election, with 13 new voters added to the rolls. The county continues its trend toward the Republican Party, which gained 32 voters over the past three months. In contrast, Democrats saw a decline of 21 registrants.

According to the latest data, Republicans now account for 61.6% of the county’s registered voters, a significant increase from 55.4% at the end of 2020. This shift is part of a long-term trend that has seen GOP registration rise steadily over the past two decades. In 2008, Republicans made up just 42.7% of the electorate, with increases in each subsequent election cycle.

“For more than four decades dating back to the 1970s, Democrats outnumbered Republi-

cans in the county until October 2014, with the pendulum swung back to the GOP’s favor,” said Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor.

Despite no scheduled elections in 2025, election officials remain busy behind the scenes. Plans are underway to update the voter rolls with new registrations, party changes and address updates. Additionally, officials are considering redrawing precinct lines to incorporate the new housing development on McMican Road into one of the four city precincts. Work is also ongoing to complete Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) surveys for voting locations, Tabor said.

Looking ahead, the filing period for local partisan offices will run from Nov. 5, 2025, to Jan. 9, 2026. The filing period for non-partisan city council and school board races will take place in

June 2025.

Statewide, voter registration activity remains strong even in the absence of imminent elections. Secretary of State Michael Adams reported that 9,324 new voters registered in December 2024. However, 4,962 voters were removed from the rolls due to reasons such as death, felony convictions, or relocation.

As of now, Republican registrants account for 47% of Kentucky’s electorate, or 1,674,447 voters. The party’s registration increased by 5,263 voters in December, reflecting a 0.32% gain. Democratic registration, meanwhile, fell by 2,970 voters, bringing the total to 1,499,867, which represents 42% of the electorate. Independent and third-party voters make up 11% of the state’s total, with registrations increasing by 2,069 to 385,339.



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