

Reminder: New tax rates for employees

Local employers are reminded to adjust payroll withholdings following recent tax rate increases enacted by both Crittenden County and the City of Marion. Effective July 1, the payroll and net profits tax rates for both the city and county rose to 1.5%. The county rate tripled from its previous 0.5% and the city's rate doubled from 0.75%. Employers are required to withhold the new rates from wages earned within either jurisdiction.



Candidate must first file before they announce

As the start date of the filing period for candidates in the 2026 elections nears, Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor reminds prospective candidates of campaign finance laws. The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance (KREF) requires all candidates to register their campaign before beginning any related activities, even announcing their candidacy. Candidate filing period begins Nov. 5.

While candidates for state and federal office often mention exploring a run for office, this differs from announcing your intent to run, even on social media... even if you have not raised any money or do not intend to spend money. The same rule applies from judge-executive down to conservation district supervisor. Violation of election finance laws can result in felony charges.

The first step is to register your campaign at KREF.ky.gov. A downloadable guide is available online. Questions about election finance should be directed to KREF at 502-573-2226.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Code Enforcement Board meets at 5 p.m., Monday, July 14 at city hall.
- Livingston County Board of Education meets at 5 p.m., Monday, July 14 at the central office.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court meets at 9 a.m., the Tuesday, July 15 at the courthouse.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court meets at 8:30 a.m., at Thursday, July 17 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets for a working session at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 15 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion City Council meets Monday, July 21 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, July 21 at city hall.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 22 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 24 at its office on East Bellville Street.



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Michelle Hodge takes the reins of Louise's Flower Shop as ownership leaves the York family for the first time in 50 years.

Main Street's flower shop blooms anew

STAFF REPORT

After 50 years as a Main Street staple in downtown Marion, Louise's Flowers is entering a new chapter under the ownership of Michelle and Brian Hodge. Not much is changing, which is just the way the Hodges and their loyal customers want it.

Longtime owner Teena York, who took over the floral shop from her mother, the late Louise York, recently passed the baton after decades of service and storytelling in blossoms. She will remain involved during the transition, mentoring Hodge and helping ensure the shop's legacy continues to flourish.

"I've always had a passion for flowers and events, and this was the perfect opportunity," said Michelle Hodge, who began working at Louise's during the COVID-19 pandemic when she lost her job as an occupational therapist. "Teena taught me everything I know, how to arrange, what to order, how to run the system."

Michelle officially assumed ownership



Teena York is pictured with her late mother Louise York in this Crittenden Press newspaper photo from back in 1975.

last week, but she's no stranger to the business. She's worked on and off at the flower shop for five years, balancing travel therapy work with floral design. Now, she's all in with husband Brian handling business operations.

Importantly, much of the shop's veteran staff is staying on. Phyllis Campbell, who has worked there for more than a dozen years, will remain part-time. Christy Watson, with 10-plus years of experience, returns during peak seasons like Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Helen Head continues to bring her artistry to custom grapevine wreaths and funeral work.

"They know our customers and the community," Michelle said, noting that the shop is ready to serve for the holidays, memorials, celebrations, literally all of life's

See FLOWER/page 10

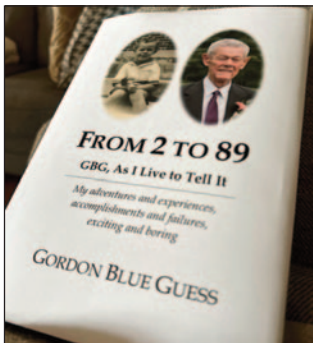
Guess publishes memoirs of life in Marion and beyond

STAFF REPORT

"From 2 to 89" is the aptly titled new memoir by Marion native Gordon Blue Guess, a name synonymous with banking, baseball and civic leadership in Crittenden County.

Now 89, Guess has published an insightful and anecdotal account of his life, much of it captured with the help of his daughter, Elizabeth Guess Rohrecker, who works in marketing for Little, Brown & Company (a division of the French publishing house Hachette) in Chicago.

Guess began jotting down memories in early 2021, and believed he was finished shortly after turning 86 years old, but the book's title was eventually changed to reflect his continued writing through age 89. The result is a nearly 150-plus page hardback memoir filled with stories, snapshots and reflections that offer both humor and insight into a bygone era of rural Kentucky life and be-



yond.

"I just wrote it down as I remembered it," said Guess, who penned much of the book on yellow legal pads.

Elizabeth, his youngest child, took the reins on organizing and editing.

"I had him read them aloud over the phone to me as I typed because it was easier than trying to read his handwriting," she said. "He would mail me new stories as he thought of them."

Guess's legacy looms large in Marion. He served as president of The Peoples Bank from 1972 to 2007,

represented the region on the St. Louis District Federal Reserve Board, helped to found what became the Ohio Valley Collegiate Baseball League and had the high school baseball field named in his honor. A lifelong Republican, he twice attended national conventions and once shared an elevator ride with Muhammad Ali.

The memoir includes reflections on friendships with major political figures like Sen. Mitch McConnell and Hal Rogers, and even mentions brushes with George H.W. Bush, Babe Ruth and Rudy Giuliani.

Reminiscent of the late Dean Akridge's memoir from Fredonia, Guess's book is filled with vignettes that recall a simpler time and honor the deep roots of his Blue and Guess family lineage in Tolu and Marion. The book traces his youth in downtown Marion, military academy in Tennessee, studies at

See BOOK/page 3

Up in smoke Tolu sends clear message

Well, friend, if you missed the shindig down in Tolu on July 5, you might as well turn your calendar back and try again next year because that little Ohio River hamlet pulled off one of the best Independence Day celebrations this side of the Mason-Dixon, and they did it without a hitch, a fuss or a single frown in sight.



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

Around 2,500 folks poured into the river-bottom community for what's become a downright legendary gathering. And by all accounts, not a soul left disappointed, bruised or bored. In today's world, where big-city flash often fizzles, Tolu lit up the night sky, and hearts, like it was the Fourth of July itself, just a day late and right on time.

See, down here in the South we don't need velvet ropes or VIP passes. We've got pickup trucks turned into bleachers, corn hole instead of country clubs and a welcome as warm as a skillet of blackberry cobbler on the church potluck table. By the way, berries are ready to be picked now.

Yep, what others might call backwoods, we call back home and Tolu is the place where many families reunite for the Fourth celebration.

Hats off to the Tolu crew, including folks like Barkley Hughes, Dan and Hope Kemper, Wayne Miller, Ken Westgate, Tim and Brandie Binkley, Brian Guess, Misty Hicks, Mandi and Graham Shuecrat, Logan Shuecrat, Barrett Sherer, Kevin and Dustin Wheeler, Larry and Neoma Tinsley, Jim Dalton, Jay Dalton, Ted Dalton, Mickey Crider, Christie Hughes, David Stone, Jared Stone, Ethan Stone, Eddie Owen Tinsley and the Tolu Fire Department to name a few. They are tireless volunteers who turned what started out as a launch pad made of plywood and bottle rockets in the early 2000s into one of western Kentucky's grandest traditions. Thanks to local sponsors, civic groups and even a band of helpers from Florida who keep coming back year after year, Tolu doesn't just celebrate, it smokes!

The food? Finger-lickin'. The crowd? Peaceful and proud. The fireworks? Well, let's just say they painted the riverbank with joy and memory. And the best part? No drama, no disasters, just neighbors being neighbors, laughing kids riding swings and the merry-go-round til they had blisters and grown-ups remembering what community really means.

So to those who might not understand why anyone'd travel across counties, or even states, for a festival in a town with two blocks and not much else, let me put it plain: It's as cool and satisfying as a glass of sweet tea on a steamy July night by the river. And twice as tasty.

Told Barrett Sherer that next year I'd like a ticket to his pool party. He has the only in-ground concrete pond in all of Tolu. Seemed to be a popular spot until sundown.

Here's to Tolu, where patriotism pops, fellowship flows and small-town life proves once again it's the best-kept secret in America.

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

Deaths

Cronin

Danny Lovell Cronin, 76, of Marion, died Friday, July 4, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah. He retired from Arkema in Calvert City. He was of the Baptist faith. Surviving are several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith Tabor Cronin; his parents, Chester and Agnes Utley Cronin; a brother, Larry Cronin; and a sister, Gloria Cronin. Services were Wednesday, July 9 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Shady Grove Cemetery.

Franks

Geneva Gahagen Franks, 100, of Laurens, S.C., and wife of the late Raymond D. Franks, died Saturday, June 28, 2025 at PRISMA Laurens County Hospital. She was born Oct. 9, 1924, in Kentucky, daughter of the late Elmer and Ella Gahagen. She was a resident of Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Community where she enjoyed an active life. She was a member of First Christian Church in Sun City, Ariz. For three years during World War II, Franks worked as a Rosie the Riveter for the



wings of the FYU Course Aircraft. Surviving are two children, Barbara (David) Lynn of Georgia and Larry (Pollyanna) Franks of Laurens; four grandchildren, Taunjia Lynn, Kara Campbell (Merle), Corey Franks, and Laura Revelles; seven great-grandchildren, Lorrin, Christopher, Morgan, Andrew, Emily, Aurelia, and Camilo; and six great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband and parents, Franks was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters. A graveside service was held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 16 at Mapleview Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, July 10
•The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building located at 412 North College St. Refreshments will be served.
• There will be a Carbon Market Webinar at the Crittenden County Extension office starting at 11:30 a.m.
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
• Summertime Fun is the theme for July activities at Livingston Hospital New Beginnings, which offers individual and group therapy, medication management and other services for older adults. New Beginnings will offer activities from 10 a.m.-noon at the Crittenden County Public Library.

Monday, July 14
• WITS workout begins at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.
• Friends Forever meets at 5:30 p.m. at the

Crittenden County Extension Annex.
Tuesday, July 15
• There will be a 4-H Council Meeting at 8:05 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
• Crittenden County Elementary SBDM will meet at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16
• Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.

Thursday, July 17
• New Beginnings will offer activities from 10 a.m.-noon at the Caldwell County Public Library.
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Friday, July 18
• An Ice Cream Social will be held at New Beginnings' office in Salem from 1-2:30 p.m.

Extension offers full slate of summer ag and fair events

Several Crittenden County Extension events pertaining to summer activities and the Crittenden County Lions Fair are upcoming through August.

•Garden exhibits to be entered into the Lions Club fair – including 10 classes ranging from tomatoes to the largest vegetable and best house plant – will be accepted July 29 from 11-3 p.m.

•The Crittenden County Agriculture/Rural Leadership Hall of Fame has closed its nomination acceptance period. The recipient of the 2026 award will be named at the County Fair Breakfast at 7 a.m., Friday, Aug. 1.

•The Crittenden County Hay Quality Contest is accepting entries on July 25. For complete rules, contact Dee Heimgartner at the Crittenden County Extension office at (270) 965-5236.

•Farmers can participate in the Extension Service's Rinse & Return program from 9-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 30 at the Crittenden County Extension Service. Containers must be triple rinsed before they are accepted to

be recycled by the Kentucky Department of Education.

•A fall garden class is at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 24 at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. The class will provide the basics for growing fall vegetables.

•On Aug. 5, the Extension Service will present a program at 11 a.m., titled Grow Your Own Broccoli.

•A University of Kentucky Soybean and Tobacco Field Day will be held from 8 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, July 22 at the UK farm at 300 Extension Farm Rd., in Princeton. Topics include agronomics and economics and will include discussions on soil, corn disease concerns and tobacco.

•The University of Kentucky Beef and Forage Field Day begins at noon, Tuesday, July 22 at the Princeton Extension farm. Forage plot tours and innovative beef feeding strategies are among the programs.

For information about these and other programs, contact the Crittenden County Extension Service at (270) 965-5236.



New signs installed at the park

Two new patriotic signs situated at various locations at Marion City-County Park were installed by Challengers Extension club, Marion VFW and the City of Marion Tourism Commission. Some of those who helped with the project are (from left) Micki and Tom Crider, Ron and Sue Ledford, Bonnie Pugh, Janet Stevens and Carolyn Pugh.

Be a Summer Lifesaver: Red Cross Seeks Blood Donors Amid Shortage

The American Red Cross is calling on the public to donate blood or platelets immediately, with Type O blood especially needed to meet demand on hospital shelves this summer.

Seasonal travel, holidays and severe weather can all hamper collection efforts, making donation appointments vital to maintaining a stable blood supply. The Red Cross stressed the importance of keeping appointments to ensure

lifesaving products are available for trauma victims and others in urgent need.

All blood types are welcome, and donors can learn their blood type after giving. Appointments can be made at RedCrossBlood.org, by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or through the Blood Donor App.

To thank donors, those who give by July 14 will receive exclusive Red Cross x goodr sunglasses, while supplies last.

From July 15–31, donors will receive a Fandango Movie Reward.

Eligible donors must be at least 17 (or 16 with parental consent where allowed), weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. High school-aged donors must also meet height and weight requirements.

Donors can save time by completing pre-donation steps in advance through RapidPass® at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

Flash the lights, honk the horns—for Captain Adamson

A fundraising event to help assist with medical expenses will be held Friday, Aug. 1 for Captain Dakota Adamson, a volunteer with the Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department.

Donation buckets will be placed around several pieces of big equipment and emergency vehicles that children can get up close and personal to, and even honk the horn and flash the lights.

All donations will be provided to the Adamson family. Donations may also be deposited into an



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New judicial center promises more efficient courts in Caldwell Co.

KENTUCKY TODAY

Planning is underway for a new judicial center in Caldwell County that will improve court services, enhance security and provide modern space for court operations.

Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert has announced the members of the Caldwell Project Development Board (PDB) and provided the board notice to proceed on the project. PDBs oversee court construction projects as outlined by Judicial Branch procedures.

Using a project development board ensures that county and court officials have input on key aspects of the project, including site selection, design and hiring of an architect and contractor. The board is comprised of County Judge/Executive William Dakota Young, Circuit Court Judge Natalie White, District Court Judge Roger Brandon Knoth, Circuit Court Clerk Christie Storm, and attorneys Jill Giordano and Serieta Jagers. Advisory members include County Attorney Roy Massey IV and representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

“This project represents an important investment in the people of Caldwell County,” Lambert said. “A secure and efficient facility is essential to serving the community and ensuring the fair administration of justice.”

The Kentucky General Assembly authorized the project as part of the current Judicial Branch biennial budget. Caldwell County will own the new judicial center while the AOC will pay for its construction and maintenance through the Judicial Branch budget.

The project is estimated to cost \$33.1 million and will be fully funded by the state through annual debt service payments of up to \$2.8 million.

“After several years of working cooperatively with local and state judicial and legislative leaders to obtain funding, the recent establishment of a project development board to oversee planning and construction of a new justice center marks the beginning of a promising new chapter in the rich history of Caldwell County,” said Justice Christopher Shea Nickell, who serves the 1st Supreme Court District, which includes Caldwell County.



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On 80-degree day inside heat in car can reach 118

July and August bring long summer days with plenty of sunshine but also heat and humidity, with some days being dangerously hot. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) states, “Did you know around the world extremely hot days have become more frequent and intense since the 1950s?”

These extreme temperatures bring potential dangers to us all but especially to those who work outside, the very old, the very young, and pets or animals who are outdoors.

FEMA recommends the following list of ways to stay cool during hot summer months.

Check the forecast. Before making plans, check your local forecast to see if there’s an excessive heat advisory. An excessive heat warning is issued up to a day before extremely dangerous heat conditions start. An excessive heat watch is issued when conditions are favorable for excessive heat in the next 24 to 72 hours. A heat advisory is issued within 12 hours before dangerous heat conditions are expected.

Never leave pets or people in a car. Did you know when it's only 80 degrees, your car's interior can reach 118 degrees in just 20 minutes? Leaving anyone in a

parked car on warm days is dangerous. Infants and children are especially in danger of getting heat stroke or dying.

Drink water. Keep yourself and your pets hydrated. Drink more fluids, regardless of how active you are. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

Find air conditioning. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to a shopping mall or public library. Even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. While electric fans may provide comfort, when the temperature is in the high 90s, they will not prevent heat-related illness.

Keep your house cool. You can keep your house cooler by insulating it and covering your windows with drapes or shades. Use window reflectors such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard to reflect heat back outside.

Dress appropriately and wear sunscreen. Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool down and can make you dehydrated. If you must go outdoors, protect

yourself from the sun by wearing loose, lightweight, light-colored clothes, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. Put on a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher 30 minutes before going outside during the day. Sunscreen wears off, so reapply every two hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.

Avoid strenuous activities. High heat and outdoor activities don't always mix well. Try to limit your outdoor activity to when it's coolest: morning and evening hours. Take frequent breaks in shady areas so your body has a chance to recover.

Check on your family and friends. Older adults, children, and people with chronic medical conditions are at high risk from heat-related injury and death.

Eat light. Hot, heavy meals add heat to your body.

If you do notice any heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke, heat cramps, and heat exhaustion, seek a cool place and immediate medical attention (as needed).

As our climate patterns become more unpredictable, take steps to be more aware of the weather to keep you and your community safe and healthy.



Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE



You can tell it's getting close to fair time when Shelby Belt and crew are out dressing up the fairgrounds. Belt was driving the track hoe offloading 80 concrete barriers donated to the Lions Club to help improve safety during fair events like the demolition derby. Pictured on the trailer are Jared Belt and Ben McConnell of Kentucky American Seed, another fair benefactor. The barriers weigh about 8,000 pounds apiece. Feature events for the fair begin on July 26 with the tractor and truck pulls. Beauty pageants are July 29 and the 4-H Breakfast Aug. 1. A car show and demolition derby are Aug. 2.

Teachers, staff get 2% raise, out-of-state tuition set at \$4K

STAFF REPORT

During her monthly superintendent's report late last month, Tonya Driver told Crittenden County Board of Education members that effective July 1 teachers and staff will begin receiving a 2 percent raise, which was approved in May.

Staff raises will include school nurses employed by the district.

In previous years, Crittenden County Schools contracted two nurses and a clerical position through area health departments. Nurses' contracts are being increased to 8 hours per day for 180 days, an increase over their previous 7.5 contracted hours.

Beginning July 1, nurses employed by the district will for bill Medicaid reimbursements, Driver said.

One nurse serves Crittenden County Elementary School; the other serves students at Crittenden County middle and high school. There will be no full-time clerical staff.

CRITTENDEN BOARD OF ED

In other business, the board:

- Approved a Horizons Club trip to Japan March 31-April 7, 2027. Club sponsor Howard Suggs said having longer to pre-pay for the trip may increase student participation. He reported that 32 students are going to London, Paris and Rome in 2026.
- “Planning ahead makes it easier because it allows people to make smaller monthly payment if they pay over a longer period of time, and if we lock it in by the end of June it's cheaper.”
- Approved \$4,000 per student annual tuition for out-of-state students. Driver said a Cave In Rock family looking to move to Crittenden County has expressed interest in enrolling their student. Kentucky pays school districts about \$4,300 per student in Support Educational Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding. Out-of-state residents do not

qualify for Kentucky SEEK funding; however, the district can assess tuition.

- Accepted a \$5,000 donation from the Crittenden County Coalition for a Drug Free Community to be used for School Resource Officer salaries.
- Approved first reading of policy updates and a review of administrative procedures, which will be explained in full at the July 15 working session by board attorney Roy Massey IV.
- Approved the \$95,000 21st Century Community Learning Center's memorandum of agreement for continued funding of the Crosswalk Learning Academy from July 1, 2025-Sept. 30, 2026.
- Approved adding middle school baseball as a spring sport to take the place of the freshmen baseball team since opportunities have not previously existed for middle school boys interested in baseball.

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of June 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month's totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year's monthly average.

CATEGORY	JUNE 2025	MAY 2025	JUNE 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	2,383	2,329	2,930	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	13	14	11	150	12.5
Domestics	16	10	8	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	7	5	7	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	18	7	5	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	16	6	4	112	9.3
DUI arrests	1	2	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	2	10	6	51	4.3
Traffic citations	20	23	4	212	17.7
Other citations	45	38	2	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	4	11	9	55	4.6
Parking tickets	1	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	9	3	9	69	5.8
Security checks/alerts	66	77	55	720	60.0
Calls for service	215	215	250	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police Department
Marion-KY

Area ag industry will benefit from riverport project funding

STAFF REPORT

Area farmers stand to gain significantly from Gov. Andy Beshear's announcement last Thursday of a \$5.7 million Team Kentucky investment in public riverport projects across the commonwealth, with the Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority receiving more than \$840,000 to support ongoing growth and infrastructure upgrades.

The riverport is a key part of the area's infrastructure supporting agriculture, particularly for transporting grain and fertilizer.

Eddyville Riverport received \$750,000 from the construction and maintenance fund for its ongoing Dolphin Project, which involves the installation of mooring dolphins, offshore structures used to secure barges. An additional \$91,928 was awarded for a paving project totaling \$183,876, aimed at improving traffic flow and safety within the port

area.

According to project guidelines, eligible grants are reserved for new construction or major repairs to riverport infrastructure such as docks, wharves, loading equipment, roads, rail access, storage buildings and related facilities, not for routine maintenance.

Amanda Davenport, executive director of the Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority, said these investments come as the port prepares for a significant expansion, with work expected to begin next spring or summer on a new water inlet.

Groundwork for this expansion was laid in 2022 when the port received a federal Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)



Amanda Davenport

grant to construct the new inlet, approximately 300 feet long, 110 feet wide and 30 feet deep, on Lake Barkley at Cumberland River Mile 43. That addition will increase the available waterfront for loading and unloading.

State funds have also supported the installation of four new mooring dolphins, expanding the port's current capabilities of three loading cells and eight fleeting cells.

“With this expansion, we'll be able to double, or possibly even quadruple, the number of barges we can handle at one time,” said Davenport. “This is a game-changer for industry in western Kentucky.”

The funding announced last week is the final round of awards as part of a \$2 million allocation announced in 2022.

Davenport hopes the paving project to improve land ingress and egress will be finished by harvest time this fall.

At school, OTC medications require doctor's order

Crittenden County Schools recently published a notice reminding parents of a new policy for administering over-the-counter (OTC) medications at school, effective with the 2025-2026 school year.

Under updated Kentucky Department of Ed-

ucation guidelines, students can no longer be given medications such as Tylenol, ibuprofen, cough drops or antacids at school without a written order from a licensed medical provider and signed parental consent.

Parents are encouraged to download the re-

quired form and take it to their child's next medical appointment. Once signed, the completed form should be returned to the school.

Printed copies are also available at the Crittenden County Schools Central office.

Livingston registering for head start, preschool

Livingston County families can apply for the 2025-2026 Preschool and Head Start programs during a screening event on Friday, Aug. 1.

Screenings will be held by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Livingston Hospital Community Center. Parents should call 270-928-2111 to schedule an appointment and leave a message to receive a callback.

Children who are 3 or 4 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2025, may be eligible. Required documentation includes proof of income, immunization certificate, birth certificate, medical insurance card, and Social Security card. Families with a SNAP card are asked to bring it as well.

For more information, contact the Livingston County Board of Education.

Bingo to support senior center

A community Bingo fundraiser to support the Crittenden County Senior Center is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, July 17 at the center located at 210 North Walker St.

Organizers are inviting the public to attend the event, which includes a \$10 entry fee and a light dinner. Several

local businesses have pledged donations to help make the evening a success.

Proceeds will benefit ongoing programs and services offered by the senior center. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 270-965-5229.

BOOK

Continued from page 1

Vanderbilt University and into his career in banking and interests in politics. A vast number of local individuals are mentioned in the book as Guess recalls stories and events in Marion and beyond.

Copies will soon be available through Barnes & Noble. A copy will also be placed in the Crittenden County Public Library.

ELECTED CITY MAYOR | COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marion City Council

City of Marion Mayor

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Marion City Hall, 217 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064 | City Council meets in regular session at city hall at 5 p.m., on the third Monday of each month

Area students on WKCTC honor rolls

Here are the students from Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon, and Caldwell counties in Kentucky who made the President’s Honor List and Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester at West Kentucky Community and Technical College:

- Crittenden County President’s List, full-time**
Jennifer Daugherty
Candice Draper
William Peek
Jessie Potter
G’anna Sizemore
- President’s List, part-time**
Adam Beavers
Connie Caylor
Parker Kayse
Alexis Tolley
Elle Wallace
- Dean’s List, full-time**
Stephanie Camp
Alaina Driver
Hannah Faughn
Kekoa Kuamoo
Matthew Nesbitt
Kayla Silcox
- Dean’s List, part-time**
Kaitlyn Amaya

- Livingston County President’s List, full-time**
Codey Bailey
Madison Bartholomew
Keely Conner
Sierrah Eklund–Stytz
Jody Gingerich
Constance Johnson
Gabriel Lawless
Aaliyah Presscott
Julie Rushing
Derek Russell
Sydney Wood
- President’s List, part-time**
Joy Abell
Jason Culver
Chelsey Culver
Rylee Culver
Stephanie Grim
Jimilin Grogan
Brittany Hamblin
Brenden Mitchell
Lauren Shea
Jenna Swift
Babi Wood
Aidan Wyatt
- Dean’s List, full-time**
Abbigail Davis
Molley Dunkerson
Tina Dunkerson
Thomas Jackson
Rebecca Lowrance
Sy McDonald
Jared Seely
Charles Seely
River Stalion
Danyelle Thompson
Katherine Wright
- Dean’s List, part-time**
Anthony Rinella
Lyon County
- President’s List, full-time:**
Victoria Conger
Frank Coronado
Michaela Johansen
Michael McQueen
Dallas Oliver
Hunter Patterson
Jonathan Quan
Kaylin Stewart
Derald Weeks
- President’s List, part-time**
Kyra Craft
Aaron Garner
April Grace Higgins
Amber Marshall
Ashlee Morgan
Jake Neely
- Dean’s List, full-time**
Carlos Coronado
Rebecca Dowell
William Fultz
Deven Guess
Anna Knight
Haylee O’Daniel
Jessica Ohara
Dhyan Patel
Pamela Pinnegar
Hanna Reed
Madison Russell
Hannah Suarez
Kendell Tobey
- Dean’s List, part-time**
Katie Ladd
Ella Patterson

- Caldwell County President’s List, full-time**
Danny Hall Jr.
Ariel Mayan
William Paul
Michaelyn Sample
Ali Southard
Harley Watson
- President’s List, part-time**
Chantel Goldsberry
Faith Gossum
Mariah Hall
Gavin Peek
- Dean’s List, full-time**
Savannah Beckwith
Rianynn Carson
Brad Gerke
Iri Harkness
Corbin Nichols



Izabella Oliver
Michael Oney
William Riggie
Kadin Riley
Jesseka Sadler
Allison Turashev

Dean’s List, part-time
Laura McKinney
Kaylabeth Mendoza

Former fire chief is in trouble in Sturgis

A former fire chief in Union County has been indicted for allegedly misappropriating tens of thousands of dollars from the department he once led.

Attorney General Russell Coleman and 5th Judicial Circuit Commonwealth’s Attorney Zac Greenwell announced last Thursday that a Union County Grand Jury indicted Chad Cullen, 41, of Sturgis, on one count of Abuse of Public Trust over \$10,000 but less than \$100,000, a Class C felony.

According to the indictment, Cullen, who served as Sturgis Fire Chief, is accused of diverting department funds for personal use from January 2022 through December 2024.

Reporting by the Evansville TV station channel 14, court documents allege that he failed to make required deposits and instead used the money for “personal purchases and non–authorized expenditures,” with more than \$50,000 allegedly stolen during that three–year period.

Cullen was arrested on July 2 and was lodged in the Webster County Jail under a \$10,000 cash bond.

He is scheduled to be arraigned in Union Circuit Court on July 14 at 9 a.m., before Judge Daniel M. Heady.

Due to Kentucky Supreme Court rules on trial publicity, officials said they are limited in the information they can release publicly. The charge, they say, is an allegation, and Cullen is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Woman killed in boating accident

A woman was killed and a man injured in a two–boat collision last Wednesday afternoon near Jonathan Creek on Kentucky Lake.

Marshall County Coroner Kenny Pratt told the Kentucky Star that the crash occurred as two boats approached the Jonathan Creek boat ramp. One vessel had slowed while entering the bay, but a second boat remained on plane and failed to see the slower craft in time to avoid a collision. The faster boat reportedly ran over the top of the other.

A man and woman were ejected from the struck vessel, the Star reported. Both were taken to Marshall County Hospital, where the woman died from her injuries.

Marshall County Rescue Squad, South and East Marshall Fire Departments and Marshall County EMS responded to the scene. The incident remains under investigation.

Schools taking big hit on insurance increases

Commercial and workers compensation insurance policies for Crittenden County Schools are being hit with a 22.3% increase.

Property insurance is increasing by 3.7%; however, most notably is an 185% increase in educators liability insurance and an 86% bump in automobile insurance.

The district’s policies are through Higgins Insurance of Hopkinsville.

“Our agent will be here in July to present information,” Superintendent Tonya Driver said. “He explained it was an anomaly that we were getting educators liability insurance as cheap as we were before.”

Driver said through conversations with other superintendents in the region, she has learned that some districts’ overall insurance costs have gone up 30%.

Courtney shifts to newly created role

A new position will save Crittenden County Schools money and decrease the time middle and high school principals deal with minor discipline issues.

Gaige Courtney will be district’s School Administrative Manager (SAM) when classes resume in August.



Courtney

During its meeting June 26, Superintendent Tonya Driver explained to the board of education that the new position was recommended by the Crittenden County High School SBDM. It will allow principals to shift their roles back to teaching and leading rather than disciple throughout the day.

The board approved June 26 to change staffing for In School Detention to a classified employee rather than a certified staff member, saving about \$25,000 per year.

As the SAM, Courtney will handle small disciplinary issues such as tardies or phone infractions and will cover lunchroom duty for principals.

Driver said the Crittenden County High School SBDM is choosing to use some of its instructional funds for the position, and she requested that Courtney handle these duties for both the middle and high school. She said this is new role will be evaluated midway through the school year.

I-24 welcome center toilets out for good

Due to plumbing problems, restrooms in the Christian County Welcome Center on I–24 westbound at the Kentucky–Tennessee line in Oak Grove have been closed indefinitely.

The welcome center, parking lot and vending area will remain open, but there will not be restrooms available at the facility for the time being. Motorists should plan their visit accordingly.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 vehicles visit the welcome center on a daily basis.



Mitchell is Fredonia Citizen of the Year

Roger Mitchell was named Citizen of the Year during last week’s Thunder in the Valley fireworks and community event in Fredonia.

The award, presented by local minister and community organizer Presley Lamm, honors individuals who have contributed significantly to the community, often behind the scenes. Lamm praised Mitchell’s service and said his efforts have benefited Fredonia for many years.

Mitchell has been active in the community for more than 30 years.

3 earn WKCTC GEDs

Three Livingston County residents were among the 78 students who earned their GED through West Kentucky Community and Technical College’s Adult Education program during the 2024–2025 academic year. Gavin Benton, Ashlynn Hinchey–Oropeza and Samantha Roewer were recognized during the graduation ceremony held June 26.



10 YEARS AGO

July 9, 2015

■ About 2,500 people were in Tolu, then boasting a population of 88 people, for the sixth annual Fourth of July fireworks show.

■ The 10u Cardinals baseball team won the Crittenden, Caldwell, Dawson and Lyon league’s post-season championship. Team members were Teague Millikan, Jaxon Hatfield, Preston Sisco, Jason Milliken, Ayden Boone, Jacob Suggs, Travis Champion, Briley Berry, Seth Guess and Seth Blackburn. Coaches were Jason Hatfield and Trent Guess.

■ Braxton Winders shot a 42 to win the 11-12 boys division in the Go Junior Golf Series at Breckinridge Golf Course. Sammy Greenwell was second with 43 and Tate Roberts third with 47.

25 YEARS AGO

July 6, 2000

■ High gas prices were making the news. In Marion, prices for regular unleaded were \$1.56.

■ Food Giant, formerly Sureway, in Marion had its grand opening. Participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce were Gayle Childs, Melinda Acker, market supervisor Rick Cooper, Dedra Clark, Jane Robertson, Sherry Higgs, store manager Teakey Grace, Rick Cooper, Melburn Conner, Kim Robinson, Food Giant CEO Ron Watkins, Crittenden County Judge-Executive Pippi Hardin, Sharon Belt, Pam Grace, Gary Hodges, bakery supervisor Amy English, Chamber executive secretary Jeanne Hodge, Marion City Administrator Barry Gilbert, Bill Lady and produce supervisor Jimmy Graham.

■ 4-H Wrangler Club members Madison Hadfield, Kaylynn Herrin, Joseph Fowler, Kristina Wallace and Jackie Robertson competed in the Pennyryle Area 4-H Horse Show.

■ Crittenden County High School’s cheerleading squad qualified to participate in the National Cheerleading Association Finals in Dallas. Eight people earned All American nominations included Rhiannon Jenkins, Jodi Martin, Amy Graham, Leigh Browning, Katie Stout, Crystal Watson, Stacy Wagoner and Tina Rozwalka.

■ Crittenden County High School FFA members Sarah Long, Jeremy Binkley, Vince Mitchell, Jenna Haugen, Robert Holloman, Brandon Travis, Joey Blazina, Nicole Sexton and Scott Rich attended leadership camp in Hardinsburg.



These seven members of the Crittenden County Lions Club represented a portion of the officers installed 50 years ago this week. Pictured (front from left) were Harley Haegelin, president; Doug Mullins, Lion tamer; Roger Linzy, 3rd vice president; (back) Jack Easley, 2nd vice president; Mike Hamilton, tail twister; R. C. Hamilton, director and Tom Teer, director. Not pictured were James Johnson, 1st vice president; Dr. Howard Mathis, secretary-treasurer; and directors Nolan Rohrer and Gareth Hardin.

50 YEARS AGO

July 10, 1975

■ The Marion City Council voted to paint a 12-foot tall red, white and blue flag on the side of Marion City Hall at East Bellville Street. The design was drafted by Mike Brum.

■ Officers of the Crittenden County Lions Club installed for the coming year were Harley Haegelin, president; Doug Mullins, Lion tamer; Rogert Linzy, third vice president; Jack Easley, second vice president; Mike Hamilton, tail twister; R.C. Hamilton, director; Tom Teer, director; James Johnson, first vice president; Dr. Howard Mathis, secretary/treasurer; and Nolan Rohrer and Gareth Hardin, directors.

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

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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One nation, under God

This week Americans will celebrate the beginning of our nation's 250th year. July 4, 2026, and the weeks leading up to it will be an occasion for great celebration. It is amazing that our Constitution and Bill of Rights still hold after nearly two and a half centuries. The republic has been threatened from without and within. We have made horrendous mistakes and participated in violence to other nations that embarrass us today. We have been slow to recognize the humanity of all people. And yet, those documents contain within them the seeds of the progress that we have seen.

The power and saving grace of the United States is our ability to be able to look in the mirror and honestly assess ourselves. We are and have always been a forward-looking nation that has given hope to other nations. We have produced countless heroes of all ethnicities and social ranks. We have been called to account by presidents and slaves. We have had the freedom to write and publish freely. We have been led to change by historians, journalists, scientists, theologians, activists, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and politicians. The journey



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

will continue to be messy, and we will continue to argue and fuss as nearly 350,000,000 people from every nation attempt to keep balance and remain strong enough to have the freedom to argue amongst ourselves. I believe our best days are ahead. It is an American trait to be optimistic and hopeful.

On June 14, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill that added "under God" to the pledge of allegiance. Here is his statement.

"From This Day Forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than to contemplate this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning."

"Especially is this meaningful as we regard today's world. Over the globe, mankind has been cruelly torn by violence and brutality and, by the millions, deadened in mind and soul by a materialistic philosophy of life. Man everywhere is appalled by the prospect of atomic war. In this somber setting, this law

and its effects today have profound meaning. In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war."

The context of this law is what is known as the "Second Red Scare." This was in the years immediately following WWII. The Korean War had ended the previous year and Senator Joseph McCarthy was nearing the end of his obsessive search for communist sympathizers. In this context "under God" was a statement against the godless communists, Soviets, and their allies and sympathizers. There were those who could opt out of saying the pledge, but the pressure was immense to conform.

Those powerful and inspiring words "under God" have been controversial from time to time. The context of when and why they were added has often been forgotten. They have been anachronistically applied to the 175 years or so prior to their being added. (The original pledge was not written until 1892.) There is no doubt that a nation "under God" is better than one that is not. However, those words have been used to accuse and bully others at times.

Perhaps there is another way to look at these words in which we could rethink and reform them into a more Christian con-

text. These words "under God" may be applied to any nation on earth. It is an acknowledgement rather than a test of fealty.

Psalm 33:8-12 says, "Let all the earth fear the LORD, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nought; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"

Believers in the God of the Bible understand that every human being, every family, clan, tribe and nation are under God. Recognizing this takes pressure off those of us who think it is up to us to see that it is realized. It will be realized sooner if we learn to be as God would have us to be rather than seeing to it that everyone else is. Remember: believers are dual citizens of God's kingdom (which takes precedent and crosses all boundaries) and of the nation in which they are born or naturalized.

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.

Jesus works on behalf of all who come to Him

Question: My mother was diagnosed with fourth stage colon cancer and given six months to live. I was devastated. I earnestly prayed for her to be healed, but she died seven months later. My faith in God was shattered. Why didn't God heal my mother?

Answer: A royal official's son was ill in Capernaum. He came to Jesus in Galilee and pleaded for Him to heal his son. "Come down before my boy dies." "Go,"

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

Jesus told him, "Your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed. On his way home, his servants met him saying that his boy was alive. He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." The father realized

this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live," (John. 4:46-53). Certainly, God has the power to heal.

I don't know why God didn't heal your mother. I know you wanted to keep her with you, but God doesn't heal everyone we pray for. His ways are beyond our understanding.

God's healing of your mother may have been an ultimate healing. He may have taken her through

death to heaven where there is no more pain, sickness or parting. Heaven is a glorious place, where believers in Jesus will spend eternity with God. And, if you are believers, you will be united with her throughout eternity.

We shouldn't base our faith on the hope for a miracle. The beloved pastor, Adrian Rogers, used to often say, "Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus."

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.

Come join us at Marion Second Baptist for VBS fun!

FAITH ON THE FARM

Music Worship

Crafts Food

6-8 p.m. Monday, July 14 through Wednesday, July 16 Grades K-6

730 E. Depot St., Marion

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WORSHIP

with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

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

St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

175 Mexico Rd.
(270) 965-4059
MexicoBaptist.org
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Morgan Smith
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
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 Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

Marion Baptist Church

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

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

Marion Church of God

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

PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.
School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future

Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

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

Frances Community Church

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

Hurricane Church

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

Unity General Baptist Church

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

Marion Church of Christ

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



Moore Business Forms, Roger's Mi-Marker Co., and Freeman's Stave Mill helped get Marion and Crittenden County back on the road to recovery after the devastating loss of spar mill productions.



Marion fights off threat of economic depression

This interesting article appeared in The Evansville Courier and Press, March 11, 1956.

The gloomy threat of economic depression which has hung over Marion since spar mining started becoming unprofitable is being slowly, but surely, dispersed.

The reason is a citizenry which refuses to admit defeat; people who stubbornly continue to make Marion their home although they could do better, financially, elsewhere and sometimes at a cost of long daily commutes to and from jobs in Evansville, Paducah and other distant towns.

The lean years were long ones during which all financial matters were handled cautiously. Then, little by little, this Crittenden County seat began to regain a foothold on the economic ladder.

Hope for the future

There is still no one particular phase of Marion's economic recovery which stands out about all others. Rather, it has been a series of comparatively achievements. But the recovery has reached the point of boosting the morale of the town.

Merchants are spending money on long-needed alternation, redecoration and repair. They are replenishing and bringing up to date depleted stocks. Some, like Crittenden Motor Co., are building completely new quarters.

A general air of optimism is evident in places where only recently caution and near-defeatism reigned.

Mi-Marker Company

The Crittenden Motor Co. project is an example of the spirit which has kept Marion going. According to John H. Williams, manager of the firm, the company's new building will cost about \$30,000.

The motor firm hopes to move into its new quarters by June 1. The move will make way for the expansion of Emmett Rogers' marker manufacturing operation, a small business Rogers started to help boost Marion's failing economy. (Rogers' Mi-Marker Company was located where H & R Block used to be on N. Main St., but once was

Crittenden Motor Company.)

There have been bigger things, however. Although Shell Oil Company's deep oil test near here accomplished little in the way of finding oil, it made history and momentarily focused attention on this area. And, Shell Oil Co. spent an estimated million dollars-plus on leases for the test drilling.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

The Turning Point

Perhaps the turning point in Marion's struggle against economic ruin came, however, with the founding of the Moore Business Forms Co. branch plant four years ago.

The plant immediately provided employment for about 15 persons, but more important, it has steadily expanded until today is payroll lists 125 persons.

Two additions to the plant's original building have been necessitated by the firm's steady growth. One addition was built in 1952, the other in 1954.

Active citizens down here spotted our advertisement, and turned their information over to R. E. Rogers. He and F. D. Moody owned the old fluorspar mill property.

Rogers and Moody agreed to rebuild and alter the buildings to meet the needs of our industry – or any industry they could get in here.

Our company's investigation found a good labor supply and a very favorable attitude on the part of local business, they wanted industry.

Getman's company, termed the largest of its kind in the world, produces printed business forms. Mr. Getman says they have not been sorry for the decision to locate here. They found that Marion is a good town.

Rolling Out the Barrel (Staves)

Natural resources have once again been utilized to help this one-time spar mining center escape the throes of economic depression.

This time it's the white oak tree which is bringing needed dollars to Marion and vicinity.

The white oaks are being turned into barrel staves, mostly for use of the bourbon industry, at Leslie Freeman Stave and Heading Company's new mill near here.

Principal source of income from the oak tress is through the payroll distributed among the mill's 28 workers. But the timber is also bringing thousand of dollars to area farmers from whose land the white oak in taken.

Operation of the mill, which was started last August, is an interesting one. First capturing the eye is the staggering number of staves the tiny mill produces.

The major items of machinery in the mill are a double blade cutting saw, which cuts the stave bolts (timber from which staves are made) to the correct length, and the circular saw which slices the slightly curved staves from the bolts of white oak.

But these saws are kept busy almost all day every day by 28 men working two shifts. The result: Several acres literally covered by neatly stacked staves – more than three quarters of a million of them.

Mill Supt. Denver McCabe, RR3, Marion, hopes to make a million staves for the spring market.

The mill buys lumber from dealers who cut and deliver it; or standing timber is purchased by the company and it

sends its own men to do this cutting.

All staves classified as bourbon staves are to be sold to National Distributing co., Memphis, Tenn. A few staves classified as oil staves, for storage of food, oil vinegar, etc., are sold in Cleveland.

So far only five carloads of bourbon staves and six carloads of oil staves have been shipped from the new mill.

The company also has plants in Evansville, Ind., and St. Louis, Mo. (What a shame no known local pictures of this mill have ever been found, a part of our history lost to time.)

Memories of the stave mill

Tom Crider in June of 2024 shared some of his memories of the stave mill with me. I had asked him where it was located as I had never read anything about it.

The stave mill was located by the railroad tracks, across from where the tobacco factory used to be, its location was necessary for the staves to be loaded on the train cars. (at the end of East Gum St.)

Each stave weighed 100 pounds. Aprons would be made from old rubber tires because the edges of the staves were so rough they would tear your clothes.

Bolt ends would sell by pick-up truck loads for firewood because the wood didn't smoke much. Other leftover pieces would be sold for fence

posts.

Men would make \$1 an hour. Tom remembered some boys even quit school to work here.

Tom also remembered the huge piles of sawdust created from the making of the staves. In the winter when they would freeze, he and friends would use them as slides.

Tom remembered George or Oral Weldon that lived on the G. O. Weldon Road, off SR 135, sold one White oak tree off his farm for \$1,500.

Nice to read how local businessmen and citizens worked together to help built Marion and Crittenden County back after the hard times created by the loss of our spar mines.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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This well-rounded hunting tract offers a strong mix of habitat types and features ideal for whitetail and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 13+/- acres of open ground.

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HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS Dead period is over

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association's annual dead period ended on Wednesday after two weeks of no school-sponsored sports activity or communication with coaches.

SOFTBALL CCMS tryout change

Crittenden County Middle School softball tryouts have been moved to 5:30 p.m., on Monday and Tuesday, July 14-15 at the ball field at Marion-Crittenden County Park. The team will play starting in August.

FOOTBALL Rockets gearing up

Crittenden County High School's football team will begin preseason practice on July 10. It will be participating in 7v7 scrimmages at Murray State on July 18 and at Evansville on July 19. The team's first pre-season scrimmage will be Aug. 8 at Murray. Another pre-season game will be Aug. 15 at Madisonville and the regular-season opens Aug. 22 at Marshall County. The Rockets will again participate in the Class 2A First District, but the league makeup has changed. It will now include six teams: CCHS, Caldwell, Trigg, Ft. Campbell, Mayfield and Todd Central.

BASEBALL New Rocket MS team

Crittenden County is planning to field its first official school-sponsored middle school baseball team in the spring of 2026. The announcement was made last week following approval by the board of education. The program will be operated by the high school baseball coach Devin Belt. He said Trace Adams will be the middle school head coach. Adams had been coaching the freshman team, which will cease to exist. Plans are to have a tryout late this summer around the time when school starts back. That will allow for workouts and fundraising to begin. Players in grades 5-8 may try out for the team.

OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct 31
Coyote night, lights	May 16 - June 30
Coyote night, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sep 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Early wood duck	Sept 20-24
Teal	Sept 20-24
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
Deer Youth	Oct 11-12
Deer muzzleloader	Oct 18-19
Turkey shotgun	Oct 25-21
Woodcock	Oct 25 - Nov 7
Deer gun	Nov 8-23
Turkey crossbow	Nov 8 - Dec 31
Bobcat trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Squirrel	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Quail	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Rabbit	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Raccoon trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Woodcock	Nov 10 - Dec 10
Coyote trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Bobcat	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Nov 22
Duck	Nov 27 - Nov 30
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Dove	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31
Turkey shotgun	Dec 6 - Dec 12
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Deer muzzleloader	Dec 13-21
Dove	Dec 20 - Jan 11
Deer Free Youth	Dec 27-28
Crow	Jan 4 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Feb 14
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round



Cash Chappell, a veteran swimmer on the Stingrays, won his race in the 50m freestyle recently at Calvert City.



Bella Walston, a newcomer to the Stingrays, competes in backstroke during the recent Calvert City meet.



Reed Wall takes part in the 50m backstroke at the Calvert City meet.

Stingrays third at area championship

SWIM ROSTER

The 2025 Stingrays roster includes one of the largest teams in recent years, representing four different counties. The team is coached by Katie Beth James and Kim Vince.

- Lily Barlow
- Lauren Boone
- Sky Brown
- WillaBeth Brown
- Beau Byford
- Jordy Byford
- Cash Chappell
- Roger Childress
- Ari Conner
- Grier Crider
- Heaton Davis
- Lawson Davis
- Brendan Eichelberger
- Noah Eichelberger
- Owen Flahardy
- Isabelle Foster
- Paris Foster
- Zoe Foster
- Emma Guess
- Hunter Guess
- Sam Heppner
- Nora Hollis
- Noah Houser
- Beckett Hunt
- Bennett Hunt
- Abigail James
- Caroline James
- Caleigh Maddux
- Catelynn Maddux
- Knox McDonald
- Jed Orr
- Violet Rodriguez
- Hadley Sherer
- Nellie Singleton
- Boomer Snyder
- Cale Tabor
- Koleson Tinsley
- Zaylie Tinsley
- Jacob Townsend
- Charlotte Vince
- Russell Vince
- Reed Wall
- Bella Walston
- Nora Waters
- Maddie Weatherspoon
- Henley Zimmer



Russell Vince competes in the breaststroke at the Calvert City meet.

Results from Audubon event in Henderson

Marion Country Club Stingrays made quite a splash July 2, finishing third overall at the Audubon Area Swimming Championship, an invitational event featuring five teams from across the region. Competing alongside the Calvert City Orange Waves, Henderson County YMCA, Owensboro Heatwaves, and the Owensboro Country Club Thoroughbreds, the Stingrays brought home an impressive finish and several standout individual performances.

Grier Crider led the way with a dominant performance, finishing first overall in the Open Girls division, while Cash Chappell also claimed first overall in the 14U Boys division. The Stingrays also saw multiple top finishes across a variety of age groups and events, with swimmers continuing to improve and gain confidence as the season progresses.

This season, the Stingrays have picked up wins in away meets against both the Calvert City Orange Waves and the Murray Myst. They will return to the pool at home on July 15 for a rematch against Murray, followed by another home meet on July 22 against Calvert City.

Results Audubon Area Swimming Championship

- 8U Girls 25m Breaststroke Nellie Singleton 4th
- 8U Girls 25m Freestyle Nellie Singleton 3rd
- 8U Boys 25m Backstroke Heaton Davis 5th
- 8U Boys 25m Breaststroke Heaton Davis 3rd
- 8U Boys 25m Freestyle Knox McDonald 6th
- 12U Girls 50m Backstroke Lily Barlow 5th
- 12U Girls 50m Breaststroke Caroline James 4th
- 12U Girls 50m Butterfly Lily Barlow 2nd
- 12U Girls 50m Freestyle Lily Barlow 3rd
- 12U Boys 50m Butterfly Russell Vince 1st

- 12U Boys 50m Freestyle Russell Vince 4th
- 14U Girls 50m Backstroke Nora Hollis 2nd, Bella Walston 4th
- 14U Girls 50m Breaststroke Bella Walston 2nd
- 14U Girls 50m Butterfly Nora Hollis 1st
- 14U Girls 50m Freestyle Nora Hollis, 3rd, Bella Walston 4th
- 14U Boys 50m Backstroke Cash Chappell 1st
- 14U Boys 50m Breaststroke Cash Chappell 1st, Jacob Townsend 3rd
- 14U Boys 50m Butterfly Jacob Townsend 1st
- 14U Boys 50m Freestyle Cash Chappell 1st, Jacob Townsend 3rd
- Open Girls 50m Breaststroke Grier Crider 1st, Abigail James 2nd
- Open Girls 50m Freestyle Grier Crider 1st
- Open Girls 50m IM Grier Crider 1st
- Open Boys 50m Freestyle Cale Tabor 6th
- Open Boys 50m Breaststroke 4th
- 12U Girls Medley Relay 3rd (Lily Barlow, Caroline James, Nellie Singleton, Charlotte Vince)
- Open Girls Medley Relay 1st (Grier Crider, Nora Hollis, Abigail James, Bella Walston)
- Open Boys Medley Relay 2nd (Cash Chappell, Cale Tabor, Jacob Townsend, Russell Vince)
- 12U Girls Freestyle Relay 3rd (Lily Barlow, Caroline James, Nellie Singleton, Charlotte Vince)
- 12U Boys Freestyle Relay 3rd (Heaton Davis, Owen Flahardy, Knox McDonald, Russell Vince)
- Open Girls Freestyle Relay 1st (Grier Crider, Nora Hollis, Abigail James, Bella Walston)
- Open Boys Freestyle Relay 2nd (Cash Chappell, Cale Tabor, Jacob Townsend, Russell Vince)

Help sought for summer turkey brood survey

Kentucky's native wild turkeys are spending their summer days eating, moving and raising their recently hatched poults. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources asks the public to be on the lookout for turkeys as they move around and share their observations to help biologists better understand and manage wild turkey populations in the state.

"Monitoring our turkey flock for its long-term conservation depends on teamwork," said Zak Danks, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Wild Turkey Program coordinator. "Fish and Wildlife staff can't be everywhere all at once. That's where hunters and wildlife enthusiasts across the state can really help, reporting turkey sightings to our survey."

To report sightings of wild turkeys during the survey window, now through Aug. 31, visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Summer Turkey Brood Survey webpage, or enter the key words "turkey survey" in the search bar on the agency's website (fw.ky.gov) to access



Three hens and nine poults make their way down a rural Crittenden County roadway.

the online survey portal, link to the mobile survey app or download a printable form that can be mailed or emailed to the department. Data collected through this survey help the department to better understand turkey population trends over time.

"An easy-to-use mobile phone app and website make participating in the survey easy," Danks said. "I've compiled thousands of turkey observations reported by interested citizens and staff into a statewide index that provides a glimpse into the summer's reproductive

success, which is important to the sustainability of the wild turkey population."

Hunters across the southeastern U.S. have reported seeing fewer turkeys in recent years. State fish and wildlife agencies are conducting scientific research to shed more light on the status of turkey populations. Turkey observation data gained through the public survey are used in conjunction with research findings, making this citizen-science data set vital for long-term conservation.



Bill Cunningham makes a point during remarks at last week’s ceremony in Kuttawa. Cunningham periodically writes a personal column that appears in The Press and other area newspapers.



More than 100 attended the hour-long ceremony on the shore of Lake Barkley last Thursday, on a hot summer afternoon.

Justice Cunningham honored with his own day, street

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

With Lake Barkley lapping gently at the shore behind them and the sun beating down with its typical early July rays, more than 100 folks gathered last week in Kuttawa to honor one of western Kentucky’s most distinguished sons, Justice Bill Cunningham.

The town officially declared July 3 as “Bill Cunningham Day,” and a newly named street at Silver Cliff Park, Justice Bill Cunningham Court, now bears his name, a lasting marker to a man who carried the values of rural Kentucky into courtrooms and communities across the Commonwealth.

Dressed in his trademark seersucker suit, the retired Kentucky Supreme Court Justice looked every bit the Southern gentleman statesman as speakers took turns praising his life’s work. Cunningham, born in 1944 on Water Street in nearby Eddyville, has worn many hats. He was a soldier, prosecutor, judge, historian and author, and all agreed his most defining trait has been a



Bill Cunningham reacts alongside Skylia Grief, a city council woman and former deputy warden at the Kentucky State Penitentiary, after the new street sign was unveiled, marking Justice Bill Cunningham Court inside the park at old Kuttawa.

steady moral compass.

“He’s a champion who has fought valiantly for truth and justice,” said Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Christopher Shea Nickell, who now holds the same First District seat Cunningham once occupied.

“Curiosity, common sense, honesty and courage,” Nickell said were cornerstones of Cunningham’s life.

Nickell called the former judge and justice’s career an

inspiration not just through the five books he’s authored, but in the example he set as a public servant.

“Though he traveled far, he never really left home,” Nickell said, telling the history of Kuttawa, which was a Cherokee town and the name means something akin to beautiful city in the woods.

Former Commonwealth’s Attorney G.L. Ovey recalled many courtroom days with Cunningham, including some memo-

rable moments in the old, dimly lit Smithland courthouse.

“In your court, the pauper and the king received the same justice. That’s why he’s respected by all, because he respects all,” Ovey said of Cunningham.

Ovey called Cunningham “an outstanding author, humanitarian and an outstanding human being,” guided always by honor and integrity.

His son, Josh Cunningham, offered a more intimate portrait.

“His mornings begin at 5 a.m.,” Josh said, “thirty minutes with the Bible, then Shakespeare or poetry to prime his mind.” Then he would write personal notes or letters to people, just to show he cared.

Cunningham himself reminded the crowd that real honor lies not in accolades, but in action.

“We must honor those who do good for goodness’ sake,” he said. “There are a lot of folks in this county who do so much, this day is also for them.”

Cunningham pointed to a number of new historical markers nearby the podium in-

side the park. He had intended for this day to be an unveiling of sorts for those markers and he praised those who helped develop them.

Others who spoke at the celebration were Kuttawa Mayor Barbara Campbell, former state prison warden Tom Simpson and city council member Skylia Grief.

Justice Cunningham’s long walk through Kentucky law began as Eddyville city attorney and spanned decades, from commonwealth’s attorney to circuit judge, culminating with his election to the state’s highest court in 2006. He retired in 2019 after a 40-year judicial career.

Cunningham still writes a personal column that periodically appears in The Crittenden Press and other area newspapers.

Now 80, a veteran, family man and writer with deep roots in Lyon County, Cunningham’s legacy stands tall, not only on paper or in public record, but now also on a quiet lane beside the lake, in the town that shaped him.



Tudaloo

Tolu showed out again last weekend during its annual Independence Day weekend fireworks show and community event. Organizers estimated more than 2,500 people attended, with throngs of folks showing up by 5 p.m., to enjoy food and fellowship. Pictured above is the crowd assembled just before sundown. At far right is Jacob Taylor of Barlow, Ky., who was in Tolu visiting his father and showing off his patriotism. At near right, are more than dozen youngsters packed on the merry-go-round which seemingly spun continuously with packed seats until well after dark.



Cooling Down

Lifeguard Aliyah Maraman takes a cool sip and keeps a close eye on kiddos in the Marion Country Club pool on a hot day late last week. The pool is open to the public from noon until 5 p.m., on Sundays and from 11 a.m., to 6 p.m., on Tuesdays.



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 - J-Tunez DJ Entertainment Service
 - Sherriff Evan Head and Deputies
 - Tolu Fireworks Crew
 - And all the individuals and businesses who volunteer and donate to help make this event possible!!

TOLU FIREWORKS 2025



To make way for a planned multi-million-dollar expansion project, Livingston Hospital last week demolished the Chittenden Building in Salem, which had been used for many purposes over the years, including clinic space and administrative offices.

FLOWER

Continued from page 1

seasons.
Hodge also plans to refresh the gift shop side of the business, adding new Kentucky-themed merchandise while keeping popular items like candles and handcrafted wreaths.

Louise's Flowers was founded in 1975 by Louise York, who opened the original shop next door before moving to the current, larger location. Through two generations, the business built a reputation not just for flowers, but for service, including cemetery deliveries for out-of-town fam-

ilies and annual holiday arrangements for local nursing home residents.

Hodge wants to carry that mission forward, with an open house planned in September to showcase new merchandise and let customers reconnect with the shop, and with Teena.



Fire broke out shortly after 3 p.m., Friday at a home at 409 West Depot Street in Marion. Marion Fire Department with mutual aid from Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department responded. Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours. Marion Fire Chief Red Howton said the fire started on or around the porch, but the cause is unknown at this time. The rest of the home suffered heavy smoke damage. The homeowner, Donna Gilley, and other individuals there at the time of the blaze, were all able to safely evacuate.



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Kentucky Dept of Ag asking for help designing new plate

Kentucky Department of Agriculture has announced the upcoming release of a new specialty license plate aimed at promoting and supporting the state's agriculture industry while directly benefiting youth organizations.

Friends of Kentucky Agriculture plate, set to be available in early 2026, will be open for purchase by all Kentucky drivers, not just production farmers. Proceeds will go toward supporting Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA and the Kentucky Proud program. The new plate will complement, not replace, the existing farm plate, which remains available to those actively involved in crop, livestock or dairy production.

The Department is also launching a design contest for the new plate, en-



couraging local youth participation.

Active members of Kentucky 4-H and FFA are invited to submit original artwork that showcases the spirit of agriculture in the commonwealth. The contest opened June 1 and will close Sept. 5. One winning design will be chosen, and the stu-

dent responsible will receive a \$500 award. The winning entry will be announced by Oct. 1.

Design specifications, contest rules, and logos are available through the Department of Agriculture. Full details available at kyagr.com/agfriends.



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