

Cherry Highway will be christened Tuesday

A ceremonial unveiling of the Mike Cherry Memorial Highway is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, at the Crittenden County Office Complex, 200 Industrial Drive. Hosted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the public event will recognize the renaming of the new US 641 highway in honor of the late Mike Cherry, a longtime public servant. Light refreshments will be provided by the Crittenden County Judge-Executive's Office.

Riverview Park dock is now back in water

The seasonal boat dock at Riverview Park, located at the former Dam 50 site on the Ohio River in northern Crittenden County, was installed last week after high water levels had delayed its placement. Crews were finally able to anchor the floating dock after river levels dropped below the mooring hardware. Access to the park remains a challenge. The bridge on the main road leading into Riverview Park is still out, forcing campers and day users to reach the site via backroads over Cotton Patch Hill. The detour has significantly reduced traffic to the park's campground this summer. Officials now say the bridge is not expected to be reopened until November.

\$30K in unpaid tax bills are being sold

About \$30,000 in delinquent property tax bills were scheduled to be sold Wednesday at a public auction held at the Crittenden County Office Complex. Four individuals or agencies registered to participate in the tax sale, which allows buyers to purchase tax liens on delinquent properties. If the original property owners fail to repay the tax debt with interest, lien holders may eventually initiate legal proceedings to force the sale of the property.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 24 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, July 28 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Livingston Fiscal Court meets at 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 29 at the county office complex in Smithland.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court meets at 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 29 at the courthouse.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 29 at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 31 at the library.

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Drug Crimes Most Prevalent in Area

CRIME		Population	Assault	Burglary	Narcotics	Homicide	Theft	Robbery	Fraud	Vandalism	Sex Offense	2024
	Caldwell	12,437	153	36	196	3	207	1	48	40	6	
	Crittenden	8,940	84	21	123	0	34	0	7	22	1	
	Livingston	8,740	98	9	169	0	50	1	7	28	6	
	Lyon	9,363	87	18	143	0	36	0	13	15	1	
	Union	13,110	126	11	177	0	44	0	5	17	7	
	Webster	12,700	93	13	198	0	26	0	8	10	23	
	Source: Kentucky State Police 2024 Crime Report											

Source: Kentucky State Police 2024 Crime Report

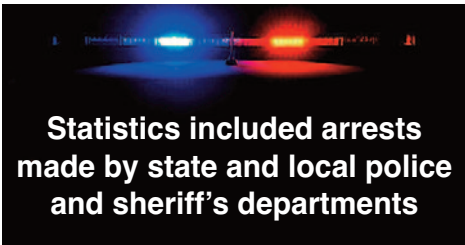
Crittenden ranks high for narcotics crime, lower on most others

STAFF REPORT

As Kentucky celebrates a significant drop in serious crime statewide, per capita data from the Kentucky State Police 2024 Crime Report indicates that drug crime is by far the most prevalent while violent crime remains relatively low.

Gov. Andy Beshear recently announced that serious crime in the commonwealth fell by 7.66% in 2024, including an 11.55% drop in drug-related offenses, a 12.7% decrease in homicides and a 13.78% decline in sex offenses. Those gains are credited in part to aggressive statewide enforcement initiatives, including Operation Summer Heat 2.0, which led to 197 arrests and removed more than \$640,000 worth of drugs from Kentucky streets a couple of weeks ago.

However, in Crittenden and surrounding counties, crime trends show areas of concern, particularly involving narcotics. With 123 drug-related offenses reported in 2024, Crittenden's per capita rate reached 137.6 per 10,000 residents, making it one of the highest among contiguous counties. Webster, Caldwell and Livingston counties reported higher narcotics rates per capita



than Crittenden.

While Crittenden's narcotics rate was above average, other crime categories show it nearer to the middle or lower end of the six-county area. Assaults in Crittenden County stood at 94.0 per 10,000 residents, lower than Caldwell's 123.1 and Livingston's 112.1, but higher than Webster's 73.2. Burglary and vandalism rates in Crittenden, which are 23.5 and 24.6 respectively, also placed the county in the midrange of the six-county comparison. Theft in Crittenden came in at 38.0 per 10,000 people, well below Caldwell's 166.5, but higher than Webster's 20.5.

The 2024 Crime Report includes arrests made by state and local police, sheriff's departments and other special purpose law enforcement agencies.

Only Caldwell County reported homi-

cides in 2024. Crittenden, Lyon, Union and Webster reported no robberies. In the area of sex offenses, Crittenden recorded a rate of 1.1 per 10,000 residents, placing it among the lowest.

In contrast, Webster County, despite its lower rates for theft and vandalism, showed the region's highest per capita rate of sex offenses at 18.1, and one of the highest drug offense rates at 155.9 per 10,000 residents.

Caldwell County consistently led the region in high crime rates across multiple categories. It reported the highest rates in assault, theft, fraud and vandalism, and one of the highest in narcotics. Livingston County, with the lowest burglary rate and no homicides, stands out as one of the least crime-affected counties per capita, despite relatively high narcotics activity.

For Crittenden, the data suggest that while violent crime remains low, drug offenses continue to weigh heavily on public safety. Methamphetamine has for last few years dominated felony drug offenses in the county. Meth became more prevalent following a crackdown on opiates. Fentanyl is another drug that is becoming alarmingly prevalent in the area. Read more on page 10.



Lines of Steel

Katie Keene, a local actress who has appeared in several streaming movies on Netflix and other platforms, leads a cast of talented women in the upcoming production of Steel Magnolias this September at Fohs Hall. Rehearsing late last week were (from left) Keene, Brittney Meredith-Miller, Trish Gage, Holley Curnel, Ali Hollis and Terra Haire. Tickets went on sale last weekend and, as expected, have sold rapidly. Dinner tickets sold out in about a day, but show-only tickets are still available. For tickets, visit the Community Arts Foundation's Facebook page or CommunityArts-Foundation.org. See page 4 for more ticket information.

City moves to make UTVs street legal

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council is considering a new ordinance that would allow properly equipped and licensed utility vehicles, such as side-by-sides, certain ATVs, UTVs, and minitrucks, to operate legally on city streets.

Introduced Monday, the proposed ordinance aligns the city with a recently enacted state law, which authorizes municipalities to allow these types of special purpose vehicles on public roads. The state law took effect June 27 and so far one vehicle has been licensed in the county. Other nearby counties have enacted similar ordinances, but so far Crittenden County has shown no appetite to adopt anything countywide.

If passed, the ordinance will permit these vehicles on most streets within Marion, unless otherwise posted. However, it comes with several restrictions and safety requirements. Vehicles must be outfitted with functional headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, mirrors, a horn and seatbelts. They must also have a speedometer, appro-

MARION CITY COUNCIL

propriate tires, and either a windshield or protective eyewear for the operator. Valid insurance and registration are also mandatory.

The ordinance prohibits special purpose vehicles from traveling more than 20 miles on roads marked with a centerline and bans them from controlled-access highways like interstates and parkways. Additionally, minitrucks will not be allowed on federally constructed highways. Enforcement of these provisions will fall to local authorities.

Councilwoman Nikki Conger raised safety concerns during discussion, specifically suggesting restrictions similar to those imposed on golf carts, such as limited hours of operation and prohibitions on specific streets like West Gum, West Bellville, and Main Street during school and traffic rush hours. Legal counsel affirmed that such provisions could be added and will address that in the ordinance before final pas-

sage.

While the city already permits golf carts under certain conditions, legal advisor Bart Frazer emphasized that street-legal status under state law requires a higher level of safety compliance not applicable to golf carts.

While Crittenden County Fiscal Court has not shown interest in passing a similar ordinance for county roads, Frazer said there are currently some narrow options for those vehicles to operate on county roads, particularly for farmers or landowners.

The ordinance will take effect once it receives final approval and publication, which could be a month or more.

In other similar action, the council approved amending its existing golf cart regulations to enhance safety for operators and passengers. The updated rules require all motorized golf carts used on city streets to be equipped with rearview mirrors, lights (including brake lights,

Deaths

Kelley

Robert Alan Kelley, 87, of Smithland, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 20, 2025 surrounded by the love and comfort of his devoted family.

Born Sept. 29, 1937, in Clifton, Tenn., he was the cherished son of the late Myrtle Bunch and Ebb Kelley.



In the 1950s, he made Kentucky his home, a place where he would lay down deep roots, build a life of purpose and begin a legacy of love and hard work that now stretches five generations.

Affectionately known as “Bob” by many, Kelley began a lifelong career in the limestone industry, dedicating decades of service at Reed's Crushed Stone from the 1960s until his retirement in 1995. More than just an employee, Kelley was a cornerstone of the operation, known for helping many Livingston County residents find stable employment – jobs that supported local families across generations.

It was in Livingston County where he met and married the love of his life, Jo Rudd Kelley. Their marriage of 63 years was a true testament to partnership, faith and devotion. Together, they raised a family filled with laughter, strength and enduring values.

In addition to his career, Kelley was a passionate cattle farmer, skilled outdoorsman and an avid hunter and crappie fisherman. After retirement, he and Jo spent their winters at their beloved Florida home, where Kelly could be found fishing nearly every day – doing what brought him peace and joy.

A member of Smithland United Methodist Church, Kelley was a man of deep faith and unwavering principles. He lived by a code of hard work, quiet strength, humility and love for family above all else. His life's work extended far beyond his career – he was a builder of people, a provider of opportunity and a steady hand through every season.

Surviving are a daughter, Bobbie (Allen) Smith of Smithland; a son, David (Loretta) Kelley, of Smithland; four grandchildren Bridget (Brent) Houston of Henderson, Julie Gavin of Henderson, Hannah (Corey) Thacker of Dallas, Texas and Jason Bryant of Ellington, Mo.; his beloved sister, Sue Rudd of Smithland; 15 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren; his loving caregiver, now family, Leonard Leslie; and his caregiver, running and fishing buddy, Candice Draper – each a shining reflection of his legacy.

He was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Jo Rudd Kelley; precious granddaughter, Tanya Jo Smith; three brothers, Hillard Kelley, Billy Kelley, and Terry Kelley; and his loving parents.

Services were Wednesday, July 23 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Scott's Chapel Cemetery.

To know Robert Alan Kelley was to know quiet strength, fierce loyalty, gentle wisdom, and unconditional love. His hands shaped more than stone—they shaped a family and a future. His presence will be missed beyond measure, but the echoes of his life's work will continue for generations to come.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

Paid Obituary

Weaver

James Norman “Big Norm” Weaver, 79, of Bullitt County, died Friday, July 18, 2025, at his home after a battle with cancer.

A native of Bowling Green, he was born Oct. 30, 1945 to the late Marion Dean and Olon Weaver.

A standout athlete from the Settle community of Allen County, Weaver led Allen County High School to the 1964 KHSAA Sweet 16 semifinals and earned a scholarship to the University of Kentucky before transferring to Western Kentucky University. At WKU, he played on a nationally ranked top-10 team and was named to multiple All-State and All-Star squads. He was later inducted into the athletic halls of fame at Bullitt Central, Edmonson County and Allen County-Scottsville.

Weaver coached basketball at Crittenden County High School from 1980 to 1982 with a 19-31 record, and over his career also taught or coached at Alvaton, Dawson Springs, Bullitt Central, Edmonson County and Butler County. He later served as a school administrator, including as principal in Whitley and Green counties, and superintendent in Allen County.

In retirement, he enjoyed time with family and was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Surviving are his wife, Angela Harman Weaver; a son, James Shannon (Mindy) Weaver; a brother, Murl (Trudy) Weaver; two granddaughters, Layne (Logan) Johnson and Avery Weaver; a grandson, James Gray Weaver; a great-granddaughter, Kennedy Ann Marie Johnson; a sister-in-law, Rebecca (Cletus) Donaldson; and many extended family, friends, former players, and fans.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Don Weaver; and a nephew, Donald Warren Weaver.

Services are Thursday,

July 24 at T. W. Crow & Son Funeral Home in Scottsville with burial at Crescent Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Kentucky Humane Society.

McDowell

Sandra Sue McDowell, 79, of Marion, died Friday, July 18, 2025 at Livingston Hospital.

Surviving are her husband of 62 years, Hershel McDowell; a son, Wayne (Rena) McDowell; a daughter, Samantha (David) Ogletree; a bonus daughter, Rose (Jerome) Dempsey; five grandchildren; JW, Mary Sue, Dalton, Quaid, Haley and Mallory; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Margie Gillespie; and two sisters, Carolyn Hinchee and Helen McConnell.

Graveside services were Sunday July 20 at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Carter

Gloria Jean Carter, 63, of Sturgis, died Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at Salem



Springlake Health & Rehab. She was a former member of Rosebud Baptist Church and had been the dietary supervisor at Crittenden Health & Rehab.

Surviving are her husband, John Carter of Sturgis; three sisters, Regina Mosley of Sturgis, Kristy Poe of Sturgis and Charmaine Russelburg of Marion; and 10 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bobby Walker and Betty Sutton Walker; and a sister, Charlotte Walker.

Services were Wednesday, July 23 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Baker Cemetery.

Tabor

Linda Lee Tabor, 86, of Marion, died Tuesday, July 15, 2025. She was a lifelong member of Crayne Community Church where she devoted much of her time and loved her church family very much.



Surviving are her children, Stacy Tabor Hernandez of Marion and Steve Tabor of Eddyville; three grandchildren, Jake Tabor, Josh Tabor and Cameron Hernandez; and several beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband and love of her life, Denver Tabor; her parents, Vernon "Bud" and Irene Kirk; and two brothers, Jim Kirk and Kenny Kirk.

Services were Sunday July 20 at Gilbert Fu-

neral Home with burial in Caldwell Springs Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Caldwell Springs Cemetery,

Little

Jewel Reed Little, 83, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at St. Francis Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Mo.



He was born in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 4, 1941 to the late Louie and Valeria Little. He graduated from Crittenden County High School in May 1960. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in July 1960. On June 25, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Shelby Simpson Little, who preceded him in death on June 10, 2025.

He enjoyed watching Kentucky Wildcats Basketball and old TV westerns. He also loved to read Louis L'Amour books and he loved anything John Deere.

Surviving are a son, Charles “Chuck” Little from East Prairie, Mo.; a daughter-in-law, Denise Little of East Prairie, Mo., a precious granddaughter Decinda (Shane) Howell of Charleston, Mo.; and a great-grandson, Tarek Howell; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Betty Little of Marion; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Richard Alan Little; a brother and sister-in-law, Dennis and Bonnie Little and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Walter and Debbie Simpson.

He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion. Upon moving to East Prairie, he attended Full Gospel Church. Services were Saturday, July 19 at Gilbert Funeral Home with Bro. Kirk Greenfield, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, and pastor Eric McGruder of Full Gospel Church officiating.

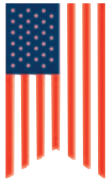
Paid obituary

Little

Lester Theodore Thomas, Sr., 89, of Princeton, died Sunday, July 6, 2025 at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.



Thomas was a graduate of St. Bernice High School and participated for the varsity basketball team. His love for basketball lasted all of his life and manifested every March which was his favorite time of



year, or certainly appeared to be by all that knew him. He helped establish a thriving bus ministry in the early 1970s while serving at First Baptist Church in McHenry, Ill. He also helped establish a Christian school (Fox Valley Christian School) at the same church. He loved to engage in the collectibles market and loved music, both by listening and playing guitar. He served honorably in the United States Army and loved God, his country, and family.

Surviving are two sons, Lester Thomas, Jr. of Alton, Mo., and Jeffrey Thomas of Chicago, Ill.; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Majorie Mae Thomas in 1997; and his second wife, Nita Thomas; four siblings, Mary Widamene, Ilene York, Wayne Thomas, Sylvester Thomas; and his parents, Ralph Washington and Jennie Alice (Culberson) Thomas.

Graveside services are at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 19 at Cedar Grove Cemetery, with burial to follow.

Friends may visit with the family from 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 19 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Paid obituary

Trimble

Martha Sue Trimble, 86, of Marion, formerly of Murray, died Sunday, July 20, 2025.

She was born Sept. 22, 1938 in Calloway County to the late Troy Cleve Parrish and Eula Grace Burkeen Parrish. She retired from Fisher-Price Mattel, attended




the Palestine United Methodist Church and was a member of the Cave Springs General Baptist Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Sandra (Danny) Martin of Marion; a son, Steve (Beth) Trimble of Symsonia; a sister, Marilyn McKinney of Farmington; four grandchildren, Jason Martin, Corey Martin, Haley Trimble and Ethan Trimble; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Garlon Trimble; and a brother, Troy Jackson Parrish.

Services are at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 27 at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Murray with Bro. Heath Martin and Rev. Richard Burkeen officiating. Burial will follow in the Jeffery Cemetery. Visitation is from noon-3 p.m., at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may go to the Murray Gideons, P.O. Box 931, Murray, KY 42071.



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Jailer: Inmate availability stressing jail budget

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Detention Center ended Fiscal Year 2025 a few weeks ago in the red. It was the first time since 2018 the facility has posted a year-end deficit. County financial records show expenses outpaced revenues by \$241,659.

Despite a \$166,614 carryover from the previous year, the jail's total available funds of \$3,549,695 fell short of its \$3,791,354 in annual expenses. To close the gap and start the new budget year, the county transferred \$309,700 from its general fund, which included operational cash for FY26 that began July 1.

The decline in revenue was tied to several factors, Jailer Athena Perry Hayes said last week at a fiscal court meeting, including changes in state and federal inmate populations and temporary disruptions in program-based state reimbursements.

"It has been a bit of a perfect storm for jails across state," Hayes said. "There is a decreased number of inmates out there."

Those numbers are evident in state data. As of the first week of July, there were 7,055 state inmates housed in full-service county jails across Kentucky, down from 9,245 in 2022. Meanwhile, non-state inmates, including federal detainees, numbered 15,328 this year, up from 14,040 in 2024. Still, local revenue from those contracts dropped.

U.S. Corrections began sending more inmates to jails closer to Nashville earlier this year, Hayes said – an effort by Uncle Sam to cut travel costs and take advantage of lower per diem rates elsewhere. Crittenden's federal per diem recently increased, making it one of the highest in the area. Hayes said she does not expect the federal hold-back to continue long-term and anticipates inmate numbers will recover.

Federal inmate housing revenue at Crittenden averaged \$107,644.50 per month during the first half of calendar 2025, compared to

KENTUCKY Statewide Inmate Census First Week of July Each Year	
2025	
• 7,055	State inmates in county jails.
• 15,328	Non-state inmates in county jails (2,477 federal).
• 12,842	State prison population.
2024	
• 7,349	State inmates in county jails.
• 14,040	Non-state inmates in county jails (1,879 federal).
• 12,820	State prison population.
2023	
• 8,700	State inmates in county jails.
• 14,399	Non-state inmates in county jails (1,872 federal).
• 12,906	State prison population.
2022	
• 9,245	State inmates in county jails.
• 12,731	Non-state inmates in county jails (federal not reported).
• 13,108	State prison population.

\$116,235.25 in 2024. Transport fees also fell from a 2024 average of \$13,566.71 down to \$10,686.48. State inmate revenue has dropped to \$75,250.64 per month in calendar year 2025, down from \$81,220.16 the previous year.

State funding tied to inmate educational achievements also dried up toward the end of the fiscal year. Hayes said the jail lost payments for a couple of months when the state ran out of money to reimburse for certificate completions.

The decline in monthly income is reflected in broader revenue trends. Average monthly jail revenue is \$220,631.71 so far in 2025, down from \$234,709.79 in 2024 and \$230,436.09 in 2021. The lowest average in the past five years was in 2023 at \$208,736.23.

At the same time, the jail faced operational challenges. It was cited in a spring inspection for being overpopulated, Hayes said, one of several jails in western Kentucky currently over capacity. In early July, Crittenden was at 106% of rated capacity. Logan County topped the list at 143%.

Built in 2007 at a cost of \$7.6 million, the main jail is a 133-bed, full-ser-

FULL SERVICE KY COUNTY JAILS	
Here are population rates in western Kentucky's full-service county jails on first week of July 2025. The number is based on official bed capacity. Anything over 100% is technically overpopulated.	
Logan County	143%
Warren County	121%
McCracken County	120%
Henderson County	115%
Crittenden County	106%
Christian County	104%
Daviess County	104%
Ballard County	99%
Hopkins County	99%
Calloway County	95%
Todd County	88%
Muhlenberg County	77%
Fulton County	74%
Webster County	69%

vice facility. A Restricted Custody Center built in 2016 added space for 39 low-risk inmates.


Due to the budgetary shortfall, employees at the jail received only a 1% raise this year, compared to 2.9% for other county workers. The jail has eliminated four positions over the past two years to help manage costs, Hayes said.

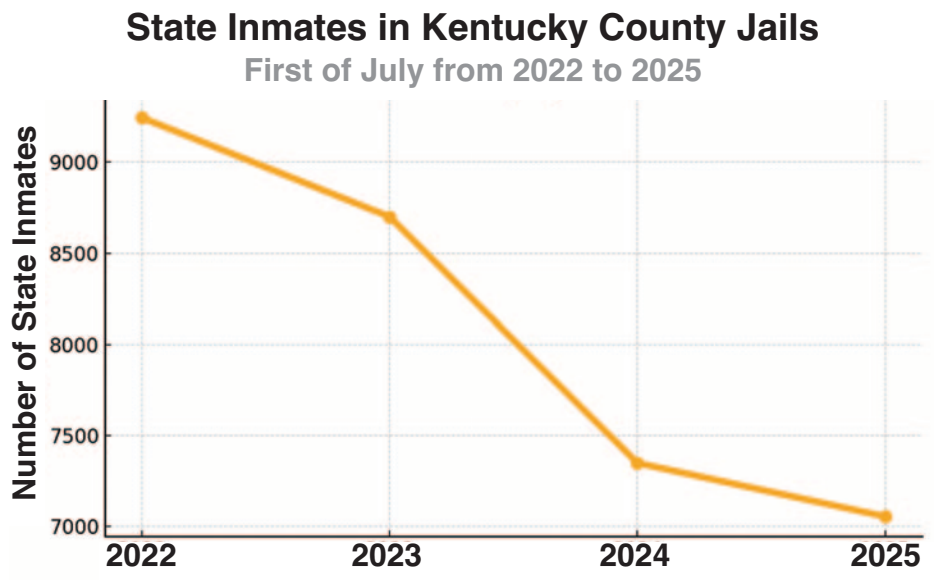
Legislative changes following the COVID-19 pandemic, the jailer explains, have shifted how corrections operates. Additionally, more offenders, particularly probation violators, are being sanctioned rather than reincarcerated if they're not deemed a safety risk, reducing inmate counts across the system.

"Corrections is shifting and changing with the times and it is affecting things," Hayes told the court. "The number of inmates in the system is lower."

Work crews under the jail's supervision have continued mowing duties around the county. Hayes said the crews are out as early as 6 a.m. to beat the heat and keep up with grass growth at Riverview Park and other locations ahead of the Crittenden County Fair. Rain has made that effort a challenge, she said.

Though the jail faces fiscal pressure, Hayes remains hopeful inmate housing figures, particularly at the federal level,

Crittenden County Detention Center				
	JAIL CENSUS	June 2025 Avg	May 2025 Avg	Monthly Average 2024
	State Inmates	75.6	69.1	75.38
	Federal Inmates	54.9	51.4	67.69
	Other County Inmates	26.5	26.7	21.82
	Crittenden County Inmates	12.6	13.9	19.86
DETENTION CENTER REPORT July 17, 2025	TOTAL INMATES	169.6	161.1	184.75
	Highest Daily Count	177	174	195.67
	Lowest Daily Count	168	151	178.75
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 \$40.00			
LAST MONTH CASH FLOW Total Receipts \$231,179.14 Disbursements \$316,614.21				
REVENUE	Last Month			
	State Housing Payments	\$80,151.12	\$75,698.28	\$81,220.16
	Federal Housing Payments	\$93,936.00	\$90,858.00	\$116,235.25
	Federal Transport Payments	\$7,002.30	\$9,284.70	\$13,566.71
	Lyon Co. Housing Payments	\$27,468.00	\$27,396.00	\$21,399.00
TOTAL HOUSING	Other County Housing Payments	\$1,160.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,802.17
	Weekend/Work Release	\$160.00	\$560	\$477.33
		\$209,877.42	\$205,956.98	\$234,709.79
ANALYSIS	Last Month			
	Cost of Crittenden Inmates	\$15,200.00	\$17,280.00	\$19,290.67
	Numbers of Co. Housing Days	380	432	602.83
	County Daily Housing Rate	\$40.00	\$40	\$32
	Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates	12.6	13.9	19.86



will rebound in the coming months, helping restore revenue stability.

During recent budget meetings, county leaders have pointed out the jail will need to spend less if inmate numbers continue to remain low. The county receives a per diem payment of \$35.34

for state inmates and \$57 for federal.

Jails almost have to operate beyond capacity to break even, based on historic trends across the state and particurly in Crittenden County. When census figures outpace beds, inmates are put on temporary cots

Magistrates taking slower steps on codifying process

Internet, board resignation & appointment on agenda

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court is considering a plan to codify all of its ordinances dating back to 1989, creating a streamlined and searchable reference database. County Attorney Bart Frazer spearheaded the initiative by securing an \$11,000 grant to digitize and publish the ordinances, mirroring a similar effort recently completed by the City of Marion.

No formal action was taken during the court's meeting last week, but the topic sparked considerable discussion. Frazer explained that codification would allow the county to better enforce some rules, such as those involving dogs at large, by clearly linking local policies to state statutes. However, some county officials expressed reservations about including state law references that do not align with local priorities.

"If you want to strike through things not specifically referenced in existing ordinances, you can," Frazer told magistrates, noting that the digital code would be updated annually at a cost to the county. "This document is not one to adopt and put on a shelf."

Sheriff Evan Head emphasized that a significant number of complaints his office receives involve dogs. He believes codification could give the county more authority.

"There are no teeth in trying to keep dogs off a neighbor's property," Head said. "People in the county know there are no repercussions. This would give us some teeth."

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom expressed concern that adopting a broadly codified version could unintentionally implement regulations that don't reflect current county law.

"I support it being stricken if it doesn't reference county ordinance," he said.

Newcom also warned that certain provisions in the proposed codification could impact agricultural practices.

Sheriff Head raised concerns about the enforceability of the county's current noise ordinance.

"There's a decibel number that we cannot measure," he said, noting that the lack of proper tools to gauge violations leaves law enforcement in a bind. He suggested the language be revised to make the ordinance enforceable.

Frazer acknowledged other inconsistencies. For instance, the county lacks an ordinance about roadside parking, something he said this new model would include.

"We need some assistance in this area," he said. "One big, beautiful ordinance."

Despite the appeal of an all-inclusive code book, county leaders signaled they will need more time to review individual components. Newcom stressed that any new ordinance needs to be put before the people before being enacted. He believes a blanket adoption of a broad codification ordinance is unacceptable.

Planning and zoning regulations are not included in the current version under considera-

tion.

The court plans to continue discussions in the near future. For now, the codification project remains in the study phase, with no vote taken on adoption.

In other business before the fiscal court last week, magistrates approved a request to extend a right-of-way contract that will allow TDS Telecom to place new internet panels on its current system. The improvements will enhance internet service for TDS customers.

•Pennyrile Area Development District is providing a drone to county emergency management divisions across the region. The county has three licensed pilots who will be able to operate the aircraft. They are Police Chief Bobby West, Policeman Jerry Parker and Constable Paul Beard.

•The county renewed its contract with a host for its website. The site, by law, must meet ADA requirements for the hearing and visually impaired. Cost is \$1,440 annually.

•The court accepted the resignation of Tony Travis from Crittenden-Livingston Water District's Board of Directors. A replacement will be named later to complete the term, which expires in 2028.

•Former Magistrate Dan Wood was appointed to the Marion-Crittenden County Ethics Board, joining two others already appointed to the panel by the City of Marion. Those are Susan Yarbrough and former Mayor Mickey Alexander.

Shift into Food Neutral

Choosing how we speak could benefit our bellies

The language you use when talking about food can affect your child's mental, emotional and physical health – and your own. Children pick up on things you say, sometimes before you even realize it. Foods are often described as "good" and "bad," or "healthy" and "unhealthy." But what determines which category a food belongs in?

Describing food as "good" or "healthy" comes with good intentions. Some foods are more nutrient-dense than others, meaning they are packed with nutrients that support our health. These nutrients include protein, carbohydrates, fat, fiber, vitamins, minerals and more. But there is more to food than just the nutrients it provides.

Food is linked with emotions. When we describe a food or type of food with a label like "bad" or "unhealthy," feelings of guilt and shame can arise when we eat those foods. Hearing foods described with negative words may cause someone to feel ashamed or embarrassed for eating them. Rather than pitting one food against another or simplifying food to be just one or the other, try taking a neutral approach to food.

Removing moral judgment from food and food

choices is known as food neutrality. A neutral approach encourages people to choose foods that meet their needs. Taking this approach can help you and your child tap into the messages the body sends regarding food.

To practice this neutral approach, take it one step at a time. It may require some extra "thinking before speaking" at the beginning, but over time the shift will come more naturally. Here are a few examples of ways you can shift your food language:

Instead of saying "I don't need that" or "I can't eat that" when offered dessert, try saying, "I am full from dinner." Or simply eat it, enjoy it and don't say anything at all.

Avoid encouraging children to eat foods because they are "good" for them or labeling foods as "bad." Instead, encourage them to eat protein to help build muscles, fruits and vegetables for fiber, vitamins and minerals, and drink milk for strong bones.

Describe foods by their

color, texture, shape and flavor.

Recognize food for what it provides. Food gives you energy in the form of calories, some more than others. Food delivers nutrients that support your health. It can satisfy a sweet tooth, provide comfort during sadness, play a role in celebrations and offer a connection to your culture.

As a caregiver, this doesn't mean giving open permission to eat all foods at all times. There may be foods your family doesn't eat or buy for a variety of reasons. Providing an explanation can help children understand your decision. Consider phrases like "We don't buy that because it's not on our list" or "Different families eat different foods; we are eating this today."

Every person is different. What some children and families eat will look different from what others eat. It's important to support eating habits that benefit health for both yourself and your family. Food neutrality is one place to start.

Rebecca Woodall can be reached by email at Rebecca.Woodall@kysu.edu or by calling 270-965-5236 or visiting the Extension office at 1534 US 60 East on the edge of Marion's city limits.



Penn-Belt honored with unsung award

Kathey Penn-Belt, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Coordinator in Crittenden County, has been named a recipient of the prestigious Heart of a Kentuckian Unsung Hero Award.

Penn-Belt was nominated by PACS CEO Harold Monroe for her tireless work serving the region’s most vulnerable residents. Among her many acts of compassion, she recently helped a homeless couple secure housing, utilities and furnishings through CSBG and LIHEAP assistance. In another instance, she found housing, employment and transportation for an 18-year-old student who had been forced to leave home.

Penn-Belt’s efforts continue to exemplify the mission of community service and have earned her statewide recognition for going above and beyond in her role. She has been employed by PACS for 26 years.



Belt

Davidson is retiring from KY Farm Bureau

Longtime Kentucky Farm Bureau agent and manager Larry Davidson is retiring at the end of this month after 44 years in the insurance business.

Davidson, 77, will celebrate a birthday early next month and said he’s looking forward to the freedom—but he’s not sure what retirement will bring. “That’s the reason I worked for so long. I don’t have any hobbies like hunting, fishing or golfing,” he said.

He plans to spend more time with his wife of 60 years, Bonita, and his grown children, Russ Davidson and Robyn Taylor. He has two grandchildren and seven great-grandsons.

A native of the Frances area, Davidson spent 14 professional years as a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He has maintained those licenses his entire life, but has no plans to put them to use.

Farm Bureau will name a replacement for Davidson soon.



Davidson

County working on delinquent tax list

Crittenden County continues to check its business rolls and has found about 60 entities operating in the county without a license. Letters have gone out to those and another round is expected soon.

Additionally, enforcement letters are soon going out to those who are delinquent in years prior to 2024. Those more recent have been given an extension by state and federal governments due to effects of storms.

The county’s net profits and payroll tax recently went up from 0.5% to 1.5%. Business license fees also went up from \$25 to \$50 annually.

KY files suit against online giant Temu

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman has filed a lawsuit against Chinese online retail giant Temu, accusing the company of illegally harvesting consumer data, violating privacy laws, trafficking counterfeit goods, and exploiting forced labor.

The suit, filed last week in Woodford County Circuit Court, claims Temu’s mobile shopping app covertly collects personal data from users without consent, shares that data with the Chinese Communist government, and undermines trusted U.S. brands, including Kentucky icons such as the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Buffalo Trace Distillery and Churchill Downs.

“Temu’s cheap products and flashy marketing hide real danger,” said Coleman. “Their platform can infect Kentuckians’



devices with malware, steal their personal data and send it directly to the Chinese government.”

Temu, owned by PDD Holdings, has become the most-downloaded app in the U.S., but the complaint alleges it shares code with Pinduoduo, a sister app banned from U.S. platforms for malware concerns. The suit also links Temu to the use of forced labor by Chinese ethnic minorities, in violation of U.S. trade laws.

The lawsuit further accuses Temu of misleading practices, including counterfeit merchandise, fake reviews and unauthorized charges using customers’ payment information.

The case is being led by Consumer and Senior Protection Division Chief Chris Lewis, Office of Regulatory Relief Executive Director Stephen Humphress and Assistant Attorney General Lyndsey Antos.

Public radio at MSU bracing for cuts

Murray State University’s public radio station WKMS is bracing for major financial fallout following the U.S. House vote to eliminate federal funding for public media.

The decision ends government support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which funnels vital funds to local stations. WKMS will lose \$215,000, or 14.6% of its annual budget, as a result.

“These cuts are devastating,” WKMS stated in a message to listeners last week, but reaffirmed its commitment to public service journalism, music programming, and community engagement. The station said program changes may be necessary in the coming months but emphasized that 85% of its support already comes from local sources.

In a related move, Kentucky Educational Television (KET) announced it will not provide coverage of the 2025 Fancy Farm Picnic, citing the funding cuts. The annual political speaking event has long been a KET staple.

WKMS has launched a local fundraising appeal to help offset the loss.

Show-only tickets are left for Steel Magnolias

Tickets for the Community Arts Foundation’s Sept. 20 and 21 production of Steel Magnolias at Fohs Hall went on sale Saturday and are going fast. Dinner tickets for the Saturday show have sold out.

Saturday show-only tickets are available for the Sept. 20 performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Price is \$15 adults and \$10 students. The Sunday, Sept. 21 matinee is at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 floor; \$15 gallery and balcony adults and \$10 students. For the Sunday matinee, Shelby’s punch will be served in the lobby. Tickets can be purchased online at the CAF Facebook page or go to the website CommunityArtsFoundation.org.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to each show. The venue, Fohs Hall, is historic and does not have an elevator.

Livingston school board passes plans for standard items

Livingston County Board of Education met last week and approved several standard items for the upcoming school year, including financial reports, personnel matters, the student code of conduct and updates to policy and evaluation plans.

Board members also signed off on the district’s wellness plan and authorized up to four emergency teaching certificates to address staffing needs. A new communication system related to Senate Bill 181 was also approved.

At the board’s June meeting, members approved the purchase of a 72-passenger school bus with air conditioning and signed a contract with Parent Square, a communication platform aimed at improving school-to-home messaging. The board also appointed Jennifer Gosselin as chair of the Certified Evaluation Plan Appeals Panel, and Kristy Nelson as the alternate.

Free hearing tests next week at MBC

KY HEARS will be in Crittenden County later this month offering free hearing tests and resources as part of a community outreach initiative. The two-day hearing clinic will be held from 9 a.m., to 2 p.m., on July 30 and 31 at Marion Baptist Church. Services are provided by the Heuser Hearing Institute and aim to improve hearing health access in rural communities. No cost is associated with the screenings, but appointments are encouraged. For more information or to schedule, call 800-958-9610 or send an email to hkyhears@thehearinginstitute.org. Additional details can be found online at www.kyhears.org.

Trail of Tears event hosts author of book on Cherokee adoption

The Trail of Tears annual meeting and membership drive will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at the George Coon Public Library Auditorium in Princeton.

Guest speaker will be Gary Collier of Paris, Tenn., author of A Mother’s Burden, a book with Caldwell County connections documenting Cherokee heritage.

A gift basket from Newsom’s will be raffled as a fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the association and the drawing to be held at the Black Patch Festival in September.

For more information, contact Linda Johnson Higgins at 270-365-9071.

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for breaking news.
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50 YEARS AGO

July 24, 1975

■ R.F. Brown Chevrolet Buick, Inc., opened its new showroom and garage on Sturgis Rd., in Marion. Its expansion provided space for a wider selection of ’75 Vegas, Novas, Monte Carols, Chevelles, Caprices, Impalas, Camaros, Corvettes and Chevy trucks. A grand opening offered drawings for free gasoline, refreshments and entertainment by Tom Asbridge and the Nite Life.

■ Beavers Brothers Texas on South Main was celebrating its 15th year in business. Some of the business’ products included Goodyear and McCreary tires, Titan batteries and Texaco products. Employees were Joey Kimsey, Richard Brown, Ken Beavers, Jerry Beavers, Steve Gilland, “Red” Marshall and Vernon Lanham.

■ Markeeta Brown, a Crittenden County High School senior, earned 11 awards at the Murray State University women’s basketball camp. Other CCHS athletes attending the camp were Cindy Brookshire, who won three awards; Teresa Fox, who won an award; and Jeanie Curnel, who also earned an award.

■ Jeff Matz and Ellis Simmons attended the Western Kentucky University football camp. Ellis won first place in a track competition for 11-year-olds.

■ Some of the members of Marion Swim Team who earned first-place ribbons in a meet against the Ohio County Swim Team were Donnetta Oliver, Troy Fox, Bear Greenwell, Kristie Hughes, Kevin Brewer, Rhonda Kirk and Sara Kelly Belt.

25 YEARS AGO

July 20, 2000

■ In a 3-2 vote, Marion City Council had lengthy discussion but opted to keep parking meters downtown.

■ A M60A3 tank became a lawn ornament at Marion’s National Guard Armory after being stripped of its electronics and engine. Most M60s were built in 1963 and put into service in 1965.

■ Minister David Williams returned to Marion Church of Christ.

■ Scott Rich placed fifth in the state FFA Quiz Contest.

■ Porcelain artist Paula Collins, known around the world as one of the best in her field, hosted a group of women from Europe who visited Marion to attend Collins’ training.

■ Rookie league all star members from Crittenden County were Terry Werne, Dillon Thornton, Casey Oliver, Alec Pierce, Joey Pluskota, David Worley, Cody Brown, Sammie Jo Quisenberry, Cody McDonald, Alex Wood and Dylan Clark. Coaches were Steve Wood, Vince Clark, Joey Oliver and Jeff Porter.

10 YEARS AGO

July 23, 2015

■ Marion Country Club was purchased by Eddie King, 76, who was born in the Frances community.

■ Western Kentucky Youth Camp, with an emphasis on friendship, fun and faith, hosted 1,500 campers during the summer of 2015. The camp, operated by the Church of Christ, was managed by retired Crittenden County teachers Greg and Dawn Hollamon.

■ Overall points winners in the Crittenden County football team’s 15th annual ironman competition were skilled position players Landon Brooks, Seth Birdwell, Adam Beavers, Ethan Hunt and Devon Nesbitt. High points winners for linemen were Travis Fitzgerald, Travis McKinney, Jake Ellington, Gary McConnell and Devin Hopper.

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



JUNE 2025

Activity Report

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

	June	2024 Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	10	7.6
Complaints	32	66.8
Papers Served	38	53.0
Unsuccessful Service Attempts	4	5.5
Total Service Attempts	75	104.1
Transports	4	4.3
Special Detail	2	58.7
Training Hours	97.5	41.1
Verbal Warning	13	24.4
Courtesy Notice	3	—
Criminal Citation	17	17.7
Officer Assist	5	5.7
Building Checks	50	50.6
Total Manhours	519.50	832
Bailiff Court Hours	102.75	86.7
Cases Opened	6	8.0
Felony Arrests	8	8.8
Followup Investigations	23	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	15	10
Motorist Assists	2	8.3
DUIs	0	2.5
Traffic Citations	3	14.1
General Policing	103	156
Call for Service	48	21

SHERIFF
EVAN HEAD

The Daisy Patch

Florist and Gift Shop

MOVING SALE

The Daisy Patch IS MOVING!!! We are not closing!

Our last day at 215 Sturgis Road will be July 31, 2025.

Now is a great time to take advantage of our moving sale. Items for all seasons are currently available as we prepare to move.

Check us out on Facebook at The Daisy Patch for item availability.

Please call Pat at (270) 704-0008 for more information regarding moving sale items and to place future orders.

Reduce distortion in order to connect to message

By the time a sound engineer gets to the process of mastering a song for production, they have heard every track on its own. They have heard all of them dozens of times. They spend time, sometimes hours, making tiny adjustments that I could never hear to get the right volume, balance, and sound quality required. It is then given to the world to enjoy.

Now, imagine this sound engineer hearing her perfectly mastered work on the radio. It is being blasted out of a truck window with the bass cranked up so high as to distort the whole environment – not to say what has been done to the music.

Part of my vocation is to stand before a congregation each week and attempt to deliver, in 22 1/2 minutes, something expressing truth and worth hearing. I learned long ago that I am not preaching one sermon. I am preaching as many sermons as there are people hearing it. I cannot count

the number of times someone has approached me afterward and either thanked or criticized me for the message. The only difficulty is that the message they received was not at all the one that I thought I was delivering.

This is both humbling and exciting. Humbling when the message sends one off in a direction I consider unhelpful. Exciting when I have accidentally said something profound. This experience has taught me to take what I do seriously and myself less so.

Many teachers (especially early in their careers) spend hours preparing their lesson plans. They put the work in, do everything according to the requirements of curriculum and best practice. There are days when they arrive at school ready to deliver what the students need only to be blindsided by an administrative glitch or a student who had a particularly bad night or morning before school.

Sometimes things are such that the lesson plan may need to be delayed while an urgent situation is handled.

Anyone who has been in a teaching or producing situation knows the frustration of doing something well only to have the work criticized, distorted or destroyed by someone who has no idea what they are doing. Anyone who has had the experience of teaching or public speaking knows what it is like to deliver clear instruction and yet not be heard correctly.

Clearly communicating is one of the most deceptively difficult things we do daily. Have you ever had a friendly gesture or light-hearted comment received in exactly the opposite spirit in which it was intended? It is also tempting for us to answer with words that we think someone wants to hear rather than what we want to say. Miscommunication occurs for many reasons, one of them being that we do not all share the same context and life experience. This causes us to hear things that are not being said and not hear

what is being said. When God created the world and everything in it by speaking to the chaos, he created a very good world. It was one in which human beings were given a task (have dominion and take care of this gift of creation), a future (be fruitful and multiply), and a limitation (do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil). All of this was to be accepted as a gift and with trust and faith in the care that God would give.

We know the story. Human beings have misunderstood the task, often made the future frightening, and have always chosen their own understanding of the knowledge of good and evil. The users of the creation have distorted its beauty. The hearers of the message have distorted the message. The students have failed to hear the instruction.

This is not hopeless. It is humbling. It does not mean we quit trying. It means we keep trying and stop taking ourselves so seriously. The same God that created us still knows what he is

doing even when we don't know what we are doing. I continue to do all I can to reduce the distortion around me by staying connected to the source of life.

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



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

Pastors more bi-vocational

KENTUCKY TODAY

The National Survey of Religious Leaders (NSRL) report revealed 35 percent of all clergy in the U.S. serve bivocationally, holding an additional job outside of their congregational ministry.

The study found almost half (47 percent) report having a second job. Around a third of Black Protestant pastors are bi-vocational (35 percent), while it is much rarer among Catholics (14 percent) and mainline Protestants (11 percent).

Community Calendar

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

- Thursday, July 24**
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
 - Crittenden County Extension Service is hosting a fall vegetable garden class at 5:30 p.m., at the annex.
- Tuesday, July 29**
- Rinse and Return will be held at the Crittenden County Extension Office from 9-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 30**
- Walk in the Park begins at 3 p.m., at City-County Park.

Newspapers make a *difference.*

Local newspapers and their websites are relied on more than any other source for information about public notices and government.

Local newspapers/newspaper websites **55%**

Local TV.....	36%	Local radio	19%
Social media.....	32%	City newsletters.....	18%
Government websites.....	24%	Public bulletin boards	14%
Word-of-mouth/friends/relatives	21%	Non-government website.....	8%

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Follow us on Facebook

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.

Speaker: Greg Rushing

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CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.

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Marion Baptist Church

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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.

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.

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

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"

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.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Crayne Community Church

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

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"

Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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David LeNeave, Pastor

Hurricane Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18

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General Baptist Church

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Unity General Baptist Church

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Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

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."

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 -

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Queen size red metal bed with fiesta quilt and pillows, free mattress, clean and excellent condition, \$400; dog pen (10x10x6) 1 year old, excellent shape, \$300. Call (270) 704-2884. (2t-30-p)

(2) 15' x 6", 8" I-Beam, \$100. (270) 988-2526. (2t-28-p)

Graco LineLazer V 3900-dual head striper for seal-coating equipment, used one season. \$9,000 OBO. (270) 969-1559. (tfc)

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still fairly new, plus still has air conditioner with it. \$800. (270) 988-2526. (2t-28-p)

2008 Ford F250 Super-Duty reg. Cab XL pick-up, 2-door, bright yellow and black. Has Tommy Gate, construction lights on top. Well maintained and maintenance, 91,000 miles. \$9,000 OBO. (270) 969-1559. (tfc)

real estate

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bid notice

The Crittenden County Board of Education is accepting sealed bids for OLD LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOKS. Sealed bids must be submitted to CCBOE at 601 West Elm Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064, by Friday, July 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at which time they will be opened. Please contact the Central Office (270) 965-3525 to obtain a list. Crittenden County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. (1t-28-c)

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I have been blessed to serve alongside some wonderful people who have worked as agents and office assistants over the years. Together, we have tried to create a family atmosphere and a professional environment for each customer. I can't express my gratitude enough for those who have served with me throughout the years. Each of you has been a wonderful part of my life and career.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Bonita. Her unwavering support and encouragement have been invaluable on this journey. She has been my greatest supporter, always motivating me to do my best. I am deeply grateful for her love and partnership, which have inspired me throughout my career.

As I close this chapter, I reflect on the blessings I have received during my years with Kentucky Farm Bureau. The Lord has been gracious to me, and I give Him all the glory and praise for the experiences I have been fortunate enough to share with you. My faith in Christ has been my guiding light and will continue to lead me in retirement. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of your lives.

*Sincerely,
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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 63.46 Acres - \$239,900.00
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.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 20 Acres - \$65,000.00
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.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 30 Acres - \$112,500.00
This diverse hunting property offers an exceptional blend of varied terrain and habitat types, making even more unique by its history as an old quarry.

Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900.00
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 – 70 Acres - \$244,900.00
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden County, KY – 80.92 Acres - \$307,500.00
With plenty of edge and transition cover, areas of dense bedding and security cover, and numerous funnels and pinch points, this property is tailored for successful hunting!

Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000.00
Nested 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.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!
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Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400.00
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These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 10 Acres – \$59,900.00
This tillable acreage offers investment opportunity with 10+/- tillable acres ready for agricultural production.

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This unique combination tract offers the best of both worlds—an established equestrian setup with excellent deer and turkey hunting opportunities, all tucked away in a quiet, secluded landscape.

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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!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 129.52 Acres - \$679,000.00
This scenic and versatile farmstead offers a rare opportunity to own multiple homes and a well-rounded blend of agricultural, recreational, and residential amenities!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 193 Acres - \$799,000.00
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!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 253 Acres - \$1,125,015.00
This property offers many different uses. With established pasture and tillable ground, this tract offers exceptional farm potential while offering great hunting along the Tradewater River.



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Horses main attraction of early county fairs

The county fairs of the 1940s had several different varieties of exhibits, but it seems the horse show and the trotting races were the main attractions. The fairgrounds were sit up at the Crayne Field, which used to be where the livestock barns are just outside of Marion. Ross Crayne was the man responsible for the building of the harness race track that was once located there. From the archives of The Crittenden Press, here are some highlights.

Aug. 15, 1947 – Crittenden County Fair Scheduled

Crittenden County will again have a county fair this year, and the Ellis Ordway Post 111 of the American Legion will sponsor the event. The fair is scheduled for three days, Sept. 17, 18, and 19. Arrangements have been made to have the fair at Crayne Field, one and one-half miles north of Marion, on U.S. 60 where the track of the Crittenden County Trotting Association is located.

In connection with the fair will be held a horse show, which will be featured each of the three nights, and trotting races will be held during the fair under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Trotting Association. The races will be of registered stock and races will be official races run under the Trotting Association rules and regulations.

Various exhibits in livestock, poultry, flowers, seed corn and school exhibits will be scheduled. The livestock and exhibits will be under waterproof tents, and horses will be stabled in the new barn at the trotting track.

Carson Davidson, acting publicity director for the Legion, stated that there would be concessions and rides at the fair. Efforts are being made to obtain a grandstand for the horse show and the races, and box seats are being sold, with 100 on sale.

Free bus transportation has been arranged to carry patrons to the fairgrounds. The bus will leave from the courthouse and will shuttle

back and forth throughout the day.

Judges for Exhibits

Exhibitors planning to show animals in various livestock departments should contact the department heads as soon as possible. Following are in charge of departments:

- Beef Cattle – James E. Carter, and Bruce Wheeler.
- Dairy Cattle – R. C. Nichols, and S. D. Loyd
- Hogs – R. U. Terry, and W. E. Arflack
- Sheep – Oral Weldon and Joe Dean
- Poultry – E. G. Taylor and Wallis Morris
- Hybrid Seed Corn – George F. Patmor
- Flowers – Mrs. George Winn and Mrs. Hollis Franklin
- Rural School Exhibits – Raymond Thurman

The rural school exhibits will be divided into two classes with one-teacher schools competing against one-room schools, and schools with two or more teachers competing against other schools with same qualifications.

Aug. 29, 1947 – American Legion reports events

The American Legion reports that plans and preparations for the Crittenden County Fair are well underway. Premiums and amount of prize money had been decided, with a total of \$4,450 being offered.

The harness races will be a new feature in Crittenden County, since there have never been such in this county, and will be worth seeing as 75 to 100 horses of first quality are expected to participate in the races. Six harness races begin at 1:30 in the afternoon.

One running race will be held daily, and entries in these will be of local farm horses the first two days, and of local mules on the third day. All farm boys are urged to enter their horses and mules in these races.

The horse show will be scheduled at eight o'clock

each night of the fair and well be held in front of the grandstand under lights. It is expected that this event will be the biggest horse show ever in the county.

A carnival is expected to be on the grounds each night of the fair, and contracts have been made for food and drink concessions.

Sept. 26, 1947 – Closing comments

The Crittenden County Fair which represented a lot of hard work for a lot of folks and for the Ellis B. Ordway Post of the American Legion in particular, was good and enjoyable. We liked the races and the horse shows and the school exhibits.

The Livestock Show was good but not good enough. Next year, let's have an increased premium list in this particular department of the fair. More and better livestock for Crittenden will really help the county. The quality of the purebred livestock exhibited was fine, another indication that Crittenden County is making progress in that direction,

The flower show was much under par, due in large measure, to the recent dry weather. And next year there possibly should be a special department for the women with fine handwork and for those interested in antiques a special classification for old quilts, old dishes, etc.,

Highlights of the 1949 County Fair

The Crittenden County Fair four-day and night program has been completed. Workers are busy erecting tents, building stalls, pens and taking care of all last minute preparations for the biggest Crittenden County Fair ever held in Marion. It will start on schedule Tuesday morning 9 o'clock July 19 with the judging of livestock. All livestock exhibitors are hereby notified that their



Harness racing was a large attraction at the 1949 Crittenden County Fair held at Crayne Field.

entries in all livestock rigs must be on the ground not later than Monday, July 18 the day before the fair.

Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock, the harness races start. There will be six races, three heats each, is 24 Class Trot and 18 Class pace for \$1,000 each.

Judy Peebles and her electric organ will be on the grounds the entire week and furnish the music for the races each afternoon and also the night programs.

Tuesday night at 8 o'clock we have arranged a very special program – singing by the Marion Quartette, Gospel Singers, Lynn Orr Jr. Quartette. Music by Ray Wilson's Band, about 2 1/2 hours of entertainment that we all like so well.

Wednesday morning will be the flower judging and judging of home-makers exhibits.

More horse racing in the afternoon at 1 o'clock will be two \$1,000 races for the 18 Class Trotters, 3 heats, and 2 heats for 2 year-old Pacers.

Wednesday night, 8 o'clock the first night of our horse show, we will call in eight different rings of show horses for your entertainment. We expect the largest

number of show horses this year ever to be in Marion.

Thursday's racing starts at 1 o'clock with 24 Class Pacers and 2-year old Trotting Colts going a total of 5 heats for \$2,000. We also plan on having our mule races on this day.

Thursday night is championship night for show horses. You can't afford to miss this night as this is when the champions in all classes are selected.

Friday racing program includes three heat free for all Pace; three heat free for all Trot; and possibly some over night events for horses that have not raced.

Friday night will close the fair with the biggest event of the week – the Team Pulling Contest at 8 o'clock in front of the Grand Stand. All team

owners who expect to enter this contest will have their teams at Maxwell's scales at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon and all be weighed at the same time.

Plenty of good food and cold drinks, so come early and spend the day. Free bus service to and from the Fairgrounds every hour from the court house.

Fun to read about the events and activities of long ago. A really anticipated community event since there weren't as many other activities going on back then.

(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.)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Crittenden County Treasurer's Settlement for FY 2024-2025 is available for inspection at the Crittenden County Judge-Executive's office during normal business hours. The financial settlement is, according to Kentucky Statue, available for public viewing in hard copy format at the Judge's office in lieu of publishing the entire document in the newspaper. For more information, contact the County Judge-Executive's office at (270) 965-5251.

Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education Services

The Crittenden County School District has an ongoing "Child Find" system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education.

The Crittenden County School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education services at no cost to the parents of the child. Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the Crittenden County School District find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number of the parent or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education is needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the Crittenden County School District collects the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Crittenden County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call (270) 965-3525 or send the information to:

George Cavanah, Director of Special Education
Crittenden County Schools
601 West Elm St
Marion, KY 42064

"Child Find" activities are on-going throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Crittenden County School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education. Any information the District collects through "Child Find" is maintained confidentially.

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WIFFLE BALL Last JHF Princeton event

The final Jake Hodge Foundation Wiffle Ball Tournament fundraiser at the Princeton venue will be held Aug. 1–2 on Little Field of Dreams and Little Yankee Stadium, located at 1301 South Jefferson St. The annual event has raised more than \$500,000 in scholarships for high school seniors and has become a cherished tradition uniting communities through friendly competition. Organizers are inviting the public to take part in this farewell celebration, which will feature Wiffle Ball games, laughter and a strong sense of community spirit.

Proceeds from the event continue to benefit students pursuing higher education, supporting the foundation’s long-running mission to help local youth succeed. This year’s tournament aims to honor the legacy of support built over the years while celebrating the impact the event has had across the region.

Plans are to continue the event in some form at another location in the future.

BASKETBALL Former CCHS coach dies

James “Big Norm” Weaver, who coached basketball at Crittenden County High School from 1980 to 1982, has died at age 79. Weaver led the Rockets for two seasons, compiling a 19-31 record during his time in Marion. A standout player at Allen County High School and Western Kentucky University, Weaver went on to a long career in coaching and school administration across Kentucky. He was inducted into multiple athletic halls of fame. His full obituary appears on page 2.

GOLF QB fundraising event

The annual Ronnie Myers and Pippi Hardin Crittenden County Quarterback Club tournament will be held at noon, Wednesday, Aug. 13 at Deer Lakes Golf Course in Salem. To register, call Darrick Myers at (270) 704-1225. Cost is \$300 which includes meal, cart, and mulligans.

FOOTBALL CCMS football practice

Although Crittenden County Middle School football practice has started, coach Ethan Dossett says players may still join the team. Practices are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5-7 p.m., on campus. For more information, contact Dossett at 270-969-8166.

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, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sept 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

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7 V 7 LINEMAN CHALLENGE

COMPETITION



BETWEEN RAIN AND LIGHTNING DELAYS the Rockets had a busy weekend participating 7-on-7 passing competitions at Murray State on Friday and in Evansville, Ind., on Saturday. As part of the Murray State Fellowship of Christian Athletes event on Friday, the CCHS big guys competed in a lineman challenge. Pictured at top is Jake Rich in the tire tube pull and from left are Trae Taylor (2) and coach Austin Berry on crutches as he heals from an ankle surgery, QB Quinn Summers (12), receiver Dokota Sosh, lineman Michael Counts (54), defensive back Davis Perryman (14) and defensive back Noah Byford (9).

Senior Trae Taylor won the annual Rocket football preseason Ironman competition. Pictured are the top 10 (front from left) Taylor, Noah Byford, Eli Lovell, (back) Matthew Counts, Conner Poindexter, Davis Perryman, Joel Bumpus, Jay Stevenson, Braydin Brandsasse and Brayden Poindexter.

IRONMAN LEADERS

Overall Points	
1. Trae Taylor	
2. Noah Byford	
3. Eli Lovell	
4. Davis Perryman	
5. Joel Bumpus	
6. Brayden Poindexter	
7. Braydin Brandsasse	
8. Jay Stevenson	
9. Matthew Counts	
10. Conner Poindexter	
QUICKNESS / AGILITY	
40 Yard Dash	
Trae Taylor	4.88
Noah Byford	4.89
Eli Lovell	4.96
Davis Perryman	5.01
Brayden Poindexter	5.06
Dokota Sosh	5.06
Verticle Jump	
Quinn Summers	33"
Trae Taylor	32"
Eli Lovell	30"
Noah Byford	28"
Kaden Herrington	27"
Pro Shuttle	
Trae Taylor	4.41
Noah Byford	4.43
Ethan Sosh	4.69
Camden Nash	4.87
Aiden Musser	4.88

IRONMAN COMPETITION

Pre-season competition kicks off 2024 football practice

STAFF REPORT

For almost 30 years, Crittenden County football players have been starting the season with an individual strength, speed and agility competition called the Ironman.

Almost 40 players participated in this year’s pre-season competition and senior Trae Taylor came out on top, collecting his first Ironman championship. Taylor is a returning running back and defensive back.

Taylor placed sixth in the 2024 Ironman event. He is among four Rockets who are back in the top 10 of the competition after placing among the best 10 last year in pre-

season. Eli Lovell made the biggest jump from No. 10 last summer to No. 3 right behind No. 2 Noah Byford who was eighth last year. Brayden Poindexter and Braydin Brandsasse are other repeat top 10 performers. Last year’s champion, Caden Howard, was unable to participate due to injury.

The competition aims to encourage a well-rounded athlete, combining speed and strength to perfect a player.

While the running and agilities part of the contest tend to favor the skilled-position players, those husky linemen play catchup in overall points by dominating in the weight room.

As much as anything, the competition is a way for the coaching staff to get players geared up for pre-season practice and to reward those who have worked hard during the offseason.

The regular season begins on Aug. 22 at Marshall County.

There are two scrimmages. The first is Aug. 8 at Murray and second is Aug. 15 at Madisonville.

This will be Coach Gaige Courtney’s fifth season as head coach. CCHS will compete in Class 2A against five other district opponents: Todd Central, Trigg County, Caldwell County, Ft. Campbell and Mayfield.

Crittenden County’s volleyball team traveled to Indiana last week for preseason competition as it gears up for the 2025 campaign. The Lady Rockets return to the court under former coach Bayley McDonald after posting a 19-6 record and one of the most historic seasons in program history last fall. Team members pictured are (front from left) Emerye Pollard, Aly Yates, Ava Tabor, Maddie Hearrell; (back) Grayson Travis, Shelbi Belt, Braelyn Merrill, Lylah Sherer, Lacey Boone, Hadley Myers, Layken Gilchrist and Maeson Martin. The fall season gets underway next month.

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📞 270-965-3191 (call or text)

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New Family Fun Night joins fair’s lineup



Dee Brasher, Crittenden County’s agricultural and natural resources extension agent, uses a battery-powered core sampler to extract a hay sample from a large round bale while local farmer Ed Shewcraft observes during a forage testing event at one of his hay fields. Samples are shipped to a University of Kentucky lab for analysis, where they are evaluated for crude protein, energy levels and other nutritional components. The effort is part of a long-standing initiative tied to the county fair, helping local farmers understand the quality of their hay and how it might impact livestock diets.

STAFF REPORT

The Crittenden County Lions Club Fair returns July 26 through Aug. 2, featuring all the traditional favorites from the tractor and truck pulls to the demolition derby, but this year’s lineup includes a brand-new offering aimed at families and children.

Matt Tinsley, first-year president of the local Lions Club, said he’s excited to step into the leadership role and introduce something fresh.

“Yeah, this year everything’s pretty well gonna be the same,” said Tinsley, “other than on the Friday night, Aug. 1 when we’re going to have a 4-H Family Fun Night.”

Family Fun Night is scheduled for 5 to 9 p.m. and will include a variety of free games and activities hosted by area churches and civic groups. It’s being billed as a low-cost, community-focused night for parents and children alike. Admission is free for kids 15 and under. A \$5 parking fee per vehicle will be collected for those driving in.

Freedom General Bap-



tist Church is bringing a dunking booth, Tinsley said, with their pastor taking a turn inside. Other churches will offer classic carnival-style games. Marion Baptist Church plans to set up a Hot Wheels play area and cornhole toss, while Mexico Baptist Church will provide face painting. Pony rides will be available through the 4-H Horse Club, and a 4-H poultry show will take place in the livestock barn. FFA will also be hosting a pedal tractor pull.

Tinsley said the night is meant to be a “give-back” event, a way to make the fair more accessible for families and to highlight the resurgence of 4-H in Crittenden County.

The fair schedule kicks

off Saturday, July 26 with the tractor and truck pulls and continues through the week with the beauty pageant on Tuesday, July 29, and the annual 4-H Breakfast at 7 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1. Following Family Night that evening, the fair closes Saturday, Aug. 2

with the Lions Club car show from 9 a.m., to 3 p.m., and the ever popular demolition derby at 7 p.m.

Food concessions will be open nightly, operated by the Lions Club, and all proceeds support community initiatives.

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Chickens, stick horse round-up featured at fair

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Lions Club Fair 4-H Youth Poultry Show will be held Friday, Aug. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Fairgrounds. Youth exhibitors will showcase a variety of chickens and ducks, giving fairgoers a close-up look at different breeds, many of which are ideal for backyard flocks.

Open to ages 9–18, and FFA members up to age 21, the show includes classes for standard and bantam chickens, as well as other poultry. Participants must supply their own pens and care for animals during the event. Judging be-

gins at 5:30 p.m., with entries accepted between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Showmanship classes will be divided into junior and senior divisions.

For anyone considering raising poultry at home, the show offers a chance to learn from local youth who are hands-on with coop care, feeding, and breed selection, helpful knowledge for starting or expanding a backyard flock.

Immediately following the poultry show, the Stick Horse Round-Up will bring a different kind of fun to the fairgrounds. This free event is open to kids of all ages and kicks off with registration at 6:30

p.m., followed by contests starting at 7 p.m.

Participants are encouraged to decorate their own stick horses for prizes in categories such as Most Creative, Best Dressed Cowboy/Cowgirl Combo, and Cutest Pony. A barrel racing contest will follow, with children racing on their stick horses in timed age divisions: 3 and under, 4–6, 7–9, 10–13, and 14–15.

Kids are invited to dress in Western gear and come ready to shine. For more information about either event, contact the Crittenden County Extension Office at 270-965-5236.

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Community Medical arrives in Crittenden

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with its newest member Tuesday. Community Medical Clinic and Community Dental will be operating in the community. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the clinic provides accessible care regardless of income, including primary, dental, pediatric and preventative services. Vaccines, urgent care, school and sports physicals and chronic disease management are also available.

The mobile unit is expanding access to care in rural communities. For the past several years it has operated



in Caldwell and Christian counties. Anyone interested in services or appointments can visit communitymedicalclinic.org for more information.

Pictured front row during the ribbon-cutting were marketing director Chloe King, CFO Starla Cummings,

Chamber president Rebecca Woodall and community health supervisor Eric Harrison. Others at the event at the future site of Community Medical Clinic at 3618 U.S. 60 West (former Jehovah's Witnesses building) were Chamber and CMC representatives.

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CITY

Continued from page 1 headlights, and turn signals), brakes, and, for each designated seating position, a seatbelt assembly that complies with federal motor vehicle safety standards. Additionally, carts must be equipped with a horn that meets the specifications set forth in Kentucky Revised Statute 189.080.

The ordinance takes effect following proper passage and publication as required by state law.

•The council made a couple of moves with appointments to its representation to local boards. Councilman Taylor Davis was moved off of the Marion Tourism Commission and added to the Marion Fire Department Board. Councilwoman Nikki Conger was appointed to Marion Tourism Commission.

The council also gave final approval to fine increases for those who violate animal ordinances.

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ELECTED COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE | MAGISTRATES

Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Fiscal Court meets in regular session at the courthouse at 8:30 a.m., on the third Thursday of each month

Judge-executive

Perry Newcom (R)
107 S. Main St.
Marion, KY 42064
270.965.5251 (c)
270.704.0457 (c)

Perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org

District 1 Magistrate

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

Dave.Belt@crittendencountyky.org

District 2 Magistrate

Matt Grimes (R)
301 State Route 297
Marion, Ky. 42064
270.704.9832 (c)

matt.grimes@crittendencountyky.org

District 3 Magistrate

Robert Kirby (R)
1698 Chapel Hill Road
Marion, KY 42064
270.889.1504 (c)

Robert.kirby@crittendencounty.org

District 4 Magistrate

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

Chad.Thomas@crittendencountyky.org

District 5 Magistrate

Travis Perryman (R)
1700 Jackson School Road
Fredonia KY 42411
270.969.1168 (c)

Travis.perryman@crittendencountyky.org

District 6 Magistrate

Scott Belt (R)
397 Fishtrap Road
Marion KY 42064
270.704.0366 (c)

Scott.belt@crittendencountyky.org

STAFF REPORT

Fentanyl, which is considered by some as the grim reaper of recreational drugs, continues to haunt this small Kentucky town and the surrounding area. The national award received by The Press recently for that original reporting has brought attention to the journalism. But the real story is not about accolades, it's about action. It's about keeping parents vigilant, friends cautious and communities on alert. The grim reaper hasn't left. He still walks among us.

That's not hyperbole. That's reality.

"These are the first I have ever seen here," Gilbert said 18 months ago.

Gilbert has served as coroner since 2010 and comes from a family deeply rooted in the business. In a typical year, the county might see three overdoses. That was before fen-



Multiple confirmed fentanyl deaths here in less than a year

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Considered by some as the grim reaper of recreational drugs, fentanyl has hit Crittenden County like a reaper's scythe over last the few months.

Fentanyl is a highly potent, synthetic opioid drug. It has Food and Drug Administration approval for use as an analgesic to relieve pain or use as an anesthetic. However, fentanyl is becoming more prevalent as a recreational drug, gravely more deadly than heroine, methamphetamine or cocaine.

Local authorities have confirmed that fentanyl has been tied to at least four deaths here since June. Observers say small communities like Marion should raise awareness or prepare to see more deaths in their neighborhoods.

Crittenden County Coroner Brad Gilbert has had the grim responsibility of investigating recent fentanyl overdoses.

"These are the first I have ever seen here,"

Dr. Christopher Kiefer at the Kentucky

Medical Examiner's office in Madisonville describes Crittenden County as a "quiet" community when it comes to autopsies. He calls fentanyl's rise a terrifying situation that recently appeared in Crittenden County.

tucky. Three overdoses in Crittenden County in a month is stark testimony of the pervasiveness of the crisis.

"Fentanyl wasn't even here when I started as a miner seven years ago. Fentanyl comes in various forms. Some of the hard-core users inject it, but it can be smoked or swallowed. The pill form is popular," says the pill form is popular.

est because lethal doses can be hidden in a tab.
"High school age kids swapping pills. That's a
They might think they're
painkiller pressed in a
think it's Oxycodone or
ends up being fentanyl
don't have to be using



STREET NAMES FOR FENTANYL

■ "Blues" is the most common local name for fentanyl, say Marion authorities, but it can also be called Apache, China Girl, China Town, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Jackpot, King Ivory, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash according to the DEA.

HOW IT IS CONSUMED

■ Marion police say fentanyl is seen here in the form of a blue pill. However, the drug can be snorted/sniffed, smoked or spiked onto blotter paper. It is sold alone or sometimes in combination with heroin and other substances. Fentanyl has been identified in fake pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as Oxycodone.

THE FENTANYL HIGH

■ The high is similar to other opioid analgesics. Fentanyl produces effects such as relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, pupillary constriction and respiratory depression.

WHAT AN OD CAN LOOK LIKE

■ Fentanyl overdose can cause stupor, changes in pupil size, clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death. The presence of a triad of symptoms such as coma, pinpoint pupils and respiratory depression strongly suggests opioid intoxication.

See **DEATHS**/page 10

tanyl arrived. Now, the threat has changed. The risk has escalated.

Dr. Christopher Kiefer of the state medical examiner's office in Madisonville described Crittenden County as relatively "quiet" when it comes to autopsies. That's no longer the case.

“Fentanyl wasn’t even a problem here when I started as the medical examiner seven years ago,” Kiefer said in 2024. He now performs about 200 autopsies annually, and roughly 12 to 13 percent of them are overdoses. Most of those involve fentanyl.

The problem isn't just num-

bers. It's stealth.

Kiefer warns that fentanyl is often hidden in counterfeit pills, sometimes made to look like Oxycodone or Lortab. A high schooler might trade pills with a classmate, thinking they're taking something safe. In reality, they could be ingesting a lethal dose.

“You don’t have to be using a needle to die of an overdose,” Kiefer said.

Even casual users, or first-time experimenters are at risk. Fentanyl can be smoked or snorted. It can be disguised in fake tablets. It can show up in substances sold as something

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2025

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 Gate Fee \$15-for 16 and up, - \$5-for 6 to 15,
 5 under is FREE



PAGEANT

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 6 p.m.

Local Miss Pre-Teen (8-12) and Teen (13-15)
 Miss Crittenden County (16-21)
 (Open to Crittenden County residents) @ Fohs Hall
 Contact Natalie Parish (270) 871-1383
 Gate \$10-16 and up, \$5-6 to 15, 5 & under FREE

Miss Pre-Teen (8-12) and Teen (13-15)
 Miss Crittenden County (16-21)
 (Open to all counties in Kentucky)
 Ms./Mrs. Crittenden County @ Fohs Hall
 Contact Natalie Parish (270) 871-1383
 Gate \$10-16 and up, \$5-6 to 15, 5 & under FREE




FAMILY NIGHT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 5 p.m.

@ the Fairgrounds;

*Pony Rides, Face Painting, Games,
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\$5 Carload (kids FREE entry)
 5:30 p.m.: 4-H Poultry Show, Registration @ 5 p.m.
 6 p.m.: FFA Pedal Tractor Contest, Registration @ 5:30 p.m.
 7 p.m.: Stick Horse Contest & Stick Horse Barrell Racing,
 Registration @ 6:30 p.m.



CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2,
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

@ the Fairgrounds;

\$15 registration fee; Registration,
 9 a.m.-noon, Awards, 3: p.m.
 Contact Matt Tinsley (270) 704-1477

DEMOLITION DERBY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 7 p.m.

Contact Rodney Travis (270) 704-9514
 Gate Fee \$15-ages 16 and up, \$5- 6-15,
 5 and under FREE