The Crittenden Press

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THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025

24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS / THE-PRESS.COM | AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879 | TWO DOLLARS

Victory Gardens are open for distribution

Marion's Victory Gardens are once again offering free produce to the community, marking their 15th summer of operation. Daily distributions began Monday and will continue on weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon throughout the summer and early fall. Visitors should enter through the westernmost gate on Old Morganfield Road near the former armory.

Area's July 4th Fireworks

Fredonia Thunder in the Valley **July 3**
KY Lake, Moors Resort **July 3**
Ameribration Calvert City **July 4**
Eddyville, Holiday Hills **July 4**
Tolu, Crittenden County **July 5**
Thunder over Eddy Bay **July 5**
Golconda, Illinois **July 5**

U.S. median age grows

U.S. median age rose to 39.1 in July 2024, up 0.6 years since April 2020, according to new U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The national trend reflects a growing older population, as the number of Americans aged 65 and over reached 61.2 million, a 13% increase over four years, while the child population declined. Median age increased in 329 of the nation's 387 metro areas, especially in retirement-heavy regions like Florida and Arizona. Wildwood-The Villages, Fla., led the nation with a median age of 68.1, followed by Punta Gorda (60.1) and Homosassa Springs (56.8), where seniors made up more than a third of the population.

Yet, some fast-growing Southern metro areas defied the aging trend. In 47 metro areas, including 10 where the population surged by at least 10%, the median age actually dropped. Ocala, Fla., for instance, saw its population rise 14.1% while its median age fell to 47.4. Growth in young families and adults, often driven by domestic migration and the presence of universities or military bases, helped counterbalance aging trends in places like Logan, Utah, and Sherman-Denison, Texas.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

•A Community Prayer event will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 5 at the vacant lot next to The Crittenden Press.

•Marion Code Enforcement Board meets at 5 p.m., Monday, July 14 at city hall.

•Livingston County Board of Education meets at 5 p.m., Monday, July 14 at the central office.

•Caldwell County Fiscal Court meets at 9 a.m., the Tuesday, July 15 at the courthouse.

•Crittenden County Board of Education meets for a working session at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 15 at Rocket Arena.

•Marion City Council meets Monday, July 21 at city hall.

•Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, July 21 at city hall.

•Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 22 at the Marion Welcome Center.

•Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.

The Crittenden Press
USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.

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Members of Crittenden Livingston Water District's (CLWD) board of directors and staff along with some local residents toured the water plant at Pinckneyville last week following the monthly directors meeting. Pictured at right (from left) are consultant Tim Thomas, CLWD Superintendent Abbie Adamson and directors Tony Travis and Tim Capps inside the plant's control room.

CLWD having Woes of its Own

Water loss affecting entire area

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) is grappling with financial losses and aging infrastructure as it attempts to move forward with a multi-phase expansion project that will ultimately double its water treatment capacity.

Some new developments in a funding mechanism for the three-phase expansion project may now speed plans up. Phase 1 work is already underway and it appears that construction for Phase 3, which includes a larger distribution line to Marion, could roll out simultaneously alongside Phase 2, or perhaps before. That's good news for the City of Marion because it will improve the county water district's ability to temporarily help supplement Marion's demand, if necessary. Although Marion hasn't bought a drop of water from CLWD in almost two years, it's H_2O situation is tenuous at best. Eventually, plans are for Marion to get all of its drinking water from CLWD.

While Marion, facing water woes for the past three years due to a levee failure at Lake George, continues to limp along with quality and volume issues, CLDW is starting to feel similar pressures with line breaks and red ink mounting. Over the weekend, its water reserves became critically low.

The county water district has operated at a deficit in each of the past three

See **WATER**/page 10

Mike Harris stands in the door of his garage watching as heavy rainfall begins to overwhelm the city's storm drains and encroach upon his property.

Stormwater issues mounting, city struggling to find solution

STAFF REPORT

If it's not one thing, it's another.

Whether it's not enough or far too much, water continues to be an unfriendly neighbor for Marion. Following one of the wettest springs in recent memory, city streets and neighborhoods are showing the wear from runoff and flooding.

During its June meeting, Marion City Council focused heavily on stormwater issues, discussing three significant drainage problems before residents raised at least two more.

Mayor D'Anna Browning said stormwater runoff in the Hickory Hills subdivision has been a recurring issue since the former gravel lot at Siemens was paved over a decade ago. That surface no longer absorbs rainwater, which now floods downhill onto nearby properties.

"It's a mess," she told residents. "You're not being ignored, but I don't know what to do."

Resident Jerry Parker said culverts and ditches are now washing out, causing damage to adjacent roadways.

The mayor said further investigation into the matter is a high priority as leaders look for a solution.

Another pressing concern is on Clark Street, where drainage is damaging the pavement. The mayor also cited problems

See **STREETS**/page 3

Independent of what really?

Chris **EVANS**
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

Now don't get me wrong, I'm mighty fond of fireworks, grilled chops and a cold drink on the Fourth of July. But if you'll humor me a moment, let's reflect, not just celebrate. It seems to me that somewhere between dumping tea in Boston Harbor and thumbing reel after reel through a smartphone, we've traded liberty for a comfortable leash.

We told King George to shove off back in 1776 with ink, powder and prayer. Ironically, he was the only absentee ruler we've ever known. Imagine you at 18, home alone with mom and dad on vacation, and you decide to invite grandma over for the weekend. The noose just gets tighter.

Americans decided we'd chart our own course with a boss closer to home. Fast-forward to today, and here we are calling Uncle Sam like helpless children every time it floods, snows or we forget how a budget works. One hiccup from Mother Nature, and the FEMA hotline lights up like a Chick-fil-A drive through when the theater lets out.

Now I'm not suggesting government doesn't have its place, it surely does. Roads don't pave themselves and I do appreciate that man with the badge when things get squirrely. But we've become a people addicted to rescue. Got a crop failure? Call the USDA. Need broadband in the holler? Beg a grant from the FCC. Something's in the air. Who has the number to EPA?

And I say this as a man who enjoys the AC in July and August, not as a doomsday prepper with a bunker full of beans. Although my Boy Scout motto does urge preparedness.

Truth is, we've mistaken convenience for freedom. Take that glorious moment when we first snatch the car keys at 18. Lord, we think we're free as a bird. But within a week, we're tied to a gas pump, haunted by insurance premiums and wondering why tires cost more than a month's rent. We wanted independence and got a payment plan instead.

Our ancestors carved out a living with little more than grit, faith and a stubborn mule. Today, we panic if the Wi-Fi blinks. We've grown so cozy suckling at the warm teat of bureaucracy that we've forgotten how to plant a bean, fix a hinge, shovel some rock into a pothole or make it through a week without overnight shipping.

I ain't saying we should all go live off the grid and bathe in creeks, although I know a few who do and smell no worse for it. What I am saying is this, true independence requires discomfort. It demands effort. It insists that we sometimes figure it out ourselves, even when it's easier to holler for help.

So this Independence Day, while we're sipping sweet tea or swilling beers under the stars and thanking God for those who bought our freedom with blood and backbone, maybe we ought to recommit ourselves to earning it day by day, choice by choice. Liberty isn't a gift you unwrap once a year, it's self-discipline you live every day.

And if we don't start practicing real self-reliance soon, we may wake up and find that we've handed the crown right back. This time not to a king across the pond, but to a bloated institution right here at home.

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

Deaths

Bebout

William Douglas Bebout, 94, of Fredonia, died Friday, June 27, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah.

He was a man of honor, faith, and he lived out the principals within the word of God. He was a Korean War veteran and was proud to serve his country. After his father's early passing in life, he joined the Army and helped support his mother and younger siblings. He enjoyed carpentry work and mowing his meticulous yard. He was known for his famous pecan pies and brownies. He was a member of West Kentucky Pentecostal Church and worked for Potter & Brumfield for over 30 years, and he especially loved his dog "Jazzy."

Surviving are his wife Vaughnel Bebout; three daughters, Paula D. Oliver (JC) May of Tolu, Patricia G (Jay) Johns of Marion, Ill., and Phyllis (Kent) Martin of Marion; a step son, Chris (Karen) Flaherty of Mt. Sterling; a step daughter-in-law, Lisa Flahardy of Owensboro; five iblings, Robert E. "Bobby" Bebout of Lola, Donald Wayne Bebout of Lola, Doris Arey of Lexington, Tenn., John A. (Linda) Bebout of Lexington, Tenn., and Billy Ray (Mary Ann) Bebout of Rosiclare, Ill.; nine grandchildren, Zak Oliver, Darrah Crawford, Damon Brown, Daniel Brown, Chad Faughn, Heath Faughn, Stephanie Nesler, Dallas Bebout and Sydney Jenkins; six step-grandchildren, Bethany Turner, Faith Humphrey, Hope Weber, Kara Gates, Karissa Gates and Patrick Flahardy; and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Stephen D. Bebout; a step son, Brian Flahardy; a brother, James A. "Jimmy" Bebout; and his parents, Ford and Amy (Kimsey) Bebout.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959 or Appalachian Children's Home, P.O. Box 550, Barbourville, KY 40906

Graveside services were Tuesday, July 1 at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Salem with Bro. Johnathan Uzzle officiating.

Paid obituary

Porter

Nicky Marlon Porter, 70, of Marion, died Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at his home. He was a member of Frances Community Church and was well known in the community for his monument etchings for Henry and Henry Monuments and for his paintings and murals. One of his murals was featured on "Burrage's Bags" by Sam Burrage on WPSD-TV. He was a charter member of the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation and a former board member of Fohs Hall, Inc.

Surviving are two brothers, Joe (Gaye) Porter of Marion and Dennis (Paula) Porter of Crayne; and several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry A. and Anna Lee Porter; a brother, Eric Porter; and a nephew, Jason Porter.

Memorial services were Wednesday, July 2 at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Donations may be made to Fohs Hall, Inc., P.O. Box 1 Marion, KY 42064 or the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation, P.O. Box 55, Marion, KY 42064.

Dunbar

Jonathan Ray Dunbar, a cherished husband, father, son, grandson, brother, and friend, died Monday, June 23, 2025.

Jonathan was born on August 25, 1988, to loving parents Charles Ray and Robin Cravens Dunbar of Fredonia. Jonathan's early life on the family farm shaped him into the hardworking and passionate man he would become. He attended Caldwell County High School, graduating with the class of 2007. After high school, Jonathan dedicated his life to the family's pride, Dunbar Farms of Fredonia, continuing the tradition of farming that he revered so much. As a self-employed farmer, his passion for the land was evident in the meticulous care he brought to every aspect of his work.

Warm and gregarious, Jonathan was a man of the outdoors. Whether it was farming, gardening, duck hunting, riding dirt bikes, or simply cruising around in the Ranger, he found peace and happiness in the simplicity of nature. But what he loved most was sharing these experiences with his children. Every ride, every moment shared, was an opportunity for Jonathan to teach and bond with his kids-the joy of his life.

His infectious laughter could light up a room, and his readiness to playfully aggravate friends and family was done with such heart that it only drew people closer to him. Jonathan was a member of Mexico Baptist Church.

He leaves behind a constellation of loved ones: wife, Kelsey; children Jaxie Dunbar, Mack Dunbar, and Deason Morris; parents, Charles Ray and Robin Cravens Dunbar of Fredonia; sister Kristen (Chase) Howton of Princeton; paternal grandfather, David Dunbar of Fredonia; father-in-law Shawn (Debbie) Mason of Princeton; mother-in-law Melissa (Jeremy) Gatten of Marion; step-sister-in-law's Leah (Jason) Patton of Clarksville, Laura Stovall of Princeton, and Jessica (Evan) Head; and a close-knit family of aunts, uncles, and cousins who will all miss him immensely.

Jonathan is preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Betty Sue Dunbar; maternal grandparents, John and Linda Cravens; uncle, Adam Cravens; cousin, Ilissa Beavers; grandparent-in laws, Judy and Tommy Franklin, and Glendal and Elizabeth Lynch.

Memorial donations may be made to Jonathan Dunbar's Children's Fund at Fredonia Valley Bank: 602 Cassidy Ave, Fredonia, KY 42411

Funeral services were June 27 at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Jeff Boone and Bro. James Penn officiating. Burial followed in Fredonia Cemetery.

George

Mr. Thomas H. George, 86, of Salem, KY, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, June 30, 2025.

Thomas was a proud U.S. Navy veteran who deeply enjoyed traveling, hunting, going out to eat, spending time with his family, and had a special love for children. His warmth, humor, and generous spirit will be remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Terry DeBoe George of Salem, KY; his children, Thomas E. (Rochelle) George and Juanita Courtright, both of Marion; sisters, Hazel Browning of Madisonville, and Freda Watson of Marion; and his grandchildren: Tom (Mary) Courtright, Dillon (Tenasie) Courtright, T.J. George, Charlee George, Brandon (Rheanda) DeBoe, Adam (Mandy) DeBoe, Trey DeBoe, Kirsten (Trevor) Howton, Daley (Jacey) DeBoe, Caden DeBoe and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth (Bridge) George; his parents, Buel E. and Pearl J. (Brannam) George; and siblings, Ernestine Garrison, James Edward George, Mary Helen Conway, Juanita Fraley, Lucy Gibson, and Charles Wayne George.

Funeral services will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 2, in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services, with Bro. Bryan Browning officiating.

Friends may visit with the family from 4 p.m. until the funeral hour in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Cherry

Barbara Jean Goodson Cherry, 93, died Friday, June 27, 2025, at her home in Durham, N.C. She was born in Eustace, Lake County, Fla., to the late Frank Norton Goodson and Mary Inez Shelton Goodson.

She grew up in Florida and enjoyed going to dances and singing on the local radio station. In 1950, she married her high school sweetheart, Roy Edmund Cherry. He was drafted into the U.S. Army later that year.

Barbara traveled with her husband, living in Fukuoka, Japan. In 1956, their son Roy Jr. was born, followed by a daughter, Dianne, in 1960. Barbara attended Bible college in Louisiana, where she obtained her teaching license in physical education. She worked for the Sacramento, Calif., school system as head of the physical education department. She oversaw programs at several schools, including Del Paso Manor.

In 1973, her husband took a teaching job in Glasgow, Ky., and the family moved from California to the Bluegrass State. They relocated to Crittenden County in 1974. Barbara taught school in Crittenden County, where her husband was the football coach and a history teacher before transferring to Webster County High School, where he coached and taught until his death in 1994. She also worked for State Farm Insurance Co. before becoming a full-time guardian and grandmother to her grandson, Daniel.

Barbara loved roller skating and riding bicycles every weekend with her husband and children. She loved to travel. She and her husband took groups of students on overseas tours each summer to destinations ranging from Australia to Africa and various countries throughout Europe.

As her children began having families of their own, her focus shifted to her grandchildren. Barbara was an active and involved grandmother who always made time for her family. She would ride her grandson Adam around the Greenwood Heights neighborhood on her little red scooter or chase him around the yard in a blue go-kart. She enjoyed being outdoors and attended her grandkids' baseball games and practices, swim meets and football games.

She loved to sing and recorded a Southern gospel album in 1995 with Faith Ministries at the urging of her dear friend Vestal Goodman of the Happy Goodmans. Barbara was a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky.

In 2006, she began making the drive between Marion, Ky., and Durham, N.C., to spend time with her daughter and grandchildren. Barbara never met a stranger and could easily make friends wherever she went. She lived with her daughter Dianne and grandchildren Chelsea and Adam Hollamon. She loved vacationing with them, especially at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Barbara lived with her daughter and grandchildren until her passing.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband; her brothers, Frank and Ed Goodson; her sisters, Anita Slack, Shirley Barrie and Betty Sue Boland; and her grandsons, Christopher and Michael Russell.

She is survived by her son, Roy Cherry Jr. (Cathy) of Madisonville, and daughter, Dianne Lynn Cherry Hollamon of Durham, N.C.; grandchildren, Daniel Cherry (Sara), Chelsea Hollamon, Adam Hollamon, Leandra Cherry Kellam (Adam), and Rebekah Cherry Jones (Wyatt); and great-grandchildren, Wyatt Shae Cherry, Sophia Lou Cherry, Odelia Marie Kellam and Arabella Sage Jones.

Barbara will be laid to rest at Mapleview Cemetery in Marion, Ky., next to her husband. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at Gilbert Funeral Home. The family will receive visitors from 9 a.m., until service time at the funeral home.

James

Rebecca Lorraine James, 72, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at her home on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

She was a spirited soul who marched to the beat of a different drummer. She heaped care and affection upon her pets, dogs and cats alike, loved tending to her yard and flowerbeds, and found time and funds to donate to the Angels in Our Community Christmas program. James was a 1970 graduate of Livingston Central High. She was born Oct. 22, 1952, at the hospital in Princeton, Ky., and for a time held the record for heaviest baby born there at 12 pounds.

She is survived by her sons, Chris (Julie) Curry of Indianapolis, Ind., and Adam Ferrell (Megan Kelnhofer) of Columbus, Ohio; her sisters, Patricia (Terry) Deese of Madisonville, Donna James of Paducah, and Margie (Jim) Brindley of Little Elm, Texas; her brothers, Dr. Gary (Jerrell) James of Marion, and David (Connie) James of Joy. She also leaves behind her grandchildren, Phillip Curry, Gavin Walls, Greyson Walls, Paisley Walls and Beckham Ferrell.

James was preceded in death by her parents, O.B. and Evelyn (Quertermous) James.

In accordance with the family's wishes, no services will be held.

Memorials may be made to the Paducah-McCracken County Humane Society, 4000 Coleman Road, Paducah, KY 42001, or online at mccrackenhumane.org using the online giving tab.

Hunt

Eddie Dale Hunt, 82, of Marion, KY passed away June 30, 2025 at Baptist Health Madisonville. He was a member of Marion Methodist Church, a United States Army Veteran and retired from Insulators Local 37.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Hunt of Marion; daughters, Brandi (Todd) Clements of Madisonville and Ashley (Chad) Thomas of Marion; grandchildren, Max Clements of Madisonville and Ethan Thomas of Marion; brother, J.E. Hunt of Eddyville; several nieces and nephews and beloved golden retriever, Buck.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hester Earl and Jane Hunt; brothers, Donnie, Shelby and Bobby Hunt and sister, Linda Jane Hunt.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, July 3 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion. The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

Donations may be made to Marion Methodist Church, 112 S. College Street, Marion, KY 42064.

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This website is provided by Kentucky's newspapers as a free service for the purpose of and engaging the citizens and maximizing the availability of this information.

Marion's newest businessman, 18-year-old Cutter Singleton, opened his used furniture and antiques store July 1 on East Bellville Street. Holding the ribbon during a ceremony sponsored by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce are (from left) Singleton's grandmother Debbie Paulson, Cutter & Cash and the Kentucky Grass bandmate and friend Brennan Cruce, his mother Shelley Singleton, brother Cash Singleton and aunt Tommi Paulson. Also present were about 30 more friends and members of the Chamber.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, July 3
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Wednesday, July 9
• Registration due for Pickleball Blessings Tourament. The tournament will be held at the old Crittenden County National Guard Armory on June 12. All proceeds will go to Teddi Hodge for medical expenses and living expenses. Also collecting non-perishable items along with food/grocery gift cards. Contact Kim Orr for more information (270) 704-3930 or Jennifer Hall to register (270) 559-1780.

Thursday, June 10
•The Virgil JOnes VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building located at 412 North College St. Refreshments will be served.
• There will be a Carbon Market Webinar at the Crittenden County Exension office starting at 11:30 a.m.
• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

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Memories conjure up triple digits

When you think of July, what words or images come to mind? When my thoughts turn to July, I typically think of the following phrase: Hot as a firecracker! July is typically one of the hottest months of the year. Just check your July electricity bill for the past few years and see if it's not one of your highest bills of the summer. Let's pause momentarily while I check out my online account at Kentucky Utilities and put my theory to the test...

Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

I'm back. I've just gone online and verified that I have used more electricity in July than any other month for the past three years (actually, July tied with August in 2022). My paternal grandmother, Lillie Belle Clarke, would say that it's "H-O-T-T hot!" If you're a fan of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, then you might say July is when it's "hotter than a pepper sprout" — a phrase from Johnny and June's hit song "Jackson."

Funny thing about my memory... it seems to me that triple-digit heat was fairly common in my childhood. After another short break from writing to do a little research, it seems that my memory is correct!

Thanks to your computer (or perhaps your smartphone) and that invisible "thing" out there called the internet, there is a wealth of weather info at your fingertips. For instance, I just went to Google and typed "Paducah Ky NWS" and hit enter. (Note: NWS = National Weather Service.) The first search result was the one I wanted, so I clicked on "Paducah, KY," which took me to the Paducah NWS homepage. Then I clicked on "Climate and Past Weather," which took me to a page showing something called "NOWData" with several location options. Once again, I clicked "Paducah, KY" in column 1, then "Temperature graphs" in column 2, then "Summer (Jun - Aug)" in column 3, then "Go" in column 4. Presto! A very impressive chart appeared with very interesting info regarding record highs/lows, average temps, etc. As you drag your cursor across the chart, a pop-up window breaks the data down to day-by-day info.

Here's what I discovered: For the month of July (going all the way back to 1937), 23 of July's 31 daily record high temps came prior to the year 2000. In fact, for the 21st century, only one year is represented in the record books, that's 2012. Many of us remember that year very well for the terribly hot, dry weather in July. (Ask a crop farmer if he remembers the summer of 2012.) In fact, there are eight July daily record highs in this century; believe it or not, they were all set in 2012! So why does it seem hotter now than before? Because we're so spoiled to the A/C (air conditioning)! These days, it is a crisis if the A/C goes out. So remember, we had lots of hot weather in the previous millennium, back when it was "H-O-T-T hot," or "hot as a firecracker!"

Speaking of firecrackers... remember that this is the season for celebrating our national freedom as Americans, a season typically celebrated with lots of fireworks, including hot firecrackers! One of my favorite things to do on the July Fourth holiday (after dark) is to find the Boston Pops TV show (typically on KET/PBS), which features both classical symphonic music and some very impressive fireworks, including military cannons.

(Think Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" here... absolutely amazing! I'm getting lumps in my throat right now as I watch the 2019 YouTube video on my computer.) Before we moved to White Plains, we used to enjoy going to various outdoor fireworks events in the Salem/Marion area. Then we got old and realized the restroom is much closer when we watch it at home on TV!

Let's wrap this up with a couple of reminders. First, it's supposed to be hot this time of year. If you're going to be working outside, be sure to drink lots of fluids, particularly water, and try to avoid soda and other sugary drinks. Would you believe that Gatorade is loaded with sugar? V8 juice has 10 times as much potassium as Gatorade with one-fourth as much sugar.

Second, let's celebrate our freedom and independence like never before! Our world is quickly becoming a dark place in which various countries are seeking to flex their power in a negative way. America, with all its faults, is still the greatest nation on Earth. Let's express our sincere gratitude to God for keeping America free, and let's fly our American flags high and proud while celebrating our freedom.

God bless America!

Chris Clarke is a native of Livingston and Crittenden counties. Although he's moved away, he maintains local ties. He has an equestrian ministry, Happy Trails

STREETS

Continued from page 1

at the intersection of South Main Street and Old Salem Road, where responsibility between the city and state for repairs remains unclear.

"It's a state highway," the mayor said, and so far neither the state nor the city has been able to come up with a plausible solution. The spot has flooded for more than 25 years when heavy rains occur.

On Second and North College, the mayor described damage caused by recent storms as "shocking," pointing to unusually intense rainfall.

Flooding concerns also exist on Carlisle Street where Mike Harris lives at the corner of Weldon Street. He told the city council that drainage hasn't been right since the jail was built in 2007.

"It runs under the door into my house," he said.

Another resident pointed out that Leland Avenue is also a sore spot, and has been since the street was torn up during sewer line repair years ago.

According to the Kentucky Mesonet station near Mattoon, the county saw at least 7 inches of rain in June, making it the second-wettest June in a decade. Marion may have received even more. Only 2018 was wetter, with nearly 8 inches recorded that June.

The city has asked its engineer to evaluate the stormwater challenges, but solutions may be expensive and slow to arrive.

Cavanah to head special education

Crittenden County Schools has announced George Cavanah as its next director of special education (DOSE) and preschool coordinator. For the last seven years, Cavanah has worked in special education in the district, serving as the school's psychologist. His time in this role, Cavanah said, has prepared him for this leadership position.

"My role as school psychologist has given me a strong foundation," said Cavanah. "I've worked closely with students, families, educators, and administrators to support individual learning needs, evaluate services, and ensure compliance with special education processes. This experience has strengthened my understanding of the field and deepened my commitment to equity, collaboration and student success across the district."

Cavanah says his goals as DOSE and Pre-K coordinator are to continue working collaboratively with students, staff and parents.

Cavanah

A graduate of Murray State University, Cavanah holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders, DOSE certification and an EdS in school psychology.

Fredonia putting new rules on water hauling

STAFF REPORT

In an effort to protect its municipal water system, Fredonia City Council has proposed a new ordinance aimed at regulating the sale and transport of potable water outside city limits.

The measure was introduced during the council's June meeting and will require a final vote and formal adoption at its next meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, July 21.

If adopted, the ordinance would require vendors hauling potable water beyond the Fredonia Water System boundaries to purchase a $200 annual business license and register their tanks with the city. Tanks would be subject to inspection and must display a valid inspection sticker at each load-out.

Water could only be drawn during normal business hours at Akridge's Hardware, the city's designated load-out site. Vendors must notify city hall prior to each load-out, provide their assigned vendor number, and prepay a 0.5 cent-per-gallon fee based on tank size. Payments can be made by check or debit card, with a fee applied for credit card use.

Violations carry steep penalties — $500 for unregistered load-outs, failure to notify city hall, or drawing water after hours.

Potable water is defined as any water consumed directly or used in food preparation. The ordinance also requires vendors to sign a waiver releasing the city and its water system from liability.

An ordinance adopting the City of Fredonia
KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET for the fiscal
Year July, 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Whereas, an annual budget proposal and message have been prepared and delivered to the legislative body; and,
Whereas, the legislative body has reviewed such budget proposal and modifications have been made accordingly.
Whereas, the City Council has reviewed the proposed budget.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY the City of Fredonia, Kentucky as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 ending June 30, 2026 is adopted as set forth herein:

	General Fund	MRA Fund	Cemetery Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund
RESOURCES AVAILABLE:					
Taxes	134,800.00				
Franchise Fees	56,000.00				
Charges for Services	250.00		6,600.00	274,300.00	111,000.00
Intergovernmental	19,500.00			-	
Miscellaneous	7,250.00	8,940.00	1,925.00	3,700.00	1,600.00
Appropriation of fund balance		-			
Transfers (In)	-	-	-	75,000.00	-
Total Revenue	217,800.00	8,940.00	8,525.00	353,000.00	112,600.00
Beg. Fund Balance	381,461.00	14,670.00	64,202.05	59,224.42	662,909.83
Total Resources Available	599,261.00	23,610.00	72,727.05	412,224.42	775,509.83
For Appropriations					
APPROPRIATIONS:					
Administrative	4,980.00			122,000.00	
Fire	34,600.00				
Street		8,940.00			
Miscellaneous	68,720.00			35,100.00	44,250.00
Sewer O & M					51,850.00
Water O & M				186,000.00	
Debt Service	9,000.00			9,900.00	16,500.00
Cemetery	15,500.00		8,525.00		
Capital Outlay	10,000.00	-			
Transfers (Out)	75,000.00				
Total Expenditures	217,800.00	8,940.00	8,525.00	353,000.00	112,600.00
Est. Fund Balance at Year-End	381,461.00	14,670.00	64,202.05	59,224.42	662,909.83
	599,261.00	23,610.00	72,727.05	412,224.42	775,509.83

SECTION TWO: This budget ordinance shall be administered by the executive authority as prescribed and set forth in the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Administration shall include, but not limited to at least the following:

A: Preparation and submission of financial statements which include budgetary comparisons on not less than a quarterly basis.
B. Provide for budget amendments if requested by the legislative body or if anticipated through administration and implementation.
C. Prepare any financial statements required for publication purposes, pursuant to KRS 424 and 91A.
D. Cause each fund of this budget to be audited as prescribed by law.

SECTION THREE: The detailed operating budget is adopted by reference for administration, accounting and reporting purposes.
SECTION FOUR: This ordinance shall be published in the newspaper by title and summary within thirty (30) days after adoption.
SECTION FIVE: This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

Adopted this 16th **day of** June**, 2025.**

Jim Seibert
Mayor

ATTEST: Rachael Vickery
City Clerk

05-19-2025 Date of first reading

06-16-2025 Date of second reading and adoption

An ordinance adopting the City of Fredonia
KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET for the fiscal
Year July, 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Whereas, the City Council for the City of Fredonia, Kentucky is required by law to amend its budget ordinance to reflect actual revenues and expenditures if different from those projected, and
Whereas, it has been reported to the City Council that actual revenues collected and costs expended by the city during the 2024-2025 fiscal year are different from those projected in the current budget ordinance, and it is therefore necessary to amend the 2024-2025 budget ordinance to reflect those variances.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY the City of Fredonia, Kentucky as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 ending June 30, 2025 is amended as set forth herein:

	General Fund	MRA Fund	Cemetery Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund
RESOURCES AVAILABLE:					
Taxes	123,300.00				
Franchise Fees	56,000.00				
Charges for Services	250.00		6,600.00	274,300.00	111,000.00
Intergovernmental	44,000.00			-	
Miscellaneous	17,250.00	8,940.00	2,700.00	4,000.00	1,600.00
Appropriation of fund balance		-			
Transfers (In)	-	-	-	31,500.00	-
Total Revenue	240,800.00	8,940.00	9,300.00	309,800.00	112,600.00
Beg. Fund Balance	390,719.00	14,670.00	64,202.05	59,224.42	662,909.83
Total Resources Available	631,519.00	23,610.00	73,502.05	369,024.42	775,509.83
For Appropriations					
APPROPRIATIONS:					
Administrative	4,980.00			64,250.00	
Fire	38,400.00				
Street		8,940.00			
Miscellaneous	120,520.00			35,100.00	44,100.00
Sewer O & M					52,000.00
Water O & M				200,550.00	
Debt Service	3,400.00			9,900.00	16,500.00
Cemetery	15,500.00		9,300.00		
Capital Outlay	26,500.00	-			
Transfers (Out)	31,500.00				
Total Expenditures	240,800.00	8,940.00	9,300.00	309,800.00	112,600.00
Est. Fund Balance at Year-End	390,719.00	14,670.00	64,202.05	59,224.42	662,909.83
	631,519.00	23,610.00	73,502.05	369,024.42	775,509.83

SECTION TWO: The detailed budget proposal and message, together with modifications, are hereby adopted and incorporated by the reference herein, the same as if copied at length herein.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance is effective upon its passage and publication.
SECTION FOUR: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or a portion of this ordinance is declared illegal,
SECTION FIVE: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, are to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

FIRST READING 05-19-2025 **SECOND READING** 06-16-2025

At a meeting of the Fredonia City Council held on 06-16-2025 a motion was made by Teresa Travis and seconded by Stephanie Feagan, the foregoing ordinance was adopted, after full discussion, by the following vote.

AB Council Member Crystal Moore
Present Council Member Kent Wilcox
Present Council Member Stephanie Feagan
AB Council Member Marc Bell
Present Council Member Teresa Travis
Present Council Member Presley Lamm
Present Mayor Jim Seibert

APPROVED BY:

Jim Seibert
JIM SEIBERT, MAYOR
CITY OF FREDONIA

Area students on Ole Miss honor roll

Two area students have been named to the University of Mississippi's Spring 2025 Dean's Honor Roll.

Kenlee McDaniel of Marion and Ella Gough of Morganfield each earned the academic distinction, which is reserved for students who achieve a semester grade-point average between 3.50 and 3.74.

McDaniel majored in integrated marketing communications. Gough is studying entrepreneurship and integrated marketing communications.

To qualify, students must complete at least 12 graded hours and not be on academic probation.

Gough graduates from Mississippi

Grace Gough of Morganfield is among approximately 3,500 students graduating from Mississippi State University in spring 2025, with commencement in May. Gough received the bachelor of science Cum Laude from MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

She was also named to the Mississippi State University spring 2025 President's List. Students on the President's List achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades less than a C.

KU offering tips for summer cooling

With summer temperatures on the rise, Kentucky Utilities Co. is offering energy-saving tips and safety reminders to help customers stay cool while managing electricity costs.

"The weather and how we use energy are two major factors that influence energy bills," said Shannon Montgomery, LG&E and KU's vice president of Customer Services. "We offer programs, tips and incentives to help customers beat the heat and reduce their usage."

The utility suggests simple steps such as setting ceiling fans to spin counterclockwise, raising thermostat settings slightly, keeping blinds closed during the day and using outdoor grills or slow cookers to avoid heating up the kitchen. Sealing leaks and changing air filters regularly can also boost cooling efficiency.

Annual A/C inspections and participation in energy efficiency programs, available to renters, homeowners and businesses, can provide long-term savings.

Safety tips include staying hydrated, checking on elderly neighbors, and following weather alerts. Customers are also urged to use caution with campfires due to dry summer conditions.

For those facing financial challenges, KU encourages contacting the company to arrange payments or connect with local assistance programs. Resources are available 24/7 through the company's app, website or automated phone line.

Withrow case set for trial in October

A harassment case against local resident Craig Gilland, filed by Kent Withrow, has been diverted for six months following a hearing last week in Crittenden District Court. The case

stems from a non-physical confrontation following a city council meeting last winter.

Meanwhile, following a scheduled court appearance last week, Withrow is set to stand trial at 9 a.m., Oct. 6 before Special District Judge Brandon Knoth on a charge of falsely reporting an incident to law enforcement. Three other misdemeanor charges filed against Withrow - criminal coercion, harassing communications and harassment without physical contact - have been deferred for two years under an agreed order reached this week. Those charges involved two alleged victims.

The remaining misdemeanor charge set for trial, falsely reporting an incident, stems from a December 2024 allegation that Withrow falsely told state police he was physically assaulted by County Attorney Bart Frazer following a fiscal court meeting.

In a separate matter, Withrow's civil lawsuit against the county regarding an alleged Open Records Act violation continues to move slowly through the court system. A deposition of Judge-Executive Perry Newcom is scheduled for next week.

Riverview Park activity is down 56% in May

Riverview Park in northern Crittenden County saw a sharp drop in camping activity and revenue in May compared to the same month last year, a downturn county officials attribute in part to a closed state highway bridge that limits access to the riverside campground.

Only 55 RV nights and four tent nights were booked in May 2025, down from 124 RV nights and 10 tent nights in May 2024. That's a 56 percent drop in RV usage year-over-year. Park revenue also declined.

Local campers are still utilizing the park, but out-of-town visitors unfamiliar with alternate routes may be deterred by the bridge outage, officials say.

Riverview Park, formerly known as Dam 50, includes seven full-service RV pads, tent sites, a dock, restrooms, playground, pavilion and basketball goal. Tent sites rent for $5 per night and RV sites for $20. Reservation information is available at CrittendenCountyKy.org.

Tourism commission supports area events

Marion Tourism Commission recently approved several funding requests during its latest meeting, including a $3,500 contribution to help the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum purchase a billboard sign along U.S. 641 near Eddyville. The sign will be placed between Exit 40 off Interstate 24 and Eddyville to help draw visitors to the Marion-based attraction.

The commission also approved a $2,000 request from Crittenden County Dugout Club to help cover the cost of umpires and championship rings for local All-Star baseball events that draw teams from other communities across western Kentucky.

Additionally, members gave the green light to provide up to $2,000 for improvements to the launching area at Lake George and agreed to support the annual Tolu fireworks show with $2,000 in assistance for portable toilets and other expenses.

Animal shelter report

Crittenden County Animal Shelter reported 29 new dog intakes during May, with five adoptions and five dogs reclaimed by their owners. Nine dogs were transferred to rescue organizations, and no dogs were euthanized, died from medical issues or escaped.

As of May 31, the shelter had 32 dogs on-site and 46 in foster care.

The shelter collected $815 in revenue for the month, $485 from adoptions, $75 in reclaim fees and $255 in donations. No income was reported from sponsorships or dog licensing.

Quertermous will be DPP at Livingston

Dr. Melissa Quertermous, former principal at Crittenden County High School, has been promoted to director of pupil personnel for Livingston County Schools.

A 1995 graduate of Livingston Central High School, Quertemous has been an educator for 25 years. Including recent service as principal at South Livingston Elementary. She is a Murray State University alumna and has served as both teacher and administrator throughout her career.

Bikers will be rolling through area soon

The largest motorcycle rally and biker party in Kentucky is about three weeks away. The Sturgis Kentucky Motorcycle Rally will be held July 16-20 at Union County Fairgrounds. The event draws more than 5,000 motorcycle enthusiasts each year.

Benefit Pickleball will help local resident

A community pickleball tournament will be held Saturday, July 12 at Crittenden County Recreation Center (former armory) to raise funds for Teddi Hodge, who is facing medical and living expenses.

Hosted by Seed Sowers Ministry, the Pickleball Blessings Tournament will feature individual and couples play.

Entry fee is $20 per person, with an additional $20 for those entering the couples division. Registration deadline is July 9 and fees are non-refundable. Concessions will be available, and attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or grocery gift cards as part of the fundraiser.

For more information, contact Kim Orr at 270-704-3930. To register, call Jennifer Hall at 270-559-1780.

Hayes re-elected as jail assoc. director

Crittenden County Jailer Athena Hayes has been re-elected as one of 20 directors of the Kentucky Jailers' Association. This will be her second year to serve on the board. The association's mission is to establish harmony of legislative action, ensure protection and success, provide pecuniary support, secure protection and promote the best interests of jailers in Kentucky.

THROW BACK THURSDAY

OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879

10 YEARS AGO

July 2, 2015

■ Yarbrough Insurance became Yarbrough, Tabor and Goodwin Insurance, or YTG, with the partnership of agent Tanner Tabor.

■ Crittenden County FFA members Alyssa Curtis, Cali Parish, Kasey Herrin, Alexis Tabor, Emily Hall, Megan Chambliss, Ryan Belt, Emmalee Barnes, John Duvall, Logan Shuecraft, Dustin Collins and Catherine Hutchison attended the Kentucky Leadership Training Center in Harrisburg for FFA camp.

■ The top scoring participants in Crittenden County's American Private Enterprise System attended the Kentucky Youth Seminar at the University of Kentucky. Participants were Benny Tucker, Travis Fitzgerald, Jayden Willis and Dylan Hollis.

■ Visiting Smokey the Bear at 4-H Environmental Day Camp were Caeden Brothers, Zeke Smith, Eli Lovell, Benjamin Potter, Eli Herrin, Dougie Smith, Braelyn Merrill, Aly Yates, Zak Smith and Caleb Combs.

■ Rocket Football Camp winners were Isaac James, Jett Reddick, Davis Perryman, Caden Howard, Kaiden Travis, Jantzen Fowler, Levi Piper, Caden Crowell, Jack Reddick, Dylan West, Ben Evans, Xander Tabor, Avery Thompson, Isaac James, Jake Rich, Quinn Summers, Preston Turley, Jasper Morrison, Caden McCalister, Caleb Hooper, Levi Suddoth, Hunter Crabtree, Holden Cooksey, Hudson Stokes and Caleb Whobery.

25 YEARS AGO

June 29, 2000

■ Winners of 36-hole Marion Country Club four-person scramble were Matt Stone, Ford Branch Jr, Kyle Myers and Blair Winders, shooting 110.

■ Crittenden County High School graduate Steve Thompson, a fullback and defensive back for the Rockets his junior and senior year, played for Kentucky in the Down Under Bowl on Australia's Gold Coast. Also that summer, Josh Cozart had three tackles and a quarterback sack while playing for Kentucky in the Kentucky-Tennessee All Star Game in Lexington.

■ Officials from the City of Marion and Crittenden County's governments were in Louisville analyzing plans to refurbish the old Marion High School into a 75-100 bed jail to replace its 30-year-old jail. Plans were to transform the old school into a justice center that would also house the sheriff and police departments.

■ Habitat for Humanity in Crittenden County conducted a Repair Affair to provide home assistance projects at 10 residences, including caulking windows, painting interior rooms, light plumbing, landscaping and general clean-up.

50 YEARS AGO

July 3, 1975

■ Junior representatives to the Elis B. Ordway American Legion Auxiliary Post III Boys' and Girls' State were Pat Taylor, Rhonda Kirk, Jenny Nunn and Greg Morrill.

■ Everett Jones passed the Marion Rotary Club gavel to Dr. Wes Creager. Other officers were vice president Rev. Harold Person and secretary/treasurer Morris Caudill.

■ Special Fourth of July pricing at Gene's IGA included hamburger meat for 79¢ a pound, cut up chicken fryers 49¢ a pound, Mt. Dew 6 for $1, eggs 57¢ a dozen and Chicken of the Sea tuna 39¢ a pound.

■ Midway through the summer season, Tolu earned its second consecutive win, beating Kennedy Kids in Paducah, after Paula Belt knocked in the winning run with bases loaded.

■ Buck Travis and Sam Smith, along with Tommy Loyd and Dick Moore led the Men's Golf League at Marion Country Club. Travis and Smith took low net score honors with a 70; Chat Crider took low putts with 12 for the nine-hole round.

■ Featured in an advertisement for Tresslar Home and Family Center in Darben Plaza were Orine McConnell, Shirley Hunt, Lois Hunt, Carolyn Todd and Lois Phillips.

Senior Citizens Center hosting Bingo fundraiser

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

Organizers are inviting the public to attend the event, which includes a $10 entry fee and a light dinner. Several local businesses have pledged donations to help make the evening a success.

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

Crittenden Press Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my gratitude to our community for their support of Mapleview Cemetery.

After the passing of my father, Bill Fox, in 2018, I was honored to serve the Marion Cemetery Association as its chairperson. I have now completed my tenure, leaving that position in the capable hands of Denis Hodge. I am remaining on the board and look forward to serving in any capacity that I am needed.

The last year has been a challenge for the board. As this year began, we didn't have the funds to keep the cemetery grounds maintained. Through the generous donations we have received from the families and friends who have loved ones buried at Mapleview, the maintenance has been covered for this year.

Our goal now is to increase the perpetual care fund to continue this maintenance and be able to make periodic improvements through the coming years. We owe so much to the ones who have gone before us!

It is our duty to continue the legacy of our ancestors in this way.

What an honor and privilege it is to live in such a caring community.

Dianne Newcom
Marion, Ky.

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Religion The Crittenden Press

CrittendenPress.Blogspot.com

Goodness thrives on humility

Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

There are myriad ways we attempt to define a good person. It may be based on how one treats those we believe have less power in our interactions. It may be based on how one treats members of their family or co-workers. These definitions are subjective and vary according to how we might feel, how we perceive an interaction, or our motivation.

Being good is nearly always based on self-assessment. Most of us, most of the time, consider ourselves to be good. Even on days we know that actions have not lived up to expectations, we still think of ourselves as good. For those who attend certain types of churches, it seems the goal of the sermon is to ensure that everyone knows that no one is good. As a professor friend of mind once stated something like, "Some think that a successful sermon is one that makes people who think of themselves as good feel badly enough about themselves to go on with their lives having served 30 minutes of penance. They feel good about being made to feel bad for about half an hour."

Being good is sometimes difficult when we do not fully understand our context. I have been caught trying to do a good deed for another person only to realize that I was being offensive or misunderstood.

There is a story in the gospels of Mark (ch. 10) and Luke (ch. 18) in which Jesus is asked "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The response surprised everyone. Jesus went straight to point. It is hard to know the man's motivation, but the story indicates that he thought of himself as "good." Jesus pointed out the one weakness in the man's life. I don't think this was to embarrass him. I think it was to demonstrate that even the most successful and "good-est" of us do not measure up. The answer was so shocking that the disciples wondered, "If he can't inherit eternal life, then who can?"

The solution to that dilemma comes with Jesus' statement, "With men it is impossible, but not with God." I like to think that this flows in two directions. First, God grants life based on his holiness, not ours. Second, men's measures of goodness (even the best of us), fall short and can lead us to making poor judgments about who is "in" and who it "out."

The problem we have with goodness is that we are too quick to determine another's goodness based only on what we consider good while knowing little about the other. I have great respect for those of us who operate as Christians in difficult circumstances. Life throws things at us that may leave us with no good choices – only the least bad. It is not for me to judge the decisions of others when I know nothing about their lives or their job.

The people I look to as an example of being good are those who have the humility to know that they are not good and are not positioned to determine whether another person is or not. I am not talking about justice or those who clearly violate the rights or security of others.

Goodness, like wisdom, thrives in an atmosphere of humility. Jesus' scathing rebuke of the synagogue rulers who cast out a man he had healed from blindness comes to mind, "Jesus said, 'For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, `We see,' your guilt remains.'" (John 9:39-41)

No human being is good because no one knows enough to be good all the time in every circumstance. Those who do the most good in this world, I believe, inherently understand this. These are the ones who have an optimistic view of life and see good in people. They seek out the good in this world and encourage it.

Psalm 131 expresses humility and peace while placing hope in God. We all have things that are too great and marvelous for us. Recognizing that leads to peace, forgiveness, and goodness.

"O LORD, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a child quieted at its mother's breast;
like a child that is quieted is my soul.
O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time forth and for evermore."

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

Religious Outreach

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

■ Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.

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

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

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

■ Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.

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

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

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

Marion General Baptist Church
341 West Bellville St., Marion, KY
HOMECOMING
Sunday, July 13
Service at 11 a.m.

Stone Family singing following noon meal
Everyone is welcome!

Jesus works in our lives for our good and for His glory

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

Question: I've borrowed far more money than I should have. I anticipated a rise in the stock market to help me pay it off, but hard times have hit, and I am getting farther behind all the time. I've asked the Lord to see a way to repay my loan. I've prayed asking Jesus to help me. Why hasn't He met my needs?

Answer: When "answers" to prayers don't happen the way you hoped and in the time frame you desire, it's easy to have doubts about whether Jesus can truly meet your needs. I encourage you to examine your expectations for Jesus. You may see Him as someone who should simply fix all your problems and as someone you should be able to access for your own self-centered purposes.

Healthy expectations are grounded in truth. So, we need to see Jesus for who He is: the One who came to earth with a far greater purpose in mind than to solve every problem for us. Jesus came to take our sin-debt upon Himself and to die in our place. To receive the forgiveness of sin He offers, repent of your sins and put your faith in Him (John 3:16).

Of course, Jesus can do miracles, and He can supply our needs. When God doesn't act according to our timeline, we should patiently watch to see what He is doing. Even when God doesn't do things as we hope, we should trust Him to do what is for our good and for His glory (James 1:2-4).

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE.
(270) 704-5822

WORSHIP *with us this week*

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

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

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

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

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

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church
261 Crooked Creek Church Rd.,
P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914
Pastor, Hank Cayce
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 *"Whatever It Takes"*
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Bro. Jamie Baker
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.
Captured by a vision...

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

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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2 Peter 3:18
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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

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Sunday School: 10 a.m.
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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
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A glimpse into courtroom tales and health board news

It's always interesting to read and learn about the people and events that happened in our county years ago. Let's read about two accounts of their courtroom visits. One very informative story from a man on jury duty; one of a humorous nature; and we'll catch up on the news from the local Board of Health from the files of The Crittenden Press.

—

July 2, 1896 - The Grand Jury

During a lull in business Thursday, while the grand jury was engaged in discussing a basket of fine peaches with wide open doors, The Press scribe was invited in. He timidly accepted the invitation and soon found that he was with as jolly a set of folks as one usually meets, and nowhere did he find any racks, screws or tweezers to be used in pulling facts from witnesses, no instruments of torture were seen. The pleasant faces of a dozen of the best citizens of the county indicated no woe for the boys, who insist on going fishing about court time. There were:

Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

■ W. J. Hodges, a big 49-year-old Republican, and a Cumberland Presbyterian.

■ William A. Woodall, aged 41 years, and a Republican for 41 years, and a Baptist for more than a score.

■ David Wyatt Brookshire, who stands charged with 56 years of time, a Republican and Baptist.

■ David W. Deboe with a luxurious hirsute growth on his chin, but with a dearth of a similar production on the top of his head. He pulls the beam of time at 54, and is a Cumberland Presbyterian.

■ William Fowler, who has been knocking around this county for 57 years; he is a Democrat, and according to his statement, "goes to all the churches."

■ John A. Yandell, whose venerable looks show plainly that he has reached three score and ten and three. He is a Republican, and don't belong to any church.

■ J. Frank Conger, the liveliest one of the whole lot, who was reading The Press, smiled as he said: "I am only 33, a Baptist, a Republican and the best looking one of the whole lot," he meant of the grand jurors.

■ William A. Adams, hale and hearty at 67, a Democrat of the old school, and a Cumberland Presbyterian.

■ H. C. Givens, who had just reached the middle point of the time allotted to man – 35 years. He is a Republican when he votes, but has voted only three times; he is a Cumberland Presbyterian.

■ George W. Parish, sturdy looking as a forest oak, is just turning the 52nd year; he is a Democrat and a Baptist.

■ R. E. Pickens, the only merchant on the panel, handsome and suave as a man of 25, yet on the books he is charged up with 51 years. He is a Democrat and a Presbyterian.

■ Robert W. Wood, with a big plain honest Methodist, Democratic face, has passed by the 50th yearly milestone, but is yet as mild, unassuming and pleasant as a fresh modest youth.

When the reporter was through with his interviews and headed for the door, he found it locked, and was informed that it would require half a bushel of apples to open it. The apples were sent for, the door opened and he left a mighty good lot of men enjoying their apples.

—

April 6, 1899 - County Stampede

Saturday a tramp helped himself to a pair of pants at a store in Crayneville as he was passing through that town. The theft was discovered shortly afterwards, and as the thief was coming this way, a telephone message was sent to City Marshal Loyd, who intercepted the man and soon had him in the circuit court room, waiting for the grand jury, which was in session, to send up an indictment. The witnesses were present, the thief was in possession of the stolen goods, and there was no doubt of his guilt.

Circuit Judge T. J. Nunn was on the bench, lawyers, officers and spectators were grouped about the courtroom, and the prisoner occupied a chair inside the bar. Judge Nunn turned to the prisoner and the following conversation took place between his Honor as the questioner and the tramp.

"Where are you from?"

"Cairo"

"What were you engaged in there?"

"I was in the hospital."

"What hospital, and what was the matter with you?"

"Small-pox hospital."

"Were you discharged as cured?"

"They said I was well enough to leave, and told me to go."

"Did you change clothes?"

"No sir, got on the same clothes."

Just here the questioning stopped abruptly, and the crowd began to scatter as if a 13-inch shell from a war ship had ripped up the jury box and demolished the judge's stand.

In the twinkle of an eye attorney, Ollie James, had widened the space between himself and the prisoner, and with his basso voice pitched to a tenor key said, "I move the court to let him go."

Circuit Clerk Haynes rushed to the back, raised a rear window and was about to leap from the second story window.

Attorney A. C. Moore got the stove and all the vacuum possible between himself and the prisoner, and vigorously seconded James' motion, the sheriff got the front door and wrapped for order as he rushed out, but had to run to keep from being run over. Over benches, helter skelter, pell-mell, the spectators went for more room.

Here the Court caught his breath and said: "Mr. Marshal, take him where he can get some air."

The prisoner is still out enjoying fresh air, for when order had been restored he was gone, nobody knew where, and not a man in that house wanted to follow him, and further-more nobody wanted anybody to follow him.

Dr. W. J. Deboe, chairman of the County Board of Health, gave strict instructions on how to sanitize our town and neighboring communities, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Ollie M. James, a young Marion attorney at the time, thought it best to let a thief go, and as quickly as possible.

—

April 23, 1891 - Sanitary of our town

The Crittenden County Board of Health met and transacted the following business: After discussing the sanitary condition of our town, Marion, and our neighbor towns and villages and the county generally and the varied infections diseases which have been in our midst for some time and still exist with an increased tendency to spread and malignancy, etc.

Motioned by Dr. W. J. Deboe that the Secretary be ordered and directed to notify the citizens of Crittenden County through the medium of our county paper, which motion carried, to clean and disinfect their premises by the 1st of May next.

We mean by this that all must be cleaned out and disinfected with lime or coperas and kept clean and disinfected at least once a week through the warm season, and all rubbish or garbage in back yards, alleys, livery stables, feed pens, must be cleaned by burning or hauled away from the town.

All ponds and cesspools that retain stagnant water must be drained and filled with earth so as to prevent the accumulation and retention of water. No swill or other offal accumulations from hotels or other buildings shall be permitted thrown out on the back yards.

All the rubbish from business houses must be burned immediately after it has been swept or placed on the streets or accumulating from any other source must be treated in like manner.

All owners and occupants of lands or buildings are requested and demanded to comply with the requirements of this order. This order applies to the county as well as to the towns and villages. Failing to comply with this order you will, by doing incur the penalty of the statute laws, and we intend to see to its reinforcement. Done by order of the board. Given under my hand the day and date above written. Dr. W. J. Deboe, Chairman

—

We are fortunate that the old Crittenden Press news reporters wrote of their visits and shared their thoughts and news with their readers, so we can enjoy them today.

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

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Charming 2BR, 1.5BA with tons of light, a big deck for sweet tea sippin', insulated garage, and a white picket fence. Cozy, bright, and full of southern charm!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 13.42 Acres - $669,500.00
This stunning hobby farm offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and functionality in a quiet rural setting. Includes a 6-bedroom, 4-bathroom home, two-car attached garage, two shops and a barn.

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

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!
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Livingston County, KY – 147.7043 - $565,000.00
This exceptional hunting tract serves as a main travel hub for wildlife, featuring an extensive creek network that enhances its habitat diversity. Features an established trail system throughout!

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Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - $547,400.00
Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - $1,129,600.00
Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - $2,243,750.00
Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - $3,016,450.00
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.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 55.79 Acres - $299,000.00
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.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 117 Acres - $575,000.00
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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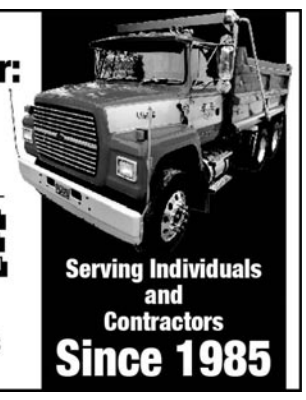

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It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at (270) 965-3191.

All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

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

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real estate

For Sale by Owner: Commercial building located at 73 Nichols Ave., Marion, Ky. 60x100 with heat and air, 2 office spaces and bathroom. Contact (770) 527-0910. $265,000-Negotiable. Possible owner financing. (4t-27-p)

automotive

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notices

No hunting or trespassing on Don Herrin Farms LLC. WIll prosecute. (42-tfc)

Donations for the upkeep of Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery, % Colleen Harbour, 246 Cotton Patch Rd., Marion, KY 42064. (1t-26-p)

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

legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on June 18, 2025 Wanda Clark of 2022 Nunn Switch Rd., Marion KY 42064 and Darrell Todd of 1093 Stone Rd., Marion, KY 42064 were appointed co-executors of James Eugene Todd, deceased, whose address was 1181 Irma White Rd., Marion, KY 42064. Thomas Springer, III attorney.
All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-executors on or before the 18th day of December, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.
All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.
Crittenden District Court
Melissa Buill, Clerk (1t-26-c)

Notice is hereby given that on June 25, 2025, John Roger Thouvenin of 6425 Timberlane Dr., Mascoutah, IL 62258 was appointed executor of Roger J. Thouvenin, deceased, whose address was 2663 State Route 855 North, Marion, KY 42064. Marvin Lee Wilson, P.O. Bo 460, 635 Trade Ave., Eddyville, KY 42038, attorney.
All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executor before the 25th day of December, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.
All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.
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Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-26-c)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on June 26, 2025, scheduling public comment meetings to be held on July 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, 164 Opportunity Way, Lexington, KY 40511 and on July 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, at Jefferson Community & Technical College: Southwest Campus Auditorium, 1000 Community College Dr, Louisville, KY 40272 for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company Case No. 2025-00045, which is the Application for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

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SportsShorts

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Dead period continues

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association's annual dead period began last week and runs through Wednesday, July 9. No school-sponsored sports activity or communication can take place during the dead period.

CCHS adds 3 coaches

Crittenden County High School has added three new coaches to its athletic staff ahead of the upcoming school year. Shelby Brown has been named head cheer coach, Neal Bryant joins the basketball program as an assistant coach and Stephanie Galusha has been hired as an assistant softball coach. Galusha will also be the middle school coach this fall.

SOFTBALL

Middle school tryouts

Crittenden County Miiddle School softball tryouts will be held at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday and Friday, July 10-11 at the ball field at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Players in grades 6-8 may try out for the team which will play starting in August. Practices will begin on Monday, July 14.

BASKETBALL

Like father, like daughter

Henderson County High School alumna Maci Brown, daughter of Crittenden County High School graduates Nicky and Danette (Gough) Brown, will be inducted into the Henderson County Sports Hall of Fame this year. Her father is a member of the Marion-Crittenden County Athletics Hall of Fame.

A 2015 graduate of Henderson County High School, Maci Brown was a standout athlete in both basketball and softball. She was a four-year letterwinner in both sports, amassing 1,208 career points in basketball, a top-20 all-time mark at HCHS, and knocking down 281 three-pointers, which ranks fourth in program history. Her 407 assists and 367 steals place her fifth and third all-time, respectively.

Brown etched her name in the KHSAA record book by making eight three-pointers in a single game against Louisville Male during the 2015 state tournament quarterfinals, a state record. She was a key part of three regional championship teams and earned numerous individual accolades, including All-District (4 times), All-Region (3 times), and State Tournament All-Tourney Team honors in 2015.

In softball, she compiled a 45-20 record as a pitcher with 343 strikeouts and a stingy 1.74 career ERA over 426 innings, surrendering just one home run. She was a three-time All-District and 2015 All-Region selection.

Brown continued her athletic career at Kentucky Wesleyan, where she played basketball for four years. She and her fellow 2025 inductees will be honored during halftime of the Colonels' football game on Aug. 23 against Pulaski County. A Hall of Fame banquet will be held earlier that day at 2 p.m. in the HCHS cafeteria.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct 31
Coyote night, lights	May 16 - June 30
Coyote night, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sep 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Early wood duck	Sept 20-24
Teal	Sept 20-24
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Racccon	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

Increased Patrols

Chances of being alone on the water like the small craft above will be slim this weekend as the Fourth of July holiday brings boaters in high numbers onto area waters. As part of its annual increase in patrols, KDFWR will be launching Operation Dry Water, a heightened awareness and enforcement campaign designed to educate the public about dangers of boating under the influence, the agency said in a news release.

Special operation planned for holiday weekend

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources game wardens will be increasing patrols across the state to help keep Kentucky's waterways safe over the upcoming Independence Day holiday.

This increased effort is held in conjunction with "Operation Dry Water," a heightened awareness and enforcement campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of boating under the influence (BUI). The campaign facilitates a national focus on BUI detection and enforcement, aiming to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities around the July 4 holiday each year.

"Vessel operators decide whether to drink alcohol and boat under the influence, and many times the decision to do so has deadly results," said Maj. David Marques, assistant director of Law Enforcement for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Our game wardens will be out on the water throughout the holiday to observe for those who may show impairment not just from alcohol but from drugs as well."

Alcohol and drugs can affect judgment, balance, vision and reaction time for boat operators and passengers alike. Environmental stressors such as sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion may intensify the side effects of alcohol, drugs and some medications, and may increase fatigue.

Nationwide in 2024, more than 7,000 officers from 485 local, state and federal agencies participated in "Operation Dry Water." Over the three-day, heightened BUI awareness and enforcement weekend, law enforcement officers contacted 296,190 boaters, made 584 BUI arrests and issued 43,554 citations and warnings for safety violations.

Boaters can learn more about boating laws in the Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide, the regulations summary booklet, available online at fw.ky.gov and wherever licenses are sold, or at "Operation Dry Water."

For emergencies, dial 911. For non-emergency assistance call 800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378) or contact a local law enforcement agency or nearest Kentucky State Police post. Marine channel 16 can be used to contact a local marina.

"Operation Dry Water" is an annual effort coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement agencies.

BABY BOOM

Fawns, other young animals should be left alone in the wild

STAFF REPORT

As the fields and forests of western Kentucky come alive with the sights and sounds of summer, it's not uncommon to come across what appears to be an orphaned fawn curled in the grass, a baby bird flapping helplessly on the ground, or a nest of young rabbits hidden in the lawn. But wildlife experts warn: don't touch. At this time of year, many young animals are at a critical stage of development, and what might look like abandonment is almost always just part of nature's plan.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) reminds the public that in early summer, most baby wildlife in our region are the wild equivalent of toddlers. They are awkward, curious, and often left alone while their mothers forage or hunt. White-tailed deer, for example, commonly leave their fawns for hours at a time, hidden in tall grass or forest edges. This behavior helps protect the fawn from predators, whose attention is drawn to movement and scent.

Touching or moving these animals, even with good intentions, can do more harm than good. In fact, it may result in the mother abandoning her young or the animal becoming too stressed to survive. According to KDFWR, unless the mother is confirmed dead or the animal is visibly injured, the best thing you can do is walk away and keep pets and children away as well.

Birds are another common concern. Many fledglings, young birds that have just left the nest, can be seen hopping around awkwardly, seemingly lost or struggling. But this is how they learn to fly. Parents are usually nearby, keeping watch and continuing to feed them while encouraging their independence.

If a spotted fawn slips quietly across edge of your lawn, let it be a reminder that young wildlife should be left undisturbed. In Kentucky, it is illegal to remove wild animals from their natural habitat unless you're a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and doing so can endanger both the animal and the well-being of people and pets.

Property owners should also be cautious while mowing this time of year. Fawns, ground-nesting birds, and rabbit nests are easily overlooked in tall grass. KDFWR suggests postponing field mowing until later in the season when young wildlife are more mobile. Homeowners who find rabbit nests in their yard are encouraged to mark them with a flag or small object to avoid accidental destruction.

There's also a legal side to this issue. In Kentucky, it is illegal to remove young wildlife from the wild unless you are a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Keeping a wild animal, even temporarily, risks both the animal's survival and the health of people and pets. Certain species, like raccoons, skunks and bats, are high-risk rabies carriers and pose a serious public health threat. In fact, any wild mammal that bites a person must be euthanized and tested for rabies, even if it appeared tame.

Additionally, moving wildlife can contribute to the spread of deadly diseases like chronic wasting disease in deer, rabbit hemorrhagic disease or distemper in raccoons. Removing wild animals from their natural range can have unintended ripple effects across the entire ecosystem.

If you find a young or injured animal and believe it truly needs help, the best course of action is to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. These professionals are licensed by the state and trained to care for wildlife with the goal of returning them to their natural habitat. You can find a list of permitted rehabilitators or get help by calling the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 1-800-858-1549.

The bottom line: enjoy the wild beauty of Kentucky's outdoors this summer, but from a respectful distance. Let nature be natural. That fawn in your field or bird in your bushes has a better chance of surviving if you simply leave it alone.

Project delayed a bit by funding appeal

Kenergy broadband will be here in 2026

STAFF REPORT

The much-anticipated fiber broadband expansion for Kenergy customers in Crittenden County is waiting at the starting line, and whether the green flag drops later this year depends on a potential $6 million federal funding boost.

Conexon, the broadband partner for Kenergy, says the project is ready to accelerate as soon as awards are announced through the federal BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) program. That funding, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, could significantly offset infrastructure costs.

Conexon and Kenergy held a town meeting here last week to update residents on the project.

"We're holding for that determination before pressing forward here," said Leslie Krampe, Conexon's regional business development manager and a Union County native. "If awarded, it will help ensure we serve even the most underserved areas."

Kentucky has $1.1 billion earmarked under the BEAD program, and awards are expected to be announced by late 2025. Conexon plans to begin installation in Crittenden County immediately afterward, with buildout in 2026 regardless of whether BEAD funding comes through.

As of June 23, Conexon and its partners had installed 3,200 miles of fiber, worked on 11,500 utility poles, and connected nearly 12,000 Kenergy members across the region, many of them in Daviess, Henderson and Union county areas. A 29.85% take rate underscores the demand for reliable, high-speed internet.

More than a dozen local residents attended a meeting last week at Kenergy headquarters south of Marion for a presentation on the status of the buildout of a new broadband infrastructure thanks to a partnership between Kenergy and Conexon.

Base packages here will start at 200 Mbps upload and download for Kenergy customers, known as symmetrical speeds, rare in rural markets. Premium packages with one and two-gigabit options will also be available.

Krampe noted that while the service is currently limited to Kenergy electric customers, Conexon is interested in expanding to Kentucky Utilities customers within the Kenergy footprint if BEAD funding permits.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom confirmed that a dialogue is underway that could lead to the Conexon broadband being made available across KU lines as well.

Fiber benefits extend beyond internet service. Kenergy, which owns the infrastructure, will use the network to modernize its electric grid with "smart" technology that improves load management, outage response and voltage consistency. Access to that technology would also be attractive for KU.

The six-phase rollout for Conexon's partnership with Kenergy in Crittenden County includes engineering, pole work, fiber installation, splicing, drops to homes and finally, in-home setup. Contractors like Ervin Cable and TRC are already staging in the area.

"We're ready to go," Krampe said. "As soon as we know what funding is coming, we'll hit the ground running."

Cost for the internet will be comparable, if not cheaper, than other local options. The basic package will cost $59.95 a month. From there, premium versions are $79.95 for 1Gb and $99.95 for 2Gb. HD-quality phone service using VoIP technology is also available for $29.95 a month plus taxes and fees.

There's no buffering, no spinning wheels, Krampe explained. Even the base package can stream HD movies or handle video calls with ease. But if you've got gamers and streamers under the same roof, the 1 or 2 Gig packages might be a better fit, she said.

Customers can sign up now by calling Conexon at 1-844-542-6663 or visiting www.ConexonConnect.com and selecting "Kenergy" as their cooperative. The company is encouraging residents to go ahead and sign up now so engineers can make proper plans. You can change your package later without penalty.

Kenergy and Conexon officials emphasized that no Kenergy member will be left out.

"If you have Kenergy power, you will have access to broadband service," Krampe said. "We're committed to serving 100% of the membership."

High Drama

Peter Pan, played by Rhodes Crider, threatens Captain Hook, portrayed by Russell Vince, in Community Arts Foundation's production of Peter Pan. Thirty kids from five counties participated in the week long Kids Drama Camp that culminated with the performance. Also pictured are Lost Boys Evelyn James and Anna Beth Blackburn, Michael Darling portrayed by Leeland Rasdell, and Lost Boy Fiona Miller.

Bird and Banner join forces

STAFF REPORT

In a move to boost marketing power across western Kentucky, two trusted community publications, The Princeton Banner and The Early Bird Shopper's Guide, have joined forces to provide businesses with an expanded audience and unprecedented promotional reach.

Now available together online at EarlyBirdKY.com, both publications can also be delivered free to your email inbox every week. Just visit the site and drop us a message to get started.

This new collaboration gives local and regional advertisers access to tens of thousands of readers and viewers, combining strong community ties with a multi-platform digital presence. With strategic emphasis on Crittenden, Caldwell, Lyon, Livingston, Webster, Hopkins, Union, Trigg and Christian counties, the Banner and Bird offer a powerful tool for any business looking to increase visibility and drive customer engagement.

Whether in print or across social media channels like Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Snapchat, this dual-publication partnership amplifies your message, reaching both traditional readers and digital audiences.

For advertisers and marketers, this means more eyes on your message, more value for your investment, and more results for your bottom line. In April, the Early Bird, a long-time print product, went fully digital, and saw a four-fold increase in readership.

To learn more or get your free weekly editions, visit EarlyBirdKY.com and send us an email. Let the Banner and Bird work together for your business.

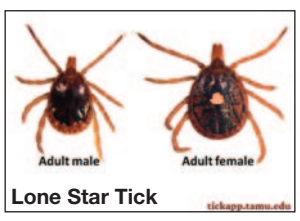
Take precautions to avoid ticks; Alpha-Gal Syndrome cases rise

STAFF REPORT

A dangerous red meat allergy known as Alpha-Gal Syndrome is becoming increasingly prevalent across Kentucky, with local health experts and researchers raising concerns as tick season peaks.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome, often triggered by the bite of the lone star tick, can cause severe allergic reactions hours after a person consumes beef, pork, lamb or other mammal-derived products. The condition's symptoms vary widely, from gastrointestinal issues to swelling of the throat and hives, and can be difficult to trace due to delayed onset, typically appearing 3 to 6 hours after eating red meat.

Kentucky is among the states with the highest number of diagnosed cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The lone star tick, which is widespread across the commonwealth, is the only species currently linked to the allergy.



Lone Star Tick

While Alpha-Gal is still considered rare, experts at the University of Kentucky warn that its incidence may continue to grow.

"Not every tick bite results in the allergy," said Dr. Jonathan Larson, an entomologist with UK Extension, "but exposure is increasing, and so is awareness."

A recent report by the Associated Press highlights that tick activity is up in several parts of the country, including Kentucky, where residents spend more time outdoors during the summer. Infectious disease experts stress year-round vigilance, urging people to wear protective clothing, use insect repellents like DEET or permethrin, and inspect for ticks after time spent in wooded or grassy areas.

There is no cure for Alpha-Gal, only lifestyle changes. Those diagnosed must strictly avoid red meat and often other products derived from mammals, including certain broths, gelatin-based foods, and even some medications.

Experts advise working with a dietitian or allergist to manage the condition. Preventing further tick bites is critical, as additional exposure may prolong or worsen symptoms.

Ticks remain active through fall so health officials are reminding Kentuckians that "every season is tick season." And, the stakes for preventing bites may be higher than ever.

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

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District 6 Magistrate

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Local restaurant tourism tax cools during 1Q

STAFF REPORT

After years of steady gains in tourism-related revenue, Marion and Crittenden County are seeing early signs that the record-setting pace may be cooling just a bit.

Quarterly tourism tax data show a dramatic upswing beginning in 2021, when revenue from Marion's 3% prepared food and lodging tax surged from a decade-long range of $175,000 to $239,000 annually to a new high of $283,242.70. Collections continued climbing, reaching $309,644.39 in 2024, the highest figure in the 22-year history of the local tourism tax.

These figures represent more than $10 million in restaurant sales over the past two years in Marion, up considerably over the past decade. Lodging receipts are only a small portion of the revenue.

Much of that growth has come from strong second and third quarter returns, aligning with busy travel and tourism seasons. However, the first quarter of 2025 saw a notable dip. Marion collected just $68,382.04, down from more than $73,000 in the first quarters of both 2023 and 2024. It marks the lowest first-quarter total since 2020.

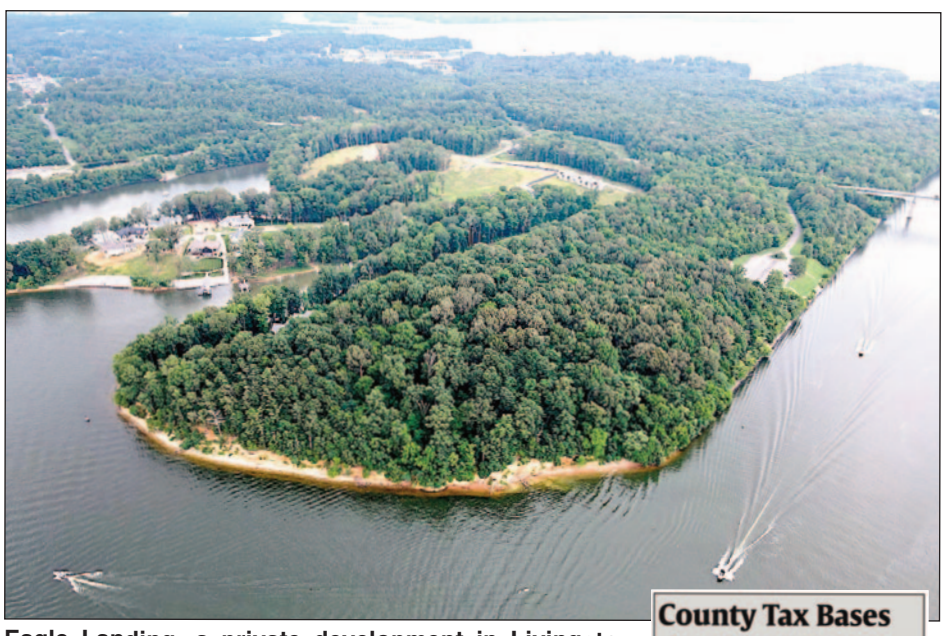
Local officials suspect several factors may be at play. Mulligan's closed plus harsh winter weather caused temporary closures at some restaurants. Easing inflation also may have prompted businesses to reduce menu prices or contributed to a shift in consumer spending. Though it's too early to determine whether this signals a broader trend, the city will be watching future quarters closely. Figures for the second quarter, which ended Monday, will be available in a few weeks.

Despite the 2025 dip, Marion's broader hospitality economy continues its upward trajectory. Annual sales at restaurants and motels have risen from $7.37 million to $10.3 million over the past nine years, an average annual growth rate of 3.72%. That growth reflects the city's strengthening appeal as a destination for travelers whether it be for recreation like hunting or shopping in the Amish community.

Crittenden County plays a modest but meaningful role in the broader Western Waterlands tourism economy. In 2024, it generated $7.2 million in tourism-related economic activity, supporting 57 jobs and contributing $430,000 in state and local taxes, according to data from the Kentucky Department of Tourism. While neighboring lakes-area counties such as Lyon ($37.6 million), Livingston ($31.4 million), and Trigg ($31.2 million) far outpaced Crittenden in raw numbers, the local economy still benefits from niche attractions like mineral tourism, riverfront camping and a growing slate of community events.

Caldwell County, by comparison, more than doubled Crittenden's tourism revenue in 2024 with $17.6 million in impact.

Across the 15-county Western Waterlands region, tourism generated nearly $940 million in economic activity last year, supporting over 7,100 jobs and producing $69.4 million in state and local taxes.



Eagle Landing, a private development in Livingston County just north of the canal between Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, is taking shape and will further boost the county's already strong tax base. The area features large private homes, condominiums and is expected to include more resort style amenities. It is located southwest of downtown Grand Rivers just off of KY 453. Livingston's real property tax base in 2023 was among the highest in the lakes area with more than $1.16 billion in value.

County Tax Bases

Data are from 2023 tax year and include all property, including real, tanglible and automobiles.

County	Total Tax Base
Trigg	$1,333,437,405
Livingston	$1,162,566,568
Lyon	$1,142,888,770
Union	$1,224,035,404
Caldwell	$822,046,528
Webster	$848,543,387
Crittenden	$572,121,881

WATER

Continued from page 1

months, according to financial reports presented at last week's board meeting. That shortfall is due primarily to mounting maintenance costs and substantial water loss across the 750-mile network of mains and service lines. Superintendent Abbie Adamson said months with milder weather typically mean less water usuage.

Distribution Manager Jared Franklin told board members the system has been hit hard in recent weeks by persistent line breaks, often two or more per week, as well as excessive flushing required to maintain quality amid the leaks. He attributed many of the breaks to shifting ground from hot weather, a seasonal pattern the district faces annually.

Meanwhile, approximately 35% of the district's treated water is being lost, likely through service line leaks and unmetered usage. In May, the district pumped 36 million gallons out of its plant, and was paid for just 21 million gallons. That means around 15 million gallons of treated water went unaccounted for.

"Service line leaks are constant and our biggest problem," Franklin told the CLWD board of directors.

Adamson said the district is planning to hire an outside contractor to help with small service line repairs as the current staff cannot keep pace. Metering issues have compounded the losses. Many of the district's older radio-read meters, most installed 12 to 13 years ago, are no longer functioning properly and out of warranty. Adamson reported that at least 100 meters are currently showing zero usage, either due to failure or lack of use.

"Right now, we just don't have the manpower to test and replace all of them," Adamson said about the meters. "We've got some guys working overtime on leaks already. If it gets worse, we may need to contract out the entire changeout."

She said some calculations are being made to determine if the district needs to finance a compelete changeout of meters. After 10 years, a percentage of the devices need to be tested regularly to make sure they're operating properly. There is great concern that many of their meters are not functioning correctly, leading to some of the water loss.

Despite the financial strain, there is optimism surrounding the district's long-term plans. Construction on Phase 1 has started at the water treatment plant in Pinckneyville near the Cumberland River. That work, which includes a new clear well, is expected to be completed by Labor Day and will help address supply limitations on the southern side of the river.

Phase 2, which includes a major expansion of the treatment facility, is currently in the design phase. Updated cost estimates are expected this summer, and early signs indicate the price tag may exceed the original $34 million projection. A third-party estimating service is being used to provide updated figures, especially in light of uncertainties around whether to include PFAS filtration equipment. Depending on future funding, that component may be delayed or phased in later. The district received $13,000 as part of a PFSA class action settlement.

In a significant shift, Phase 3, which was originally scheduled to follow the plant expansion, may now run parallel or even ahead of Phase 2. Phase 3 focuses on overhauling the aging distribution system, where many of the current losses are occurring, and could cost an estimated $15 million, though that figure is likely to rise.

"We've been invited to apply for funding through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, which includes a loan at a half-percent interest rate and up to 40% forgiveness," said CLWD's consultant Tim Thomas.

An engineering firm must still be hired to begin design work for Phase 3, but its accelerated timeline is viewed as a critical step toward reducing water loss and ensuring system reliability. It would also likely trim the timeline for CLWD to fully serve the City of Marion.

The district is also in need of a $450,000 upgrade to its telemetry system, which controls automated communications between pumping stations and the plant.

Financially, the district remains in a precarious position. While summer typically brings higher usage and revenue, the first half of the year includes the lowest-usage months, and reserves have already been tapped to offset recent losses. A rate increase request is currently under review by the Kentucky Public Service Commission, with a recommendation expected later this month.

Adamson said the increase has already been factored into the district's FY2025 budget and is essential for stabilizing operations.

Discussions also continue with the City of Marion, whose contract with the district expires this month. District officials expressed concerns about making firm volume guarantees given current supply constraints, though they acknowledged Marion's support has been key in securing state funding.

"We're in a tough spot," Thomas said. "Most utilities want to sell water, but we're struggling just to meet our own demand."

Still, the new clear well and upcoming phases offer a roadmap to recovery. Board members and staff remain hopeful that with proper funding and infrastructure upgrades, CLWD will emerge from its current challenges.