



The Crittenden Press

Reminder: We had to go up in price « Now \$2

10 PAGES | VOLUME 144 | NUMBER 9
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

By the Numbers

Crittenden County Facts

77.6% Rate of Home Ownership
3,553 Households
1,689 Married Households
22.4% Home Renters
42.8 Median Age
44.7 Median Age Female
41.3 Median Age Male
96.21% Race White
43.46% High School Education
16.2% Less than HS Education
31% Post-Secondary Degree
19.5% Some College
\$41,109 Average Income
\$54,459 Avg Income Male
\$29,446 Avg Income Female

SOURCE: World Population Review



Time to do the clock thing for extra hour...

For the next 240 days most Americans will celebrate a 116-year tradition of moving ahead their clocks by one hour to give them a sense of a longer day. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to set those clocks ahead before bed on Saturday.

Perry, 72, former lawman, funeral director, has died

Former lawman and funeral director Don Perry, 73, died Sunday following a short illness. Perry served as a deputy and policeman here for more than 40 years and spent more than 50 years in the funeral business. At press time, arrangements were incomplete at Gilbert Funeral Home, but the service is expected to be Saturday.



Perry

Ferry back rolling on river

Cave-In-Rock Ferry reopened to regular traffic late last week after high water on the Ohio River had kept it closed since Feb. 19. The ferry operates 6 a.m., to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Old Kentucky Hayride

Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass, fresh off their appearance last weekend on RFD TV, will host their spring Old Kentucky Hayride starting at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 29 at historic Fohs Hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m. All proceeds from ticket sales go to Crittenden County Food Bank. Concessions will be available. For ticket information, call 270-704-2591.



Listen to our morning podcast M-W-F on your drive to work, or anytime for that matter. Stay informed on local news & sports. Find it at The Press Online.

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Kalynn Jackson of Dycusburg remembers as a child visiting her grandparents who had chickens, but since moving to rural Crittenden County five years ago, she's discovered her own affection for barnyard fowl.

What Comes First? Questions hatched over backyard birds

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Backyard chicken keeping is experiencing a renaissance as egg prices soar to around \$6 per dozen, prompting many area residents to consider raising their own feathered flocks. While the practice dates back thousands of years, this modern resurgence raises questions about whether it's a passing fad or a meaningful shift toward greater self-sufficiency – and whether city regulations should adapt.

According to City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield, Marion currently has no special ordinances specifically addressing chicken keeping within city limits. Discussions are expected to begin later this month when Marion City Council has its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 17.

“Right now, they're not permitted unless the property is zoned for agriculture, which some are,” the city administrator explained.

Outside city limits in the county, no such restrictions exist.

Before city residents could legally tend backyard birds, Ford-Benningfield noted that “an ordinance would need to be passed or an existing ordinance might be amended to allow it.”

Drawing from her own extensive experience with poultry, she cautions potential chicken keepers to consider the commitment involved.

“I would suggest anyone thinking about it to take a look at the overall cost for set up and ongoing care, particularly during winter months. You must gather eggs daily and the animals need daily care. People don't realize that. Even if they are free-ranging chickens, there's a whole lot that goes into it,” she added.

Former agriculture teacher Larry Duvall believes Marion should permit chickens within city limits, with reasonable regulations. After researching other cities'

Chicken Workshop

Poultry enthusiasts of all experience levels will have the opportunity to learn from an expert during a backyard poultry workshop on March 27. Jacquie Jacobs, a poultry specialist with UK Extension, will lead the session, covering key topics such as poultry care, nutrition, disease management and biosecurity measures for backyard flocks. The event, hosted by Crittenden County Extension, will be at 5:30 p.m., at the Lions Club Agriculture Building at the fairgrounds. Interested in attending? Call 270-965-5236.

approaches, he suggests allowing “between six and 10 hens per household,” noting this minimum flock size helps maintain proper body heat, especially for young chickens.

Duvall emphasizes that urban chickens should be

See **CHICKEN**/page 9

Irony of chicken memory

In an ironic twist of fate, chickens could once again be at the center of local debate. This time, however, they aren't being cast out as a stinking nuisance; they're being courted like long-lost feathered friends.

The last time chickens graced the front page of The Press, it was for all the wrong reasons. Back in June 2003, the district court made a landmark ruling, finding that the smell of a large chicken farm constituted a trespassing nuisance – basically an unprecedented interpretation of Kentucky law at the time. It was a real stinker of a case, and it set a legal precedent that ruffled a few feathers in the poultry industry.

Those who've been around long enough remember the Tyson Foods broiler houses on the northern edge of town that ruffled the patience of nearby city residents, who filed a formal complaint. The large-scale poultry operation (in another twist of irony where the new sewer plant is today) became a major flash-point. Local residents complained about unbearable odors wafting into their neighborhoods. It all culminated in a dramatic courtroom showdown where County Attorney Alan Stout convinced a local jury that smells from Tyson Foods' B&G Poultry operation were trespassing into backyards of 10 city residents. The chicken growers were fined and its operation pretty quickly backed up and left.

Fast forward two decades, and it seems the same town that once ran chickens out is now entertaining the idea of welcoming them back – albeit in a more compact, backyard-friendly form. The reason? Sky-high egg prices. When it comes to finances, even the most steadfast chicken critics can apparently be persuaded to see the sunny side up.

The city council is now considering allowing small flocks within the city limits. This isn't the large-scale industrial farming of the Tyson era. This is the backyard hobbyist, tending to a few hens for a steady supply of farm-fresh eggs. The same town that once demanded chicken growers be penalized for their odor is now flirting with the idea of homegrown egg omelets. Oh, how the tide, and the scent of progress, turns.

To be fair, there is a key distinction. The broiler houses of yesteryear were massive operations, with tens of thousands of birds crammed into industrial barns. Backyard chickens, on the other hand, are more like feathered pets with benefits. The former was a commercial enterprise; the latter is a survival strategy in an economy where a dozen eggs creates sticker shock like a new vehicle.

Still, the irony is too rich to ignore. Twentysomething years ago, the city was quick to cry fowl. Now, residents are clucking for a chance to have their own egg makers. If nothing else, this proves that chicken intolerance has subsided based on economics, scale, perspective and the times.



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

STAFF REPORT

As a public forum draws near for Marion to discuss issues regarding local internet connectivity, bandwidth and provider options both now and into the future, one local business owner says her problems may be solved.

Staci Hunt, one of the owners at H&H Home and Hardware, told The Press a few weeks ago that she was at wit's end with her internet service provider. Slow speeds and intermittent outages had become the norm. Hunt had reached out to local leaders for help and after she shared her story with The Press, AT&T sent a technician to check things out. Within a day or two she was contacted by another company representative out of Bowling Green who began to whittle away at solv-

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Deaths

Conner

Charles Francis “Chuck” Conner, Jr., 71, of Marion, died Sunday, March 2, 2025 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

He was a retired sawyer at Turner and Conyer sawmill, a member of Seven Springs Baptist Church and served in Kentucky National Guard for over 15 years.



Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Rebecca Ann Kinnis Conner of Marion; a son, Charles T. (Heather) Conner of Marion; a sister, Shirley Colliver of Henderson; two brothers, Elmer Conner of Indiana and Lawrence Limp of Henderson; a granddaughter, Faith Conner; a grandson, Alexander Conner; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, March 7 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion. Funeral services will be on at 1 p.m., Friday, March 7 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial to follow in Asbridge Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Travis

Homer Ray Travis, 86, of Fredonia, died Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025 at Livingston Hospital. He served in the U.S. Air Force.

Surviving are a sister, Peggy Easley; and several nieces, nephews, and friends that he considered family.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Ora Lee Travis; siblings Charlene Hill, Willie Jenkins, Georgia Allcock, Ruby Jean Hodges, Johnnie Travis and Billy Joe Travis.

Services were Sunday, March 2 at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Gilbert

Cohen Lee Gilbert, infant son of Wade and Jayden Gilbert of Sturgis, died Wednesday Feb. 26, 2025 at Nortons Children’s Hospital in Louisville.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by three brothers Caysen, Rhett, and Reid; his grandparents, Keith and Angie Gilbert of Marion and Lindsey and Dustin Bradshaw of Sturgis, great-grandparents, Terry and Sandra Gilbert of Marion, Debbie and Randy Day of Clay, Dolores Bradshaw of Clay, Diana Wallace of Marion and Tom and Becky Wallace of Princeton; great-great grandparents Dot and Grady Owen; an uncle Noah Bradshaw; and several other aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by great-grandparents Daryl Bradshaw and Will Ed Bushart; and great-great-grandparents Janie and Carl Ray and Betty and Billy Day.

Services were Monday, March 3 at Sturgis Baptist Church in Sturgis with burial in Pythian Ridge Cemetery in Sturgis. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Croft

Avery Harold Croft, 62, of Paducah, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah.

He was self employed and was an Army National Guard veteran.



Surviving are a son, Justin Davis of Paducah; his mother, Deania Sue (Davis) Croft; two brothers, Kevin Ray Croft and Steve Allen Croft, both of Ledbetter; a sister, Gail (Jay) Palmer of Smithland; three nieces, two nephews; and four great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bennett Ray Croft.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, March 1 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Burial was in Whites Chapel Cemetery.

Board

Sharon Faye Board, passed away on Feb. 24, 2025, in Fredonia, KY, at the age of 74. Born on Aug. 5, 1950, in Michigan, Sharon’s gentle spirit and melodious voice brought joy to all who knew her. Her life was a testament to the power of love. She was affectionately known as Nana Faye and she enveloped her

family and grandbabies in warmth and care.

She is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband of 56 years, Herbert Michael Board, and her cherished sons, Shane Board of Fredonia and Kevin (Jennifer) Board of Princeton. Her legacy continues through her brother, Phil (Deanna) Tosh of Salem, her adored grandchildren, Tori (Bill) Schroeder, Shayann, Gabe, and Gavin Board, and her treasured great-grandchild, Brooks Schroeder, with the joyous anticipation of great-grandchild Baby Blair; several nieces, nephews and great-nephews, whom she adored spending time with.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Marshall and Gwendolyn Towery Tosh.

Funeral services were Thursday, Feb. 27 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Bro. David Brown officiated. Burial was at White Sulphur Cemetery in Caldwell County.

Expressions of sympathy may be made towards Gideon’s International, Caldwell Lyon Gideon’s, PO Box 254, Princeton, KY 42445 and White Sulphur Church Cemetery, Doug James, 2230 Dawson Road, Princeton, KY 42445.

Oliver

Geraldine Oliver, 93, of Shelbyville, Indiana, previously of Crittenden County, Kentucky, passed away on February 28, 2025 at the Willows of Shelbyville where she relocated to spend the last six years with her daughter.



Geraldine was born on August 29, 1931, in Crittenden County to her late parents, Milton and Katie Riley. Throughout her life, Geraldine Oliver embraced a diverse range of vocations, serving her community as a substitute mail courier, factory worker, restaurant cook, and farmer. Renowned for her exquisite cooking and her penchant for baking delectable pies, Geraldine’s hands tended not only to the duties of her varied careers but also to the soil of her expansive garden. The fruits of her labor were preserved in jars through the loving process of canning, capturing the essence of each season’s bounty.

A devout Christian, Geraldine’s faith attended several churches, from

Caldwell Springs Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Fredonia to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion, Kentucky. Her spiritual journey eventually led her to become a cherished member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Geraldine is survived by her daughter, Lori (Scott) Tyson of Shelbyville, IN; son, Michael (Gay) Oliver of Richmond, KY; five grandchildren, Ashley (Zach) Haney of Destin, FL, Katie (Bryan) Batic of Camby, IN, Karen (Greg) Vaughn of Paducah, KY, Darrah Crawford, Zak Oliver of Fredonia, KY; thirteen grandchildren, Oliver Haney, Tilley Haney, Maisy Haney, Bettie Haney, Caroline Batic, Graham Batic, Alec Gamblin, Bryson Gamblin, Alex Oliver, Laynee Delgado, Greyson Crawford, Levin Crawford, Aden Crawford; two great-great-grandchildren, Stella Gamblin and Wyatt Gamblin.

In addition to her parents, Geraldine was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Ogden Oliver; son, Steve Oliver; three sisters, Dot Marshall, Opal Hunt, Clemma Wilson; three brothers, Myron Riley, Owen Riley, Glendall Riley; granddaughter, Morgan Tyson.

Funeral services were

Tuesday, March 4 at Morgan’s Funeral Home in Princeton. Burial was in Rowland Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Geraldine’s memory to St. Judes Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959 (www.stjude.org) or Oneida Baptist Institute, 11 Mulberry Street, Oneida, KY 40972 (www.oneidaschool.org).

Paid obituary

Porter

Melva Blanche Moore Porter, 94, of Salem died Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at Salem Sprinkle Health and Rehab Center.



She was a beloved mother, grandmother, aunt and friend.

Porter was a devoted grandmother to her two grandsons, Jared Franklin and Nick Vaughn, both of whom she loved and cared for tirelessly. She enjoyed

tending to her flowers and cooking family meals. She also spent much of her time sewing her own beautiful draperies and pillows; not to mention the most current fashions. She was a beautiful lady with a kind and playful spirit; never one to pass up the opportunity for a wisecrack or a prank. She will be lovingly remembered by her surviving daughter, Mitzi; her grandsons Jared and Nick; her brother Leon (Dottie) Moore of Ledbetter and sister Wanda Schuppe of Carmel, Ind., and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, SFC Thomas Jesse Porter; mother Bessie Carr; her parents, Marvin and Ruth Moore; a daughter Shari; and her grandson Patrick.

All services will be private.

Memorial donations be made to your local animal shelter. Condolences may also be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

Paid obituary



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Howell’s bill could help hire lawmen

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, introduced legislation to help address the shortage of law enforcement officers across the state by making it easier for certified officers to transfer in from another state.

“Currently, when police officers relocate to Kentucky, they have to re-qualify for physical fitness standards,” Howell said. “I believe that is a deterrent for police officers because they already passed the physical fitness standards in their current locality.”

Senate Bill 237 states that a person who is or has been a peace officer in another state doesn’t need to retake a physical agility test if they meet certain conditions. These include being in good standing with their previous agency and having at least 10 years of continuous service as a law enforcement officer.

This bill is needed to help address the shortage of law enforcement officers, Howell added.



Crittenden County 4-Hers were among more than 500 members of the organization from across the state to converge upon the Kentucky capitol last week. Pictured are (front from left) Kallen Millikan, Sydney Keller, Kinley Copeland, Addie Nelson, Dally Millikan, Emarie Cox, (middle) Barrett Brown, Zayne Smith, Raylee Millikan, Ellie Binkley, Mela Kate Penn, (back) Emme Lynch, Sadie Young, Case Cummins, Brooklyn Lovell, Aubrianna Odom and Taylor Haire. The local group met with Sen. Jason Howell and Rep. Jim Gooch while in Frankfort.



Speaking of Excellence

Crittenden County Middle School’s speech team recently earned the Sustained Excellence award at the state tournament held in Lexington. Pictured are (from left) Hannah Peek, Hayden Jones, Bella Walston and Julieta Conklin.

SUMMIT

Continued from page 1

ing the hardware store’s service problems.

While the plan is going to cost more, Hunt is amenable to the plan, which will provide what’s billed by the company as a more reliable, faster fiber-optic connection.

Marion Mayor D’Anna Browning said the hardware store’s experience largely prompted her to call for a community forum to share information that might help shed light on these types of matters and perhaps spark some movement toward more reliable service for everyone in Marion and beyond.

Billed as the Marion Internet Summit, the event will convene at 5 p.m., at Marion City Hall next Thursday, March 13.

Hunt was surprised to learn that fiber was available at her store’s location.

“Everyone had told me it wasn’t available in Marion,” she said.

The customer service folks from AT&T assured her it was and they were surprised that more people didn’t realize it.

Fiber has been in Marion for some time, each of the schools have it. A special line had to be installed several years ago so the elementary school could log onto the district’s fiber system. Par 4 Plastics uses fiber to drive its communications and Crittenden County Detention Center has it, too. Perhaps there are others.

The reason it’s not a universally popular option for residential or business internet is likely the price tag.

Hunt said she was originally skeptical whether her store could afford it. There was a \$3,200 connection fee, then a monthly charge of around \$980 for internet and phone service. Her existing cost for those services was just under \$300 a month – albeit very un-

reliable.

After some negotiating and help from a professional telecommunications company, Hunt was able to negotiate a better price and virtually no up-front connection fee. She expects the fiber-based internet and phone service to be around \$640 a month when it’s up and going. That, she said AT&T reps tell her, will provide a consistent 50 mbps up and 50 mbps down.

“Talk to your phone company before you sign a contract with a service provider,” Hunt recommends.

By doing so, she learned a great deal and saved what would amount to thousands of dollars over a year’s time.

“Get some professional advice,” she said. “I don’t know anything about this kind of stuff.”

The store has an analog phone system, technology that’s being phased out. A special switching device is required to make them work on the new system. Eventually all phone systems will be Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

“We will have to change phone systems in three to five years, but I didn’t want the additional expense of changing it over right now,” she said.

AT&T said it wants to work with local customers to solve their problems and accommodate their needs.

“We understand the importance of keeping our business customers connected so that they can serve their communities,” said Keoni Holoman of the company’s corporate communications department. “In this instance, the customer’s business required a custom network solution due to its unique demands.”

Marion Mayor D’Anna Browning has invited internet providers to attend next week’s summit and the public is invited. Browning hopes the forum can be a place to share experiences, define some community goals and a path toward faster, more reliable internet service for Marion.

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Crittenden County Fiscal Court

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

Benefit for Floyd will be Saturday at Lions Club Bld.

There will be a benefit for former Chamber of Commerce President Elizabeth Floyd from 6–8 p.m., Saturday, March 8 at the Lions Club Agriculture Building at the fairgrounds.

Floyd has recently survived life-threatening illness and friends are helping her get back on her feet and pay medical bills. The event will include entertainment by Lacie Duncan, Logan Shuecraft, Bode Ramage and others. There will be a silent auction and live dessert auction. The meal will include beans and cornbread, loaded potato bar, sauerkraut and Polish sausage and a wide variety of desserts.

Sports development asking for zone change

Marion Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. on March 13 at City Hall to consider a request for a zoning map amendment to accommodate development of an indoor sports facility.

The proposal seeks to rezone property at the corner of Adam Street and Old Morganfield Road near Marion-Crittenden County Park from an agricultural district to a general business district.



Perkins named to ECU Dean’s List

Will Perkins, a Crittenden County High School graduate, has been named to the fall semester Dean’s List at Eastern Kentucky University. Perkins is a senior at ECU.

Livingston Free Dump Days in April

Livingston County will have free dump days April 10, 11 and 12. County residents can bring their unwanted items to the convenience center on the Cutoff Road.

Alert: Scam Calls

Crittenden County Sheriff’s Department says it has received calls about residents receiving scam phone calls. The caller, the department says, is asking for donations to help support local law enforcement with equipment, training and mental health exams.

“This is a scam and at no time will we call and ask for money,” Sheriff Evan Head said. “Please be mindful

about the calls you receive and do not give out any personal information over the phone. Please hang up immediately if you receive a call like this.”

Livingston students excel in Gov’s Cump

Livingston Central High School students delivered a strong performance at the 2025 KAAC Governor’s Cup, competing in District 4 and advancing to the regional level in multiple events.

In individual events, Jaden Green led the way with a first-place finish in science, scoring 18 points, and also placed in social studies with a 26–point performance. Wen Yang Duong placed in arts and humanities with a score of 23, earning a point, and also took fourth in social studies with a score of 27. Evelyn Elder competed in language arts, while Autumn Scales scored in mathematics.

Joshua Turner earned a point in composition and also placed in social studies with a 22–point performance. Sophie Michonski added a 15–point finish in science.

Livingston Central also qualified for the regional quick recall competition, earning five points at the district level during the regional event held last week at McCracken County High School.



50 YEARS AGO

March 6, 1975

■ There comes a time in each young man’s spring when he wants to fly a kite. But kiting, as Johnny Chandler and Eddie Rozwalka discovered had its ups and downs. Sometimes it’s hard to get a kite up. Chandler even got on top a barn, but only got the kite in the air when he called on his Pop, Randall Chandler, who got the kite flying high.

■ Teresa Slayton towered above other band members as she played a contra bass clarinet in a concert presented at Union County High School as the final performance of then Green River Valley Music Festival. Selected students from Crittenden, Webster, Union, Providence and Henderson City High School participated in the festival.

■ Marketa Brown’s 37 points at Trigg County aided the Crittenden County girls’ basketball team to breeze past Livingston Central in Fifth District Tournament action. Leading by only five points at half-time, coach Cindy Almendinger’s CCHS team marched back ahead behind a hotline defense and the scoring by Brown claimed a 59-30 victory.

■ Students and faculty at Frances Elementary School prepared a bulletin board in honor of the principal, Raymond Heffington’s birthday.

25 YEARS AGO

March 2, 2000

■ The Crittenden County Middle School chess team ended the state chess tournament in a three-way tie for first place. It was the first time a CCMS team had won a state competition. Ryan Dunn, alternate Brittany Bay, player Garrett Gilkey, alternate Don Chalk and players Dustin Wheeler and Andy Hunt were the members of the team. Chalk placed third in the alternates tournament, an individual competition held during the state tournament.

■ Members of the Girl Scout Troop 781 collected several boxes of baby items and nearly \$70 during a WeeCare collection drive. The cash collected was used to purchase three infant seats and several other items for new moms. Each participating Girl Scout troop in Crittenden County delivered the items to the Crittenden County Health Department where they were to be distributed to local families. Scouts dropping off items were Mandy McConnell, Jessie Walker and Candace Brasher. Other members of the troop were Lenora and Sarah Starrick and Samantha Green.

■ Sixteen members of the CCMS beta club traveled to Louisville for the state Junior Beta Convention. Club members competed in various categories from art to talent to spelling during the event that drew 4,000 students from across the state. Participants from Crittenden were Jeanne Johnson, Jenny Doyle, Erin Grau, Meg Brock, Ashley Cook, McKinzy Hodge, Britne Hunt, Morgan Dooms, Melissa Cook, Abbie Belt, Dawn Clarke, Shawn Steele, Justin Alexander, Tyler Guess and Drew Hopkins.

■ The Lady Rockets were set to open play in the Fifth District Tournament in search of their first win in post-season play since the 1996-97 season. Lone Lady Rocket senior Ashley Turley was trying to cap off her high school career with a Fifth District Championship and a berth in the Second Region Tournament at Hopkinsville. Turley, who averaged 10.2 points, three assists and two steals per contest, was to be a key cog in her squad’s chance to knock off the Lady Lyons for the third time during the season and for the title crown.

10 YEARS AGO

March 5, 2015

■ Fohs Hall Inc. Board of Directors celebrated the legacy of Frances Sohn and her family for their contributions to Fohs Hall. Sohn was the daughter of Julius Fohs, who in 1926 built what has become Marion’s most iconic landmark. A portrait of Sohn and a resolution honoring her encouragement and financial support was placed in the Nunn Room of Fohs Hall below the portrait of her father. To mark the occasion, Sohn’s son, Mark, was present for the recognition. Attending the event were the board of directors of Fohs Hall, including Shyral Estes, Linda Schumann, Tom Crider, Bonita Hatfield, Ethel Tucker, Marie Burkhardt, Judy Winn and Jo Ann Abridge.

■ Crittenden County’s Public Library Board of Trustees Daryl K. Tabor and Brad Guess were sworn in as new trustees by 5th Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers. Rogers who had served on the board for seven years, the last few as chairman, vacated her position after being elected family court judge. Guess filled Rogers’ unexpired term. Board appointments are made by Crittenden Fiscal Court. Officers selected included Linda Myrick as chairman, Tabor as vice chairman, Cletis Hunt as treasurer and Dulcie Hardin as secretary, Regina Merrick served as director of the library.

■ Playing as well as they could, Crittenden County could not get past Trigg County in the Fifth District championship game. The Rockets lost to Trigg in a nail-biter at Smithland. It was the fifth time since 1998 that Trigg had knocked off the Rockets for the title game.

■ Jacob Chambliss, 13, was the first ever two-time big buck champ. The buck scored over 130 on the Boone and Crockett system, but it had several broken tines. It may have gone in the 150s if it had been in tact.

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

Crittenden Press Letters to the Editor

Willing to pay \$2 because it’s ours

Letter to the Editor:

Merle Haggard famously wrote, “Are the Good Times Really Over.”

The world in 2025 is nothing like it was 20 years ago. Smartphones can provide more information than the collection of books that fill the Library of Congress. We live in a society where people are so divided, the very practice of which TV news station you choose will undoubtedly tell others who you voted for in the last election.

However, a little respite from the chaos of modern life is The Crittenden Press. ChatGPT cannot tell me how far the average person drives from Marion to their job daily. Facebook, while it will tell me how awful this or that is, can never give me insight into a water crisis that shaped life in Marion for two years.

Our surrounding towns are being subjected to a newspaper owned by an out-of-town media group. Those weekly reports are generated by a journalist from miles away, who generally pops into town once a week.

We who read The Crittenden Press, on the other hand, are given the full picture by writers who have kids in our local schools, pay the same taxes we do and drive on the same bumpy roads. When an important event like a courthouse demolition or a trip to the All A Classic semifinals occurs, an outsider won’t give us the same feeling of pride that The Press delivers.

Do I love paying more for that information? Not really. Nevertheless, in a world where a dozen eggs have become a currency that rises in value more than gold, it’s a reality I won’t hesitate to accept.

We are blessed to have a local newspaper, and I am grateful The Press is still ours.
Charles Cook
Eddyville, Ky.

Do you think they will pay more?

Letter to the Editor:

On the front page of The Crittenden Press issue dated Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, is an item titled “Students will be on tractors to school.” It mentions students participating in Drive Your Tractor to School Day on “Wednesday, Feb. 21.” Huh? Feb. 21 is a Friday, not a Wednesday. How are your readers supposed to know what day this event is to take

place? Wednesday, the 19th, or Friday, the 21st?

On the front page of The Crittenden Press issue dated Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, is a lead story titled “Back on Fire.” It would’ve been more interesting if the notation “See Fire, page 2” was accurate, but it was not. I did not find the rest of this story on page 2 or on any other page in the paper.

Do you really think people will pay your new double price to receive misinformation (like the Feb. 13 issue) or incomplete news (like the Feb. 20 issue) on a weekly basis?

I realize that you may not be the person who prepares the copy or sets the space for articles in the paper. But as editor and publisher, you alone are responsible for the paper’s content – no one else.

Glen Leslie
Marion, Ky.

Appreciates Press even at higher cost

Letter to the Editor:

Crittenden Press price increase: Do I like it? No. Each time I shop, price increases: Do I like it? No. Insurance, etc., price increases: Do I like it? No. Cost-of-living increases (COLA) that are too small: Do I like it? No.

But I love having The Crittenden Press available weekly. I am surprised there hasn’t been an increase earlier.

I know newspapers are struggling to keep going, and I appreciate The Press for hanging on. There are so many outlets for advertising now, and local papers often get bypassed.

I go back farther with The Press than Chris or Allison Evans, back when Wakefield and Smith were employees (those two names come to mind). Back in the day, surrounding small communities throughout the county had a news article published regularly in the paper. I called it the gossip column. It told who visited whom over the weekend, who went shopping, etc., and people loved reading the news of those communities. In fact, I got drafted to write Crayne News for a short time.

Of course, there was no Facebook at the time. Newspapers had more to write about, and advertisers realized the value of being in the newspaper. It was much different back then.

Over the years, I have volunteered for many things in the community, written some articles, submitted meeting announcements and other information to the paper. The Press has always been gracious to print these, and of course for free.

The Press has been a staple in the community, and I don’t want to be without it. The Crittenden Press and Crittenden Community Hospital are two things this town and community need.

I’ve started my 29th year volunteering at Crittenden Community Hospital; therefore, we go back several years together. There are things happening in the town and community people wouldn’t know about without The Press. Some of us old-school, die-hard fans of old ways don’t have or want modern technology. We may be forced to change, but for now, The Press is our source of information.

I always enjoy articles by Chris and Allison Evans. Allison’s cat story was so funny, and I almost sent a story about me picking blackberries with rattlesnakes to Chris after he wrote about blackberries last year.

Due to health problems, I have spent more time inside, and I always look forward to Thursday when I can read my newspaper in my hands.

I appreciate The Press for working to bring us community news with a personal feel. I wish I could help in some greater way. Wishing you the best.

Margaret Gilland
Marion, Ky.

Letters Policy

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author’s name (no multiple names or groups), address, including hometown, phone number and signature. Phone numbers will not be published. They are for our records only in order to authenticate a letter’s author. Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words. Letters will be edited for spelling and grammar and The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Writers should limit their letters to no more than one per month. Original copies of submitted letters will be retained in our files. Letters should be emailed to the The Press at thepress@the-press.com. If email is unavailable, they can be presented at our office or sent to P.O. Box 191, Marion, Ky., 42064. During election cycles, no endorsement or opposing letters will be published in the final newspaper prior to election day.

Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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Allison Evans, advertising/operations
Alaina Barnes, creative design
Kayla Maxfield, reporter/distribution

The Crittenden Press (USPS 138-260) is published weekly by The Crittenden Press Inc., P.O. Box 191, 125 E. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064. Periodicals postage paid at Marion, KY and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions \$38 to \$75 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Crittenden Press, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064.

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Solutions to problems can come from any direction

If I were to write a list of things that I hope for others, I do not know how long it would be. It may be possible to summarize all those hopes with just a few words, but it wouldn't make the real list any shorter. I care about this planet. I care about everything that lives on it. I care about humans treating each other according to the golden rule, "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

We all know that, for various reasons, we hurt each other. Sometimes intentionally, often not. We act like there is not enough food, gold, money, water, or land for all of us. We clump together according to ethnicity, politics, nationality, or religion and have trouble making it possible to live in peace with each other. I believe that solutions to our problems can come from any direction. I also believe that the most powerful, systemic changes begin at the personal, neighbor level. Those changes begin when we show up for each other because we all know that we need help from time to time. It is possible for us, a few at a time, to change the way the wind

blows. I see examples of it every day. I know that hate and division will not win. It may gain the upper hand for a while, but it will never win. There are too many of us in this world who want what is better for our children, grandchildren, and neighbors to win. There are too many of us who prefer peace to violence. There are too many of us that are willing to speak our mind and listen to others for hate to win. We do not have to like each other to love each other. Given that, here are a few things that I hope for those who take time to read this space. Wisdom. I hope that we all will learn wisdom. The kind of wisdom that slows things down enough so that we do not overreact to the noise. Wisdom that comes from God and not from those who consider themselves wise. Wisdom is not only a cerebral exercise. It is skill that comes with practice. When we are all doing what we do well, the world will be better. To remember those who are forgotten. Take some time to consider a group of people, or a person, that

would never come to mind without effort. What is their life like? If you don't know, find out. What do they have to offer? What do they need? What adjustments in thinking are needed for "them" to become part of "us" in your world. Reconciliation where needed. I truly hope for reconciliation for all who have broken relationships. I hope for humility to overcome pride and courage to overcome fear. I hope that you will make the first move, knowing full well it may be rejected. I hope that it is genuine and will lead to positive changes in the lives of those affected. Courage to seek truth. This one is difficult because there is some difference of opinion as to the definition of truth. What is not meant is the popular deconstructionist, "personal truth," which is part of the problem. Do not listen to those who have a vested interest in building a brand or a following. Listen to those who care more about others than themselves. Do not be afraid to step into new ways of thinking and living. Patience. The world needs patience. This type of patience in mind here is that which stays the course of doing the right thing even though it seems useless. Remember, hate will not win. Remember those powerful words of encouragement from the prophet Isaiah about res-

toration, "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint." Life. I hope that we all find life. I am not restricting this to "eternal life." I hope that whatever one's age, there can be meaningful days and work - paid or unpaid. We most often find life by encouraging life in others and spending our time doing, making, creating. Imagination. I hope that we can all imagine a better future. I hope that we can all imagine a beautiful way to see things that are

around us. That we can live into that imagination and in so doing change what others see. I pray that the God who created all that we see and gives us the breath of life will infuse every action and

thought as we go through our days. Peace. 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.

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The Holy Spirit can guide you to make right decisions

Question: I'm a follower of Christ, but I keep getting myself into jams through my stubbornly trying to do whatever I want. I hear some say, "God leads me daily." How can I get God's daily guidance to help me to live a better life?
Answer: The surest way I know not to end up in jams and impassés is to read and meditate on a portion of the Bible daily. "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16). God's Word will help you to see situations from God's viewpoint. Next, you need to depend upon the Holy Spirit, who resides within every believer, to give you guidance in the most minute details of your daily life. Christ Himself told us His

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

Spirit would guide us. "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" (Jn. 16:13). The gracious Holy Spirit will take the truths you learn from studying God's Word and impress them on your heart and mind for you to do

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Annual Women's Conference*

"Becoming a Grace-Full Woman & Living it Out"

Saturday, March 8
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

West Ky. Association "Camp David"
134 St. Rt. 1668, Marion, KY

Guest Speakers:
Pauletta Yarbrough & Jessica Boulard

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Lunch will be provided following the service

RSVP/More Information: Amy Quertermous
(270) 969-0381

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315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.
Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
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St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

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Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

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.
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Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
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Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
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growing in grace
2 Peter 3:18
PLEASANT GROVE
General Baptist Church
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God

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

Women helped shape future generations

March is National Women’s History Month. I always enjoy sharing articles and history about some of the fine ladies that contributed to Crittenden County. At the time they were just trying to do their best at their jobs and doing something worthwhile for the town and county, but in doing this, they helped shape the minds and futures of all generations.

Founder of the Crittenden County Public Library

Jessie Croft Ellis, the founder of the Crittenden County Library, was born near Salem Sept. 10, 1891. She was the middle daughter of George Croft and Margaret Ellen Cox Croft. She was raised by her mother following the death of her father when she was six.

Ellis, a graduate of Marion High School, was sent to finishing school at Sayre College in Lexington. There she married Cecil B. Ellis who was on the football team.

By 1924, both her mother and her husband had passed away, and Ellis was faced with the task of earning a living and raising her son alone.

Family farms were no longer profitable at that time, so Ellis took the big step of moving up North to Ann Arbor, Mich., and enrolling in the University of Michigan to get a teacher’s license. Upon getting the license she got a job in the high school at Alma, Mich., teaching American history.

But Ellis found she didn’t like teaching. So she talked her way into a job in the library of the University of Michigan and began taking classes for a Master’s Degree in Library Science. She had carefully chosen her new job to be in a university town where her son Cecil, Jr., could go to college at home.

Ellis stayed at the University Library in Ann Arbor for many years until her retirement, but she always knew that she was a daughter of Marion, Kentucky, and when she retired she instantly returned home.

She bought a house on the Bellville Road out of town with money from the family fluorspar mines which had now become profitable, but she didn’t sit at home to knit.

Ellis had to do something for the people of Marion. What she knew best was library work, so she went to all the leading people of Marion and badgered them continually for money and space to start a library for the town.

Finally the state appropriated \$2,900 for the organization of a library in Marion, which was matched with \$300 by the fiscal court. Many plans were made, and April 6, 1953 was the date set for the opening of the new

library. She worked very hard to select and catalog books to be ready for the opening. The first library was housed in a small office space on a first floor in the heart of downtown Marion. In less than a year, it had outgrown the building and it was necessary to find a new location.

In March 1954, the library, with approximately 1,000 volumes, moved to a new location on North Main Street (where Johnson’s Furniture’s warehouse is today). The library’s next move was to a building on West Bellville St. across from the courthouse.

The library kept growing and needing more room. After the old jail



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

was torn down, the present library was built on that location where it stands today. We can give thanks to this determined lady, Jessie Croft Ellis, from years ago, that Crittenden County was able to have its first library.

Ellis finally wore herself down, and the last 15 years of her life were spent in hospitals and a nursing home near Salem. She died in June 3, 1975 and is buried in Maplevue Cemetery with her family. There is a plaque in the library that says “Honoring Mrs. Jessie Croft Ellis, Librarian and Founder.”

Mrs. Cleo Croft Retires in 1973

A face familiar to most of the students who have attending Crittenden County High School during the past 23 years is leaving the Crittenden County High School faculty this year. Mrs. Cleo Croft is retiring from school teaching after 37 years in the teaching profession.

She had taught in so many and so varied school she has difficulty remembering them all. For Croft, school really began at Lola. After graduating from Lola High School and receiving her bachelor of science degree in English and geography at Murray State University, she returned to Lola to begin teaching.

She has taught in one-room schools and two-teacher schools as well as high schools. Among schools she has taught at are Lola Elementary, Sisco’s Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Shady Grove Elementary and Tolu elementary and high school. Croft was principal of the Tolu school during World War II.

Concerning her tenure at Crittenden County High, she said: “I started with the new building in 1950.” While at CCHS, she has taught both English and geography.

Of course, a lot of things can happen in 37 years, especially in the



Jessie Ellis Croft had a dream for Crittenden County to have its own library and the community is still thankful her dream was fulfilled.



Cleo Croft taught in many of the county schools before becoming a full-time teacher at Crittenden County High in 1950.

teaching profession, and Croft has her share of tall tales to tell.

She says that in the old days in the smaller schools, teachers did double duty as janitor. She remembers building fires in those old potbelled stoves on many cold mornings.

And one of the incidents from her teaching career that still stands out in her mind concerns one of those stoves. While she was teaching at Tolu, the stove needed new pipes. A student agreed to replace the stove pipes over the weekend but failed to do so, and, when the class arrived the following Monday morning the room was quite cold. Although adept at building fires in the stoves, Croft says she wasn’t able to replace the pipes. Finally some boys in the class did install the pipes for the stove.

Another of her memories concerns the time she was principal at Tolu. During that time she served as basketball coach. She says, “I

wasn’t really the coach. There was usually some boy from town who would guide the team. We didn’t win many games while I was supposedly the coach.” But win or lose in her capacity as principal and coach, Croft did travel with the team to all ballgames, both home and away.

Croft is currently faculty sponsor for the Future Teachers of America club and the Rockette, school yearbook. She has been yearbook sponsor for the past eight years. She has also been sponsor for numerous class plays and fundraising campaigns.

Students as well as teachers change in 37 years, and Croft feels that a lack of respect for property and authority that some students have today has been the greatest change she has noticed in the years she has been teaching. She attributes this to a change in home life.

Since she’s not going to be coming to school anymore after this year, Croft says, “I’m going to do as I please and quit punching a clock. I’m going to quit sitting up late grading papers, and I’m going to sleep late.” She adds that she would like to find the time to travel a little after retirement.

When asked what she felt Kentucky teachers today need most, she listed adequate salaries, good buildings, adequate supplies, smaller classes and a better understanding between parents and teachers.

In summing up her career, she said, “I guess one reason I’ve continued teaching all these 37 years is at the end of the year, I seldom remember the bad things that happen, but I try to remember the good things and hope I’ve been a good teacher to each of my students.” (This article appeared in The Crittenden Press May 24, 1973)

Cleo V. Foster Croft was born Sept. 27, 1912 in Lola, Livingston County. She was the daughter of Russell and Nora Thompson Foster. She died May 27, 1995 and is buried in the Lola Pente-

costal Cemetery in Lola. (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).

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

SUMMARY AND NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

The Board of Education of Crittenden County, Kentucky (the "Board of Education") at a regular meeting on February 25, 2025, passed and adopted a Resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY ("BOARD"), AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2025 IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$3,420,000 (SUBJECT TO AN INCREASE OF UP TO \$340,000 OR DECREASE IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE BOARD) (THE "BONDS") THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH ARE TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECTS; AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION, TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED, OF THE PROCEEDS OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER TAXES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE BONDS AND THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF FUNDS PURSUANT TO KRS § 66.480; PROVIDING FOR DELEGATION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BONDS; AND AUTHORIZING SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS AND CERTIFICATES NECESSARY OR REQUIRED FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS.

The Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$3,420,000 of the Board of Education's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2025 ("Bonds") (subject to permitted adjustment) to be issued for the purpose of financing construction of energy conservation improvements at various facilities throughout the Crittenden County School District (collectively, the "Project").

To assure the payment of the Bonds, it is necessary that the Board of Education authorize the levy of a tax ("Bond Tax") sufficient to pay debt service on the Bonds; provided, however, it is now anticipated that other available taxes and revenues of the Board of Education will be sufficient to meet the debt service requirements of the Bonds without the collection of the Bond Tax.

Section 5(C) of the Bond Resolution, which levies the Bond Tax reads as follows:

That pursuant to Section 157 of the Constitution of Kentucky and KRS § 66.111, there is hereby authorized to be levied, and the Board hereby does so levy, without limitation as to rate or amount, each year that the Bonds remain outstanding, a Tax in an amount sufficient to provide for the full payment of the principal and interest requirements on said Bonds; provided, however, that said Tax shall be collected only to the extent that other receipts from existing Board taxes or other sources are not sufficient to provide for the full payment of the debt service payments on the Bonds each year.

That by the adoption of the Resolution the Board of Education covenants with Owners of the Bonds that it shall, if necessary, collect each year a Bond Tax in a sufficient amount and appropriate in its annual budget, together with other monies available to it, an amount of funds sufficient to pay the "debt charges" on the Bonds as defined in Section 66.011 (4) of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The Bonds are to be sold at a publicly advertised competitive sale. The Bonds will mature over a term not to exceed 20 years. The Resolution establishes a Sinking Fund to provide for the payment of the principal and interest requirements of the Bonds as same become due.

A copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education.

This summary has been prepared by David B. Malone of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, Louisville, Kentucky, Bond Counsel to the Board of Education.
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
By: /s/ Tonya Driver, Secretary

CITY OF MARION

The following tax bills for the year 2024, being unpaid, I will offer for sale on April 1, 2025 at 1 p.m to the highest bidder for cash. The following delinquent tax claims upon which a real assessment appears (the amount includes penalty, interest and advertising cost).

Tax Year Range 2024 To 2024 Calculated As Of 03/03/2025

Bill No.	Account Name	Unpaid Tax			
11.....	ABEGGLEN RANDALL L & DEBORAH L	\$249.54	908.....	LONG HAILEY LEANN.....	\$86.05
20.....	ADAMSON KENNETH & MELISSA.....	\$57.36	918.....	LYNCH DAVID N.....	\$15.21
43.....	ANDERSON MICHAEL	\$286.82	927.....	MANESS MICHAEL	\$22.95
71.....	BARNES LEONARD	\$5.74	956.....	MARTIN DAVID A & COURTNEY M	\$14.34
99.....	BELT BOBBY L	\$129.07	959.....	MASON LISA M	\$8.61
145.....	BLAZINA JOSEPH.....	\$43.03	966.....	MCCAIN J C	\$21.52
165.....	BRADFORD CHARLES.....	\$15.78	968.....	MCCLURE TROY EST	\$14.34
171.....	BRONOSKY TERRI	\$129.07	969.....	MCDANIEL BELINDA D	\$71.70
188.....	BURKE DUANE SCOTT & INA YVONNE.....	\$51.63	984.....	MCGEE WAYNE P.....	\$14.34
189.....	BUSH CHARITY DAWN.....	\$186.43	990.....	MCKINNEY DUSTIN & MCKINNEY JUDITH	\$94.08
200.....	CALE PHILLIP.....	\$28.69	993.....	MCKINNEY TYLER & KAITLYN.....	\$83.18
232.....	CLEARWATER SUSAN.....	\$143.42	1010.....	MILLER JOANNIE MARIE.....	\$2.59
235.....	CLIFFORD BRIAN.....	\$24.39	1031.....	MORRIS CHAD & STACIE.....	\$129.07
237.....	COFFER STORES INC.....	\$95.52	1048.....	MOXLEY LYDAWN.....	\$20.08
241.....	COFFER STORES INC.....	\$43.05	1051.....	MURRAY BRADLEY.....	\$149.15
242.....	COFFER STORES INC.....	\$848.57	1060.....	NELSON ANGELA DON.....	\$14.34
264.....	CONNER MELBURN & MELISSA.....	\$100.39	1123.....	PEMBERTON JESSICA & ANDREW.....	\$28.69
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274.....	COOPER PEGGY DEMOSS.....	\$83.18	1167.....	PRECISION PLUMBING & SEPTIC INC.....	\$71.70
299.....	CRAYNE ROY & MELISSA.....	\$203.65	1174.....	PRYOR KENNETH R JR	\$57.36
301.....	CRIDER KENNETH O.....	\$358.53	1182.....	READER LACEY.....	\$45.89
340.....	CRUCE HERBERT EST.....	\$3.45	1183.....	READER LACEY 1/2 & RENNER RUSTY 1/2.....	\$11.47
344.....	CURNEL RICKY EST.....	\$149.15	1184.....	READER LACEY 1/2 & RENNER RUSTY 1/2.....	\$2.87
352.....	DAVIDSON BARRY.....	\$33.00	1204.....	RILEY BARBARA.....	\$10.05
374.....	DICKEY BRADLEY.....	\$21.52	1224.....	ROBERTS DARLENE.....	\$17.21
378.....	DICKEY GORDON.....	\$136.67	1234.....	ROBERTSON MICHAEL.....	\$5.74
381.....	DILLINGHAM MATTHEW.....	\$11.47	1235.....	ROBINSON BETTY J.....	\$2.87
383.....	DILLINGHAM MATTHEW.....	\$11.47	1236.....	ROBISON AUSTIN.....	\$278.22
404.....	DOWNS KENNETH WAYNE &.....	\$153.46	1258.....	RUSHING JAMES M & KELLY.....	\$100.39
473.....	FETTEROLF THADDEUS THOMAS JOSEPH.....	\$114.73	1261.....	RUSSELL AUSTIN SHANE.....	\$220.85
510.....	FOX SHIRLEY.....	\$10.47	1291.....	SHIELDS HAZEL OR.....	\$5.16
538.....	GERHARDT CRAIG.....	\$11.47	1314.....	SISCO CHRISTOPHER.....	\$80.31
552.....	GIPSON SHELBY EST.....	\$103.26	1319.....	SMITH DEVIN.....	\$5.74
553.....	GIPSON TAMARA ANN.....	\$100.39	1321.....	SMITH JAMES RAY & DEVIN.....	\$91.49
568.....	GRAYHAWK LEASING LLC.....	\$10.33	1322.....	SMITH JEFFERY.....	\$4.31
575.....	GREGORY INC.....	\$80.02	1333.....	SMOCK MARVIN DAVID.....	\$57.36
591.....	GUGENHEIM INC.....	\$5.02	1344.....	STARIWAT MICHELLE.....	\$83.18
597.....	HACKNEY EDDIE.....	\$8.61	1349.....	STEPHENS BONNIE.....	\$12.92
605.....	HAKE KATRINA & MICHAEL.....	\$149.15	1350.....	STEPHENS BONNIE.....	\$12.92
623.....	HARDESTY KENNETH JR.....	\$36.42	1351.....	STEPHENS BONNIE.....	\$12.92
637.....	HATHAWAY KEVIN BRUCE.....	\$15.78	1352.....	STEPHENS BONNIE.....	\$11.47
655.....	HEALTHQUEST WELLNESS CENTER PS.....	\$17.77	1361.....	STOLL CORI LYNAE.....	\$100.39
670.....	HENRY CECIL.....	\$160.62	1374.....	SUN INDUSTRIES INC.....	\$157.76
677.....	HERRIN JODY & JULIE.....	\$178.85	1390.....	TABOR ALMA A.....	\$64.54
714.....	HOLLOMAN THOMAS LESTER & ALTHEA J.....	\$28.69	1391.....	TABOR ALMA A.....	\$1.44
719.....	HOMETOWN FOODS.....	\$82.51	1401.....	TAX EASE LIEN SERVICING LLC.....	\$14.34
732.....	HUGHES DOUG & MILLER KELSEY.....	\$10.05	1457.....	TUCKER DAVID D.....	\$106.12
734.....	HUGHES LACY EST.....	\$7.17	1460.....	TURNER JOE D.....	\$71.70
736.....	HUGHES RONALD D.....	\$11.47	1461.....	TYRIE SHELLEY S.....	\$97.23
773.....	JACKSON ALVIE G.....	\$28.69	1467.....	UNKNOWN OWNER.....	\$5.74
774.....	JACKSON RUTH ESTATE.....	\$7.17	1469.....	US BANK.....	\$11.47
814.....	JOHNSON JAMES EST.....	\$12.92	1475.....	WALKER CHAD.....	\$129.07
823.....	JOHNSTON LISA DIANNE.....	\$17.21	1480.....	WALKER ROCKY.....	\$8.61
825.....	JONES BRAD LEE.....	\$2.87	1489.....	WATSON CHARLES.....	\$187.88
843.....	KEMPER JAMES & LINDSEY.....	\$103.26	1496.....	WATSON MARY ELIZABETH.....	\$11.47
880.....	LANHAM ROBBIE.....	\$28.69	1507.....	WESMOLAN JENNIFER.....	\$50.20
884.....	LARUE JAMES D & SHARON.....	\$236.63	1514.....	WESTDALE ASSOCIATES.....	\$3,147.59
898.....	LINDER TAKEKO.....	\$100.39	1525.....	WHEELER ROBERT MICHAEL DBA.....	\$0.16
903.....	LIZAK JOHN & BETTY L.....	\$82.17	1550.....	WILLIAMS DAVID.....	\$34.42

PLEASANT HILL AND PARIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS

will meet for their annual meeting

March 18, 7 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Regular Baptist Church located at 861 Pleasant Hill Road.

Individuals having family members buried in these two cemeteries are invited to attend.

Donations for the cemeteries can be sent to:
Charlie Hunt

501 E. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064

For questions call or text (270) 704-0053.

REQUEST FOR BIDS: Mowing for the City of Fredonia

The City of Fredonia is now accepting bids for the 2025 mowing season.

Mowing bid packets will be available at Fredonia City Hall during normal business hours.

All mowing bids are due to Fredonia City Hall by March 7, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Fredonia City Hall at (270) 545-3925.

The Crittenden Press

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I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District

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Court Marion, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement: Kimberly Alsobrook of 899 S.R. 139, Marion, KY 42064, executrix of Terry Allen Easley, deceased, whose address was 201 Watson Street, Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on March 26, 2025. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-8-c)

Notice is hereby given that on February 26, 2025 Brandy Hall of 1293 View Road, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed executrix of David Ralph Mullen, deceased, shoes address was 1293 View Road, Marion, KY 42064. Abigail Zaman, 3500 PNC Tower, 101 South Fifth Street, Louisville, KY 40202, attorney, All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly prov-

en as required by law to the executrix before the 26th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-8-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Feb. 26, 2025 Cody Wrenn of 204 Poplar Street, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed administrator of Wayne Alan Wrenn Jr., deceased, whose address was 531 S. Main Street, Marion, KY 42064. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present teh same properly proven as required by law to the administrator before the 26th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said

debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-8-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Feb. 26, 2025 Roseann Laffoon of 781 Pleasant View Rd., Madisonville, KY 42431 was appointed executrix of Johnny Ray Sizemore, deceased, whose address was 1005 S.R. 723 North, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca J. Johnson, P.O. Box 415, Marion, KY 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are

hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 26th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-8-c)

Salem Cemetery
IS ACCEPTING BIDS
to mow and weedeat Salem Cemetery.

The bid that is accepted will have to do the following: Mow, weedeat, and blow off monuments every week. Roundup may not be used around monuments.

We ask that bids be dropped off at Boyd Funeral Directors during normal business hours or may be emailed to andy@boydfuneraldirectors.com. Salem Cemetery has the right to reject any and all bids.

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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.

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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 117 Acres - \$575,000
This phenomenal hunting property offers outstanding opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl enthusiasts, making it a must-see for the avid outdoorsman. Includes 44+/- acres of open ground!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 119 Acres - \$699,000
Nestled in a picturesque setting, this diverse hunting property offers not only prime outdoor opportunities but also the comforts of a 4-bedroom, 2-bath lodge. Includes 7+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 193 Acres - \$799,000
Whether you're a seasoned hunter or looking for a tranquil retreat, this diverse tract delivers a perfect balance of functionality and natural beauty. Includes 32+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

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This diverse hunting tract with a 4BR/2BA lodge is a rare find, offering exceptional opportunities for hunting, recreation, and relaxation. Includes 39+/- tillable acres and established food plots!

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY - 64.3284 Acres - \$241,231.50
Nestled in a tranquil rural area, this scenic hunting tract offers a diverse blend of habitat types and topography, making it a perfect retreat for outdoor enthusiasts. Features an ideal build site!

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

Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900
This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250
Sited in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

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BASKETBALL
5th District Tournaments

GIRLS
Thursday's Championship
Crittenden Co. 64, Lyon County 49

BOYS
Friday's Championship
Lyon County 92, Livingston Central 58

2nd Region Tournaments

GIRLS
At Christian County
Monday, March 3
Henderson Co. 77, Lyon County 40
Hopkins Central 79 Hopkinsville 54
Tuesday, March 4
Christian Co. 70 Madisonville 51
Crittenden Co. 46, Union County 39
Friday, March 7
Henderson vs Hopkins Central, 6pm
Crittenden Co. vs Christian Co., 7:30pm
Saturday, March 8
Championship, 6pm
BOYS
At Madisonville
Wednesday, March 5
Madisonville (15-12) vs. Livingston (9-20)
Christian Co. (8-22) vs. Union Co. (15-10)
Thursday, March 6
Henderson Co. (22-6) vs Hopkinsville (15-15)
Lyon Co. (24-7) vs Dawson Springs (17-15)
Tuesday, March 11
Semifinal games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 18
Championship, 7pm

Fraliex resign as coach

Crittenden County High School boys' basketball coach Matt Fraliex resigned Tuesday morning after two seasons leading the program. Fraliex, who met with his team to announce the decision, posted on social media that his coaching future remains uncertain.

Fraliex compiled a 3-51 record at Crittenden County, finishing last in the Second Region both seasons. He said after recent discussions with school administrators, it was determined that the program needed new leadership.

A Caldwell County native, Fraliex is currently building a home in Fredonia. He previously served as an assistant coach at Caldwell County and was head coach of the Todd Central girls' team. He remains the all-time leading scorer for Caldwell County boys' basketball with 2,941 career points and was a finalist for Kentucky's Mr. Basketball in 2007. He played collegiately at Murray State and Mid-Continent University before the school closed. Fraliex, a Crittenden County Elementary School teacher, was hired to replace DJ Pigg, who coached the Rockets for one season.



Livingston all-district

Livingston Central had two girls and two boys earn all-district honors, which were announced last week as part of the Fifth District tournaments. Emersyn Ramage and Victoria Joiner were chosen on the girls' side while Logan Wring and Bryson Walker were selected for the boys' team. Lyon County's Bray Kirk was the male district player of the year and Lyon's Piper Cotham was female player of the year.

BASEBALL | SOFTBALL
Registration deadline

Crittenden County Dugout Club registration deadline is approaching for its 2025 youth baseball and softball season. Registration forms are due by Saturday, with a skills assessment scheduled for the same day from 10 a.m. to noon at the former armory. The program offers divisions for both baseball and softball, ranging from Co-ed Rookie (ages 4-6) to Babe Ruth (ages 13-15). Registration fees are \$45 for Co-ed Rookie and \$60 for Youth Baseball/Softball divisions, with family discounts available. Players registering after March 8 will pay a penalty and Tuesday is the absolute final registration deadline. All new players ages 7 and up, as well as those moving to new age divisions, must attend the skills assessment.

CCHS home scrimmages

Crittenden County's baseball team will host St. Mary at 5:30 Monday in a scrimmage and Madisonville at noon on Saturday, March 15. The Lady Rocket softball will host Union County in a scrimmage at 5 p.m., Monday and Hardin County, Ill., at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 13.

MISCELLANEOUS
CCHS coaching additions

Crittenden County High School has hired Bayley McDonald as volleyball coach and Grant Carter as assistant football coach. McDonald was previously the team's coach, but stepped away temporarily about two years ago. Carter is a native of Webster County where he has been an assistant coach.

Bench holds line in regional opener

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County found itself in a tough spot early in the opening round of the Second Region Tournament on Tuesday at Hopkinsville. Early foul trouble for a couple of key starters forced coach Shannon Hodge to turn quickly to her bench, and she credited a handful of reserves for helping hold the line and giving her team a chance to regroup in the second half.

That, it did, as CCHS stormed back to beat Union County 46-39 and advance to Friday's regional semifinal against tournament host Christian County, a team the Lady Rockets lost to by seven on the same floor a month ago.

In what Hodge described as a "survive-and-advance battle," she said her team didn't play to its full capability.

"Hats off to Union County for playing hard, defending well and shooting well," Hodge said. "Abigail Champion, Morgan Stewart, Adri Berry and Georgie Holeman came in during the first half, kept it together and got us through when Anna and 'Fed' were in foul trouble."

The Lady Rockets started sluggishly, missing shots they normally make and turning the ball over while Union County played inspired defense and contested every shot. When Anna Boone picked up her second foul away from the ball with 1:30 left in the first period, CCHS's offense began to sputter. Then, Andrea Federico went to the bench with two fouls.

Boone is the team's leading scorer, and Federico, who has been scoring well lately, serves as the team's physical enforcer around the basket.

Without them, Crittenden went more than a dozen minutes without a basket but still stayed within striking distance, surviving only on intermittent free throws. At the line, CCHS was 4-for-8 in the first half but a paltry 3-for-17 from the floor.

Union County made twice as many field goals in the opening half but led by only four, 18-14, at intermission. Coincidentally, Union led Crittenden County at times in both regular-season matchups and even took a lead into the final period at Morganfield in one of those games.

Neither Boone nor Federico played a single second of the second period, and Hodge kept them out as long as the game didn't get too lopsided.



Georgia Holeman (15) above and Morgan Stewart (right) came off the bench to keep Crittenden County in the game in the first half with two starters on the bench in foul trouble..

When the second half started, Boone and Federico returned to the floor, scored the first four points and Federico had a steal on the press, forcing Union to take a timeout to regroup. CCHS had tied the game, and for the first time, it wasn't trailing. Those were the first points Boone and Federico scored in the game. Federico scored on the baseline with 5:05 left in the third to give CCHS its first lead, 24-23.

When Jordyn Hodge drained a 3-pointer from the right wing in transition with 2:40 left in the third, Crittenden led by six, and Union had a great opportunity to fold. However, the Bravettes didn't go quietly, hanging on like a dog tick and trailing by just one with a little over three minutes to play.

Crittenden County, however, scored in transition and at the foul line late to hang on. CCHS was 21-30 at the line and outscored from the field 31-23.

"We looked good in spurts during the second half but never could put it away," Hodge said. "But we made some plays down the stretch to get a win."

Hodge said rebounding will be a key factor when the Lady Rockets face a bigger, more physical Christian County



squad on its home floor for a chance to play in Saturday's championship.

Union County 9 18 30 39
Crittenden Co. 4 14 31 46
UNION – Davis 3, Bell, Steward 14, Mendoza 8, Tamayo 2, Curry 11, Byrd 1. 3-pointers 5. FT 8-11.
CRITTENDEN – Boone 13, Evans 7, Hodge 14, Federico 6, Rushing 2, Stewart 3, Holeman 1. 3-pointers 1 (Hodge). FT 21-30.

Rocket girls capture 3rd title in last 4 years

STAFF REPORT

Defense did the dirty work, and Anna Boone's NBA-range threes brought the house down Thursday as Crittenden County beat Lyon County 64-49, claiming the team's third Fifth District championship in the last four years.

Playing for the title has become routine for the four starting juniors, who have been part of every tournament since their eighth-grade season. Boone and classmate Andrea Federico provided the lift CCHS needed at key points in the game.

Sophomore Jordyn Hodge played a pivotal role, keeping Lyon guard Piper Cotham – the Fifth District Player of the Year – five points below her season average. The job would have been much cleaner had Cotham not gotten lost in traffic three times in the second half, getting open to sink three-pointers. She scored only three points in the first half.

"I couldn't be more proud of these girls," said 33-year Lady Rocket skipper Shannon Hodge. "Defending to the end and Anna Boone hitting those two big threes. I am just so excited for these girls."

CCHS led by as many as eight points in the first half and 10 in the third period, but Lyon roared back behind Cotham's long-range shots and Trinity Taylor and Jenna Cousey's play around the basket. Cotham dropped a couple of foul shots with just over three minutes to play, bringing her team within two, 51-49, but that was it for the Lyons. Crittenden County shut them out the rest of the way as Boone scored eight down the stretch to lead a 12-0 run over



Anna Boone scored 25 and 16 rebounds as CCHS beat Lyon for the district title.



Elliot Evans, Anna Boone and Jordyn Hodge were named to the all-district team.

the game's final three minutes.

"I could hear Coach Hodge say, 'Don't shoot,'" Boone said with a chuckle about the first fourth-quarter three-pointer she took from the deep wing just steps in front of her coach on the sideline.

That shot was nothing but net, and so was the follow-up seconds later. It was the proverbial nail CCHS needed to close out the Lyons, a team that has been a pesky adversary for the last several seasons.

Last year's regional player of the year, Boone scored in various ways against Lyon, finishing with a game-high 25 points and she also grabbed 16 rebounds.

Over the past 11 years, CCHS has faced the Lyons six times in the district finale, winning three and losing three. It



Boys champs

Crittenden Blue won the boys' 5th-6th grade all star tournament Saturday. Team members (kneeling from left) are Gannon Taylor, Aiden Fraliex, Bryce Dayberry, Knox Champion, (standing from left) Crittenden Blue coaches Roy Gene Rogers and Brandon Stinnett, Mason Williams, Eli Taylor, Noah Moss, Parker Lingerfelt, Rex Boone, White teammate Conley Palmer and White coaches Brian Farmer and Adam Dayberry. Above is White's Tripp Martin; at right Korie Bloodworth; and far right Callie Hildebrand



Cherokee heritage to be discussed at Fredonia meeting

Fredonia Valley Heritage Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Fredonia American Legion Post 103 in Buddy Rogers Park on Dorroh Street.

Casey Baker will present a program titled “A Small Valley with a Deep Heritage: From England to Cherokee, North Carolina,” outlining her journey to discovering her Native American ancestry. A business meeting will also be held.

Updates will be provided on the society’s ongoing projects, including the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial and a new historical sign awarded by the Ken-

tucky Historical Society. The sign, set to be placed this spring, will mark the site of the 1906 burning of the Rice Tobacco Factory in Fredonia by the Night Riders.

Work continues on the Fredonia Valley Veterans Memorial, where all bricks have been replaced with newly laser-engraved ones. Phase 2 has begun, with a concrete pad installed for a planned pavilion with picnic tables. Additional sections will honor first responders and correctional officers. Brick sales for the memorial are ongoing, with order forms available at the memorial or by emailing



Pam Faughn at pam-faughn@att.net.

The society’s publication, Veterans of the Fredonia Valley, a 436-page book detailing veterans’ stories from the Revolutionary War to present-day service members, remains available for \$35. Also available is In Pursuit of Art – The Talent of John F. Rice, featuring over 335 full-color pieces of Rice’s artwork, for \$30. To purchase either book, email Faughn

or send payment, plus \$6 for shipping, to Fredonia Valley Heritage Society, PO Box 256, Fredonia, KY 42411.

The Fredonia Valley Heritage Society meets on the first Thursday of odd-numbered months, with annual membership fees set at \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families, \$30 per business voting member, and a \$250 one-time payment for lifetime membership.

FEBRUARY 2025

Weather Yearbook

Coldest Temp
2.3

Warmest Temp
74.6

Wettest Day
3.97

Fri., Feb. 21

Wed., Feb. 26

Sat., Feb. 15

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	38.1	46.9	45.9	42.1	30.5	39.4
Coldest Temp	2.3	16.2	16	12.2	0	12.1
Hottest Temp	74.6	74.3	76.3	66.6	66.8	71.5
Precipitation	6.0	1.7	3.1	6.3	6.3	5.24
Wettest Day	3.97	0.69	1.88	2.63	1.85	1.7

February brought us a month of extreme weather with bitter cold and balmy afternoons ranging from 2.3 degrees on Friday, Feb. 21 to almost 75 degrees five days later. The month started with what the National Weather Service in Paducah says was record warmth for the first eight days. February’s average temperature was second coldest over the past 10 years, but still slightly above average for the month since 1900.

CHICKEN

Continued from page 1

kept in “well-maintained, clean enclosures.” Regarding roosters, he acknowledges other cities typically prohibit them due to noise concerns, though personally he doesn’t find them “any more disruptive than a weed eater.”

Since most urban chicken keepers focus on egg production rather than breeding, roosters aren’t necessary.

“With H&H now selling chicks,” Duvall said, “you’d think the city would be willing to consider” allowing residents to benefit from fresh eggs, provided regulations ensure responsible ownership.

For those who are not familiar with chicken facts, hens lay eggs almost daily as part of their natural reproductive cycle, regardless of whether a rooster is present. Without a rooster to fertilize them, these eggs remain unfertilized and are what people typically consume. Factors like daylight, diet and breed influence laying patterns, with peak production occurring in a hen’s first couple of years.

Current Crittenden County agriculture teacher Marlee Lanham dreams of developing a livestock program at the school. While acknowledging the necessary steps ahead, she notes that groundwork is already underway to realize this vision.

Lanham, who lives on a cattle farm and has experience with chickens, believes many people “want to know where their food comes from.” She advocates for hands-on education and envisions expanded opportunities for students in the future.

“Anyone wanting to raise their own chickens needs to first learn a lot about flock health, because there are not many veterinarians in the area who will see chickens. Birds are tricky,” she said.

The increasing popularity of backyard flocks



Bob Rowley “gender witching” on a chick he’s interested in buying at H&H. He only wants a female.

has driven up prices, Lanham explains. Basic chicks now cost around \$4 each, with specialty breeds like Ghost Zombies selling for \$12.89. Adult chickens can be considerably more expensive.

“I have heard stories about people taking birds to Nashville and selling them for \$85 to \$90 a pair for backyard stock,” Lanham said. “To me that’s absolutely ridiculous. Egg prices are pushing the price of birds.”

Bob Rowley, who lives just east of Marion, has kept chickens for over a decade, though he didn’t initially plan to. His son started with a few birds, and the flock eventually grew to 50. Now maintaining about 40 chickens, Rowley has learned when to replace aging hens, how to determine chick gender and whether to hatch chicks at home or purchase them.

“Chickens will lay steadily for a few years, but after about three, their production starts to drop,” Rowley said. “By the time they hit four or five, you really need to be thinking about replacing them.”

Rowley prefers buying chicks rather than hatching his own.

“If you’re raising your own, you’ve got to deal with an incubator and you never really know if you’re going to get males or females,” he said.

For sexing young chicks, he uses a method learned from the late Meb Cowan involving a suspended needle over the chick.

“If it circles, it’s a female. If it swings back and forth, it’s a male,” he explained. “It works on ducks, too. I’ve been 100 percent accurate with them.”

With two roosters among his flock, Rowley focuses primarily on egg sales.

“I sell most of my eggs and can’t keep enough,” he said. “People are screaming for them.”

Despite high demand, he maintains his price at \$2 per dozen.

“I’m not in it for profit, just covering costs,” he said. Rowley’s daily collection averages 27-30 eggs, though production decreases in winter.

He notes that fresh eggs have a natural protective coating that prevents bacteria entry.

“If you’re storing or hatching, you don’t want to wash that off,” he advised. He collects eggs in the afternoon and refrigerates them during winter to prevent freezing

and cracking. Unwashed fresh eggs can remain at room temperature for about two weeks. For easier peeling of hard-boiled eggs, Rowley recommends adding “a couple of tablespoons of baking powder” to boiling water.

While some chicken keepers enjoy raising chicks, Rowley finds the greatest demand is for eggs.

“No one’s calling for chicks,” he said. “All they want are eggs, eggs, eggs.”

Kalynn Jackson didn’t initially plan on raising chickens when she bought her house in Dycusburg in July 2020, but it quickly became a passion. She started with a \$25 Facebook Marketplace incubator (now selling for around \$200 at Rural King) despite having no prior experience beyond watching her grandfather butcher chickens.

Her chicken journey began unexpectedly when her husband brought home two roosters. Neighbors provided some hens, and she acquired pullets through a Facebook livestock group. Her flock once reached nearly 85 birds, including chickens from a friend who was moving. Currently, she maintains 35-40 chickens, though predators make this challenging.

Coyotes have taken chickens in daylight, while raccoons and opossums threaten at night. Hawks particularly target smaller breeds. Free-range chickens are especially vulnerable, though Jackson notes that dogs raised around chickens can offer some protection.

“I chased a coyote out of the flock once. My husband said that probably wasn’t a good idea,” Jackson said with a smile.

For hatching, Jackson explains that incubators provide control over the process, though broody hens handle it naturally. Silkies are known for strong mothering instincts, and her Buff Orpingtons have also gone



Alana West, 13, a clerk at H&H Home and Hardware in Marion, reaches for a chick to show a customer.

broody. Some Brahmas sat on eggs but abandoned their chicks, requiring brooder raising. Warmer months improve successful hatching, she adds.

“I don’t always find that type of breed determines how broody they are,” she said.

For novices, “broody” refers to hens that are good setters and mothers, willing to remain with their eggs for the approximately three-week incubation period. A flock needs a rooster for eggs to develop into chicks.

Incubators typically hatch eggs in 21 days, automatically rotating them as a hen would. After hatching, chicks move to a brooder with a heat lamp, food, and water until fully feathered. During cold months, chicks can be raised in a garage for warmth, as they’re vulnerable to freezing temperatures.

“They will die quickly in the cold,” Jackson said, particularly in conditions like the recent frigid weather.

As chicks mature, they

transition to a chicken house with a run, providing protected space to move around before eventually joining the main flock.

Crittenden County Extension Agent for Agriculture Dee Heimgartner says individuals exploring the idea of raising their own chickens should consider details first. The Extension service is having a poultry specialist here at the tend of this month for a backyard chicken workshop.

While Heimgartner isn’t discouraging people getting into the egg-making business, she cautions that it’s not cheap.

“Chickens are not hard, but they’re not easy either,” the ag agent said. “Respiratory issues are common among chickens. Our workshop will help people understand a lot more. Keeping chickens might not be as cheap as paying the current price of eggs. Eggs are not going to stay that high forever.”

To attend the workshop at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27, call 270-965-5236.

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Students of the Month

Crittenden County School District’s Students of the Month were recognized last week during the Crittenden County Board of Education’s monthly meeting. They were honored for displaying the core trait of excellence during February. Pictured are (front from left) lower Crittenden County Elementary School student Evelyn James; (back) Crittenden County High School student Aubrey Grau, Crittenden County Middle School student Kevin Little and upper Crittenden County Elementary School student Davis Polk.

Yearbooks’ timing is discussed during board of ed meeting

STAFF REPORT

Lockers for the Crittenden County Middle School addition, approval of a technology grant application and approval of bonds for the district’s energy savings project were approved by the Crittenden County Board of Education on Feb. 25.

The board also heard from citizen Ric Carder concerning the timing of yearbook distribution. Carder has addressed the board previously, voicing disappointment that yearbooks are not available to students until the beginning of each school year.

Superintendent Tonya Driver said that amid Carder’s concerns earlier this school year, a survey was presented to high school students asking their preference for yearbook arrival time. If yearbooks are delivered at the end of the school year, designers are not able to include end-of-year activities such as prom and graduation. Carder’s point is that students miss out on traditional yearbook signing at the end of the school year. Driver said 90% of students completing the survey want prom and graduation included in the yearbook.

Carder also voiced concern that leftover yearbooks students purchased over the last 20 years are being sold at H&H Home and Hardware. Some books, he said, have students’ names engraved on them.

In other action, the board:

- Approved application for a Department of Agri-

culture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) grant for distance learning improvements, which Driver described as a “game changer” for the district’s technology program. The grant is worth up to \$1 million and will be awarded to 115 applicants. Driver said it would allow the district to supply quality two-way communication ideal for Crittenden County’s dual credit students partnering with Madisonville Community College. The three-year grant requires a 15% match by the district in the form of equipment. Driver has secured a community partner to assist with the match, she reported. Grant awards will be announced in September.

- Approved a \$72,933.90 change order to accept an alternate bid on the Crittenden County Middle School addition project that involves lockers for the new building, a fire suppression system for the HVAC system in the middle school gym and a key card system for the CCHS elevator.
- Approved a memorandum of understanding to continue with the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program at Crittenden County High School and a new program at Crittenden County Middle School.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the sale of \$3.4 million in general obligation bonds for the district’s energy savings project. Bonds will be repaid using savings from utility costs and will be sold this week.



Joseph Campos, Charlie Sharratt and Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom work on landscaping around the newly poured-in-place rubber base at Marion-Crittenden County Park’s new playground off of Old Morganfield Road. Park officials say the playground, which has been closed much of the winter while upgrades were made, is now open. However, they urge cautions as the new ground work has yet to completely settle.

Rocket Health Scan

Crittenden County Elementary School’s STLP program conducted a health fair Saturday as a community service and also to collect data for an upcoming regional competition. Students provided informational pamphlets and Crittenden Community Hospital staff conducted free blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and calcium store tests. Pictured are (from left) students Parker Brown, Jordyn Champion, Harper Riley and community participant Kaylee Teeters.



Drama Club

Crittenden County Elementary School’s fourth- and fifth-grade Drama Club presented a play, The Jungle Book, at Fohs Hall Friday. Pictured are (from left) Kaylee Teeters, Murray Amaya and Parker Brown.

March is Women’s History Month

Join us in celebrating Marion’s female-owned florists

Louise’s Flowers

Named for its founder, the late Louise York, Louise’s Flowers celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2025.

Its current owner and chief floral designer, York’s daughter Teena, is celebrating the significance of the milestone.

York said in many cases, Louise’s Flowers is creating celebratory and memorial arrangements for second- and third-generation customers.

“When I am making family flowers, I stand here and think about the person I’m making them for; I call them my family, because that is what they are to me,” she said.

She recalls her mother’s early days and the partnership she and her dad, the late Clinton York, had in the business.

“Mama started working for Vonelle Sturgeon at Cottage Flowers in 1961 when I was two,” Teena York recalls. “I have a picture of me when I was four or five years old standing in the shop with her.”

After 10 years at Cottage Flowers and working for a short time at Frazer Flower Shop, Louise York opened Louise’s Flowers in 1975.

“We opened in the building next door on Easter weekend, and back then everybody had Easter corsages,” York recalls. “We had men lined up almost to the stop light trying to get corsages.”

Of course that’s a trend that has changed through the years.

Louise York died in 2009, but the name of the business remains in her honor.

“I make it a point to be here when people need me, because that’s what Mama did, and I’ve gotten up and left church before,” she said, commenting on the personal touch florists provide to family members in need.

“We strive to give the most and freshest flowers for the money and sometimes even more,” York said. “We participate in many community events and make many donations to organizations as well. Our flowers sell themselves and we receive many compliments from our customers locally and all across the United States.”

One of the more recent traditions Louise’s Flowers began was delivering flowers to every female in the nursing home during Mother’s Day and to every male in recognition of Father’s Day.

“The community supports this every year, and I think we stand out because we love what we do and what we do we try and support our community in everything,” York said.

The Daisy Patch

For over 25 years, Daisy Patch has been a staple in the floral business. Pat Waddell traces a love of flowers to her grandmother’s house in Livingston County. That big yard full of blooms sparked Waddell’s eventual career as owner of the Daisy Patch in Marion. Before opening Daisy Patch in June 1998, Waddell worked for 14 years with Kathy Roberts at The Flower Basket.

For 41 years, Waddell has shared her love of flowers, providing both beauty and comfort to her customers.

Her love for flowers dates back to her childhood and cherished time spent time with her grandmother in a yard full of vibrant blooms.

“When I was a kid, we would spend a whole week with our grandmother.” She recalls. “She had so many flowers, and that’s where I started liking them so much. She let us cut all we wanted and make bouquets, and she taught us their names—lily of the valley, peonies, irises.”

This formative experience became the foundation for Waddell’s lifelong passion and career in the floral industry.

Rewards from her work include making people smile and comforting them during difficult times.

“Seeing the pretty flowers and making people happy—that’s the most rewarding part,” she says. “I always tell people that when I do a funeral arrangement, I try to make it as if I’m making it for my own family. It’s the last thing you can do for someone, and it brings a little comfort.”

Throughout the years, Waddell has had some help from family—her parents, B.J. May and the late Louise May, had a hand in the business, and today, her sister Donna and daughter Sandy pitch in with Valentine’s Day deliveries.

In one memorable incident, B.J. May had a mishap while delivering a bouquet, falling and damaging the flowers.

“We joke that after he fell that time, he couldn’t deliver flowers anymore,” Waddell laughs. “We had to replace the bouquet, but he still tried to help out where he could.”

As the floral industry has evolved, the increase in DIY floral prices and incidence of DIY floral arrangements for Prom and weddings, has had a noticeable impact in recent years.

“The prices are sky-high now,” she explains. “It’s getting harder, especially when people don’t have

Bowtanicals

Seventeen years ago, Elliot West found her niche in the local gift and floral industry. With two small children at home, West embarked on a new career when she bought Bowtanicals Florist and Gifts in partnership with her aunt Caryn Steele and her husband Keith Steele. Bowtanicals first opened in Marion in the late 1990s by Tanya Simpson Newcom.

“Caryn had always wanted to do something like this, so we ended up purchasing the business and moved it up the block,” West recalls. In 2015 the trio opened a second location in Salem, and in 2018, West and her husband Bobby became sole owners.

Today, Bowtanicals employs seven people, nearly half of whom are related – including West, her mother Maria Belt, aunt Terri Shewcraft; and her daughter Emily fills in on occasion.

In 17 years, West has watched trends come and go; has seen changes in funeral services from a gradual scaling back to one-day services and an increase in cremations which affect families’ floral needs.

More recently, West has noticed a reduction in foot traffic in the downtown area as a result of county offices moving out of the former courthouse for new locations on the south of town.

The economy has resulted in obvious spending changes the last few years, West said.

“The economy the last couple of years has changed, and once that levels out it will help everybody,” she said, noting a decrease in discretionary income for many families.

“Our business is not a necessity for everyone,” she said, in terms of gifts and flowers, “but it is a necessity for our family.”

Wholesale trucks once numbered six or seven making stops in downtown to supply Bowtanicals with silks, plants and ribbon. Today there are two that routinely stop to see West, creating more travel on her end to get the products she needs in the floral and gift business.

“We have great clients and friends, and it has been amazing that we have done as well as we have, especially the last few years,” West said.

We salute inspiring women everywhere!

Please join us in celebrating those who paved the way and those who blaze new trails today.

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