



The Crittenden Press

District Player of Year | Sports Page 8

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS

Cost of Living Study finds that you need \$155 a day per couple

A localized analysis of available online data shows it costs an average \$4,710 per month, or about \$155 a day, for a married couple to live a normal homeowner lifestyle in Crittenden County.

That total covers a modest mortgage, utilities, two vehicles, groceries, health insurance and other basics. Housing is the largest expense at about \$1,150 a month, followed by \$850 for transportation, \$850 for food and \$800 for health insurance and medical costs. Utilities average around \$560, with another \$500 combined for personal and miscellaneous spending.

Altogether, that adds up to roughly \$56,500 a year, or \$78 per person per day, which aligns closely with regional estimates for a comfortable small-town lifestyle. Couples living in a mortgage-free home could expect to spend \$700 to \$900 less per month, depending on maintenance, fuel prices and healthcare coverage.

List of election filings

Crittenden County candidate filings to date include Perry Newcom, judge-executive; Nathan Ratley, judge-executive; Bart Frazer, county attorney; Chad Nelson, county attorney; Daryl Tabor, county clerk; Evan Head, sheriff; Ray Agent, sheriff; Todd Perryman, PVA; Robbie Kirk, jailer; Brad Gilbert, coroner; Danny Fowler, 1st District magistrate; Rob Horack, 1st District magistrate; Matt Grimes, 2nd District magistrate; Robert Kirby, 3rd District magistrate; Paul Beard, 3rd District constable; and Brennan Cruce, 5th District magistrate. All are Republican candidates. Also noteworthy is that the state released its list of qualified PVA candidates, and no new challengers appear on the list from Crittenden or Livingston counties. PVA candidates must pass an exam before they can qualify to seek office.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20 at the library. Friends of the Library meet afterwards at 6 p.m.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the courthouse.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the county office complex in Smithland.

Chamber gearing up for holidays Commerce, seasonal cheer part of plan

STAFF REPORT

Small Business Saturday will kick off early on Saturday, Nov. 29 in Marion with the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce giving away 100 gift bags starting at 8 a.m., at H&H Home and Hardware.

It's one of the Chamber's most popular events of the holiday season.

Chamber President Rebecca Woodall said each bag will include a mix of coupons, small gifts and gift cards from local merchants, though no two bags are identical. A mystery prize – traditionally a larger cash or gift item – will also be part of this year's promotion, she said.



The giveaway is limited to adults, one bag per person, and Woodall said shoppers should arrive early.

"They go within 30 minutes," she said.

The bags are provided by Edward Jones.

Local businesses that want to include items in the bags can drop them off at

H&H or contact a chamber board member. Woodall said the goal is to encourage residents to shop local on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The Chamber will host a Lunch-and-Learn event Dec. 4 featuring Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers, with a program centered on how family stability influences local economic strength.

Woodall said the event will highlight the connection between strong families and strong communities.

"In a sense it's an economic development topic, but we also pull in the im-

See CHAMBER/page 10

Keying's newest variation

We didn't have internet or smartphones when I was growing up. Thank God!

Had we been tethered to technology as folks are today, I genuinely believe our generation would have struggled with some of the same issues that plague us now. When we were upset with someone, maybe a buddy or a girlfriend, the hurtful messages were written with a finger through dirt on the exterior of a car. If you wanted to call them a derogatory name, you'd scrawl it on the trunk or driver's-side door. Then, at some point, a key was introduced, and that took this messaging to a whole new level – one that violated not only the Golden Rule, but criminal laws as well.

Nowadays, wars of words are waged over digital platforms. Even adults are lowering themselves into childish campaigns, and there appear to be no repercussions. You can't hold the messenger responsible because Meta is a cold, distant contributor to the matter. Its community standards, I am sorry to attest, have a much higher bar than most of humanity.

I came to Marion in 1986 with modest expectations. Truth be told, as a recent college grad with grand journalistic aspirations, I didn't know whether this tiny hamlet at the crossroads of farm fields and front porches would ever feel like home. But after leaving for a time, I found myself drawn back, not by big promises or bright lights, but by the quiet things that matter most. Marion was homey. Family-centered. God-fearing. Safe. Hospitable. Loving. Everyone knew everybody. It was the kind of place where folks waved when they passed you on the street and assumed the best about their neighbors. No one used blinkers because everyone behind them knew which driveway they'd turn into.

But over the past 12 months, something has shifted. And we all know it – at least those with a smartphone.

Social media – a great tool for sharing birthdays, congratulating ball teams and checking on old friends – has become a cesspool. Not just a place for disagreement, but a place where human dignity has been trampled again and again. The level of vitriol being posted by anonymous groups or individuals hiding behind silly pseudonyms is some-

See DIGNITY/page 9



School Safety Audit

Crittenden County School District hosted a safety audit Friday by the Kentucky Center for School Safety. A team of safety specialists surveyed campuses and met with students and parents to discuss safety concerns. The consultants provided a preliminary report Friday following the walk-through and interviews, and CCHS Principal Josh Cook is working with district leadership to make needed changes. The district will receive a full report in less than a month. Pictured are students meeting with a safety auditor. They are, clockwise from left, Brianna Walker, Taylor Davis (obscured), Logan Shaffer, Levi Quertermous and Alivia Caudill. The school district continues to work toward improved safety at its campuses. Last week, there was a meeting among first responders to begin developing a reunification plan in case students ever need to be evacuated from schools. Additionally, the new campuswide Centegix security system is ready to use and staff have been trained to use the high-tech system.

Familiar faces are joining Marion cast



Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning swears in Cutter Singleton.

City decides on temporary rehiring of former administrator

STAFF REPORT

Marion leaders on Monday chose two familiar names to fill temporary posts within city government. Local entertainer Cutter Singleton, 19, was selected to fill an unexpired term on the city council, and former city administrator Adam Ledford was hired to return on an interim basis.

Both moves split votes on the city council, with each selection gaining approval on a narrow

3-2 margin.

The council post had been left vacant following the resignation of Nikki Conger-Meeks in late October. Singleton becomes the youngest ever Marion councilman and perhaps the third-youngest to serve as a city council member in Kentucky. Although official records are not kept on the matter, it



Ledford

See CITY/page 3

Current EMS provider figuring to be competitive in new bid process

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be receiving formal bids Thursday morning for its ambulance service contract, and ComCare President Jim Duke says the provider wants to remain here – but must secure enough funding to eliminate a net loss for the company.

The county's current five-year agreement with ComCare expires Dec. 31. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom told magistrates during a special-called meeting earlier this month that Com-

Care exercised its right to terminate the existing agreement with the county, prompting the fiscal court to advertise for bids to provide emergency management services here.

"We are not looking for an exit from Crittenden County," Duke told The Press late last week. "We will absolutely provide an option for the court. The only way we won't be running the service starting in January is if the county gets a better option from somebody

See EMS/page 3

Trouble befalls leaf collection

Marion's chronically troubled leaf-collection equipment is on the fritz again, and as always, it has come at the worst time. City officials say a pump on the leaf-gathering device is shot, and it's uncertain how long it will take to repair or replace it. Efforts have begun in earnest, but meanwhile, Mayor D'Anna Browning urges patience and encourages residents to bag or mulch their leaves. Burning leaves is prohibited by state law during daylight hours from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Dec. 15. The debris dump on Bridwell Loop is still under a shutdown order by the state's environmental department.

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Hart

Alice Elizabeth Greenwood, 96, of Marion and formerly of Chicago, Ill., died Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 at her home. She was born Aug. 29, 1929, in Chicago to the late Clyde Adkinson and Gladys Tearman Corey. She was of the Catholic faith. Surviving are her daughter, Marlene Cinquegrani; two sons, Sal Tuzzolino and Michael Tuzzolino; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Cyril Tuzzolino; grandchildren, Michelle and Peter Tuzzolino; brothers, Kenny, Harold, and Gene; sisters, Francis and Jackie; husband, Leo “Lee” Greenwood. Graveside services are at 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Ill. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Lawless

Shelby Lawless, 84, died Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation

Center in Paducah. Surviving are three daughters, Brenda Campbell of Ledbetter, Angelia (Sonia Marr) Lawless of Bowling Green and Alicia (Barry) Carter of Kevil; a son, James Lawless of Ledbetter; 6 grandchildren, Lindsey Gardner, Daykota Campbell, Caleb Gardner, Will Carter, Jon Carter and Gabriel Lawless; and 5 great-grandchildren, Emilee Tinsley, Hunter Carter, Blake Carter, Cheyanne Carter and Rylee Carter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lawless; two brothers, Glenn Myrick and James “Markey” Myrick, a brother-in-law, Randy Campbell; and her parents, Lonnie and Velma (Perrin) Myrick. Graveside services were Wednesday, Nov. 19 at Bethel Cemetery. Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services was in charge of arrangements.

Baxter

Brandy DaNise Baxter, 48 of Marion, died Friday, Nov. 14, 2025 at her home. She was a former employee of Liberty Fuels and a home-maker. She enjoyed gardening in her spare time. Surviving are her husband, Chuck McKinley; a sister, Shawn Baxter



of Providence; and her parents, Jack and Janet Ware Baxter. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Myers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Tommy Woodward, 81 of Marion, died Monday, Nov. 17, 2025 at his home. He was a retired coal miner from Pyro Mining Company and attended Ambassadors for Christ Church. He was a member of Salem Masonic Lodge #81 F & AM. Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Judy Woodward; four children, Tracy Beeson, Danny (Michelle) Wesmolan, Daphenia (Kenny) Downs, Thomas (T-Tom) Woodward; 14 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren; one great great grandchild; a sister, Dorothy Fox; two brothers, Charlie Woodward and Bobby Woodward; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Werdie and Johnnie Woodward; and his in-laws, Forest and Ilene Jones. Funeral services were Wednesday, Nov. 19 at Myers Funeral Home. Burial was in Whites Chapel Cemetery. Myers Funeral Home



was in charge of arrangements. Walker Benny W. Walker, 81, died Monday, Nov. 17, 2025 at his home in Tiline. He was a Vietnam era veteran having served in the U.S. Army as a carpenter. He was a retired truck driver. Walker is survived by a daughter, Christy R. (Rob) Davidson; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Tammy Gail Patterson; a brother, Howard E. Walker; and his parents, James E. and Christine Rhea Walker. Graveside services are at 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20 at Oak Grove Cemetery with Bro. Jake Davidson officiating. Burial will follow. There will be no visitation. Boyd Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

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Setting Thanksgiving history straight

Thanksgiving is celebrated each fall and often serves as the entry point to the holiday season. Tradition plays a large role in Thanksgiving celebrations, as families incorporate many customs into their celebrations that some believe were once tied to the earliest Thanksgiving meals. But the truth about those customs is a lot murkier than celebrants may realize. According to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the “First Thanksgiving” features a romanticized depiction of a friendly harvest celebration between “Pilgrims” and “Indians.” This altered account of what took place in the seventeenth century served as a foundational story that’s been reinforced through the years. However, American Indians attest that the story is more complex than the prevailing narrative suggests. Here’s a look at some of the inaccuracies that have been revealed regarding the “First Thanksgiving.”

MYTH: The First Thanksgiving was the first time that settlers and Native nations interacted.

TRUTH: The Wampanoag and neighboring nations had been interacting with European explorers, traders and others for nearly 100 years prior to the English settlers’ arrival at the Wampanoag village of Patuxet in 1620.

MYTH: The American Indians’ decision to assist the English settlers was based on friendship.

TRUTH: In reality, the Wampanoags’ deci-

sion to help the English was more about forming political alliances than making friends. The Wampanoag were hoping to fend off attacks from rivals.

MYTH: The First Thanksgiving was repeated each year.

TRUTH: This initial meeting of peoples did not spark an annual tradition. There is no record of Pilgrims inviting the Wampanoag people to the harvest meal. The Wampanoag men likely came because they heard gunfire from a hunt and investigated. And the feast wasn’t repeated. Historians note the relationship between the Wampanoag and Pilgrims ultimately deteriorated, culminating in King Philip’s War.

MYTH: The 1621 gathering was the first American Thanksgiving.

FACT: Thanksgivings actually were religious events that took place before the 1621 gathering. History News Network says that Texans claim the first Thanksgiving in America actually occurred in a community near El Paso in 1598. Spanish explorer Juan de Onate was said to have held a Thanksgiving festival after leading hundreds of settlers on a 350-mile excursion across the Mexican desert.

MYTH: Turkey was on the menu for the harvest meal shared.

FACT: The meal likely consisted of venison, wild fowl and other locally available foods, like cranberries.

MYTH: Pilgrims dressed in black with

buckles and black steeple hats.

FACT: Historian James W. Baker explains that these Pilgrim depictions were formed in the nineteenth century when black and buckles helped create an emblem of quaintness. In fact, the early Pilgrims did not dress in such garb, and wore colorful clothing throughout much of the week, reserving black for Sunday services. Inaccuracies abound regarding the first Thanksgiving. Prevailing accounts present a romanticized view of relations between Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people that has persisted through the years. Shedding light on myths can spur new discussions about this beloved holiday.



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Healthcare Providers in Training

Students from Crittenden, Livingston and Marshall counties are gaining hands-on experience in healthcare through a co-op program at Livingston Hospital. The seniors work after school as Patient Care Technicians, earning both hourly wages and educational credits. Chief Nursing Officer Chris Love said most participants will move on to college after graduation, though some may stay on through summer. The students rotate through departments to explore different career paths within healthcare. Pictured are (front from left) Mollie Blazina, Gavin Grimes, Maddie Reaves, (back) Paris Foster, Madison Walker, Ella Geary, Daniela Perez and Hunter Kirk. Students not pictured: McKayla Fugera and Kobey Yates.

MARION POLICE activity report					
Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of October 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month's totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year's monthly average.					
CATEGORY	OCTOBER 2025	September 2025	October 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	3,532	3,599	2,413	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	11	13	12	150	12.5
Domestics	9	11	5	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	2	4	6	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	12	15	8	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	18	8	9	112	9.3
DUI arrests	0	0	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	0	1	6	51	4.3
Traffic citations	20	13	16	212	17.7
Other citations	25	31	24	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	2	1	4	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	6	5	7	69	5.8
Security checks/alarms	68	69	61	720	60.0
Calls for service	225	210	222	2,578	214.8

MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

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Recognized for the Crittenden County Schools value excellence are November students of the month with Superintendent Tonya Driver (from left) fourth grader Sadie Gobin, CCHS student Alivia Caudill, kindergartner Delta Day and CCMS student Chris Walton.



School’s facility plan switches direction with CCMS complete

STAFF REPORT

A draft proposal ranking \$34 million in facilities improvement needs across all Crittenden County School District property was approved by the Crittenden County Board of Education Nov. 13. For the past several months, community and school officials have worked to update building and grounds needs outlined in the district facilities plan; however, board members say local buildings are in good condition.

The addition to Crittenden County Middle School, which is virtually complete, was of highest priority on the district’s previous facilities plan.

Replacement of all roofs have been made as a result of a 2023 hail storm; and HVAC units and safety systems have been upgraded thanks, in part, to the ongoing energy savings contract.

As a result of the structural well-being of buildings, Tim Grau, the board’s representative on the facilities planning committee, said improvements to athletic facilities are now among top priorities.

Board members have, for the past 10 years, voiced an interest in incorporating a softball

CRITTENDEN BOARD OF ED

field and competition track at the high school campus. Currently the board of education rents property at Marion City-County Park for those facilities. Work to improve drainage at the football field is also a priority.

In her report to the board Nov. 13, Superintendent Tonya Driver said as a result of repairs to the roof at Crittenden County Elementary, installation of solar panels is forthcoming. Solar panels on each of the district’s buildings is part of the General Energy Savings Contract (GES) with Ascendant Facility Partners.

The facilities plan will be finalized during a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16.

During remarks to the board Nov. 13, Driver highlighted the following:

- A meeting with local law enforcement and first responders as held last week at Rocket Arena to discuss a reunification plan in the event that students are removed from one of the school campuses due to an emergency.
- A new traffic pattern utilizing the new circle

drive on the western end of the CCMS addition will be announced to parents in December and put into effect after Christmas break.

Board approval was given to the following during the board’s November meeting:

- Memorandum of agreement for the second year of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Comprehensive Literacy Grant totaling \$213,000 between Nov. 1, 2025 and Sept. 30, 26. Year one of the grant allowed the district to purchase reading/language arts materials.
- The recently developed “Rocket Way” Portrait of a Learner for Crittenden County students, including six competencies and indicators for students at all grade levels.
- Revised annual requirements of the Essential Workplace Ethics Certification awarded to Crittenden County students after receiving input from site-based councils at each school which worked to develop plans for students at all grade levels.

What you need to know about your forested land

If you own woodland, you already know it’s more than just trees – it’s a living, breathing ecosystem full of potential. Whether your goals include timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, or conservation, a Forest Management Plan is your most effective tool for bringing your vision to life.

Think of a Forest Management Plan as a roadmap. It outlines your long-term goals for your land and lays out the steps to achieve them. It helps you understand what resources you have, what your land is capable of producing and how to manage it sustainably. From hunting and hiking to timber harvesting and habitat restoration, your plan can be tailored to fit your unique objectives.

Creating a plan isn’t a one-time event – it’s a process. Here are 10 key steps to developing and implementing a woodland management plan:

- Identify goals and objectives. What do you want from your woodland?
- Conduct an inventory. Assess tree species, soil, water, and forest health.
- Revisit objectives. Adjust based on what your land can realistically support.
- Record area details. Map and document conditions by stand.
- Designate management areas. Divide your land into zones based on use.
- Select practices and schedule activities. Choose actions like thinning or planting.
- Implement practices.

Put your plan into action.

- Keep records and evaluate. Track progress and forest response.
- Refine as needed. Update your plan based on results and changing goals.
- Enjoy Your Woodland! Spend time in it to better understand how it responds.

If developing a plan seems daunting, the good news is that you don’t have to do it alone. In fact, a professional forester or natural resource manager is the best resource available to you to help you articulate your goals, assess your land’s potential, and design a realistic, achievable plan. They’ll also help you navigate challenges like invasive species, disease and access issues.

Costs may vary significantly depending on the size of your woodland and the complexity of your goals. Hiring a consulting forester to develop a plan may be beneficial, as it affords you, the landowner, some flexibility and ensures that someone visits your property in a timely manner. However, many state agencies, such as the Kentucky Division of Forestry, offer this service to landowners at no cost to them. One potential downside is that you may have to wait for a forester to become avail-



able to assist you in managing your woodland.

Regardless of whom you work with, when it comes to implementing your plan, many state and federal programs offer financial assistance – and some even require a written plan to qualify. In Kentucky, for example, the Forest Stewardship Program offers technical and financial support to landowners who commit to sustainable management.

A Forest Management Plan isn’t just a document – it’s a commitment to your land’s future. Whether you’re managing 10 acres or 1,000, taking the time to plan today will pay off for decades to come.

Contact Crittenden County Extension Office at 270-965-5236 for more information.

Source: Jacob Muller, assistant professor and extension forestry specialist

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Dee Brasher Heimgartner, Crittenden County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources, 1534 U.S Hwy 60 E. Marion, KY 42064. Office: 270-965-5236,

EMS

Continued from page 1 else.”

Duke noted that the county has been a good partner and said his company’s relationship with Judge Newcom and the fiscal court is excellent. He also said the local manager Bobby Woolsey and the crew here do a great job. The Crittenden County crew consists of between 15 and 20 full-time EMTs and paramedics. ComCare also operates in Ohio and Todd counties in Kentucky, but seldom uses crew members from another area to fill roles in Crittenden County. ComCare had operated in Caldwell County until last year.

Expenses have risen greatly over the past few years, Duke said, particularly since the pandemic.

“Post-COVID, the labor market has changed,” he said. “We have to pay more to keep qualified staff.”

He said EMTs earn between \$40,000 to \$50,000 and paramedics are \$65,000 to \$80,000.

ComCare has recently been urging the county to improve its fleet of ambulances, most of which are aging.

“Once a truck gets over 300,000 miles, maintenance goes up,” Duke said. “It’s the county’s fleet, we just maintain it.”

Newcom said after the meeting earlier this month that the provider averages about 1,097 runs per year, which is roughly 110 per month. Yet, only about two per day are reimbursed by insurance. Most are Medicare or Medicaid. Medicaid pays only \$65 per trip, regardless of distance, the judge said. About 50 calls per month are low- or non-paying.

Duke confirmed those figures and said also that a growing challenge involves the increasing number of “lift assists” – calls for individuals who have fallen but are not injured.

“In the past, family, friends or neighbors would help,” Duke said. “That’s not unique to Crittenden, it happens everywhere. People just relay on 911 now. There’s no payer for that service, so we basically do it as a courtesy.”

The court’s request for proposals includes three staffing models, each requiring countywide ALS coverage. Bidders must be Kentucky-certified paramedic providers and must supply a written operational plan. Proposals are due by 8:30 a.m., Thursday and will be opened during the court’s regular meeting.

The timing is financially challenging for the county. The court did not budget for an increase this fiscal year, and earlier this spring opted not to form a taxing ambulance district, which could have levied up to 10 cents per \$100 valuation to support the service. The county currently supplements ComCare with \$382,000 annually, yet the provider reportedly ended its last fiscal year more than \$100,000 in the red.

Duke said he’s “comfortable and confident” that ComCare’s bid will be “the best service and the best price.”

If not, Crittenden County will have a different EMS provider starting in 2026.

CITY

Continued from page 1 appears that, based on contemporary news reports, two others were elected and began serving at age 18. Singleton’s term runs through Dec. of next year.

Singleton and another Marion resident, Jeremy

Dempsey, were nominated for the post.

Ledford had served for almost six years as city administrator until his resignation in 2022. He was succeeded by Diane Ford-Benningfield, whose tenure ended a few weeks ago.

In other business, the council approved allocat-

ing up to \$100,000 for a fire truck. About a dozen firemen attended the meeting and testified about the need to replace aging fire engines. A new fire truck can cost almost \$1 million. Firemen told the council they are shopping for a high-quality model about 20 years old or so.

Looking for a home

Iris is a 7-year-old Boston terrier mix available through the Mary Hall Ruddiman Animal Shelter. She was born with one eye and has seizures, but that doesn’t slow her down. She’s energetic, fun and loves going for walks and playing with other dogs. She also doesn’t mind cats. Iris would be a perfect addition to an active family. She currently spends her days at the shelter with staff and volunteers, but she would love nothing more than to be in a warm, cozy home this winter. For more information about Iris, call the Mary Hall Ruddiman Animal Shelter.





The holiday season is packed with music, cheer and community spirit as many events celebrate local talent and holiday joy.

Here is a sampling of what Marion and Crittenden County have to offer this season:

•Lighted Salem Christmas Parade will be Friday, Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. This year’s theme is Winter Wonderland. Entry is free, and floats will be judged on creativity, workmanship, time involved and lighting. First-, second- and third-place trophies will be awarded in civic, business and church categories, along with a \$100 grand prize. Floats must arrive at Salem Christian Life Center by 3:30 p.m., for judging. Judging ends at 4:30 p.m., and float entries must be submitted by Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 4:30 p.m. No Santas are allowed on floats, as one will be provided by Salem Fire & Rescue. Call Salem City Hall at 270-988-2600 to enter.

•Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m. , Merry & Thrifty (Lions Club Building) sponsored by the Extension Service: Learn budget-friendly gift ideas and get a few wrapping tips along the way.

•Dec. 4, 6 p.m., the CCHS Band Concert will have its holiday concert at Fohs Hall. Kick off the season with festive music from the Crittenden County High School Band of Pride, featuring classic carols and holiday favorites.

•Providence will host two days of Christmas festivities on the first weekend of December, separating its traditional holiday events into back-to-back

celebrations.

•Providence Christmas Community Event will be Friday, Dec. 5 from 4 to 8 p.m., at the Providence Community Center. Families can enjoy free activities, rides, treats and other seasonal attractions. The Providence Lighted Christmas Parade will follow on Saturday, Dec. 6. Lineup begins at 4 p.m., and the parade starts at 5. Registration is available online.

•Dec. 6, 10 a.m., will be A Charlie Brown Christmas Literacy Event at Fohs Hall. Enjoy story time, crafts and photos with Santa as families celebrate reading and the timeless message of Charlie Brown’s Christmas. This event is sponsored by Community Arts Foundation.

•Dec. 6, 10 a.m., is the Christmas in Kuttawa event. Experience the thrill of ice skating at Christmas in Kuttawa. The event is free and includes ice skating, train rides, mule rides, a Grinch slide, a 30-foot igloo with crafts, a giant snow globe and free Wendy’s chili, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Hosted by the City of Kuttawa and the Lake Barkley Chamber of Commerce.

•Dec. 6 is the annual Marion Christmas Parade in downtown Marion, beginning at 5 p.m. Registration to participate is free with forms available at Integrity Insurance on East Bellville Street in Marion where Denise Byarley and her staff are coordinating entries. Participants may register floats, trucks or other entries and provide information for parade announcements.

•Extension will have on Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m., a DIY Evergreen Wreath event at St. William Parish Hall on South Main Street in Marion. Make and take home your own evergreen wreath. All materials provided; participants are encouraged to bring gloves.

•In Eddyville on Dec. 12, at 6 p.m., will be the annual Christmas Parade. Eddyville’s holiday celebration will feature floats, golf carts, games and festive entertainment as part of the city’s Christmas in the Park. To register call 270-388-2226.

•Community Arts Foundation will have at 7 p.m., on Dec. 13 and at 2:30 p.m., on Dec. 14 an event titled Lessons and Carols at Fohs Hall. Experience the beauty of the season through scripture and song, blending choral and instrumental music with readings that reflect the true meaning of Christmas.

•Cookie Craze hosted by Crittenden County Extension will be at the Lions Club Building at 5:30 p.m., on Dec. 15. Decorate cookies and learn holiday baking tips. There will be an optional cookie exchange, too. Bring two dozen cookies and recipes if you’d like to participate.

•Crider Performing Arts Studios will present at 6 p.m., on Dec. 16 an Holiday Recital at Fohs Hall. Come celebrate young performers as students from Crider Performing Arts Studio take the stage in a joyful showcase of talent and creativity.

Have an event to promote?
Text info to 270-965-3191.

Holiday events, parades, musicals, Christmas crafts here and around the area



From the Press Archives – 25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago, local scouts gathered at Cave-In-Rock State Park for a special Arrow of Light ceremony. Steven James and Michael Brasher were recognized for earning the prestigious award and officially joining Boy Scout Troop 30. Scout leader Brent Roberts and senior patrol leader Cody Herrin led the ceremony, with fellow scouts Wesley Hughes and Jamie Pyle also taking part in the milestone moment.

50 YEARS AGO

November 12, 1975

■ Capt. Berry E. Gilbert was appointed the new company commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor. The change took effect Nov. 1. The company participated in a field exercise called “Orbiting Eagle V” at Fort Campbell alongside the 101st Airborne Division. This was the first time the battalion had joined the Screaming Eagles for this type of exercise.

■ Marion Junior Girl Scout Troops 273 and 221 attended the Junior Jubilee at Camp Bear Creek. The Junior Jubilee was a council-wide Girl Scout activity where the Juniors learned outdoor skills. The girls learned procedures for setting up tents, first aid, fire building, archery, knots and lashing. Attending adults were Carole Cox, Rose Hill, Rosemary Baker, Lena Driskell, Susie Brown and Cathy Creason.

■ The Crittenden County Middle School basketball season began with victories over Sacramento. The seventh-graders, led by Ellis Simmons with 12 points, won 41-22. The eighth-grade team won 39-33, with Mike Belt scoring 18 points.

25 YEARS AGO

November 23, 2000

■ American Legion Post 111 hosted its annual Christmas dinner at the Marion Country Club with retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard L. Frymire as guest speaker. Frymire, who served as Adjutant General of Kentucky, also had a distinguished career in the Marine Corps and the Kentucky General Assembly.

■ Habitat for Humanity in Crittenden County held its third annual meeting, recognizing special contributors. Buddy Hix presented a gold bracelet to Tami Martin, who occupied the first Habitat home with her sons. Karen Heady, volunteer of the year, received a plaque from Lois Hicks, and Buddy Hicks also presented a plaque to St. William Catholic Church’s religious studies department.

■ The Lady Rocket basketball team had no problem beating Ballard Memorial in a preseason scrimmage, winning 60-42. Senior center Kayla Bebout dominated in the low post, scoring 18 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

10 YEARS AGO

November 19, 2000

■ The Crittenden County Middle School Speech Team brought home several trophies and medals at the Cal-loway County Invitational Speech Tournament in Murray. Cole Swinford, Kyron Hicks, Sammy Greenwell, Samantha Tinsley, Raina West, Emma Herrin and Ashley Dunkerson all placed in the tournament. Dunkerson also earned second in broadcast announcing, and the team qualified to advance to the University of Kentucky in March for the state tournament.

■ The Rockets football team lost to Bethlehem in a regional quarterfinal, with Bethlehem’s strong running game proving too much for Crittenden. Despite a touchdown by Dylan Hollis and a kickoff return by Alex Cosby, the Rockets struggled against Bethlehem’s rushing attack. Quarterback Nick Castiller, although facing a tough night, reached a milestone by moving into second place in all-time passing yards.

■ At the start of deer season, many hunters were successful in harvesting bucks. Among them were Tate Robinson and Rhett Parrish, both with eight-pointers, Case Gobin with an 11-pointer, and Madison Champion with her first buck.

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



KY DOW leaders are touring here Friday

Kentucky Division of Water officials will be in Marion Friday for a daylong review of local water infrastructure. Director Sara Marshall and her staff are expected to arrive about 10 a.m., and will begin with inspections at Lake George, Old City Lake and the city’s water plant.

A working lunch alongside local leaders is planned for 11:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Office Complex, where Ben Webster of Schnabel Engineering will give a brief update on the Lake George dam restoration project. Engineers working on the Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) expansion and line upgrade to Marion will also be present.

Following the lunch session, the delegation will travel to the CLWD plant in Pinckneyville for a tour of facilities and recent improvements.

State and federal agencies have already spent or pledged more than \$23 million towards solving the area’s water crises, but more funding will be needed as Crittenden-Livingston Water District works to expand in order to meet needs of its customers, and eventually provide the City of Marion with its drinking water.

Hayride hauls in biggest payload

More than \$11,400 was raised for the Crittenden County Food Bank during this fall’s edition of The Old Kentucky Hayride, marking the show’s biggest fundraiser yet. Organizers reported \$11,427 in donations and said more than 600 seats were sold for the one-night event.

Cutter Singleton served as master of ceremonies and executive producer, leading a house band that included Bren-

Community News & Events

nan Cruce, Cash Singleton, Kevin Rutherford, Matt Lyerla, Grant Carter, Malcom Kirby and Connor Murray. Volunteers helping behind the scenes included Shelley Singleton, Caden DeBoe, Kent Wilcox, David Collins, Gary and Cindy Cruce, and Andy Hunt.

This year’s show featured Floyd the Barber, portrayed by Allan Newsome of Huntsville, Ala., along with performances by Lacie Duncan, Logan Shuecraft, Andrew Sharp, Bryce Bohannon, David Conyer, Seth Lewis, Darby Asher, Lizzy Beth and Scarlett Bock.

Sponsors from \$50 to \$1,000 helped make up a large portion of the fundraising. A full list can be found on the Hayride’s official Facebook page.

Organizers called the night “a tremendous blessing” for the community and said the Hayride will return in the spring.

Seniors pick Suggs Teacher of the Year

Crittenden County High School seniors have voted history teacher Howard Suggs as Teacher of the Year. It isn’t the first time he has been chosen as class favorite. The honor is a longstanding tradition at Crittenden County High School. Suggs has been a teacher in the school system for 23 years.



Bridges out until middle of December

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials say two Crittenden County roads will remain closed a few more weeks.

KY 387, also known as Dam 50 Road, is closed at mile point 0.77 for construction of a new Crooked Creek Bridge. The shutdown cuts off access to KY 91 for most residents along a three-mile stretch of KY 387. The work is expected to be finished in mid- to late December, weather permitting.

KY 2123 in the Glendale area is closed at mile point 1.63 for a bridge replacement at Caney Fork between KY 297 and KY 1668. The project is projected to wrap up by mid-December, also dependent on weather.

County offices set holiday hours

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday the offices of Crittenden County Office Complex, Crittenden County Road Department, Marion Convenience Center, and Crittenden County Animal Shelter will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 through Nov. 30. Normal hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

City appoints 3 to local boards

Marion City Council on Monday re-appointed Casey Winstead and Paul Belt to Marion Code Enforcement Board, and named Keith Todd to the Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission.

Whooping Cough here

Crittenden County School District reported Monday that the local health department has confirmed a case of pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, in the district.

The illness is a highly contagious bacterial infection that often begins with cold-like symptoms and can develop into severe coughing spells. It can be especially dangerous for infants, young children and people with weakened immune systems.

The district shared information from the health department outlining symptoms, treatment and prevention measures. Families with questions are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider or the Crittenden County Health Department at 270-965-5215.

*Between Printed Editions
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The Crittenden Press

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Fluorspar production nosedives

Here is a really interesting and informative article about the devastating time for Crittenden County when our fluorspar industry was being shut down on account of the lack of tariffs on foreign fluorspar. It appeared in The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Sunday Dec. 18, 1955.

Marion, Ky. Mention the word tariff, and most people in these parts immediately feel a sharp ache in the pocketbook. They insist, that during the past two years, tariff – or the lack thereof – has knocked the economic props out from under what once was a prosperous five-county West Kentucky-Southern Illinois region centering on this town.

Residents say this has been done by the Federal Government's reduction of tariffs to the point where cheaper foreign imports have all but pushed this region's main industrial commodity off the market.

The commodity is fluorspar. It is moderately hard transparent or translucent mineral essential to the manufacture of hundreds of items, ranging from steel to synthetics and from high-octane gasoline to the atomic bomb.

The region spreading out from Marion, three Kentucky and two Illinois counties, historically has been the nation's leading producer of fluorspar. Over the years, the mining, milling and distribution of the mineral, which is used as a flux, has provided practically the whole economic stimulus in the five counties. It has provided the only mass employment.

Imports Blamed

At the moment, producers say, the fluorspar industry in this region is in worse shape than during the depression days of the 1930s. The reason, they contend, is low-tariff imported fluorspar.

In 1937, they point out, the tariff on ceramic (medium) grade fluorspar was \$8.40 a long ton; and the duty on the other two grades was \$5.60 a ton. That year, foreign fluorspar represented less than 13 percent of the total consumed in the United States.

In 1943, when World War II cut the nation off from foreign production, only about one half of 1 per cent of the fluorspar then used was imported; and that despite a reduction in tariff to \$4.20 a long ton as of Jan. 1, 1939.

But as a result of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades reached at Geneva on June 6, 1951, the duty was cut in half, to \$2.10 a long ton. There followed a veritable flood of imported fluorspar into this country from Mexico, Spain, Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

As a result, operators here say, by now, nearly 50% of the mineral used in the United States comes from abroad.

Employment during that time in the Kentucky-Illinois fluorspar field has shrunk from nearly 2,500 three years ago to fewer than 700 at present. From some 75 separate mine operations in the two states in 1952, the total has fallen to 10. The picture is darker in Kentucky than in Illinois.

Mines and Mills Close

Three years ago, there were 29 active mine or mill operations employing 1,158 persons in the three Kentucky counties, Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell. Now there are only three operations going even part-time, with about 50 workers.

Relief rolls reflect the drying-up of jobs in an area where other employment is almost nonexistent. Nearly one tenth of the 7,000 people of Hardin County, Ill., that state's

Unemployment Figures Given In Fluorspar Mining Industry

The figures tabulated below represent a listing of total persons unemployed due to shutting down of fluorspar mines in Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell counties.

The list contains figures released on Oct. 1, 1954. Already many of the unemployed persons have exhausted their unemployment payments and are ineligible for further payments. Former employees of Alcoa and U. S. Steel are in this group.

Name of Mine or Company	Present Status of Mines	Act. No. Men	
		No. Men Emp.	Now Emp.
Alcoa Mining Company	Mine Closed	150	0
C & L Fluorspar Co.	Mine Closed	20	0
B. E. Clement	Mine Closed	3	0
Cardinal Mining Co.	Mine Closed	10	0
Cooper & Smith	Mine Closed	6	0
J. W. Crider Fluorspar Co.	Mine Closed	50	0
Delhi Fluorspar Corp.	Mill Operating	10	4
Davenport Mine	Mine Closed	20	0
Frazer Mining Co.	Mine Closed	24	0
Harris Mining Co.	Mine Closed	5	0
Kentucky Fluorspar Company	Mill Operating	21	10
L. Conyer	Mine Closed	5	0
Butler & Moodie	Mine Closed	10	0
Inland Steel Company	Mine Closed	100	0
Marimex Fluorspar Co.	Mine Closed	6	0
Roberts & Frazer	Mine Operating	30	20
Tinsley & Loyd	Mine Operating	40	6
Ozark Mahoning Co.	Mine Closed	40	0
U. S. Steel Corp.	Mine Closed	300	0
Thurmond & Sons	Mine Closed	10	0
Pennsylvania Salt	Mill Operating	21	21
Brown & Beavers (Crider Bros.)	Mine Closed	10	0
Hodge Mine Dist. (Contractors)	Mine Closed	13	0
Marybelle Dist. (Contractors)	Mine Operating	16	2
Midway-Eaton Dist. (Contract)	Mine Operating	11	2
Williamson-Senator (Cont.)	Mine Closed	28	0
Holley (Contractors)	Mine Closed	8	0
Ainsworth (Contractors)	Mine Closed	26	0
Raker Cave (Contractors)	Mine Closed	7	0
Total Mines and Mills		938	65
Truck Drivers (Estimate)		100	10
Timber Cutters (Estimate)		100	0
Total Directly Employed		1138	75

The Marion Reporter
Feb. 10, 1955

This chart from The Marion Reporter offers a striking snapshot of local mining in 1954, showing employment levels before and after the mines closed. It's a sobering reminder of the impact the shutdowns had on families across our county.

leading fluorspar producer are on direct relief. In March of this year, 768 of the 10,000 persons living in Crittenden County, of which Marion is the seat, were on relief.

The few operations still going are large concerns that have resorted to what operators term drastic steps. They report they are mining their best-grade deposits just to keep a small hand in the market and to keep their mines open and work forces partially organized.

Just Spinning Wheels

"We're just spinning our wheels, profit wise," said Gill Montgomery, general manager of Minerva Oil Company's fluorspar division, one of the leading Illinois producers. "We're high-grading the spar we mine; and we've cut prices to where we're lucky to break even just to keep going."

We can't afford to shut down and we can't afford to keep going, declared a spokesman for Ozark-Mahoning Company of Rosiclare, Ill., the largest producer in this field.

What in the opinion of the operators, lies ahead?

They say that unless they get relief in the form of a higher tariff on imports, thus enabling them to compete again for the market, the few remaining active mines will close. Exploration for new reserves will be discontinued, and the nation will become entirely dependent on foreign production, they predict.

Delegations of producers from this field have made repeated visits to Washington during the last two years in an effort to get help. They have received the support of Kentucky Senators Barkley and Clements, Illinois Senator Dirksen and Kentucky Congressman Gregory.

Several hearings have been held. The latest was in October before the U. S. Tariff Commission.

Generally speaking, the

operators propose a withdrawal by the President of the 1951 Geneva tariff concessions, which would mean restoration of the \$5.60 a ton statutory tariff, as contrasted to the \$2.10-a-ton rate now in effect.

Opposing the Kentucky-Illinois operators is the Fluorspar Importers and Producers Institute. This group claims the plight of domestic producers stems from insufficient reserves and from exhausted mines, and not from imports.

In rebuttal, domestic producers say there are proved reserves of 7,500,000 tons of fluorspar in Illinois, 5,050,000 tons in Kentucky, and 8,750,000 in the eight Western states where mines have been opened in the last few years.

And that, producers add, is in explored areas only. They estimate that only 20% of the deposits in this field have been prospected.

Both sides have filed briefs with the Tariff Commission, which will make a report to the President by Dec. 31. The President then has 50 days in which to act on the report. He has the power to raise tariffs to the statutory limit, or impose import quotas – or do both.

Producers in 10 States Ask Action on Fluorspar

Washington. Fluorspar producers in 10 states wish the United States Tariff Commission would hurry up its findings on fluorspar imports which they say are killing them.

They contend that if something isn't done, there will be no substantial domestic fluorspar industry left in another year or two. Most fluorspar deposits are found along the Ohio river in western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Others are located in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. The foreign fluorspar comes largely from Mexico, Canada, Spain and Germany.

The United Mine Workers, District 50, has protested that while the average wage for fluorspar miners here is \$13 for an

eight-hour day, the average foreign wage is only \$1.65 a day.

The producers didn't like a \$400,000 loan given by the Export-Import Bank to Spain to build a fluorspar mill.

And they're unhappy because the Department of Agriculture last spring bartered some United States wheat for fluorspar from Mexico, Italy and Sardinia.

What the American fluorspar producers want is to limit imports to 25% of domestic consumption, exclusive of government-stockpile purchases.

Two thirds of the mines in all states are closed and are deteriorating as a result of water seepage. The producers say it would take two years to restore them to full production – and the time might come when we couldn't afford two years.

Memories from home

I remember this scary time in our past history, the closing of the fluorspar mines also hit my family hard. The fluorspar business had been my Dad's life work for many years. Some rough years lay ahead for many families and not good changes for our county.

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

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This stunning hobby farm offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and functionality in a quiet rural setting. Includes a 6-bedroom, 4-bathroom home, two-car attached garage, two shops and a barn.

Crittenden County, KY – 12.42 Acres - \$357,500
This 12.42+/- acre tract features a brick 3 bed/2 bath one-level home with stainless steel appliances, island kitchen, covered porch and back patio. Also includes a barn, fenced pasture, workshop, and mixed use opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY – 16.41 Acres - \$335,000
This 16.41+/- acres near Marion features a 3 bed/2 bath, 1,760 sq. ft. home with new metal roof, open concept, stainless steel appliances, partial covered deck, 3-car garage, two ponds, and pasture and woods mix.

Crittenden County, KY – 70 Acres - \$244,900
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden Co. KY 175 Acres - \$774,900
This 175+/- acres in Crittenden County includes a rustic 2BR, 1BA cabin, food plots, blinds, ponds, Coefield Creek, and diverse habitat. Prime layout for whitetail and turkey hunting with multiple access points.

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Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$288,200.00
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Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600.00
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These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 2 Acres - \$35,000
This 2+/- acre commercial lot in Marion city limits features flat terrain with shade trees, 700 feet of road frontage, utilities, and a prime build site near the park.

SOLD! Crittenden Co. KY 0.50 Acre - \$144,900
Three-bed, 1.5-bath home with open living area, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, newer roof, carport, storage, yard, washer/dryer access on half-acre lot in Marion city limits.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 13.99 Acres - \$124,900
This 13+/- acres includes a 3BR, 2BA home in Crittenden County, quiet rural setting with outbuildings, yard, food plot areas, timbered ridges, and deer and turkey hunting opportunities.



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Learning to see what God has given

I love waterfalls. The beauty and power is often best observed at a distance. If you have ever trekked under one you know that its character can change from beautiful to frightening quickly. Butterflies are beautiful. The closer one gets the more beautiful and amazing they appear. Sometimes beauty depends upon distance. We are beings that seek and long for beauty. We like to rest in it – whether it is sensed through sight, sound, taste, touch, or smell. When we are struck by beauty, our bodies react physically. In some cases, we attempt to shut off one of our senses to



Sean NIESTRATH Faith-based columnist Guest Columnist

experience the moment. Ever close your eyes listening to music or tasting an exceptional dish? Ever stopped talking so that your eyes could take in a sight? Beauty is all around us and it comes at us from all directions. It comes from things God has created. It comes from what humans have made. It comes in the form of relationships – human touch or just the right words at the right time. We see it as the seasons change and grow into their fullness. There is always beauty to be found in the resilience of people who have every reason to give up. Beauty in mercy and forgiveness.

Beauty in people helping each other through disasters natural and manmade. Hospitality is beautiful. Encouragement is beautiful. One of the reasons that I like local news is that there is usually a portion dedicated to something beautiful happening in the area. We like “human interest” stories during the Olympics or other big sporting events. Yep – I can find beauty at a waterfall or watching College Game Day on Saturday morning. The first two verses of one of the great praise hymns of all time begins with, “For the beauty of the earth,” and “For the beauty of each hour.” We are absolutely swimming in beauty. It is inescapable. Why then, are so many of us so miserable? Why are so many of us focused on such ugliness? First, I think that if we lifted up our eyes – literally – from

those isolation devices we carry around with us, we might be able to see that things are not as bad as some would have us believe. Second, I think that those things that we might rightly fear can cause us to lose our balance. Fear is the enemy of things beautiful. (Think about the attitude many have toward spiders or snakes.) Fear leads to overreaction and diminishes our ability to see or create beauty for others. Fear will produce strife when it is not necessary. Fear can make an enemy of someone before we have a chance to see the beauty in their lives. I also believe that focusing on beauty and feeding that part of us helps us overcome much of what we may fear. There is an example of some people missing a beautiful act because they were focused on the wrong thing at an import-

ant time in Jesus’ ministry. A couple of days before the last Passover of Jesus’ earthly life, a woman did something incredible, “And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. But there were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” And they reproached her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them; but you will not always have me. (Mark

14:3-7, RSV) Isaiah pointed to another beautiful action that Paul would recall in Romans 10:13, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (Isaiah 52:7) We all have the potential to be beautiful and bring beauty into the lives of others. Be generous with encouragement without flattery. Be good news when people see you coming – even in difficult circumstances. Be creative without concern about what others think. Look for beauty and you will find it. 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.

With God’s help, we can change our foul language

Question: I come to faith in Christ from a rough and sordid background. My father and brother cuss like drunken sailors. I grew up talking like them, but that’s not what I want to sound like. I know God can help with me with that, but how can that actually come to pass? **Answer:** Having godly speech is important. Most of the influence we have on other people related to our faith is due to our character expressed through our



words. First, language change starts with knowing Jesus. One gets to know Him intimately by reading the Bible and by talking to Him in prayer. As you get to know Him, you will learn of His goodness. Soon, you’ll begin to imitate His personal traits rather than the language of your father and brothers. Secondly, ask God to give you self-control over your language. He will give you all the power you need to transform your words into edifying ones. “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Pet. 1:3). Third, make every effort to change your questionable

speech. “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness...godliness” (1 Pet. 1:5). To grow spiritually, one must balance his reliance on God’s power for self-control with one’s diligent effort to transform his speech. Aim for progress, not perfection. Just as a wall is built one brick at a time change in one’s speech is changed one sentence at a time. Best wishes! Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.
- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.

- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

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Father Jojo Joseph

Mexico Baptist Church

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
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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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Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
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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.

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Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holean
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"

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Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

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SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.
South College St.

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Worship service:..... 11 a.m.
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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

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legal notice

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court Marion, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement: Emma Brown/Ethel Stroud of 712 E. Delaware St., Evansville, IN 47711/1100 Erie Ave #100, Evansville, IN 47715 executor/executrix of Roxie Gayle Haire-Binkley, deceased, whose address was 305 Pine St., Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on December 17, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. All persons having excep-

tions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-46-c)

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SOFTBALL

Federico commits to State

Crittenden County two-sport athlete Andrea Federico has made a verbal commitment to play softball at Dyersburg State Community College in west Tennessee. She plays softball and basketball at CCHS.

FOOTBALL

Thompson 4A PoY

Paducah Tilghman’s Avery Thompson was last week named Player of the Year in the Class 4A First District. Thompson, a sophomore, led Tilghman in receiving this season. He is the son of Tilghman coach Sean Thompson and a native of Crittenden County.

BASKETBALL

Middle school results

Here is scoring from recent Crittenden County Middle School games.

- 7th Grade Boys**
Crittenden 51, Trigg 29
Polk 12, Taylor 6, Palmer 6, Merrill 2, Moss 22, Boone 3.
- 8th Grade Boys**
Crittenden 35, Trigg 25
Myers 15, Sherer 1, Moss 11, Adamson 3, Brown 3, Maraman 2
- Crittenden 46, Dawson Springs 16**
Myers 16, Sherer 2, Adamson 2, Moss 8, Brown 8, Martin 2, Merrill 3, Taylor 2, Polk 3
- 8th Grade Girls**
Crittenden 38, Dawson 34
Louden 6, M. Penn 11, Nelson 13, Hearell 2, Mattingly 3, Binkley 3
- Crittenden 34, Union 18**
Louden 2, M. Penn 9, Nelson 12, Hearell 2, Mattingly 5, Poindexter 4.

RA Big Scrimmage Day

Rocket Arena will host a multi-team high school basketball scrimmage Saturday with the boys entertaining teams from a Paducah homeschool league (PATCH), Caldwell County, Hickman County and Fulton City. The girls’ pre-season action will include teams from Caldwell County, Allen County-Scottsville (ACS) and Paducah Tilghman. Boys play will be two 16-minute halves and girls’ action will be varsity and JV in each scheduled hour of competition and include 15-minute varsity halves. Games during all sessions will be played at Rocket Arena and the middle school gym, which is designated by an asterisk below.

GIRLS SCHEDULE

- Crittenden vs Caldwell, 10am
ACS vs Tilghman, 10am*
Crittenden vs Tilghman, 11am
Caldwell vs ACS, 11am*
Crittenden vs ACS, noon
Caldwell vs Tilghman, noon*

BOYS SCHEDULE

- Rockets vs PATCH, 1pm
Fulton vs Caldwell, 1pm*
Caldwell vs Hickman, 1:45pm
Rockets vs Fulton, 1:45pm*
Hickman vs PATCH, 2:30pm
Rockets vs Caldwell, 2:30pm*
Rockets vs Hickman, 3:15pm
PATCH vs Fulton, 3:15pm*

Meet the Rockets event

Meet the Rockets, the annual kickoff event for high school boys’ and girls’ basketball teams will be starting at 6 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 22 at Rocket Arena and will include the traditional live dessert auction. Admission is free.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

- Here are some of the most common hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up:
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Coyote night, no lights | July 1 - Nov 30 |
| Deer archery | Sept 6 - Jan 19 |
| Turkey archery | Sept 6 - Jan 19 |
| Deer crossbow | Sept 20 - Jan 19 |
| Raccoon | Oct 1 - Feb 28 |
| Deer gun | Nov 8-23 |
| Turkey crossbow | Nov 8 - Dec 31 |
| Bobcat trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Squirrel | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Quail | Nov 10 - Feb 10 |
| Rabbit | Nov 10 - Feb 10 |
| Raccoon trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Woodcock | Nov 10 - Dec 10 |
| Coyote trapping | Nov 10 - Feb 28 |
| Bobcat | Nov 15 - Feb 28 |
| Youth waterfowl | Nov 22 |
| Duck | Nov 27 - Nov 30 |
| Canada goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| Snow Ross goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| White-fronted goose | Nov 27 - Feb 15 |
| Dove | Nov 27 - Dec 7 |
| Coyote night, lights | Dec 1 - March 31 |
| Turkey shotgun | Dec 6 - Dec 12 |
| Duck | Dec 7 - Jan 31 |
| Deer muzzleloader | Dec 13-21 |
| Dove | Dec 20 - Jan 11 |
| Deer Free Youth | Dec 27-28 |

Howard is Player of Year in First District

Senior’s remarkable career reflected in receiving records

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County senior receiver Caden Howard has been named the 2025 Class 2A District 1 Player of the Year by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association, becoming the ninth Rocket to earn a district player of the year award. However, he is the first from Crittenden County to win the honor since the team moved from Class A to Class 2A. Howard follows a list of notable past Rocket recipients that includes two who later earned honorable mention all-state honors from the Louisville Courier-Journal – Nathan Heady in 2001 and T.K. Guess in 2005. Quarterback Hunter Boone remains the only Crittenden County player to win the district award twice.

Howard’s award comes in a

season where he climbed to the top of nearly every receiving category in program history. He finished the regular season ranked first statewide in Class 2A in receiving yards per game and second in touchdown receptions, while also ranking third in both receptions and total receiving yards.

He finished the season with 1,065 receiving yards, the second-highest single-season total in school history behind Ethan Dossett’s 1,273 yards in 2017. Howard now owns three of the top five receiving seasons ever recorded at Crittenden County.

In career production, Howard stands as the school’s all-time leader in receiving yards (2,895), receptions (208) and touchdown catches (45). His marks place him on several KHSAA career



lists, including No. 11 all-time in touchdown receptions and tied for No. 12 in receptions, though those statewide records have not been updated since 2021.

Howard’s 45 career touchdown catches are 20 more than the previous school record, and his 208 career receptions make him the only Rocket to surpass 200.

Roll Call of Rocket Players of the Year

- 2001 Nathan Heady, DL
2005 T.K. Guess, WR/DB
2008 J.D. Gray, QB/S
2016 Devon Nesbitt, RB/DB
2017 Hunter Boone, QB
2018 Hunter Boone, QB
2020 Caden McCalister, LB/RB
2022 Micah Newcom, QB

Playoff Hopes Snapped

Rockets are eliminated from postseason again at O’Cath

STAFF REPORT

Very subtly, this fall’s Rocket football team crept onto the sports pages with little fanfare, then out-punched the expectations of even the bluest of Crittenden County faithful. It was a unit that rewrote history on multiple pages, gathering momentum as Friday nights cooled and winning six straight down the stretch until they met their demise at a place where hopes have gone to die multiple times before.

Despite a lopsided 50-14 loss to the No. 1 Class 2A Owensboro Catholic Aces on Friday at Steele Stadium, these Rockets won the hearts of their followers for their tenacity and an indelible will that surfaced when odds were against them. The odds couldn’t have been stacked any higher as they faced a giant of a team once again in the postseason at a place where the Rockets have seen the season end six times over the past 13 years, this time in the second round of the playoffs.

The Aces carving up the Rocket defense wasn’t status quo. Going into the regional semifinal, CCHS had proven its stiffness, allowing the fewest points per game since rejoining Class 2A in 2023. The Rockets’ eight wins are the most during seasons in that classification. Their comebacks rocked the stadium seats and rewrote program standards. No Crittenden County team in history had rallied back like this one — and the record book revisions stand as testimony to its fearless faith and unwillingness to throw in the towel.

Individually, the stealthy, stunning display of athleticism and record-breaking career of senior receiver Caden Howard was just as subtle as the victories he helped stack. In the end, he was rewarded with the 2026 Class 2A First District Player of the Year honor. The offensive triggerman, senior quarterback Quinn Summers, rose through the statistical ranks and settled among the five best ever in numbers – and among the top two in efficiency. Defensively, senior linebacker Brayden Poindexter rounded out a trio of history-makers. His tackle totals put him among the very best Crittenden County has ever produced, rank-



Senior QB Quinn Summers is consoled by a teammate after the game.

ing in the top 10 in virtually every defensive category.

The list of superlatives among this 12th-grade class could go to describe the versatility of running back Trae Taylor, the reliability of receiver Dokota Sosh and the brute toughness of trenchman Braydin Brandsasse, one of the finest linemen in school history. It could speak to the personal comeback of Gary Hall and the steady presence of Jay Stevenson, Keegan Pierson and Michael Counts.

But this story doesn’t stop there. Behind those seniors stood a chorus of underclassmen, a patient, pulsing rhythm section that kept the season in tune and now stands ready to score the next movement in 2026. Yet just as early skeptics turned a nose at this year’s record-setting Rockets, the coming class will likely need to overcome the same.

So as coach Gaige Courtney’s fifth season comes to a close, the critics will swallow a tablespoon of their pride as this year’s squad demands a status commensurate with its on-the-field success and will go down in the annals of Rocket football as one its best.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Crittenden County	0	7	0	7
Owensboro Cath	22	21	7	0

SCORING PLAYS

- OC-Hudson Ebelhar 50 pass from Dremail Carothers (Andrew Garvin kick) 11:08, 1st
- OC-Safety
- OC-Jude Evans 14 run (kick good)
- OC-Xavier Maddox 14 pass from Carothers (kick failed) 7:29, 1st
- OC-Nick Sims 1 run (kick good) 11:20, 2ndd



Senior Gary Hall (60) tracks down an Owensboro Catholic ballcarrier.

OC-Luke Thomas 11 pass from Carothers (kick good) 10:17, 2nd

OC-Cam Woodward 5 pass from Carothers (kick good) 3:44, 2nd

CC-Caden Howard 3 pass from Quinn Summers (Mitchell Brown kick) 0:00, 2nd

OC-Thomas 21 pass from Carothers (kick good) 1:19, 3rd

CC-Howard 15 pass from Summers (Brown kick) 6:55, 4th

TEAM TOTALS

First Downs: CCHS 8, OCHS 11

Penalties: CCHS 7-58, OCHS 7-70

Rushing: CCHS 6-28, OCHS 20-135

Passing: CCHS 12-31-2, 168; OCHS 19-27-0, 252

Total Yards: CCHS 196, OCHS 387

Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 0-0, OCHS 1-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

CCHS: Summers 4-22, Trae Taylor 2-6. OCHS: Carter James 1-21, Shaiden Mitchell 4-15, Miles Edge 6-87, Evans 1-14, Cam Woodward 1-5, Peyton Morris 3-(-26), Carothers 4-19.

Passing

CCHS: Summers12-29-1, 168; Howard 0-1-0; Eli Lovell 0-1-1. OCHS: Carothers 18-26-0, 242; Morris 1-1-0, 10.

Receiving

CCHS: Howard 6-78, Taylor 3-20, Brayden Poindexter 1-5, Davis Perryman 2-65. OCHS: Thomas 5-94, Maddox 4-37, Ebelhar 2-68, Edge 2-8, Woodward 4-35, Josh James 1-10.

Defense

Brandsasse solo; M.Counts solo, assist, TFL; Hall 2 solos, 2 assists; Howard 4 solos, assist; Pierson solo, fumble recovery; B.Poindexter 5 solos, 2 assists, sack; D.Sosh 4 solos, assist; Summers solo, sack, caused fumble; Taylor 7 solos, TFL; Byford solo; Musser 2 solos, assist, 2 sacks; Perryman assist; Brown assist; Lovell assist; Bumpus 3 solos, assist.

Players of the Game: Offense Caden Howard, Special Teams Eli Lovell, Defense Trae Taylor, Lineman Aiden Musser.

Records: CCHS 8-4, OCHS 11-1

At Midway I Bellarmine

Former Rockets complete sprint seasons

STAFF REPORT

A couple of former Crittenden County football players wrapped up their seasons on Kentucky’s growing sprint football scene this fall.

Sprint football, which features a 178-pound weight limit for all players on the field, has historic roots and is played nationwide. Midway University and Bellarmine University both compete in the Midwest Sprint Football League, which launched in 2022.

Midway senior Zechariah McGahan, a health sciences major, completed his fourth season on the Eagles’ offensive line. McGahan, who will graduate in the spring and plans to enter the ministry, has been a four-year starter at tackle and

was selected as a team captain this season. Midway finished 5-3, marking the first winning record in the program’s history.

“It’s been a blessing to grow with my teammates and coaching staff the past four years,” McGahan said. “I would recommend Midway to anyone that loves a small-town feel and a tight-knit community.”

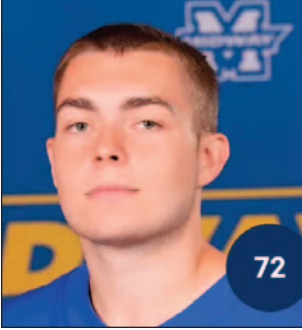
McGahan’s plans are to go into ministry, following in the footsteps of his late father, Troy McGahan, who was a radio personality at WMJL and minister in Marion.

At Bellarmine, freshman Brayden Mahnke pushed through an early setback in his inaugural college season. Mahnke, a criminal justice

major listed as a running back and kicker, suffered a knee injury after a scrimmage against Army at West Point, and missed four weeks.

“Basically I cracked the cartilage in my kneecap and ended up missing four weeks because of it,” Mahnke said. “I came back after our bye week and played after our starter went down then started the week after that at slot receiver.”

Mahnke saw action in Bellarmine’s final two games, recording two catches for 12 yards, one rush for 2 yards and a solo tackle. Bellarmine finished 3-5. Mahnke said he plans to return next season and is currently in offseason workouts.



Zech McGahan



Brayden Mahnke

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Where have all the deer gone?

BY PHILIP SHARP
Certified Wildlife Biologist

This is a simple but very complex question going around. The Kentucky modern firearm deer season brings outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen from far and wide to our great state known for hospitality and phenomenal deer-hunting opportunities. So, back to the simple question: Where have all the deer gone?

Here is my honest and professional opinion on that question – it’s complicated – but I will try to shed some light on the subject.

First and foremost, EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease), commonly known to most as blue tongue, took a devastating toll on deer populations in certain counties. Within any individual county, we saw huge variances in occurrence and mortality from the disease, which is spread by a midge fly. If your area saw significant mortality rates from EHD, it likely took out a disproportionate number of 2½- and 3½-year-old bucks compared to does, leaving your area with a gap within the buck age class. This will alter deer rut and movement behavior. With fewer mature bucks in the age class and higher-than-normal doe-to-buck ratios, territorial displays are minimized, leaving fewer scrapes, rubs and what we all hunt for – the chase.

Many are asking about CWD, or Chronic Wasting Disease. Has this affected Kentucky’s population? My answer to that is no – not yet. Although CWD has been detected within the wild cervid population in more than one county in the state and close to our borders within surrounding states, the prevalence of the disease is not high enough at this point to make any difference. Please note the key words “not yet” and “at this point.” Make no mistake – this 100 percent fatal disease can and will alter our deer herd of the future. That’s why we must all do our part to follow Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife rules and recommendations as they pertain to minimizing unnecessary risk of disease transportation. If we all use common sense and do our best to fight the spread, we will all be better for it – especially our children and grandchildren, who we hope will spend their hard-earned money and even harder-earned time in the woods for some much-deserved peace and quiet.

Now let’s talk about date and weather. This is the earliest modern firearm season can open, al-



ways the second Saturday in November, and this year that date was early. Most hunters were in the woods at least a week earlier than in past years. Our weather has been at least two weeks behind the entire year. My son Tucker showed me a picture from his deer stand on Nov. 3, 2023, versus Nov. 3, 2025. In 2023, it looked like the dead of winter with not a single leaf on a tree; this year, many of the trees, especially white oaks, were still fully leaved and green. Acorn drop from white oaks was overall late this year – typically dropping heavy by the first week of October – but white oaks are still dropping acorns well into the season. The moon has been bright at night, the wind has blown seemingly every day, and the temperature has swung from highs to lows. All these factors keep deer in their beds during daylight hours and allow them to move at night when winds are calm, temps are cooler and no one is bothering them.

Anyone can go online and research harvest data for individual or all counties within the state. Overall, numbers this fall are lagging behind typical averages for this time of year. Hunters across much of western Kentucky are reporting lower harvest totals than normal, and activity in the woods appears to be slower than in past opening weeks. While the season is far from over, early indicators suggest that this year’s modern firearm harvest will likely finish below the usual November totals.

Looking at the brighter side, I believe the best hunting opportunity is yet to come. If your area has

seen significant deer mortality due to EHD, the future may be bright for producing record-book potential in the near future. Now, you probably think I’ve lost my mind, but think about this: We all know all Zone 1 counties in the state have too many deer per square mile, however you want to quantify it. Simply put, we have too many deer, and that’s bad for overall herd health, including antler development and spread of disease such as EHD. As the herd rebounds, you will have a two- to three-year window of opportunity for antler development before overall numbers again reach unhealthy levels. Opportunity exists after EHD to continue harvesting does and keep the population balanced in sex ratios and within the surrounding ecosystem.

We, as stewards of the land, should take note of the changes we’ve all seen and do our part to make the future as bright as possible. We can accomplish this by doing more than simply planting a food plot or putting out a deer feeder. Research options such as HuntPro or utilizing a thermal drone for gathering deer density, antlered vs. antlerless ratios, and fawn recruitment data for your property. Knowledge is power – and if you have no idea what I’m talking about, we can help.

Please feel free to reach out to us at Superior Whitetail Habitats for more information on how to gather, interpret and utilize data for long-term deer management. Good luck hunting, and if you need thermal drone services to help locate your animal, we are ready to help.



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN
Crittenden County’s cheerleaders competed in the KHSAA Region 1 Cheer Competition on Nov. 8 at Paducah, placing seventh in the Gameday Division. Pictured are seniors Gracie Orr, Amelia Johnson, Jillissa Taylor, Naizayah Bell and junior Lindsey Wyatt. On top is Wyatt, Orr is in front holding the sign and from left around the base are Johnson, Bell and Taylor.

Pop-Up Driver’s License events scheduled for 2026

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has scheduled two driver’s license pop-up renewal events in Crittenden County for 2026. The mobile service will be at the Crittenden County Office Complex Feb. 10 and Aug. 4.

Staff will set up at 8:30 a.m., and begin taking appointments and walk-ins at 9:30 a.m. They will break for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. The final

appointment of the day is 2:45 to 3 p.m. KYTC notes that walk-ins typically stop 30–60 minutes before closing, depending on the line.

Reservations, which often fill quickly, can be made through the KYTC website under the Licensing Pop-Up Program by searching “Crittenden County.” Reservations generally open about one month before the event.

RIFLE SEASON ENDS SUNDAY



Brad Guess harvested this 8-point, 170-pound buck.



Grayson Pritchett harvested this heavy-antlered buck.

Reciprocal Fishing | Hunting KY renews deal with border states

Kentucky anglers and waterfowl hunters can once again use their resident licenses on certain waters shared with neighboring states, after new reciprocal agreements took effect Oct. 16 following adjournment of the Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources finalized the agreements with several bordering states to allow each state’s residents to fish or waterfowl hunt designated border waters using a license from their home state.

“We’re blessed here in the Commonwealth – and across our neighboring states – with so many great places to get out and enjoy the outdoors,” Commissioner Rich Storm said. “We’re extremely proud of these new agreements because they make it easier for our valued license holders and our neighbors to get out there and take advantage of all the opportunities our shared waters have to offer.”

Reciprocal fishing waters include the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, Kentucky Lake, Dale Hollow Lake, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, and the Big



Sandy and Tug Fork rivers. Reciprocal waterfowl hunting applies to the Big Sandy and Tug Fork along the West Virginia border and to the Ohio River along the Indiana and Ohio borders. The agreements cover main-stem waters only – embayments and tributaries remain subject to the licensing and regulations of the state in which they lie.

Under the agreements, residents may fish or waterfowl hunt these shared waters using their own state’s license and must follow the regulations and season dates of the state that issued their license while on the water. An important exception applies to bank access – anyone fishing or hunting from shore must follow the regulations of the state they are standing in. Anglers on the Mississippi River bordering Missouri should note that more restrictive rules may apply when licensed in one state and fishing in another.

For Kentucky Lake, the reciprocal area runs from Eggner’s Ferry Bridge (U.S. 68/80) south to the Governor Ned McWherter Bridge (U.S. 79/TN 76) and includes tributaries and em-

bayments within that stretch except the Blood River embayment in Kentucky. On Dale Hollow, the reciprocal water is the Wolf River arm, including Illwill Creek from a line at its mouth where it meets the Obey River. On the Big South Fork, the reciprocal reach extends from the KY 92 bridge at Yamacraw upstream to the Leatherwood Ford Bridge in Tennessee (TN 297).

With Kentucky’s duck and goose seasons opening Nov. 27, Storm said restoring the waterfowl agreements was a priority. Kentucky-licensed waterfowl hunters may hunt the main stem of the Ohio River bordering Indiana and Ohio and the Tug Fork and Big Sandy rivers bordering West Virginia, following Kentucky’s seasons and regulations unless hunting from the opposite bank, where that state’s rules apply.

Kentucky law requires resident hunters and anglers utilizing reciprocal waters to possess a Kentucky-issued license. For waters not covered by the agreements, participants must follow the licensing and regulations of the state in which they are fishing or hunting.

DIGNITY

Continued from page 1
thing I never imagined I’d see here. It has become a sewer of insinuations, derogatory remarks, half-truths, often baseless attacks and character assassinations. Some of it is fueled by politics, some by rumor, some by plain old meanness – but whatever its source, it’s poisoning the community we claim to love. Dirty Laundry is spread by Dirty Hands.

This isn’t who we are. And deep down, every one of us knows it.

As we enter a Christmas season built on hope, renewal and reconciliation, perhaps it’s time to pause and pray that this behavior ceases

on all fronts. Not just toned down – ceased. That we put away the sharp words, the snide comments, the late-night rants typed in anger. That we restore the dignity that every human being deserves, whether we agree with them or not.

Marion is better than what we’ve seen over the past 12 months. It’s time we prove it. Stop the nonsense – it will have a chilling effect on the desire of good people to serve your community.

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

ELECTED COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE | MAGISTRATES

Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Judge-executive
Perry
Newcom (R)
107 S. Main St.
Marion, KY 42064
270.965.5251 (o)
270.704.0457 (c)
Perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org

District 1 Magistrate
Dave
Belt (R)
308 Chandler Farm Rd.
Sturgis, KY 42459
270.704.0199 (c)
Dave.Belt@crittendencountyky.org

District 2 Magistrate
Matt
Grimes (R)
301 State Route 297
Marion, Ky. 42064
270.704.9832 (c)
matt.grimes@crittendencountyky.org

District 3 Magistrate
Robert
Kirby (R)
1698 Chapel Hill Road
Marion, KY 42064
270.889.1504 (c)
Robert.kirby@crittendencounty.org

District 4 Magistrate
Chad
Thomas (D)
701 Hebron Church Rd.
Marion, KY 42064
270.965.9727 (h)
270.339.4949 (c)
Chad.Thomas@crittendencountyky.org

District 5 Magistrate
Travis
Perryman (R)
1700 Jackson School Road
Fredonia KY 42411
270.969.1168 (c)
Travis.perryman@crittendencountyky.org

District 6 Magistrate
Scott
Belt (R)
397 Fishtrap Road
Marion KY 42064
270.704.0366 (c)
Scott.belt@crittendencountyky.org

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



Crittenden County Middle School’s basketball homecoming court was crowned Thursday, Nov. 13. Pictured from left are Ava Morrison, Kora Belle Penn, Liam Shultz, Knox Champion, Kash Myers, Macandliss Chittenden, Danielle Farmer, Karlee Jent, Luke Stokes, Camden Lanham, (on steps from top) seventh grade princess and prince Kory Bloodworth and Cooper Rich, sixth grade duke and duchess Gannon Taylor and Tia Belt and eighth grade king and queen Gage Adamson and Emarie Cox, Callie Robison, Brier Brown, Kenzie Courtright, Brady Polk, Lydia Hearell, Conley Palmer, Mela Penn and Noah Moss. Flower and crown bearers are Camryn Berry and Bo Berry.

Alleged firearm discharge among indictments

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Grand Jury indicted four individuals during its November session last week.

A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence. Instead, it merely decides whether sufficient evidence exists to continue felony prosecution of a case in circuit court.

Indicted last Thursday were the following individuals.

•Anthony Vick, 55, of an unknown address, was indicted on Class D felony charges of tampering with physical evidence and first-degree possession of methamphetamine, plus a misdemeanor charge of failure to notify the DOT of an

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

GRAND JURY

address change.

Court records allege that Vick tossed a glass meth pipe into the roadway as the sheriff swerved to avoid running over him. Sheriff Evan Head reported that around 11:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 24, he encountered Vick walking in the middle of the highway on KY 297. Head’s report says he had to swerve his cruiser to avoid striking Vick as he topped a hill. When the sheriff stopped to check on him, Vick allegedly stepped to the side of the road and allegedly pulled a glass pipe from his pocket and threw it toward the sheriff’s cruiser.

Head’s report said Vick then retrieved the pipe and threw it onto the pavement, breaking it. The sheriff reported finding several small pieces that, based on his training, appeared to contain burned and unburned methamphetamine. The report indicates that Vick told the sheriff he had found the item in a ditch and believed it was a marijuana pipe.

Vick’s operator’s license listed an address in Hampton, but he told authorities he did not currently live at that location. He was also found to be wanted in Texas on a full-extradition warrant, according to the arrest citation.

•Michael Lee Cruzen, 32, of Marion, was indicted on six felony counts, including three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment and three counts of second-degree unlawful imprisonment. The charges stem from an investigation that alleges Cruzen discharged a firearm in close proximity to a woman and her two teenage children.

According to court records, Sheriff Head responded to a report of a domestic situation at a home on Crittenden

Springs Road at about 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3. Cruzen is accused of holding three victims in a garage against their will and firing a handgun that the sheriff reported struck the ground within five or six feet from an automobile in which two of the victims were sitting and in close proximity to the adult female.

During his arraignment last week in circuit court, Cruzen asked the court for a bond reduction from \$10,000 cash to \$1,000; however, the judge denied it and he remains lodged in Crittenden County Detention Center.

•The grand jury also issued two other sealed indictments.

Trials set for next year in circuit court

STAFF REPORT

Circuit Judge Daniel Heady has set a Jan. 29 jury trial for Antony Y. Petrakis, 45, of Dawson Springs, who is charged in connection with an October 2024 burglary at a rural Crittenden County home.

Petrakis is accused of breaking into a residence off KY 506 that belonged to the estate of man who had died not long before the alleged break-in. According to Crittenden County Sheriff’s Deputy James Duncan, the intruder caused significant damage while attempting to enter the house and took thousands of dollars in items, including surveying equipment, a smartphone and a dis-

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

tinctive holiday wreath.

Investigators tracked the stolen iPhone to an apartment complex in Dawson Springs. When officers arrived, they spotted the stolen wreath hanging on the door of apartment 14, where Petrakis was found.

Petrakis is charged with second-degree burglary, theft, first-degree criminal mischief and possession of burglary tools.

His alleged accomplice, Terri Henry, 45, of Dawson Springs, pleaded guilty in August to an amended charge of third-degree burglary along with the original felony counts of theft by unlawful taking (under \$10,000) and first-degree criminal mischief by complicity, plus a misdemeanor charge of possession of burglary tools. She was sentenced to five years on each felony and 365 days on the misdemeanor, with the terms to run consecutively.

The court agreed to probate her sentence for five years if she completes court-ordered programs, pays restitution and truthfully testifies against Petrakis. Henry was originally charged with second-degree burglary.

Duncan’s investigation

found items from the home inside Henry’s apartment, and the decorative wreath allegedly stolen during the break-in was displayed prominently.

Petrakis is being held in a state prison facility on an unrelated case.

•Additionally, a trial date of June 29, 2026 was set for Payton Davis Riley, 24, of Marion, who is facing a Class C felony charge of second-degree assault.

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CHAMBER

Continued from page 1

portance of family stability on helping our local economy,” Woodall said. “As I like to say with my job as Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Science, building strong communities is imperative on having strong families.”

Rogers will discuss how stability – or instability – within households can affect local businesses, the workforce and the broader community. The luncheon will be from noon to about 1 p.m., and costs \$15, which includes a build-your-own pasta bar from Game Day Pizza and Wings, featuring Cajun pasta, marinara and Alfredo.

“I think that in itself should pull some people in,” Woodall said.

The event will be held in the upstairs conference room at Farmers Bank in downtown Marion. Attendees should

enter through the main bank entrance. Bank staff and chamber volunteers will direct guests to the meeting room. Edward Jones and H&H Home and Hardware are sponsoring the luncheon.

Another community event the chamber is organizing this holiday season is the annual Christmas parade.

“The theme is possibly my favorite, because it’s A Charlie Brown Christmas,” Woodall said.

The parade will be Saturday, Dec. 6. Registration is free, and forms are available at Integrity Insurance where Denise Byarley and her staff are coordinating entries. Participants can register floats, trucks or other entries and provide information about their group for announcements during the parade.

There will be a float contest with awards for businesses and organizations.

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