



The Crittenden Press

Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

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

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TWO DOLLARS

Chamber's SBS event kicks off early Saturday

Small Business Saturday will start early on Nov. 29 in Marion, where the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will hand out 100 gift bags beginning at 8 a.m. at H&H Home and Hardware.

The annual giveaway is one of the Chamber's most popular holiday events. Chamber President Rebecca Woodall said each bag will include a mix of coupons, small gifts and gift cards from local businesses, with no two bags alike. A mystery prize, traditionally a larger cash or gift item, will also be offered this year. Bags are limited to adults, one per person, and Woodall urged shoppers to arrive early because bags go fast. The promotion is aimed at encouraging residents to shop local on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



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; Athena Hayes, jailer; 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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4 at the county office complex.
- Community Prayer will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8 at city hall.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8.
- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Rocket Arena conference room.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the courthouse.
- Marion City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15 at city hall.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Rocket Arena.



Community members, hospital leaders, dignitaries from across the state and region – including Congressman James Comer at the podium – gathered Monday for a formal announcement confirming financing and outlining plans to continue pursuing the renovation and expansion of Livingston Hospital in Salem.

USDA approves \$78M for hospital

STAFF REPORT

"This is a huge project for Livingston County. This would be a huge project in Louisville," said U.S. Rep. James Comer during a formal announcement Monday that Livingston Hospital's long-anticipated modernization plan has secured U.S. Department of Agriculture financing for a \$78 million expansion.

Construction will begin in early 2026 and will take about a year and half, according to Hospital CEO Shane Whittington.

The announcement, in front of about 150 who had gathered in Salem at the hospital's community center, marks the culmination of more than two years of planning. The project was first publicly discussed in July 2023 when Livingston Hospital leaders outlined preliminary plans to renovate and expand services and stabilize rural healthcare delivery in the region. Throughout 2024, administrators, consultants and architects continued refining the scope of construction, funding needs and site planning in preparation for USDA approval.

Billed as a transformational moment for Livingston Hospital and for rural



This rendering shows the entrance to the proposed new hospital.

healthcare in this region, Whittington and other hospital and governmental leaders echoed similar discourse during the formal announcement.

"This support represents a powerful commitment to rural healthcare at a time when many rural hospitals are struggling," Whittington added. "With this project, we are protecting access to high-quality care close to home and expanding the depth and convenience of the services our communities need."

Doster Construction, hired earlier this year as construction manager, received contractor bids Nov. 14 and is reviewing them ahead of presenting recommendations to the hospital board during the

first week of December.

Pre-construction work to relocate electrical service and fiber infrastructure is scheduled to begin in early December. Groundbreaking is expected in late February or early March, with the build estimated to take 14 to 18 months.

Plans include a 60,000-square-foot expansion and roughly 12,000 square feet of renovations to existing space. The project will include updated patient rooms, enhanced emergency-department capacity, modern imaging areas and improved infrastructure across the facility.

Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams praised the hospital's board of directors, leadership and staff for working through the planning and application process to develop "a building that will outlast everyone in this room."

Whittington said the hospital's rising economic footprint underscores the importance of the investment. According to the Kentucky Hospital Association, Livingston Hospital's economic impact grew from \$6.5 million in 2022 to \$17

See **HOSPITAL**/page 8



County will stop paying bills; jailer disputes some figures

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Detention Center continues to face significant financial straits, according to discussions at last week's regular meeting of the fiscal court. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom outlined the jail's financial woes, pointing out that its cash balance last Thursday was just \$133.62 with more than \$95,000 in bills and routine expenses due within days.

The county added just over \$300,000 to the jail from the county general fund last fiscal year to make ends meet, and budgeted \$237,176 in potential transfer funds for the current budget year, which began July 1. Already, most of that money has been moved into the jail account, Newcom said, leaving just less than \$25,000 of budgeted transfer

funds.

According to information provided by the fiscal court, claims – or bills – due by the jail for routine expenses but not yet paid total \$62,394.85. Another \$33,290.11 in recurring expenses must be covered by Nov. 26, the county judge said. Paying all of those obligations will leave the jail \$95,551 in the red by the end of the month.

Newcom said that once the final \$24,176 budgeted for transfer into the jail is moved into its account, the detention center would remain \$71,375 short of covering current bills.

"Gentlemen, I have said it before and I will say it again, we do not have this kind of money," Newcom said about the

See **JAIL**/page 9

Bids read for 5-year EMS deal

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court opened bids last week for a new five-year ambulance service contract, setting up a decision that could determine how emergency medical coverage is staffed and funded through 2030.

After opening and reading two bids, Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said a committee will review them and make a recommendation to the fiscal court in short order.

"We will be moving on this pretty quick because the clock is ticking," the judge said.

The county's current agreement with ComCare ambulance service ends Dec. 31. ComCare has been the local provider since 2015, operating from the ALS base

See **EMS**/page 9



2023 fentanyl death leads to felony charges

STAFF REPORT

A lengthy investigation by the Marion Police Department has led to the arrest of two Marion men who each face a single charge of second-degree manslaughter in connection with an alleged fentanyl-related death more than two years ago.

Dustin McKinney, 35, and Andrew Bryan, 29, were taken into custody Friday night about 8 p.m., by Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head. They separately face Class C felony charges filed in

indictments issued Nov. 13 by the Crittenden County Grand Jury. The indictment alleges each man "knowingly distributed fentanyl or a fentanyl derivative to Eric Elder," who ingested the drug and died at McKinney's home on Summit Drive in Greenwood Heights in June 2023. Elder was 22.

Both men are being held in the Crittenden County Detention Center under a

See **CHARGES**/page 9



McKinney



Bryan

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Byarley

William Earl Byarley, 85, of Marion, died Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2025 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He was a member of the National Guard, and in addition to having worked at Moore's Business Forms and Rayloc, he was also a foreman for the Kentucky Highway Department and a lifelong farmer.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Pearl Byarley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Coy and Ludie Stacey Byarley; a brother and three sisters.

Graveside services were Saturday, Nov. 22 at Maplevue Cemetery under the direction of Myers Funeral Home.

McDowell

Bill McDowell, Sr., 78, of Dekoven, died Friday, November 21, 2025 at his home. He was born Feb. 24, 1947 to the late Guy McDowell, Jr. and Virginia McDowell in Union County. He was a member of the Dekoven Methodist Church and a UMWA member. He was a coal miner, welder, carpenter and a bus driver. He also worked for Earle C. Clements Job Corps and Byers Construction Company. He was a U.S. Army veteran who enjoyed hunting. Most of all, he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He graduated from Nashville Diesel School.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Laura K. McDowell; two sons, Billy (Beth) McDowell and Kenneth McDowell; a daughter, Paula

Community Calendar

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

- Monday, December 1**
- WITS Workout will begin at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.
 - Merry and Thrifty starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Lions Club Building.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3**
- Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m., at the City-County Park.
- Thursday, Dec. 4**
- Line dancing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
 - Early American Heritage Project will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Park.

Morris; three grandchildren; Joey, Kendra, Laura Beth, and Jacey; and four sisters, Sharon Maddox, Mayree (Dwight) Sherer, Cindy (Maurice) Jett and Kem (John) Thompson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Robert McDowell

Services are at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis. Dr. Noble Cobb will officiate. Burial is in Caseyville Cemetery with full military rites. Visitation is from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday and 9 a.m., until service time on Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions can be made to Caseyville Cemetery.

Erickson

Donna Byrer Erickson (Barrett), a native of Crittenden County, died Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, at her home, surrounded by family. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend to many around the world. She was an active volunteer over the years in many nonprofit, school, civic and charitable organizations. She will be truly missed.

Surviving are her hus-

band, Clifford Erickson; son, Darrell Byrer; two siblings, Wally Garrett and Fay Martin; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

No services will be held per her request. A celebration of life will be held for family and friends at a later date.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Paid Obituary

Faulkner

Sharee Lynn Faulkner, 39, of Burna died Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah.

She was a homemaker who loved being a mother to her children.

Faulkner is survived by her husband, Shawn Faulkner; daughters, Alyssa Dewolf of Benton, Aaliyah Faulkner of Burna and Alivia Faulkner of Burna; son, Carson Faulkner of Burna; brothers, Chris Dewolf of Benton and Jeremy Nelson of California; and father, Thomas Dewolf.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Shandra Nelson.

A memorial service will be held at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Marion on Saturday, Nov. 29 at noon, with Bro. Brian Simms officiating.

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.

Christmas

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Saturday, November 29
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Bridge assault leads to criminal indictment

STAFF REPORT

Livingston County Grand Jury indicted multiple 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 were the following individuals.

- Ravon T. Briggs, 28, of Louisville was indicted on charges of third-degree criminal trespassing; being on foot on a limited-access highway; resisting arrest; menacing; and third-degree assault. Court records say that on Sept. 8 Kentucky State Trooper Landon Stewart encountered Briggs about 3:26 p.m. walking across the I-24 Cumberland River Bridge, where pedestrians are not allowed. Stewart stopped to check on Briggs and

help him off the interstate, but Briggs refused to identify himself or follow orders to stop. After repeated verbal commands were ignored, the citation says Stewart attempted to place Briggs under arrest. Briggs then allegedly assaulted the trooper while still on the bridge. Stewart ultimately detained Briggs with help from a passing motorist. It was later determined that Briggs had two outstanding warrants from Jefferson and Hardin counties.

- Michael Joe Enoch, 41, of Grand Rivers was indicted on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of a controlled substance not in its original



Briggs
I-24 suspect

container (first offense). Enoch was arrested when authorities responded to an alleged domestic dispute in Grand Rivers on Aug. 12.

- Skylar Clark Bazemore, 36, of Grand Rivers was indicted on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) with a firearm enhancement; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession of marijuana with a firearm enhancement; and two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment by complicity. Court records indicate that on Sept. 13 deputies and troopers were dispatched to a residence on a call for service where they found suspected drugs, an assault-style weapon and two children, ages 7 and 9, with Bazemore and April Dennison.
- April D. Dennison, 36, of Grand Rivers was indicted on charges of first-

degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) with a firearm enhancement; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession of marijuana with a firearm enhancement; and two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment by complicity. Court records indicate that on Sept. 13 deputies and troopers were dispatched to a residence on a call for service where they found suspected drugs, an assault-style weapon and two children, ages 7 and 9, with Dennison and Skylar Clark Bazemore.

- Levi Joseph Bowers, 26, of Smithland was indicted on a charge of first-degree strangulation. The charge stems from an alleged domestic dispute with a woman on Aug. 8 that turned violent.
- Haskel Williams, 57, of Smithland was indicted on charges of first-degree fleeing or evading police; first-degree wanton endangerment; reckless driving; first-offense DUI; resisting arrest; and first-degree wanton endangerment. No further details were available.
- Michelle L. Godwin,

43, of Grand Rivers was indicted on nine counts of torture of a dog or cat. Court records allege that Livingston County deputies executed a search warrant on Sept. 19 at a home on East Tennessee Street in Grand Rivers where they found nine dead dogs in the residence and on the surrounding premises. Neglect was suspected.

- Ronald Lester Jones, 53, of Smithland was indicted on a charge of second-degree assault. No further details were available.

New deputies heading to academy

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Sheriff Eva Head has added two full-time deputies to his staff, both of whom started Oct. 6 and will attend the state police academy together beginning Dec. 16.

Deputy Dustin Bolin, 32, comes to the department from Dawson Springs. Born in Bowling Green, he graduated from Warren Central High School and later worked as a satellite dish technician and engineer and also at Tree-House Foods in Princeton. He has also studied martial arts.

Bolin said he was inspired by his step-grandfather, retired Caldwell County Deputy Jim Solomon.



Bolin

prison system before joining the U.S. Army as a combat engineer. He was stationed at Fort Campbell before settling in the region and now resides in Union County. He was a high school athlete, including wrestling.

Garner said he grew up in a rural area and that is what attracted him to western Kentucky. He has thought about being a lawman since childhood and believes he can be a positive influence in the community.

“After the military, I honestly saw this as my purpose,” he said.

Both deputies will spend about five months at the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy before returning to serve full time in Crittenden County in May.

“We are excited to have them,” sheriff Head said. “They are doing wonderfully with their online coursework and they will be an asset to the community.”

Their hiring brings the sheriff’s staff to seven, which includes two school resource officers and two court security deputies.



Garner



Pictured are (front from left) Carly Mardis, Saffron Caleb, (back) Raelyn Bane, Parker Brown, Reagan Stokes and Braylen Brown.

Half dozen local students earn choir accolades

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Four elementary and two middle school students earned Kentucky Music Educators Association’s 1st District Honor Choir recognition last week at Murray State University.

Fifth graders Raelyn Bane, Braylen Brown, Saffron Caleb, and Reagan Stokes, along with sixth graders Parker Brown and Carly Mardis, received the prestigious distinction.

Nearly 250 fifth and sixth grade students from 38 schools in our area participated, showcasing their talents at historic Lovett Auditorium. Led by Crittenden County Elementary School music teacher Michelle Crider of Crider Performing Arts Studio in Marion, the students spent countless hours after school and on weekends rehearsing.

Crider explained that each year, she will have the privilege of selecting up to eight students to accompany her to the MSU annual event in mid-November. While there, they spend the en-

tire day rehearsing music (after having learned with Crider, herself, for two months previously) under a guest conductor. A concert that evening is the culminating event of the experience.

Crider says the event is inspiring not only to the students and their families, but also to her.

“Some of the most meaningful moments of my life have come from participation in band and choir,” said Crider, “and witnessing the next generation create that same magic was truly profound.”

Crider added that the inclusion of music education in schools is critical, with its lessons reaching far beyond classroom walls.

“Music education builds confidence, community, creativity, and a sense of belonging,” she said. “It gives students a place to grow, express themselves, and discover who they can become. That is why experiences like these matter so deeply.”

MPD investigates pellet shootings

Marion Police say high-powered pellet rifles were used to damage several vehicles traveling along South Main Street near Chapel Hill Road over the past couple of weeks.

Information gathered over two days last week helped officers identify the spot from where the shots originated. Two pellet rifles were recovered as evidence, and a suspect or suspects have been identified. The investigation remains active. Police say charges are likely forthcoming in the case.

FINANCIAL FOCUS® Is this a good year for tax-loss harvesting?

November 27, 2025



meaning no capital gains tax is owed for that year. The investor can then reinvest the proceeds while following the IRS’s “wash-sale rule.” This rule prevents substituted with other investments.

Why 2025 may be favorable. Several factors suggest 2025 may be a good time to consider tax-loss harvesting.

First, market volatility has created more opportunities to realize losses. The first half of the year saw sharp market swings that left some portfolios uneven. Many large asset managers have already harvested billions in losses, using them to help lower clients’ tax liability while keeping investment strategies on track.

Second, tax law changes are on the horizon.

longer fit your strategy (when rebalancing your portfolio, for example), have poor investment potential or can be easily substituted with other investments.

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Second, tax law changes are on the horizon.

zon. With major tax reform provisions scheduled to expire in the coming years, many investors are motivated to manage their gains and losses proactively. Those in higher tax brackets stand to benefit most, as the savings increase with your tax rate.

Finally, technology has made the process more efficient. In the past, investors typically harvested losses near year-end. Today, automation and direct indexing allow for continuous monitoring and harvesting throughout the year, capturing losses as they appear.

Putting it into practice. Tax-loss harvesting isn’t right for everyone, and it’s not a reason to overhaul your investment strategy. The approach works best



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CCHS, CCMS headline release of KY assessment test results

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Crittenden County School District defines its core value of excellence as being better tomorrow than today. That value was evident when Kentucky Summative Assessment scores were released last week. The district’s middle and high schools achieved a green ranking, while the elementary school showed growth, moving up a level on the state’s accountability system.

With success in science leading the way, Crittenden County Elementary School moved from last year’s orange rank to yellow. Principal Laurie Holcomb said the

school’s reduction in novice students in both science and reading was of particular importance. The number of proficient and distinguished learners in science increased, while reading scores held steady from last year.

The middle school showed gains in proficient and distinguished levels of reading, as well as a reduction in its novice population of readers. On-demand writing scores were above the state average at 52% proficient/distinguished, an increase from the previous year’s result. The school also moved from a yellow rating on its climate and

safety scores to green.

At the high school, significant improvement was made in four of five tested areas, with the greatest gains in math. The combined reading and math score moved from green last year to blue – the highest level of performance. Principal Josh Cook credited a united effort for the school’s success.

“The results are a true testament to the united teamwork here at CCHS,” Cook said. “This wasn’t just a math or science department initiative, it was a whole-school approach to prepare our students for success not only in school, but also for what

comes next.”

Superintendent Tonya Driver said she is excited about the district’s improvement and continued growth and expects more positive results in the future.

“This is a time to celebrate our academic successes with all stakeholders,” she said, “and to use this data to identify opportunities where we can become even better. Our vision is to launch students to personal success in an ever-evolving world, and these results show us that the hard work and effort put forth by our staff, families and especially our students is helping us achieve that.”



From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago
Crittenden County High School honored two longtime faculty members at a retirement dinner where School Board Chairman Dr. Donald Wight (right) presented silver trays and certificates to Mildred Chipps and Doyle Walker. Chipps had served as the school’s guidance counselor and Walker taught biology. The recognition marked the end of their dedicated service to CCHS.

Livingston points to academic growth in test results

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Livingston County Schools is reporting continued academic growth across the district, with South Livingston Elementary and Livingston Central High School outperforming state averages in several areas on the 2024-25 Kentucky Summative Assessment.

South Livingston Elementary earned a top-tier Blue rating, ranking 79th of 717 elementary schools statewide and 11th in the region. Students exceeded state proficiency levels in every tested subject –

reading, math, science, social studies and writing.

Livingston Central High School also posted strong gains, surpassing state averages in reading, math, science, social studies and writing. The high school outperformed state ACT averages in English, science and composite scoring. It recorded a 98.4% graduation rate and a 93.5% postsecondary readiness score. LCHS received a green rating on the state’s accountability scale.

North Livingston Elementary saw improvement in reading and writing, especially in third and fifth grade, but remained in the orange category overall. Livingston County Middle School showed progress in several grade levels, with notable gains in math and science, moving the school to a yellow rating.

Superintendent Amy Ramage said the results reflect the district’s commitment to raising academic expectations and achievement.

“We are proud of our students, staff and families for their continued commitment to academic growth,” Ramage said. “The successes at SLES and LCHS demonstrate that with strong instruction, community support and high expectations, our Cardinals can soar at every level.”

Ramage said the district will continue working toward “strong, world-class learning experiences in every classroom, ensuring that Every Cardinal Has a Champion.”

Riverview Park’s numbers still down

Riverview Park recorded a sharp decline in camping activity in October 2025 compared to the same month last year, according to the park’s monthly report.

The park logged 84 RV nights and three tent nights last month, down from 123 RV nights and 10 tent nights in October 2024. Site revenue totaled \$505 this year – \$480 from RVs and \$25 from tents – compared

News Briefs

to \$1,290 in combined site revenue a year ago.

The campsite has seen much less useage this summer and fall because the bridge between in and KY 91 is being replaced and the only other access is across curvy, narrow roads. The bridge replacement should be complete in December.

Riverview Park, formerly known as Dam 50, features seven full-service RV pads with

power, water and wastewater hookups, as well as primitive tent sites. Camping rates remain \$20 per night for RVs and \$5 for tents.

County appointments

Crittenden County Fiscal Court last week made three appointments to local boards.

Jessica Lanham and Barrett Belt were appointed to three-year terms on the Extension District Board Appointment and Lynn Bechler was appointed to the library board.

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.



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:

- Crittenden County FCCLA is collecting new toys for the Merry Little Family Christmas through Dec. 8. Donations should be for children 5th grade and younger. Drop-off locations: Crittenden County Public Library, CVS, both Dollar General locations, Game Day, Federal Credit Union, Crittenden County Hospital, K&B Pharmacy, H&H, Farmers Bank and First United Bank. More information: katie.allsbury@stu.crittenden.kyschools.us.

- 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 wrap-

ping tips along the way.

- Dec. 4, 6 p.m., the CCHS Band will have its holiday concert at Fohs Hall, featuring classic carols and holiday favorites. The event will include a silent auction and a donation bucket.

- 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

50 YEARS AGO

November 26, 1975

- Women’s Club of Marion hosted a Thanksgiving smorgasbord dinner for its members and guests at the club building. Eight members of the club, including Mrs. Gordon Guess, Mrs. Doyle Vaughn, Mrs. Tom McKenney, Mrs. Virgil Cook, Mrs. Tony Collins, Mrs. Carlton Tabor and Mrs. Fred Lynn, participated in the “tater family” program after the meal. The children of club members presented a song during the special Thanksgiving program.

- More than 250 people attended the 4-H Talent Show at Crittenden County High School. Approximately 130 4-H’ers participated in the show with various acts and the annual king and queen contest. The event was a success and brought the community together for an evening of talent and celebration.

- Mike Belt’s last-second field goal secured a 54-52 victory for Crittenden County Middle School against Morganfield, overcoming a 12-point deficit. The junior Rockets fought back in the final moments, with Belt’s shot clinching their second win. Spencer Cozart and Belt led the scoring with 22 and 20 points.

25 YEARS AGO

November 30, 2000

- Crittenden County’s seventh graders, led by Becky Lewzader, embarked on a “tree-meandous” field trip to enhance their classroom study of trees. The students visited various sites, including the Clark Wheeler wetland and Green’s Valley Tree Farm, to learn about trees and their benefits. At each location, resource personnel like Wheeler and W.T. and Betty Green provided insightful presentations. The trip, which also included stops at Westvaco property and Teddy Stovall’s farm, aimed to provide students with hands-on learning experiences.

- Crittenden County defeated Dawson Springs 66-57 despite early foul trouble for key players. Matt Mattingly’s double-double stood out, as he scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. While Timmy Hill debuted at point guard, the Rockets struggled with defense and hitting free throws but ultimately secured the win.

- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Christmas Parade in downtown Marion, with Ed and Del Runyan as grand marshals. Terry and Ramona Ford oversaw the newly entered floats. Winners of the float contest won a cash prize — first place \$100, second place \$75 and third place \$50.

10 YEARS AGO

November 26, 2000

- Mauri Collins took the top spot in the 2015 Egg Preparation Demonstration contest at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville. Competing against eight other contestants, Collins showcased her recipe for ham and eggs puff pastry while also sharing egg facts. Because of her success, she qualified for nationals.

- Crittenden County Board of Education hosted its semi-annual Council of Councils meeting at Rocket Arena, where open discussions occurred between school-based decision-making members, student council representatives and administrators to discuss current and future plans for the district. Superintendent Vince Clark emphasized engaging students in their educational experiences.

- According to Librarian Regina Merrick, the Crittenden County Public Library saved readers an estimated \$670,000 annually. Merrick reported to the Crittenden County Fiscal Court that the 35,000 books borrowed from the library the previous year saved residents a significant amount of money. Rebecca Johnson gave the oath of office to Public Library trustees Brad Guess and Brenda Underdown during the meeting.

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

The Crittenden Press

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How aspirational words shape us

When Christians and Jews read the Bible, we think of it as the Word of God. It is truth that comes at us in the form of story, poetry, and law. It sets out for us what God intends for his creation. It is truth, but often it is truth delayed. Sometimes it is delayed because the right time hasn't come. Often, however, I believe it is delayed by the faulty creatures to which God has entrusted the part of creation we call "earth."



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

This question in Micah is there because those who had been shown what to do had failed to do it. This is the nature of such language. It sets for us ideals that we all know we should be practicing but consistently fail to do so. When we take Micah 6:8 into our hearts and lives, it trains our conscience in such a way as to cause pain when we see injustice and unkindness.

An example from the New Testament is delivered to a divided and segregated (economically) church. They have taken pride in sexual behavior that even the Greeks and Romans found offensive. They were taking each other to court. Paul sets out for them a different way to think. He submits all their good works to love. No matter what good they did, if they didn't have love, it was useless. He then defines the type of love that he intends for them.

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, be-

lieves all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (I Corinthians 13:4-7, RSV)

This is a definition that challenges and hopefully humbles those who received it. It is one of the most beautiful passages in all the New Testament. Like good aspirational language it is easy to understand and nearly impossible to consistently practice. To claim this definition of love for one's life carries with it some risk. Especially if those who see you fail to live up to it know it, but do not attempt to practice it. Aspirational language can be turned on those who speak it into a world that is self-interested and looking for advantage to promote that interest. It can be turned on the best of us because we all fail at some point.

Our nation is built on an ambitious aspirational document. The second sentence of the Declaration of Independence is perhaps the most aspirational statement ever made outside of the Bible. Given that the committee that authored it drew from the Bible, from Roman Law, and Greek Philosophy it shouldn't be surprising. We sit here nearly 250 years later still trying to live into a sentence that defines the American Experiment.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator

with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I do not know what the founding fathers had in mind with this statement. They surely knew that they were not practicing what they had written, or perhaps they were blinded by their own prejudices and culture. For my part, I am glad someone wrote it down in a founding document. Some may judge them as being rich, entitled racists but at least they had the courage to put ink to parchment for all to see. This is the nature of aspiration – it lands us in places we never expected to be. Once such lofty language is out in the world, it takes on a life of its own far beyond what those who produce it can imagine.

I would rather live in a world full of hypocrites that talk a big game and fail, than one in which no one dares speak or write anything beyond what they think they can do. I would rather be accused of failing to live up to the best things I say than never to say them. Aspirational language drags us, kicking and screaming at each other, to be better tomorrow than we are today. Thank God for hope and grace.

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.

Bless the Lord even amidst troubling times

Question: I've made every effort to resolve a broken relationship with a family member. Nothing has helped. How can I have peace of mind amidst the rawness of rejection?

Answer: If family rifts are unmendable, there should be a willingness of both parties involved to communicate to resolve the hurt that's engulfing their hearts. Without that willingness the pain continues.

When you've made every effort at restoration, it's time to take a long pause from

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

the rawness of your pain so you can be present for what God has for you today. Don't let your lost of one relationship affect your being attentive to those who need you.

Even though you have feelings of rejection, anger and loss, hide this Scrip-

ture truth in your heart, "I will bless the LORD who counsels me—even at night when my thoughts trouble me. I always let the LORD guide me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Ps. 16:7, 8). Don't forget, "The Lord is a present help in times of trouble"

(Ps. 46:1).
Even amidst the challenge of a broken relationship, the Lord can make our cups run over with blessings (Ps. 23:5). He can fill our hearts with good thoughts and feelings even when our lives are far from perfect. Someone has rightly said, "Joy is not having everything we think we want but choosing to be satisfied with what God has already provided."
Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

- A blessing box containing non-perishable food and household goods is located on the Bellville Street entrance of Marion United Methodist Church.
- 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.
- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- 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.

The Daisy Patch

Holiday Reminder

WE'VE MOVED

Pat can still be reached at (270) 704-0008

Please call now to place your holiday orders for fresh and silk arrangements, wreaths, poinsettias, cemetery arrangements, etc.

Supper with Santa

PARADE Saturday, Dec. 6 5 p.m.

6 p.m., Following the Parade at the Crittenden County Lions Club Building at the Fairgrounds

Chili • Hot Dogs • Cookies
CHILDREN EAT FREE
Adults are welcome to give a donation which will be used to sponsor a child for Christmas

TAKE PHOTOS WITH SANTA!

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with us this week

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Join us for praise & worship
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.
"Come and Worship with Us"
Pastor, Hank Cayce

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

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

Marion Church of God

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

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Speaker: Greg Rushing
SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian

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

Marion Methodist Church

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

Frances Community Church

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

Hurricane Church

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

Unity General Baptist Church

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

Marion Church of Christ

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

Superintendent Mina Wheeler’s remarkable 1894 journey

Miss Armina “Mina” Wheeler was elected Crittenden County School Superintendent in November 1893. This was very unusual, especially in a time when women were not even allowed to vote. Miss Wheeler was a native of the county. She educated herself and at the time of her election was one of the best teachers in the county. At first there were those who would not vote for a woman, but when they met her or heard her addresses their prejudice vanished and when the election came and the vote was counted, she had a majority of two. Her opponent contested the election. After hearing the contest the board gave Miss Wheeler a certificate of election, and declared that she was elected by one majority.

Superintendent Wheeler made regular visits to all the county schools. She shared some of her journeys with The Press. This is one of her articles that she wrote and submitted in 1894. Even today she sounds like a remarkable and brave young lady.

Nov. 4, 1894 – The Schools as I Find Them

At ten o’clock Oct. 25, I left Marion in company with Bonaparte (was her trusty steed) in quest of those little temples of learning seen occasionally near the roadway, but more often found perched like an observatory on the brow of some overhanging hill or hiding away in some sylvan dell.

Bonaparte and I were only slightly acquainted but we began the journey with the hope – on my part at least – that we would be firm friends before it ended. What his name may have been in the past, I know not; the one he now honors was suggested by his appearance on first sight. Since becoming better acquainted I am thinking of re-christening him Gunpowder after the favorite steed of Hans Van Ripper.

We took the Morganfield road and noon brought us to Moore’s School House. We found the teacher and pupils eating dinner under the trees. We at once lent a helping hand. The school house is situated on the side of a long hill a short distance from W. C. L. Moore’s. The house is not very good; it is not very old, but was not properly built.

The district reports 58 pupils, 49 have been enrolled and a goodly number was in attendance. Some were at home with sore eyes.

The order was good, and the recitations wee interesting. Mr. E. C. Wilcox is teaching. His is very methodical in all his work. He has a neatly written programme and follows it to the minute. His school is very well graded; a few of the pupils need more books. His plan of grading on studies is a good one. He reviews Friday on lessons recited that week and grades on this review. His school records are the neatest I have yet found, but I expect to find as good when I visit his father, for in point of order and neatness, Edwin in only a “chip.”

I spent the night at Mr. Field Crider’s. The next morning, his son showed me the way to Nunn’s Switch; from there I went up, up, up to Hoods Creek School House. The house is situated on the brow of a very high hill a short distance from the “switch.” It is a primitive one built of logs. The wall is tolerably well preserved, and it is ceiled; but the floor is open and it is not well



Crittenden County’s first female superintendent, Miss Arminta “Mina” Wheeler, traveled alone with her horse Bonaparte and visited all the little county schools.

lighted. I at once wrote it down in my book under this class: “Not nearly good enough to keep and a little too good to throw away.”



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Miss Cleo Nunn is teacher, she has taught here two or there terms before. The lessons were good and the school seemed to be moving harmoniously. I noticed some of the children whispering a little; I hope they had quit doing so.

A Crittenden teacher is credited with saying: “A child should never be sent to school until he has taught a term.”

I remained long enough at noon to divide the teacher’s dinner with her, and then hurried on by the nearest and roughest route to Applegate. The school house is in Meadow Creek valley a short distance from Mr. Sam Woodsons. It is a nice new house with good furniture and a fine well of water near. The teacher told me that the children were very pleasant and obedient; they appeared so to me. I saw more good maps and diagrams made by the classes in geography and physiology.

After school Bonaparte and I were joined by the teacher, Miss Corda Wheeler and we all went together to Mr. Ira Nunn’s to spend the night. Many individuals in the county, both men and beasts, know that is a good place to stay.

I started early next morning, taking with me pleasant memories and a well filled lunch basket. My next destination was Seminary Spring. My route lay along the pretty little valley of Meadow Creek. It is a narrow valley, skirted on either side by high hills. It seems to me that woods and fields have put on brighter colors this autumn than ever before; and the valleys and hills near Tradewater, having been touched by keener frosts, were far more brilliant than I have seen elsewhere.

One hill had been swept by the cyclone of 1890. Its trees had been stripped of their branches and their tall trunks now thickly covered with short tufts of limb

and foliage and slightly curved in the direction the wind had bent them, presented the appearance of nodding plums of every conceivable line. Back through the valleys toward Tradewater, billions of fog were drifting like a soft veil being removed from the fair face of nature.

As I whirled along to the merry time of Bonaparte’s feet, and took in the shifting scene of hill and vale, I longed for the soul of a poet that I might have full enjoyment of all its beauty.

I soon reached Seminary. Mr. H. H. Powell is teaching. It is a pretty situation, a good house, and one of the best springs in the county. They have a good set of charts; but the seats are not lawful. The teacher is tireless in his efforts, and I saw some good work done by the students. I noticed only one thing that I though needed amending; a few of the children made too much noise while studying.

I had expected to take dinner with Mr. John W. Cook but finding it too late when school adjourned, and remembering my lunch basket, I started on up the Morganfield road hoping to reach Going Spring near one o’clock. As I hurried along, reins over my arm, biscuit in one hand and chicken in the other, the only thing that marred my enjoyment was the fear that some-

body would meet me while I was at dinner.

Going Spring has one of the best houses in the county. It is well supplied with patent seats and has a teachers desk. I said to Mr. Blackburn that all they lacked was a revolving chair for the teacher. Mr. W. A. Blackburn is teaching his second term at this place. He has a good school; his average last month was 43. The school was very orderly in every particular. I think for his age and experience Mr. Blackburn is an excellent teacher.

At sunset Friday evening Bonaparte and I reached Marion very well satisfied with our trip, though we had held up a fright train in the meantime. Signed, Mina Wheeler

Just reading this article written all those many years ago by Miss Wheeler is incredible when you stop and think the area that Miss Wheeler and her faithful steed, Bonaparte, covered in their two-day journey.

Back then there were more winding country roads, probably more like paths, through the countryside which would help make the journey not so long. Even though, just consider that she started her journey from Marion, her home base, she traveled first to Moore’s School, which was located near the Repton-Mattoon area, from there she went to Hood’s School, with is located on a bluff overlooking Nunn Switch, from Hoods School cross country to Applegate, which was located not too far from the Union County line on U.S 60 East, from there she made her way to Seminary School which was located on Seminary Loop Road and then from Seminary to Going Spring, which was located at Winslow Park area and then from Going Spring back to Marion.

Miss Wheeler served her four-year term 1894-1898 and was elected again for another four-year term, 1898-1901. She won over John B. Paris by 21 votes. She was a very popular superintendent and served her county well. She retired at the end of her term in January 1901.

(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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CHAMBER of
COMMERCE



Michael “Shane” TRAVIS

December 14, 1986- November 20, 2012

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Godson of Pa John & Granny;
& Many Friends



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legal notices

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court Marion, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement James Maynard of 1201 Siloem Church Rd., Salem, KY 42078 executor of Laureen Maynard, deceased, whose address was 208 Drew Maynard, Salem, KY 42078. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on December 17, 2025. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once.

Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-47-c)

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court, Marion, KY do certify that the following filed final settlement: Barry Lynn Workman and Donna Workman of 833 Blackburn Church Rd., Marion, KY 42064, co-executors of Ava Lois Belt, deceased.

The foregoing is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on December 17, 2025. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-47-c)

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 exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-47-c)

bid notice

The City of Marion KY Tourism Commission is accepting bids on a 4'x8' 10mm and a 4'x8' 8 mm RGB Electronic Message Center double face unit with 4G wireless data plan and a minimum of a 5 year warranty. Bid to include installation, excluding electricity and sign base construction. Bids must be received by December 12, 2025 at P.O. Box 174 Marion KY 42064. Contact 270-965-5015 for more information. (1t-47-c)

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

LOCAL STATE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Crittenden County Board of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education have scheduled a Local/State Board Public Hearing on the proposed Crittenden County District Facility Plan for Tuesday, December 16th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rocket Arena Conference Room, 519 ½ West Gum Street, Marion, KY 42064. (The regular meeting of the Crittenden County Board of Education will follow at 6 p.m.). The District Facility Plan lists the pending capital construction and/or renovation projects that the school district may undertake, and the priority order, if applicable, that projects will be initiated. Copies of the proposed District Facility Plan are available for examination by interested individuals at the Board of Education offices, 601 W. Elm Street, Marion, KY 42064, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. through December 16th, 2025. Questions may be directed to Superintendent Tonya Driver at (270) 965-3525. Those individuals wishing to comment on the proposed District Facility Plan may present oral or written comments at the Local/State Board Public Hearing.

The local Board of Education, after due process, will forward the approved District Facility Plan to the Kentucky Department of Education for ultimate approval by the State Board of Education.

The Local/State Board Public Hearing is being scheduled in accordance with KRS 157.620 and regulated by 702 KAR 1:001.

Crittenden Elementary Honor Roll

SECOND GRADE

Board
All As

Jaxson Hackney
Alexandria Vasquez
As and Bs
Rayha Alvey
Ryder Blackburn
Max Brown
Jase Cates
Kayden Clark
Rhett Dawson
Isaiah East
Natalie Hamblin
Shane Hunt
Emberly McLevain
Hazel Riley
Violet Rodriguez
Gabe Turner
Evander Turner

Cappello
All As

Harper Cox
Lincoln Martin
Alieah Rowley
Diesel Wood
Brodie Wright
All As and Bs
Cynthia Brown
Beau Byford
Zander Certain
Phoenix Ford
Sebastian Gutierrez
Lilly Haire
Alaina McKinley
Zephann Otosen
Mia Overfield
Matthew Payne
Caleb Stiles
Jager Tinsley
Noel Travis
Paisley Witherspoon

B. Guess
All As

Amaryllis Shewcraft
Rylan Reed
Caylie Hearrell
Harrison Schulz
Clarke Baker
Boomer Snyder
Lynnlee Clark
Bennett Hunt
Carson Hill
Jon Ross Joyce
All As and Bs
Henley Zimmer
Jolea Sigler
Nellie Singleton
Eliza Nelson
River McKinney
Chandler Epley
Emily Bryant
Jameson Watson
Quinn Maddux
V. Shewcraft
All As
Stella Cochran
O'Shea Fuhr
Everett McFarren
Grayson Robinson
All As and Bs
Addie Allen
Waylon Collins
Haven Cotton
Jack Peek

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HONOR ROLL



Serenity Todd
Gunner Watson

THIRD GRADE
Boling
All As

Cade Collins
Crea Farmer
Weston Gilkey
Jagger Renfro
Zayden Todd
All As and Bs
Madison Besaw
Paisley Glore
Karlie Hewitt
Paige Maynard
Zander McFarland
Alanna McLean
Thomas Riley
Cella Russell

McKinney
All As and Bs

Anaiya Maraman
Jayden McKnight
Kingston Myers

Orten
All As

Brady Hall
Rhett Mathews
All As and Bs
Scott Crotty
Darren Curnel
Dawson Curtis
Heaton Davis
Liam Hill
Lynleigh Hubbard
Aleciah Hudson
Bella Pierson
Bennett Sunderland

Winders
All As

Brayton Brown
Caleigh Maddux
Ruth Martinez
Charlotte Vince
Nora Waters
All As and Bs
Beckett Bebout
Lauren Boone
Ryker Burgess
Easton Burton

Will Gass
Jason Greenwell
Brighton Guess
Haven Henager
Allie Kirk
Jed Orr
Maci Paris
Kooper Wagoner

Young
All As

Rayleigh Batuang
Serenity Clifford
Keo McGuire
Nolan Schultz
Zaylie Tinsley
Jentry Wright
All As and Bs
Lilly Besaw
Matthew Millikan

FOURTH GRADE
Davis
All As

Cooper Ellington
Mckenzie Greenwell
Asher Belt
Jake Morse
Chloe Cates
Koleson Tinsley
All As and Bs
Hayden Atwell
Anna Beth Blackburn
Gunner Smith
Raelynn Forsythe
Owen Flahardy
Arrow Jent
Elizabeth Dunbar
Hadlee Henager
Leeland Rasdall
Boone Tabor

Harris
All As

Madison Winterrowd
Ayden Oliver
Chase Winders
All As and Bs
Connor Buchanan
Leighton Bumpas
Grayson Congenie
Sadie Gobin
Beckett Hunt
Annalese Maraman

Joelle Russell
Chiles Trail
Aiden Vasquez

Parker

All As and Bs
Lyrlei Batuang
Arianna Conner
Felicity Galloway
Colton James
Cael McFarren
Jemma O'Neal
Hadley Sherer
Cassius Souvongkham
Ivy Thacker
Adalyn Tinsley
Bryar Whittington

FIFTH GRADE
Jones
All As

Kayson Atwell
All As and Bs
Madison Winterrowd
Ayden Oliver
Chase Winders
Logan Alexander
Asher Blake
Braylen Brown
Trinity Clifford
Stevin Cox
Omar German
Macy LaRue
Chelsey Lynch
Londyn Newcom
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All As

Hudson Cummins
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Collin Hardesty
Jordyn Champion
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Jayden Wesmoland
Jaleigh Tinsley
Jasely Guess

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for
article & BJ
May's work

To the Editor,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Chris Evans for the outstanding front-page article published in the Nov. 6, 2025 issue of The Crittenden Press. Your coverage highlights the incredible contributions of BJ May, whose efforts have significantly benefited the people of Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell counties.

BJ May, who worked for Reynolds Aluminum, demonstrated remarkable dedication when the company shut down and sold its property in the 1990s. Despite no official obligation, Mr. May was granted access to Reynolds' documents at their headquarters in Pittsburgh, where he personally spent his own time and resources to copy more than 70 years of vital records. This included leases, drill logs, contracts and other important documents related to Reynolds' operations in Crittenden County and the surrounding areas.

What BJ May accom-

plished was nothing short of invaluable. His efforts preserved a wealth of historical and geological information that might have otherwise been lost forever. Today, this information is crucial as industries look once again into the potential of fluorspar, minerals and rare earth elements. His work laid a foundation that continues to benefit our community and industry today.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge other key individuals like Warren Anderson, a distinguished UK teacher and head of the Kentucky Geological Survey, who are working to support and advance industry in Marion and our surrounding counties. Their commitment, alongside BJ May's invaluable contributions, underscore the importance of preserving and using our local resources for the future.

Thank you, Chris Evans, for shining a light on these remarkable efforts and for recognizing the importance of those who work tirelessly behind the scenes for the betterment of our community.

Bill Davidson
Marion, Ky.

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NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 8.51 Acres - \$199,900

This 8.51+/- acre property with shop, utilities, and open ground in Crittenden County, Kentucky is a great investment or business location with plenty of space for expansion and equipment.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 20.50 Acres - \$100,450

This 20.5+/- acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers diverse timber, food plot potential, established trails, and excellent deer and turkey hunting habitat with build site opportunities.

NEW! Crittenden County, KY – 30.91 Acres - \$151,459

This 30.91+/- acres in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers prime deer and turkey hunting with food plot potential, diverse timber, trail system, and build site opportunities.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 13.42 Acres - \$649,900

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.

Crittenden Co. KY 401.50 Acres - \$2,290,000

401+/- acres in Crittenden County with a 4BR lodge, proven hunting history, food plots, blinds, creeks, pond, and diverse habitat managed for trophy deer and turkey. Turn-key and ready to hunt.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!
With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and multiple lodges with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity! A part of this listing is under contract – contact agent.

Crittenden Co. & Webster Co. KY 159.913 Acres - \$499,000

This 159+/- acre property in Crittenden and Webster Counties includes a 2BR home, garage, 2.35 miles of Tradewater River frontage, WRP habitat, blinds, food plot sites and proven hunting history.

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$288,200.00

Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$357,000.00

Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$520,725.00

Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400.00

Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600.00

Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - \$2,243,750.00

Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - \$3,016,450.00

These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 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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HOSPITAL

Continued from page 1
million in 2024, driven by expanded services, employment growth and increasing regional reliance on local healthcare.

Since affiliating with Deaconess in 2022, Livingston Hospital has added specialty clinics, strengthened its financial position and broadened access to outpatient care.

County Attorney Allen Wilson moderated Monday's announcement, which included remarks by CEO Whittington, Board Chair Barry Chittenden, Judge Williams, USDA State Director Travis Burton and Congressman Comer, whose office assisted throughout the USDA financing process.

Chairman Chittenden said the hospital has come a long way in recent years and saluted the work of its foundation towards this milestone.

"This is something most of us will only see once in a generation, and it represents the most transformative step in our hospital's history," Chittenden said.

Comer said the hospital is an economic engine for the entire region and explained his trust and



These two architectural renderings show an overview of the planned new hospital and its front entrance. It will be located on the hospital's U.S. 60 campus in Salem where the first facility opened in 1954. Salem is a town in western Livingston County with a population of about 700.

reliance on a hospital in his home county, telling a story about his late mother's desire for the hometown care she received there over being a "big city" hospital.

"They're your friends, your family, your neighbors," he said. "And when we have an issue with our health, knowing your nurse and doctors makes a difference."

Whittington noted the hospital's

long history in the region, opening its doors in 1954 and remaining a steady and dependable healthcare provider for 71 years. He also highlighted the impact of Livingston Hospital's 2022 affiliation with Deaconess, which has helped strengthen operations, expand services and improve access to care.

Marion alcohol sales more than \$1.9M last year

STAFF REPORT

An analysis of Marion’s monthly alcohol tax and license fee receipts since the city went wet in 2019 shows that – aside from January, which is always inflated because annual license renewals are included – late summer consistently produces the strongest alcohol sales.

August ranks as the highest month on average, generating roughly \$7,500 in receipts, which translates to more than \$150,000 in alcohol sales. June follows closely behind at just over \$7,100 in receipts, reinforcing a clear early- to mid-summer peak in local alcohol spending.

On the other end of the spectrum, July is surprisingly the weakest month of the year. Even though it sits in the middle of the summer season, July averages just \$5,300 in alcohol receipts – the lowest of any month. Local officials say a cursory review of July’s figures indicate that perhaps some of that month’s sales were paid late, rolling them into August. However, historically, August figures appear normal.

December, May and September round out the upper tier of Marion’s typical sales months, each averaging between \$6,500 and \$6,900 in receipts. The pattern shows Marion’s alcohol economy reliably building through the spring, peaking in early and late sum-

Annual Sales | Other Data

Here is information on receipts from Marion’s alcohol tax and alcohol license fee since alcohol sales became legal in the summer of 2019. The data show tax receipts collected by the city, the percentage of increase over the previous year and an estimate of all alcohol sales in the city for each year since 2019.

Year	Tax Receipt	% Increase	Est. Sales
2019	\$12,700.91	n/a	\$254,018
2020	\$71,577.36	463.56%	\$1,431,547
2021	\$80,514.09	12.48%	\$1,610,281
2022	\$86,082.50	6.91%	\$1,721,650
2023	\$89,782.45	4.29%	\$1,795,649
2024	\$95,140.45	5.96%	\$1,902,809
2025	\$67,026.97	n/a	\$1,340,539

mer, and then rising again during the holiday season.

In 2025, after a sluggish midsummer, Marion’s alcohol tax and license-fee revenues have rebounded sharply in the final months of 2025, positioning the city to finish the year slightly ahead of last year’s pace. A reverse calculation of sales – based on the city’s 5 percent regulatory fee – shows just how dramatic the late-year turnaround has been.

Through the first half of 2025, monthly receipts largely trailed 2024. February and March both came in lower than the previous year, and by July the slowdown had deepened.

Marion’s Alcohol Tax & Licesne Fee Receipts

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January		\$8,050.47	\$8,913.91	\$9,030.00	\$9,879.52	\$12,551.52	\$12,550.19
February		\$3,935.57	\$5,041.89	\$8,023.00	\$8,442.14	\$7,287.39	\$6,059.56
March		\$3,859.66	\$5,449.06	\$5,646.00	\$5,684.57	\$5,825.57	\$5,588.66
April		\$4,423.59	\$6,090.19	\$6,236.00	\$6,286.12	\$7,400.07	\$6,335.48
May		\$5,854.39	\$6,455.80	\$6,553.00	\$6,633.48	\$8,472.03	\$6,764.10
June		\$7,942.36	\$6,209.13	\$6,987.28	\$7,543.02	\$7,013.53	\$7,344.18
July		\$6,209.13	\$6,205.10	\$6,940.31	\$7,247.73	\$7,497.69	\$3,077.74
August	\$600.00	\$7,640.55	\$8,637.98	\$9,252.52	\$9,383.57	\$8,330.67	\$8,680.63
September	\$596.72	\$6,143.43	\$7,077.83	\$6,202.48	\$6,272.55	\$8,559.28	\$10,626.43
October	\$3,407.66	\$5,793.60	\$6,120.14	\$6,856.58	\$7,779.80	\$6,694.76	
November	\$2,819.87	\$5,905.22	\$7,313.06	\$6,930.15	\$6,829.82	\$7,451.24	
December	\$5,276.66	\$5,819.39	\$7,000.00	\$7,425.18	\$7,800.13	\$8,056.70	

The city collected just \$3,077.74 in July, translating to approximately \$61,500 in sales – one of the lowest months since Marion approved alcohol sales in mid-2019. The closure of Mulligan’s bar and restaurant at the golf course likely contributed to some of the decline.

That downward trend reversed sharply in late summer. August receipts climbed to \$8,680.63, equal to more than \$173,600 in sales, and September surged to \$10,626.43,

or an estimated \$212,500 in sales. It was the highest September on record and nearly \$2,100 more in receipts than the same month last year.

Although final figures for October through December 2025 are not yet available, early trends suggest the city is tracking above last year’s pace. For comparison, Marion collected \$6,694.76 in October 2024, \$7,451.24 in November, and \$8,056.70 in December, amounts that translate to monthly sales in the range of

\$134,000 to \$161,000.

Since the city went wet in 2019, alcohol-related revenue has generally climbed each year. Annual receipts rose from about \$13,000 in the partial year of 2019 to more than \$95,000 in 2024. In accordance with Kentucky law, the city is only allowed to use its receipts from the alcohol tax and fees for law enforcement, regulation and administration of the local Alcohol Beverage Control effort.

Crittenden County Detention Center



DETENTION CENTER REPORT

November 20, 2025

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count is an average for last month.

- Federal Inmates \$57 Per diem
- State Inmates \$35.34 Per diem
- Lyon County Inmates \$36.00
- Other County Inmates \$40.00

LAST MONTH CASH FLOW	
Total Receipts	\$189,825.67
Disbursements	\$292,608.33

JAIL CENSUS	Oct 2025 Avg	Sept 2025 Avg	Montly Average 2024
State Inmates	84.5	87.9	75.38
Federal Inmates	53.3	52.2	67.69
Other County Inmates	21.5	27.7	21.82
Critenden County Inmates	18.1	18.4	19.86
TOTAL INMATES	177.4	186.2	184.75
Highest Daily Count	195	198	195.67
Lowest Daily Count	166	182	178.75

Last Month	REVENUE	October 2025	September 2025	Montly Average 2024
State Housing Payments		\$92,590.80	\$93,191.58	\$81,220.16
Federal Housing Payments		\$94,164.00	\$89,319.00	\$116,235.25
Federal Transport Payments		\$9,654.40	\$8,413.69	\$13,566.71
Lyon Co. Housing Payments		\$22,680.00	\$26,856.00	\$21,399.00
Other County Housing Payments		\$440.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,802.17
Weekend/Work Release		\$1,040.00	\$560.00	\$477.33
TOTAL HOUSING		\$220,596.20	\$221,220.27	\$234,709.79

Last Month	ANALYSIS	October 2025	September 2025	Montly Average 2024
Cost of Crittenden Inmates		\$22,440.00	\$22,080.00	\$19,290.67
Numbers of Co. Housing Days		561	552	602.83
County Daily Housing Rate		\$40.00	\$40.00	\$32
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates		18.1	18.4	19.86

Judge Rogers headlines luncheon

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will host a Lunch & Learn with Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers at noon Thursday, Dec. 4 at Farmers Bank. Rogers will discuss her journey

to the Family Court bench and the broader economic impact of family stability on local communities.

Tickets are \$15 and include a build-your-own pasta bar. They can be purchased through the

Chamber’s website or by scanning the QR code on promotional materials around Marion. Seating is limited.

The Lunch & Learn is sponsored by Edward Jones and H&H Home & Hardware.

CHARGES

Continued from page 1

\$100,000 bond. They are scheduled for arraignment Dec. 11 in Crittenden District Court.

Under KRS 507.040, a person is guilty of second-degree manslaughter when they wantonly cause the death of another person. If convicted, the two defendants could face 5 to 10 years in prison.

Elder’s drug-related death was one of three attributed to fentanyl overdose in Crittenden County in the summer and fall of 2023.

A Crittenden Press article published in Feb. 2024, which gained statewide and national attention for its reporting on the local spike in deadly fentanyl cases, highlighted those deaths and the broader impact of illicit opioids on rural communities.

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OCTOBER 2025

Activity Report

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

	2024 Oct.	Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	6	7.6
Complaints	51	66.8
Papers Served	55	53.0
Unsuccessful Service Attempts	21	5.5
Total Service Attempts	144	104.1
Transports	3	4.3
Special Detail	127	58.7
Training Hours	153	41.1
Verbal Warning	10	24.4
Courtesy Notice	1	—
Criminal Citation	11	17.7
Officer Assist	13	5.7
Building Checks	65	50.6
Total Manhours	979.5	832
Bailiff Court Hours	184	86.7
Cases Opened	4	8.0
Felony Arrests	6	8.8
Followup Investigations	16	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	3	10
Motorist Assists	3	8.3
DUIs	0	2.5
Traffic Citations	4	14.1
General Policing	207	156
Call for Service	37	21

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EMS

Continued from page 1

at Crittenden Community Hospital. Under the bid notice, the new contract would take effect Jan. 1, 2026, with annual reaffirmation required each April. Either party may issue a 180-day termination notice.

Bidders were asked to price three staffing alternatives: expanded daytime coverage with two units for part of the day, reduced daytime coverage, or one advanced life support ambulance operating around the clock with on-call backup.

ComCare submitted three options, all centered on one ALS ambulance staffed 24 hours a day.

Its highest-coverage proposal, Alternate 1, includes a second ambulance from 8 a.m., to 6 p.m., and an on-call crew overnight. The subsidy request is \$685,000 a year.

Alternate 2 maintains the 24-hour ALS crew but limits the second truck to an 8 a.m., to 4 p.m., shift with on-call coverage afterward. That plan carries a \$650,000 annual subsidy.

Alternate 3 offers the lowest daytime coverage. It provides one 24-hour ALS ambulance with an on-call crew at all hours,

also at \$650,000 annually.

ComCare also offered an optional \$50,000 annual add-on for county-wide ambulance replacements but recommended the county continue to own its fleet.

A second bidder, AmeriPro Health, which currently serves Caldwell County, submitted three proposals, each including a fully staffed ALS ambulance operating around the clock. The company told the fiscal court its pricing includes ambulances, insurance, fuel and all operational costs, and its model does not include an on-call crew. The proposal would also rely on mutual aid from Caldwell County.

The lowest-cost plan offers one ALS unit staffed by a paramedic and EMT 24/7 at \$491,284 per year.

A second option adds a basic life support ambulance staffed by two EMTs for 10 hours a day, five days a week. That plan totals \$685,472 annually.

AmeriPro’s largest plan adds a Basic Life Saving (BLS) crew for 12 hours a day, seven days a week, bringing the annual cost to \$901,665, or \$75,139 per month.

AmeriPro also suggested in its bid that an interlocal agreement

could be considered between Crittenden and Caldwell counties. Otherwise backups could be provided through a simple mutual aid agreement.

Crittenden County will likely reconsider an ambulance tax on property owners, something it explored a few months ago before scrapping the idea and raising taxes elsewhere. By statute, counties can create an ambulance board and taxing district with the authority to levy a tax up to 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. A 10-cent tax would generate less than \$500,000 annually.

This calendar year, Crittenden County has supplemented ComCare in the amount of \$382,000. The EMS provider had told the county that it has lost more than \$100,000 under the current contract.

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Crittenden County Lady Rockets basketball team for the 2025-26 season includes (front from left) Georgia Holeman, Elliot Evans, Anna Boone, Bristyn Rushing, Chloe Hunt, Andrea Federico, (back) head coach Shannon Hodge, coach Bristyn Prowell, manager Brianna Walker, Sarah Grau, Abigail Champion, Adri Berry, Morgan Stewart, Jordyn Hodge, Brenna Kemmer, Brodi Rich, managers Erin Korzenborn and Kiley Hunt and coach Jessie Johnson.

Stellar crew seeks immortal destiny for Lady Rockets

STAFF REPORT

For the last several years it has felt as though the Lady Rocket basketball team has spent more time reloading than rebuilding. Its credentials speak volumes as to the heralded leadership of 33-year skipper Shannon Hodge, who has built something of a small-school dynasty amid Goliaths like Henderson and Christian counties.

One of the very few small, rural schools to earn a trip to the Sweet 16 over the past quarter of a century (back in 2011), Hodge's Lady Rockets seek some measure of immortality this season. Ranked No. 2 in the Courier-Journal's preseason poll, it would be meteoric if Crittenden County could pull off another magical march to March by running the gamut and getting to the KHSAA Girls' Basketball State Tournament again – 14 years beyond its last modern miracle. But that's the goal.

Whether manifest destiny is prescribable for this year's Lady Rockets remains to be seen, but one thing is for certain – Coach Hodge believes she has the stuff to do it.

The team is led by former Second Region player of the year Anna Boone, who has a legitimate shot to become the school's career scoring leader. She's flanked by backcourt bracers senior Elliot Evans and sophomore Jordyn Hodge (the coach's daughter). Senior forward Andrea Federico is a special athlete with strenth of a bull (she will play collegiate softball next fall) and deft 5-11 senior Bristyn Rushing at the pivot. Behind her is junior Morgan Stewart who can move mountains in the paint.

Also, off the bench on the perimeter are guards senior Georgia Holeman, who has been clutch at times in her career, and freshman Abigail Champion, whose basketball pedigree is as firm as it gets. Adri Berry, a newcomer last year, has found her way and is expected to be a key contributor at forward.

"We have high expectations and don't want any regrets," Coach Hodge said. "This team could win a lot of basketball

games. We have a chance to get back to the All "A" and a legitimate shot at the region at the end of the year. If we keep everyone healthy and improve in certain areas we can be pretty good."

Hodge wants her team to set the tone when it takes the floor.

"The pace at which we play has to be determined by us, not our opponent. I think we are going to be tested right off the bat this season with a challenging schedule and be able to see if we can meet our high expectations," she said.

The Lady Rockets will play Marshall County, McCracken County and Calloway County in December – the top three teams in the First Region based on preseason polling. They also will face Breckinridge County, Henderson County, Christian County and Madisonville on the non-district schedule.

"We want to reach the next-level, not where we finished last year, and we are capable of doing that."

Here are some vignettes from Coach Hodge's comments on players who will fill key roles this season.

Anna Boone

She has become so versatile on both ends of the floor, able to guard the perimeter or bigs. She can play 1 through 5. She's a veteran who knows how to take over a game. She is such a great passer and sees the floor so well. "We are expecting huge things from her on both ends in every category," Hodge said.

Jordyn Hodge

The point guard has grown taller and stronger, and her confidence has increased because of that. She has improved her ball-handling and become a better shooter. "We have to have her at her A-game defensively," Coach Hodge said. "She has the potential to put up big numbers for us offensively."

Elliot Evans

"She is the dawg – D.A.W.G. Elliot makes things happen on both ends of the floor," the coach said. Evans is the energy for the team's defense. "She's our spark plug. She is the point of our press

and rebounds the ball well, coming out of nowhere to get on the boards." Evans is playing a lot stronger this year and has confidence with the ball, her coach said.

Andrea Federico

She is stout as an ox," the coach said, and operates as the "enforcer" around the bucket. She is the team's best communicator and is the quarterback from the back of the zone. "I think we'll see some bigger numbers out of her offensively," Hodge said. "We need her to have 10 or 12 points every night."

Bristyn Rushing

Hodge says Rushing can be an elite rebounder. Her confidence is growing offensively and she can shoot the three. "She is more aggressive," Hodge said, and has been getting a number of deflections during preseason games.

Morgan Stewart

"She's a banger and so strong," said the coach. Stewart has a nose for the ball and piles up offensive boards. Early off the bench, the coach calls Stewart the team's "sixth starter."

Georgia Holeman

"When she comes in, she's always around the ball and makes positive things happen," the coach said. Holeman shoots well all the way out to beyond the three-point line and adds speed on the defensive end.

Adri Berry

A soccer injury hampered her start, but she's pickup up steam, the coach explains. "She has great instincts, is quick and she will mix it up with the biggest bear anywhere. She makes things happen," Hodge said.

Abigail Champion

An explosive player off the bench, Champion can score off the bounce and is capable of getting to the rim. "Her 15-foot and 3-point shots have improved greatly from last year," the coach said.

Chloe Hunt

A senior, Hunt has undergone three surgeries on her knees and despite major challenges is holding out hope for some type of return this season.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY LADY ROCKET BASKETBALL ROSTER 2025-2026

Anna Boone	2	Sr	5-10	G
Elliot Evans	22	Sr	5-7	G
Andrea Federico	20	Sr	5-7	F
Georgia Holeman	15	Sr	5-5	G
Chloe Hunt	34	Sr	5-6	G
Bristyn Rushing	25	Sr	5-11	F
Morgan Stewart	4	Jr	5-9	F
Adri Berry	14	So	5-5	G
Jordyn Hodge	11	So	5-6	G
Abigail Champion	12	Fr	5-6	G
Sarah Grau	32	Fr	5-3	G
Brenna Kemmer	24	Fr	5-5	F
Brodi Rich	40	Fr	5-3	G

Head Coach: Shannon Hodge. Assistant Coaches: Bristyn Prowell, Jessie Johnson. Managers: Brianna Walker, Kiley Hunt, Erin Korzenborn.



Dec. 2 Caldwell County
Dec. 4 at Marshall County
Dec. 6 at Breckinridge County
Dec. 9 McCracken County
Dec. 12 at Livingston Central
Dec. 13 vs Calloway Co. at McCracken
Dec. 16 Lyon County
Dec. 18 at Carlisle County
Dec. 23 at Union County
Jan. 3 Mayfield
Jan. 5 at Dawson Springs
Jan. 13 Trigg County
Jan. 16 Livingston Central
Jan. 20 St. Mary
Jan. 22 at Hopkins Central
Jan. 24 at Caldwell County
Jan. 30 at Lyon County
Feb. 3 at Trigg County
Feb. 5 Christian County
Feb. 7 Union County
Feb. 10 Hopkins Central
Feb. 12 at Henderson County
Feb. 14 Hopkinsville
Feb. 17 at Madisonville
Feb. 20 McLean County



Lady Rockets chasing scoring history

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's girls' basketball program could make history this season, not just with wins, but with points. The Lady Rockets have their sights set on becoming the winningest team in history, and they're well primed and loaded under 33-year head coach Shannon Hodge.

Seniors Anna Boone and Elliot Evans and sophomore Jordyn Hodge are all climbing the Lady Rockets' all-time scoring list. Boone currently ranks third with 1,754 points, Evans sits at 932, and Hodge, in just her third varsity season, already has 654.

Taylor Guess, now playing at Lindsey Wilson University, is the all-time scoring leader with 2,643 points.

If Evans and Hodge each reach the 1,000-point milestone this winter, it would mark the first time in school history three active players on the same team have scored 1,000 or more career points.

Boone, a starter since middle school, continues to close in on former standout Cassidy Moss, who is second on the all-time list with 1,829 points.

Meanwhile, Evans is within striking distance of the top 10, and Hodge – younger sister of Jessi Hodge, a 2011 senior – is poised to continue the family legacy. That 2011 season was also the only time Crittenden won a regional championship, a goal this year's squad has firmly set in its sights.

With three potential 1,000-point scorers leading the charge, the Lady Rockets may be on the verge of another special run.

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MEMBER FDIC





Members of the Crittenden County Rocket basketball team for the 2025-26 season are (front from left) coach Brian Farmer, head coach Kenny Jackson, Dalton Murray, Logan Martin, Brady Dayberry, Brayden Poindexter, Jay Stevens, Michael Counts, manager Addie Morries, (back) statistician Lance Kayse, Junior Cowsert, Hayden Hughes, Hunter Collins, Caden Hutchison, Eden Bryant, Roane Topp, Joel Bumpus, Conner Poindexter, Emmitt Ellington, Jayden “JJ” Jones, Jack Porter, Drake Young and coaches Neal Bryant and Coley Rogers.

New skipper helps Rockets restart with fresh slate in rebound season

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County enters the 2024-25 high school basketball season with something far more valuable than returning stats or last year’s record: They have a new identity forming under first-year head coach Kenny Jackson.

A 1993 graduate and former Rocket himself, Jackson steps into a program that struggled mightily last season, finishing without a win. However, he brings with him both a demanding off-season plan and the personal investment of someone who has lived the highs and lows of Crittenden County basketball.

The process of rebuilding won’t happen overnight, Jackson admits, but he has made it clear that this group will be known for its conditioning, toughness and willingness to play the right way for four quaters.

“That’s the only way I know how to do it,” said Jackson, who has previously been very successful coaching the state’s Christian school division.

Jackson’s first priority since taking the helm has been reshaping the team’s physical standard. He pushed his players hard during offseason workouts, emphasizing stamina, determination and the ability to finish a game with the same engery it started on.

“That’s how we intend on beating teams,” Jackson explains and adds that success will be measured in growth and development.

One of the biggest individual developments so far has been the emergence of point guard Logan Martin, a player who saw action in only half of the varsity games last season, but has taken advantage of a fresh start under Jackson. The coach describes Martin as someone who put in real work over the summer and earned the staff’s trust by consistently making the right read. Jackson values a point guard who doesn’t over-dribble or try to play hero ball, and Martin has shown the decision-making needed to steady an offense that struggled a year ago.

Junior Brady Dayberry averaged 1.2



Jackson

Courier-Journal's PreSeason Rankings SECOND REGION

1. Lyon County, 2. Hopkinsville, 3. Henderson County, 4. Hopkins County Central, 5. Union County, 6. Christian County, 7. Madisonville-North Hopkins, 8. University Heights, 9. Webster County, 10. Livingston Central.

points last season but much more will be expected from him this go round. Dayberry will play multiple spots, including the 3, 4, and even some at center. Because of his versatility, Dayberry will be a key component in the Rrocket plans this winter.

Sophmores Drake Young and Jack Porter are working at two-guard spot and will both be part of the regular rotation. Young was last year’s leading scorer with 195 points and a team-high 52 made threes. Coach Jackson calls him a “great shooter” and one of the smartest players on the team.

Porter scored 34 points last season and is a strong attacker who’s at his best getting downhill and challenging the rim.

Sophomore Emmitt Ellington scored 38 points last winter and averaged 1.6 rebounds per game across 20 appearances. His size and length give him upside on the wing, and he has made strides as a catch-and-shoot perimeter player.

Coach Jackson singles out freshman Roane Topp as one of the most improved players entering the season. Initially hesitant and uncomfortable with contact, he’s transformed into a physical competitor who dives on the floor and battles around the rim, Jackson said. He will play the 4 and possibly some 3, where his midrange touch and willingness to shoot the three give him versatility. Topp is expected to be part of the rotation from day one.

Senior Brayden Poindexter was one of the most productive players on last year’s team, leading Crittenden County in rebounding at 5.8 per game and finishing third in scoring with 136 points. Coach Jackson expects him to ease back in after football as he works his way into basketball shape, but his physicality and consistency remain major assets.

Another football player, senior Jay Stevenson is back on the court after an abbreviated impact last season. Coach

Top Returning Scorers

Player	PPG
Drake Young	7.8
Brayden Poindexter	7.0
Emmitt Ellington	1.9
Conner Poindexter	1.5
Jack Porter	1.4
Junior Cowsert	1.4
Brady Dayberry	1.2

Jackson likes his ability to come in and steady things, and he’s expected to be part of the regular rotation.

Sophomore Jayden Jones is expected to help off the bench this year as a guard who can give short bursts of energy and handle the point.

Also transitioning from football is a big body in the paint, senior Michael Counts. Jackson calls him a “Rodman of high school basketball” type – a big fellow whose purpose is to box out, set solid screens and rebound.

Sophomore Conner Poindexter played in 24 games last year and contributed 36 points with 48 rebounds. The staff views him as one of the smartest players on the team, and he will see time primarily at the 3.

Freshman Caden Hutchison will play significant minutes at the 3 or 4. He has good size at 6-0 and provides a young, but strong physical presence. Another youngster is eighth-grader Kash Myers, who has a world of potential. He will join the team when middle-school season ends and will likely see some time at the 1 or 2.

Newcomer Joel Bumpus is an athlete who made great strides on this fall’s football team. Jackson likes what he can bring physically to the floor.

Junior Dalton Murray appeared in eight games last season, scoring 12 points. He has a good long-range shot, the coach said.

Freshmen Matthew Counts, Eden Bryant and Hunter Collins are players who will help provide additional depth that Jackson believes will be a key component in this season’s squad.

A couple of other guys who are nursing injuries could eventually be impact players once fully recouparated. Freshman Hayden Hughes injured his wrist in football and will miss the first few weeks of season. Sophomore Junior Cowsert, who played seven games last year, is out with an ACL tear.

ROCKETS SCHEDULE

- Dec. 2 at Webster County
Dec. 4 vs. New Covenant Christian Academy at Marshall County
Dec. 5 at Fort Campbell
Dec. 6 at Hickman County
Dec. 8 at Hopkins Central
Dec. 9 Union County
Dec. 11 at Foundation Christian
Dec. 12 at Livingston Central
Dec. 13 at Russellville
Dec. 16 Lyon County
Dec. 18 at St. Mary
Dec. 23 at Murray
Jan. 2 Mayfield
Jan. 6 Heritage Christian
Jan. 13 Trigg County
Jan. 16 Livingston Central
Jan. 17 at McLean County
Jan. 24 Whitesville Trinity
Jan. 26 Caldwell County
Jan. 27 Foundation Christian
Jan. 29 at Dawson Springs
Jan. 30 at Lyon County
Feb. 3 at Trigg County
Feb. 5 at Heritage Christian
Feb. 6 Fort Campbell
Feb. 9 at Caldwell County
Feb. 12 Hopkins Central
Feb. 13 Webster County
Feb. 16 at Union County
Feb. 17 Dawson Springs

ROCKET ROSTER

30	Brayden Poindexter	Sr	6-2
12	Jay Stevenson	Sr	6-0
32	Michael Counts	Sr	5-9
20	Logan Martin	Jr	5-9
10	Brady Dayberry	Jr	6-1
23	Dalton Murray	Jr	5-8
2	Jack Porter	So	5-11
15	Junior Cowsert	So	5-7
1	Emmitt Ellington	So	6-1
21	Conner Poindexter	So	5-10
13	Drake Young	So	5-9
11	Jayden Jones	So	5-7
5	Roane Topp	Fr	5-11
4	Eden Bryant	Fr	6-0
25	Matthew Counts	Fr	5-11
3	Joel Bumpus	Fr	5-9
22	Hayden Hughes	Fr	5-11
24	Hunter Collins	Fr	5-9
14	Caden Hutchison	Fr	6-0
0	Kash Myers	8th	5-10

Head coach Kenny Jackson. Assistant coaches Coley Rogers, Neal Bryant, Michael James, Brian Farmer and Lance Kayse, statistician. Managers Addie Morries, Grace Vinson.




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