



The Crittenden Press

History of Marion Mailcarriers | See Underdown Page 6

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

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

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TWO DOLLARS

Court street closed this week for delivery

Court Street in downtown Marion between West Carlisle and West Bellville streets is temporarily closed this week as contractors for the new Crittenden County Judicial Center take delivery of steel for the project. The closure will run through Friday, Oct. 17. Access to the Farm Bureau parking lot will remain open.

Halloween on Main

Trick or Treat on Main is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31. The event will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m., in downtown Marion.

Youth Camp Road closed

Youth Camp Road will be closed to traffic through Oct. 22. The road closed earlier this week as crews repair several areas of base failure in preparation for paving. While motorists will still be able to access either Irma White Road or Tom Hill Road from one end of Youth Camp Road, normal routes may be altered during the work period.

2 weeks left of evening light

Enjoy your warm, sunny evenings while they last, as they will largely disappear in just over two weeks when Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks fall back one hour at 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 2. After that, days – and your evenings – will seem much shorter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Marion City Council will meet Monday, Oct. 20 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20 at city hall.
- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20 at city hall.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21 at the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27 at the Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28 at the courthouse.
- Livingston County Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28 at the county office complex in Smithland.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30 at the library.

LISTEN ONLINE - Monday | Thursday

Have you heard The Press News Podcast? Our news and sports program is on Mondays and Thursdays. Find it two mornings each week at The Press Online.



The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Art of a Town



Stepping behind the murals to know E-Rod, the woman behind the brush

STAFF REPORT

Motorists and pedestrians in Marion and across Crittenden County have admired colorful murals splashed across public walls, from a soaring American flag on Main Street to vibrant other works across the community. But many may not know the artist behind the brush.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, a lifelong Crittenden Countian and art teacher at Crittenden County Middle and High School, has quickly become the most visible artist in town. Her work spans schools, parks and civic spaces, blending creativity with a deep sense of place.

Rodriguez, formerly Elizabeth Kirby before her marriage nearly a decade ago, comes from a family well rooted in service and education. Her parents are Brian and Kay Kirby. Her mother spent years teaching in the local school district, working with students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Her father began his career at Johnson's Furniture and Appliance before moving into the school system's maintenance department, where he now serves as director.

On her mother's side,



grandfather Leonard Pyle was once assistant superintendent and high school principal. Her grandmother, Janell Pyle, was an accomplished artist who painted fine china and gave lessons that would spark her granddaughter's early creativity. Rodriguez credits her grandmother's influence for much of her artistic foundation.

Last month, Rodriguez laid the foundation for a National Arts Honor Society in local schools. She's building the program from the ground up, and local school leaders wholeheartedly endorsed the plan at the September Board of Education meeting.

Public service also runs through her father's family. Her late uncle Bob Kirby wore the badge as a Marion police officer and also had worked as a park ranger in Henderson.

Art and service have always been a part of her family tree, Rodriguez admits.



Her own path wound through unexpected turns. Before returning home to teach art six years ago, she worked as a paramedic in Madisonville. Today, she is shaping the next generation of young artists in her classroom and beyond while her murals shape the community's landscape.

Her first large-scale projects came in the summer she joined the school system. Tasked with brightening the high school cafeteria, she filled its walls with a welcoming scene featuring bold colors and school mottos. The effort soon spread to the elementary cafeteria,

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Expect county tax bills later this month

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's 2025 property tax bills will be mailed Monday, Oct. 27, with collection beginning Saturday, Nov. 1.

According to the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department, 6,740 tax bills totaling \$4,288,741.76 in anticipated revenue have been prepared for distribution to property owners.

The largest portion of property tax revenue, \$2.37 million, is designated for the Crittenden County School District, followed by

\$549,162 for the state, \$525,458 for county government, \$230,107 for the public library, \$211,042 for Extension services, and \$138,064 for the health district. Miscellaneous taxing entities, including 911 dispatch, fire dues and the Lower Tradewater River Flood Protection district, account for \$264,633.

Sheriff Evan Head officially acknowledged receipt of the bills Monday from County Clerk Daryl Tabor. The sheriff's office will begin collecting payments Nov. 1 at the

courthouse and a 2% discount will be granted for those paying in November. Face amount is due starting Dec. 1 and bills are delinquent after Dec. 31.

For each of the past three years, the sheriff's department has collected about 97 percent of total tax bills before turning unpaid accounts over to the county clerk on April 15 for certification as delinquent.

As of this week, only 1.4 percent, or 94 of 6,765 bills from the 2024 cycle, remain uncollected.

City continues push against blighted properties

STAFF REPORT

City of Marion is continuing its push to address blighted and unkept properties, with its Code Enforcement Board and officer Tanya Byers leading the effort. The board met Monday to hear updates on ongoing enforcement cases and held a public hearing that resulted in fines being upheld against a North College Street property owner with a history of violations dating back more than two decades.

Byers told the board that October had been another busy month for code enforce-

ment, with 24 new properties added to the city's watch list and 17 issues abated since the last meeting. She said there were fewer final orders this month simply because of the timing of the meeting.

"Next month might be a heavy list," she said, noting that many cases are coming due soon.

Eleven final orders were issued in September for property owners who did not contest their citations and failed to make repairs.

See **BLIGHT** /page 4

No charge at the end

Over the weekend, I received an invitation from the Missouri School of Journalism to participate in a national survey about the state of obituaries in local news. I was glad to take part. The study, according to the researchers, will be among the first to closely examine how obituaries are handled within the modern newspaper ecosystem, a worthy subject if ever there was one.

Here in Marion, we're proud of our enduring and purist policy when it comes to obituaries. At The Crittenden Press, obituaries should be free. Period.

As I've often said, the dash is up to you, that's the dash between your birth and death years on a tombstone. What you do in between determines whether you have a greater story worth telling. If you do great things, that's generally written up, too. And news is always free. If you are involved in nefarious things, you'll likely find your name in the news pages. The greatest thing about this job is we get to write about our friends and neighbors. The worst thing about it is that we oftentimes have to write about our friends and neighbors.

The start and finish – birth and death – are fundamental moments that mark the circle of community life, and those announcements should always be free.

We used to publish quite a few birth notices, but those have mostly faded away as people share baby photos and announcements on social media. Unfortunately, social media isn't history, it's fleeting. Facebook recently warned that older posts, unless downloaded, would soon be deleted permanently. Those snapshots of life, those tiny family milestones, will vanish into the digital abyss. Newspapers chronicle and archive them, and you can find those files at your local library or even digitized online.

When your Facebook post gets a little age on it and "bytes" the dust, so too does a piece of our collective memory. A century from now, finding Grandma's birth or death information online may be as hopeless as trying to find out what happened to Jimmy Boy who sat behind you in first grade. That's the danger of leaving our history to algorithms and cloud storage instead of the printed page.

Here at The Press, we offer free standard obituaries. We get calls all the time from grieving families or funeral homes who've been shocked by what other publications charge. We don't charge a penny for photos either, a rarity these days. Some newspapers, even ones just down the road, demand hundreds of dollars for an obituary. Yes, hundreds. Around \$300 to \$400 is not unusual.

If a family wants to write an extended personal history of a loved one, a full, detailed tribute, we do have an option for that, and it might cost as much as \$50. But the standard obituary – that notice of a life lived, de-

See **OBIT** /page 3



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

Deaths

Jamison

James Patrick “Pat” Jamison, 86, of Marion, formerly of Beardstown, Ill., died Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation.

He was born on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 1939, in Beardstown, the son of the late Frank Arthur and Frances Louise Bowman Jamison. He graduated from Beardstown High School in 1957. After graduation, he began his lifelong career working on the inland waterways. Jamison also served in the U.S. Army for two years before returning to the river. Up until a few years ago, he was still actively working as an accomplished pilot. He was well known for his catfish ponds and honeybees, where he raised delicious fish and honey that he shared with his family.

In addition to his parents, Jamison was preceded in death by his wife, Opal Naomi “Honey” Jamison; brother, Gene Jamison; sisters, Mary Francis Jamison, Francis Jamison Burns and Peggy Jamison Ross; and sister-in-law, Jean Jamison.

Survivors include his brothers, Larry (Sue) Jamison, David Jamison; Tom “Jud” (Meredith) Jamison; sister, Nancy (Paul) Beck; stepchildren, Betty Cruce, Danny (Barbara) Browning, Linda Edwards and Janie (Rick) York; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 19, at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m., at the

funeral home with Bro. Gary LeNeave officiating. Burial will follow in Mapleview Cemetery.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Damron

Ronnie “Chicago” Damron, 63, died Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at Dawson Health and Rehabilitation in Dawson Springs.

He enjoyed singing, playing pool, dancing, spending time with family and telling jokes.

Surviving are three sisters, Pat Garrison of Chattanooga, Tenn., Charlotte Jones of Salem, and Caddy Groendal of Paducah; a brother, Elmer Damron of Salem; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Jimmy Damron, David Damron, Scotty Damron and Norris Damron; three sisters, Tammy Damron, Adrian West, Henrietta French and Phyllis Holloman; and his parents, Ralph and Dorothy (Churchwell) Damron.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Oct. 14 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Howard Jones officiating. Burial was at Lola Cemetery.

Condolences may be left online at [boydfuneral-directors.com](#).

Harris

James Dale “Jimmy” Harris, 79, of Marion, died at his home on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025. He was a retired correctional officer with West Kentucky Correctional Complex. He loved classic cars and especially drag racing his 1966 El Camino at Paducah Raceway.

Surviving are his wife, Connie Moore Harris of Marion; a daughter, Lee

Ann (Rad) Hunsley of Dyersburg, Tenn.; two sons, Tony (Brandi) Harris of Marion and Joseph Harris of Marion; eight grandchildren, Logan, Cody, Kielee, Abby, Zade, Carley, Evan and Caleb; four great-grandchildren, Raelynn, Remi, Dax and Ellie.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Christene Jennings Driver; his father, Albert Harris; his stepfather, Dago Driver; and two brothers, Charles Harris and Donald Harris.

Funeral services were Sunday, Oct. 12 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial to follow in Fredonia Cemetery.

Tramel

Steve Tramel, 69, of Marion died Monday Oct. 13, 2025 at his home. He was born April 3, 1956 to the late Fred and Marilyn Tramel in Evansville. He was employed at Peabody Coal Company for 38 years. He also was a school monitor for several years for Crittenden County School System. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was a 1974 graduate of Crittenden County High School.

Surviving are his loving wife of 50 years, Francis Tramel; two sons, Paul Tramel (Frances) of Marion and Josh (Allison) Tramel of Marion; a daughter, Amanda (Casey) Jones of Marion; a sister, Susan (Mike) Turner of Virginia; two brothers, David (Laverne) Tramel of Danville and Daniel Tramel of Evansville; 15 grandchildren, Chelsea Reed, Catie Tanner, Cayden Tramel, Chaun Tramel, Jazmyne Tramel, Mason Tramel, Lacey Tramel, Katni Bauer, Hunter Jones, Maddie Jones, Addison Steward, Ava Lefler, Danika Lefler, Matthew Tramel, Makinnah Tramel; and 16

great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Julie Haraughtery and Debbie Elder.

A visitation service is from 4-8 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 16 at the Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis. Memorial contributions Shriners Children’s of Lexington 1120 Conn Terrace Lexington, KY 40508.



Crittenden County
Animal Clinic

SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Crittenden County Animal Clinic performs surgical procedures including spays, neuters, a variety of small animal surgeries castrations, enucleations, lacerations, dentals and extractions.

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Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 16

• Line dancing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

Friday, Oct. 17

• Ohio River Baptist Association will have Revival services starting at 7 p.m. at Potter's House Baptist Church located at 881 Cutoff Rd., Smithland.

Saturday, Oct. 18

• Ohio River Baptist Association will have Revival services starting at 7 p.m. at Marion Baptist Church located at 881 Cutoff Rd., Smithland.

Monday, Oct. 20

• WITS Workout will begin at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.

• The 4-H Geology Club will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

• Top 10 Soft Skills to Success starts at 5 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Service.

• Time will spent starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Service.

• 4-H Horse Club meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

• Walk in the Park starts at 3 p.m. at Crittenden City-County Park.

Bring Home the Beauty of Fall

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Bontrager Mums

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Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-Dark



**Nevin
Byler
Mums**

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Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-Dark



Byler Mums

Rooster Lane

(house on right just before Family Butcher)

Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-Dark

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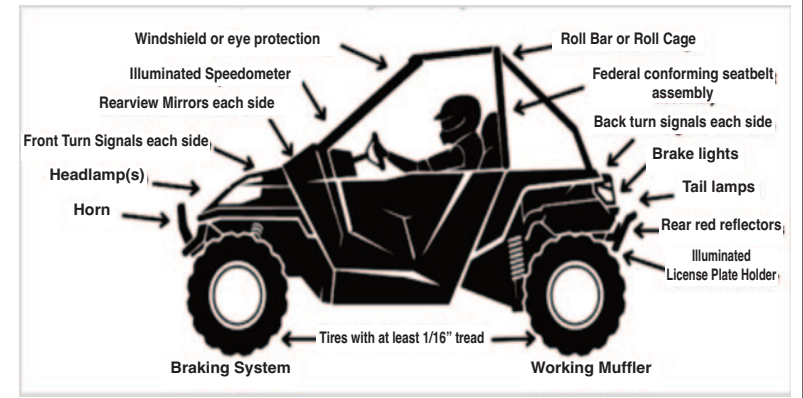
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Off-Road Rigs

Now Approved in Crittenden County

Crittenden County Fiscal Court in its September meeting gave final approval to an ordinance allowing special vehicles on local roads and highways. Street legal special purpose vehicles must meet a series of requirments. Among those requirements are physical attributes as outlined below.



Getting street legal can be costly option

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden Fiscal Court has joined neighboring counties in approving an ordinance that allows certain special vehicles to operate legally on local roads, following the passage of a new state law earlier this year. Magistrates gave final approval to the measure at their September meeting, clearing the way for side-by-sides, UTVs, mini trucks, certain military vehicles and other designated rigs to be licensed for street use, provided owners meet a long list of requirements.

The state legislation, Senate Bill 63, became law on March 26 and took effect June 27. It permits local governments to adopt ordinances allowing “street-legal special purpose vehicles” on highways within their jurisdictions. Livingston County and several others have already opted in.

Under Crittenden’s ordinance, special purpose vehicles are prohibited from U.S. 60, U.S. 641, and any highway where the existing state or federal law prohibits their use. They also cannot be driven more than 20 miles on any highway with centerline pavement markings. Mini trucks are specifically barred from highways built with federal funding.

To take advantage of the new rules, owners must follow all state and county requirements. Vehicles must carry insurance, display a license plate, and be registered through the county

clerk’s office just like cars and boats. Property taxes will apply, and if the rig was purchased privately rather than through a dealership, sales tax may still be owed. Before licensing, that 6% tax must be paid.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor says only three of these type vehicles have been registered in the county so far. Several other individuals have inquired at the clerk’s office about licensing; however, once they find out details and expense, they have typically shown less interest, the clerk said.

Vehicles also have to be outfitted with safety equipment that meets state standards. That includes a roll bar or cage, functioning headlights, brake lights, turn signals, rearview mirrors, an illuminated speedometer and license plate holder, a horn, braking system, working muffler, and tires with sufficient tread. Drivers must hold a valid license.

With the ordinance now in place, residents who want to ride their side-by-sides and other qualifying rigs on county roads can do so, as long as they meet every legal requirement. Those who cut corners could face fines or see their vehicles barred from the road.

This change puts Crittenden in line with other western Kentucky counties where demand for legal road use of UTVs and similar vehicles has been growing.

Looking for a home

Comet has had a rough life. He was found abandoned in LBL, barely surviving. He was literally skin and bones. Despite his dire circumstances, he has been the best boy! His tail never stops wagging. He loves people, other dogs and doesn't even mind cats. We can't believe he hasn't been adopted yet. Come check him out at Mary Hall Ruddiman and give him a chance for the Best Life, for the rest of his life!



OBIT

Continued from page 1

tailng predeceased and surviving family and a community member lost – is and always will be free in The Crittenden Press.

We believe births and deaths belong in the public record of community life. They are part of the great ongoing story of who we are.

And while I’m at it, I’ll say this: You can thank your local funeral directors for helping keep obituaries free. They are consistent ad-

vertisers in this newspaper, and their support, combined with the loyalty of local readers and businesses, helps us keep the doors open and the ink flowing.

In these trying times for community journalism, that’s something worth appreciating. The history of a community shouldn’t depend on who can afford to pay to be remembered.

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

Small businesses struggling for labor

Small business confidence dropped in September, ending a three-month streak of improvement, according to the latest National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) survey.

The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index fell two points to 98.8, though it remains slightly above the 52-year average of 98. The Uncertainty Index rose sharply, up seven points to 100 — one

of the highest readings in more than five decades.

“While most owners evaluate their own business as currently healthy, they are having to manage rising inflationary pressures, slower sales expectations, and ongoing labor market challenges,” said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg.

NFIB State Director Tom Underwood said Kentucky businesses are experiencing similar headwinds.

“Small business owners need predictability, but right now there are a lot of questions about costs, the supply chain, and labor,” he said.

Fourteen percent said inflation was their biggest problem, and 18% cited labor quality, both topping the list of concerns. Thirty-two percent reported job openings they could not fill.

From the fields to foundries

Crittenden’s values timeless

BY ROBERT ORDWAY

There is something to be said about the resiliency of folks from Crittenden County. The county’s population peaked in 1900, and little economic development has occurred since the decline of the tobacco industry and fluorspar mines, which were completely replaced by foreign imports in 1985, the year I was born. There is one thing that has transcended both space and time, however, and that is the timeless principles of Western Kentuckians. Although I was raised more than 300 miles north as a second-generation Hoosier in the heart of steel country, I can attest that the rural way of life continues to inform and influence my behavior.

After the Lewis & Clark Expedition was completed, my ancestor Sgt. John Ordway (a member of the military expedition) relocated from New Hampshire to New Madrid, Mo., and recruited family to join him. After the earthquakes of 1811-1812, his widowed sister-in-law, Elizabeth, quickly remarried and moved to Piney Fork in the newly created Caldwell County. Her oldest son, Daniel Jr., is buried in the Hill Cemetery in Fredonia along the most northern route of the Trail of Tears, where he lived to see along with the Civil War. Within a decade after slavery was abolished, the area became almost entirely white.

During their 150-year residency, Ordways migrated north along Route 641 but no further than Marion. With the exception of a few livery stables, an ice store, and a machine shop, the vast majority of my predecessors were farmers. The Press tracks their movements over the years, attending church, weddings, birthday parties and funerals, among other community events.

They were steeped in the Agrarian Tradition, where economic, social and political systems centered on agriculture as the primary means of existence. This way of life was popularized by Wendell Berry in Henry County, Kentucky. Still, agrarians from the 1930s warned southerners about how work in the industrial north eroded culture in pursuit of titles, status and materialism. This agrarian focus on faith, family, and community is the glue that kept Ordways rooted in such practices; however, economics would force change upon them.

It wasn’t until the Second Industrial Revolution at the turn of the 20th century that the mechanization of agriculture took off. My great-grandfather, Virgil Ordway, was forced to pull one foot out of the family farm in Crayne and put it into the spar mines shortly after the Black Patch Tobacco Wars. Industrial life would be challenging, as organized labor did not arrive in the area until after the Second World War started. Environmental protections for both workers and the land were still decades away.

In 1960, The Press reported that 10 years earlier (in 1950), the mine business was finished, and men only had two options for employment: go to Gary, Indiana, or find another mine in Eastern Kentucky. After returning from the Korean War, Papaw Hollis saw that Crittenden was unchanged. It was then



that he headed north for a job at U.S. Steel, where he worked at Sheet & Tin for 33 years.

He and Mamaw (Virginia) brought their values and lifestyle north. After years of renting in the City of Gary, they bought a very modest 864-square-foot house in neighboring East Gary (renamed Lake Station), which had a southern feel with its greenways and blueways. They resided in the last house on a dead-end street next to both woods and sand dunes. It was here that the Ordways recreated their Kentucky life, complete with a big yard where they plants, oak, walnut and pine trees. In addition, they had a white tin shed, a small red barn shed, a burn barrel, and a seasonal garden, which they shared with their neighbors.

Northerners called all white southern migrants “hillbillies” due to their accent and dialect, but the folks of western Kentucky are “flatlanders,” with an identity very different from their Appalachian counterparts. Their history and oral narratives are best captured in the book *Southern Migrants*, Northern Exiles by author Chad Berry, now a Vice President at Berea College.

Even though The Press advertised that more than 50 Crittenden County migrants attended a Baptist Church in East Gary, my grandparents fell away from the faith for a time. Instead, Papaw found community through his membership in the United Steelworkers Union (USW).

Both my dad and I were raised in that little house where the culture remained fully intact. Mamaw and Papaw would retire back to Crayne in the late 1980s, a common practice among many Kentuckians, as the north was never home for them.

After living with my grandparents for a year between 1987-1988, I would visit every summer until I was 12. Given the intimate nature of The Press, my arrivals were noted by the paper twice. While I never looked forward to working in the family garden at Aunt Mary’s house on Lily Dale Drive, I enjoyed our visits with locals like Dean Akridge at his supply store. Mamaw even promised trips to the toy aisle of Walmart in the “big city” of Paducah if I’d let the local barber shop cut off my rat tail.

I didn’t know it at the time, but I noticed a tension between a Southern Culture of Honor and a Northern Culture of Dignity when it comes to what proper behavior looks like within one’s family and the greater community. My rite of passage into manhood was a strict standard set by dad and foreign to peers of my childhood. The convergence of high-speed internet, smartphones and social media, as well as the breakdown of the traditional family unit, has significantly eroded such practices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I delivered the commencement address at my alma mater, River Forest, a school that was quickly established in the late 1950s due to rapid southern white migration. My speech was

based on wisdom given to me in 2005 by my (late) great uncle Charles Aldridge of Marion. He said, “never be ashamed of what you do for a living,” and “never forget where you come from.” Those phrases have never left me, and one thing I noticed about Ordways is that they never chased materialism or status, yet they live much longer and happier lives than folks in the north.

While I split time between Gary and Indianapolis today, my last eight years were spent in Washington, D.C., mostly working in Congress. It was there that I read “The Fall of Kentucky’s Rock: Western Kentucky Democratic Politics since the New Deal.”

To summarize the book, local TV, radio and newspapers have been eroded by technology, and now all our media comes from Washington. With places like Cave-In-Rock, Western Kentucky was once a dangerous frontier. Some industrial development came after but the people never really prospered as commerce moved away as more rail lines traversed new routes. FDR’s Works Progress Administration (WPA) helped the locals build roads, which they would later use to leave. At the national level, political elites erased what little economic activity there was, looked down on their religious convictions, and some dared to label such a group with “white privilege.” This caused Crittenden’s political views to pivot, but in the Jackson Purchase, voters did an about-face after 200 years of being named the state’s “gibraltar of democracy.”

For thousands of years, human customs and practices were shaped at the local level through a bottom-up approach, rather than by overeducated individuals in a faraway land with one-size-fits-all solutions, which lack input from a community’s unique lived experiences. While we might not always agree with our local media, outlets like The Press are critical to facilitating local community conversations as they are far more productive than having arguments with strangers on the internet.

Mamaw often said to “make do or do without” and reminded me not to become “too big for my britches” in my successes. Papaw and Dad also contributed to my development by encouraging me to think for myself and problem-solve through expectations like, “Son, figure it out,” and rhetorical questions such as, “Son, do I have to draw you a picture?” It is those actions, that put principles into practice, which have enabled me to become a contributing member of society. They may appear simple to the outsider, but the values of Crittenden County are timeless. It has been said, “You can take the boy out of Kentucky, but you can’t take the Kentucky out of the boy.” For dad and me, Kentucky was always at the center of our being and I am fortunate to have such an upbringing.

Robert Ordway is a senior policy advisor, speaker, and writer. He grew up on “the color line” of Gary, Indiana. Robert is a first-generation college graduate with a background in finance. He writes about working-class life, public policy, and the American Dream.

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of September 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month’s totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year’s monthly average.

CATEGORY	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	3,599	3,392	2,512	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	13	6	10	150	12.5
Domestics	11	8	7	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	4	6	4	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	15	5	2	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	8	8	7	112	9.3
DUI arrests	0	0	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	1	1	4	51	4.3
Traffic citations	13	26	17	212	17.7
Other citations	31	14	16	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	1	9	5	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	5	9	4	69	5.8
Security checks/alarms	69	71	61	720	60.0
Calls for service	210	196	207	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY



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Another filing signals 2026 election plans

Another Crittenden County incumbent has officially filed an intent to spend campaign funds in 2026, signaling his plans to seek re-election. Todd Perryman, Crittenden County Property Valuation Administrator, joins four other local office holders who have filed similar paperwork with the state. The others are Jailer Athena Hayes, County Attorney Bart Frazer, County Clerk Daryl Tabor and Sheriff Evan Head.

WKWB offering to help pay for new employees

West Kentucky Workforce Board is offering on-the-job training funds that can cover up to half of a new employee's wages, a boost designed to help local businesses hire and train young adults ages 18-24. The initiative, "Putting Young Kentuckians to Work," is open now through June 30, 2026, or until money runs out. Under the program, participating employers can receive reimbursement for up to 50% of a trainee's hourly wage for as many as 480 hours of full-time work. Eligible positions must be 30 hours or more per week and pay \$14.30 to \$24.57 an hour. Wages above that range are allowed, but the match is capped at 50% of \$24.57.

The effort targets Kentucky residents ages 18-24 and aims to offset the cost of onboarding by pairing businesses with candidates who are ready to work, or by enrolling an employer-identified, qualified young adult. Organizers say paperwork is minimal so companies can start training quickly.

Area businesses can connect with regional liaisons to begin the process. For the Pennyrile Area, contact Tom Sholar at 270-886-9484 or tom.sholar@ky.gov. For the



Purchase Area, contact Mary Anne Medlock at 270-519-7662 or marianne.medlock@ky.gov. Additional program information is available at wkworkforce.work.

"Putting Young Kentuckians to Work" is funded by the Kentucky General Assembly and administered by the West Kentucky Workforce Board. The program provides equal education and employment opportunities, auxiliary aids and services are available for individuals with disabilities.

Businesses and young workers interested in the on-the-job training option can learn more and apply through the regional contacts or the WKWB website. With reimbursement available during the training period, and positions required to be full time, the program is intended to help employers grow their teams while giving young adults a paid pathway into the workforce.

Atmos offers tips for coming winter

Atmos Energy is reminding customers to prepare their homes for the upcoming winter season with its "Winter Warm-Up Checklist." The company said the checklist provides simple steps to ensure natural gas service remains safe, reliable and efficient during cold weather.

Atmos Energy encourages customers to confirm that their natural gas service is active before temperatures drop, activate text alerts for service updates, and schedule inspections of gas piping and appliances. The company also recommends checking smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and keeping gas meters

clear of snow and ice.

Although natural gas remains more affordable than electricity, Atmos warns that bills can rise during extreme cold due to higher usage. Customers can reduce costs by conserving energy and upgrading to high-efficiency natural gas appliances, which may qualify for rebates in select states.

For safety, Atmos reminds customers: Smell gas, act fast. Leave the area immediately if a leak is suspected, then call 911 and Atmos Energy's 24-hour emergency line at 866-322-8667.

More information is available at www.atmosenergy.com

CCHS offering trip to Japan in 2027

Crittenden County High School is inviting students and families to take part in an educational adventure to Japan in spring 2027.

Dr. Derrick Ford, English teacher and Horizons Study Abroad sponsor, said the trip will provide an unforgettable opportunity for students to explore new places, experience a different culture, and gain independence and confidence.

An informational meeting about the trip will be held at 5:30 p.m., Oct. 23, in the CCHS Library. Families interested in learning more about the itinerary, academic opportunities, trip costs and how to reserve a spot are encouraged to attend.

Those planning to join the meeting should RSVP online at <https://bit.ly/491v0d3>

EF Tours, the school's travel partner, will handle the travel arrangements. Ford said EF has years of experience helping students safely and affordably explore the world.

Parents are also welcome to join the trip.

*Between Printed Editions
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for breaking news.
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our YouTube Channel.
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After frost, sorghum pastures turn risky

Each fall, prussic acid poisoning is a real concern for Kentucky livestock producers, especially those who grow and graze their animals on sorghum-based forages like forage sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass and johnsongrass. By taking proper precautions, you can prevent prussic acid poisoning in your animals.

Prussic acid poisoning occurs when livestock graze sorghum-based pastures shortly after the field experiences a traumatic event, such as frost. These forages can accumulate high levels of cyanide-producing compounds in their outer cells. Further inside these plants are enzymes that can convert the compounds into the poison. Frosts cause plant cells to rupture, which allows cyanide-producing compounds and enzymes to mix. If consumed by livestock, the compounds will interfere with how their bodies

use oxygen, and it can rapidly result in death. Ruminants are especially susceptible to prussic acid poisoning, because they have enzymes inside of their rumen that are also capable of converting the cyanogenic compounds into the poison.

Do not allow your animals to graze fields containing sorghum-based forages for five to seven days after a frost, even if it's patchy. If a killing frost occurs, do not allow the animals to graze the pasture at least seven days following the frost. With time, the forage can dry down and prussic acid is reduced via volatilization.

You can cut sorghum-based forages for hay after a frost, but make sure the hay is properly cured before baling. During the curing process, prussic acid volatilizes and renders the forage safe for livestock feeding.

In most cases, you can ensile sorghum forages for baleage, because the ensiling process reduces cyanide compounds in the forage. Delay feeding the baleage six to eight weeks after ensiling to allow the fermentation process to finish and toxin levels time to decrease. If your forage has partic-

ularly high toxin levels at ensiling, you should have the baleage tested before feeding it to livestock.

Regularly test your soils and apply nutrients according to recommendations. Soils that are high in nitrogen and low in potassium and phosphorus have a higher potential of causing plants to produce prussic acid.

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

You can contact Ag Agent Dee Brasher Heimgartner at the Crittenden County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources office at 1534 U.S Hwy 60 East in Marion, by calling 270-965-5236 or emailing to deanna.brasher@uky.edu.

BLIGHT

Continued from page 1 Those owners are now accruing daily fines up to the legal maximum before liens are placed on their properties.

Byers said she continues to develop a comprehensive inventory of empty or problematic properties.

"We don't have the funds to fix every problem in Marion," she said, "but a good list would be a start."

Such a record would allow the city to better prioritize properties that pose the greatest safety risks.

Through the first two weeks of October, \$735 in code enforcement fees had been collected.

The board also heard several case updates, including one involving a property on East

Depot St., next to Scott Tabor's residence that may soon change ownership. Tabor has filed numerous complaints about the home next to him, which he has said unliveable. A separate complaint involving a home on West Elm St. remains under review.

The most extensive discussion came during a public hearing for a n unoccupied home on North College St. The property was cited as a public nuisance for overgrown weeds, piles of rubbish and a crumbling retaining wall spilling into the sidewalk.

Byers said the property has a long history of issues, with documentation dating back to 2001. She said she restarted the process after taking over the position in April and that

the city has received numerous complaints about the vacant home.

"It's dangerous," Byers told the board, pointing out that the owner is focusing on minor infractions rather than seeing the overall condition of the home.

The owner, who says she recently retired, appeared before the board to appeal the fine. She said she had been working on cleanup efforts, cutting branches, hauling debris and mowing the yard. She attributed some of the materials in the yard to recent porch construction and said she was separating usable lumber from trash.

Board members acknowledged the property owner's efforts, but noted that the condition of the structure remained unsafe.

"It has just been let

go. I'm sorry, but that's the only way I can put it," said Board Chairman Larry Hurst.

After discussion, the board voted to uphold \$185 in fines and fees, dismissing only a \$25 penalty related to having a visible address on the front of the home.

The owner was granted two additional weeks to make progress before further penalties accrue.

The ruling may be appealed to Crittenden County District Court.

City officials have been saying that a broader push to code enforcement is needed to clean up the town. The effort, they emphasized, is not only responding to complaints but also identifying long-neglected properties with health and safety concerns.



From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago

First- and second-graders at Mattoon Elementary School showed off their new Alpha One reading program in this 1975 photo. The program, purchased by the Mattoon PTA, was being used in grades one and two under the direction of teacher Phyllis Sykes. This photo was originally published in The Crittenden Press in October 1975.

10 YEARS AGO

October 15, 2015

■ Hazel Robinson and Beverly Hearell had spent years archiving and preserving local history for the Early Bird. Their work included compiling binders filled with newspaper clippings, photographs and writings that captured the community's past. Together, they created a lasting record of stories and memories that kept Salem's history alive for future generations.

■ Allison Ball, GOP candidate for Kentucky treasurer, visited Marion during her campaign and toured the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. Growing up in eastern Kentucky's coal country, Ball expressed her fascination with geology and the museum's mineral collection. She was joined by Fred Stubblefield, vice chairman of the Crittenden County Republican Party, and her campaign assistant.

■ Josh Orr, 39, successfully filled his tag by harvesting a 6x6 bull elk while hunting near Manchester, Ky. Nearly 40,000 people applied each year for only about 1,000 elk hunting tags, making Orr's accomplishment a rare achievement. He described the hunt as an unforgettable experience after years of applying.

25 YEARS AGO

October 19, 2000

■ U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield secured a \$300,000 grant for the Crittenden-Livingston Water District, giving the county the chance to apply for additional federal funding to extend water lines. Superintendent Donnie Beavers said the project would boost local growth and provide much-needed infrastructure, especially near the airport and Industrial Park. Leaders praised the funding as a vital step toward improving the area's economy and quality of life.

■ Ronald McDonald House Charities awarded a grant to Crittenden County Head Start, providing funds for new preschool reading materials. A check was presented by Kathy McEnaney, owner of Marion McDonald's, to teachers and students. The donation was to help encourage early literacy and strengthen the program's educational resources.

■ The Crittenden County third- and fourth-grade little league team remained undefeated, showcasing outstanding performances from Gaige Courtney, who had 71 yards rushing, and Travis Condit, with 61 yards rushing. Meanwhile, the fifth- and sixth-grade team fought hard in their game, with notable touchdowns from Mason Clark and impressive defensive plays and interceptions by Tyler Harris.

50 YEARS AGO

October 16, 1975

■ Donna Robinson represented Crittenden County 4-H at the Kentucky Youthpower Food Conference. Robinson said the conference provided valuable information about different types of food industries.

■ Mrs. Carolyn Guess and Mrs. Rose Mary Baker volunteered to tutor in the parent tutoring program at Marion Elementary School. Both assisted Henry Walton and Brian McKinney in staying abreast of their school subjects.

■ Don Thomas, a Rocket senior, was named player of the week for his performance in the Crittenden game against Reidland. Thomas earned the award after being out with an ankle injury but returning to do an outstanding job. He carried the ball 10 times for 58 yards in the Rockets' offensive attack.

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

The Crittenden Press

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The selfishness of speaking your mind

Speech is crucial to a functioning society. We engage in dozens of types of speech: political, social, private, and institutional, as well as subcategories of each of these. Every word we say has a purpose or exposes a part of us. Every word we say shares information about our view of the world. Every word influences our context and the people around us.



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

Speech works best when everyone involved understands the context and the appropriate language to use. Most of us use different registers depending on our audience. When the register and the context do not fit, it not only creates a barrier but sometimes creates a lack of confidence in one's competence.

All types of speech, however, reveal our character. Any type of speech can be arrogant or humble. There is a tendency in our society today to value transparency – this is a good thing. However, transparency can sometimes be a cover for being undisciplined in our speech. It is good to be a truth-teller. However, being a truth-teller as a device to tell others “What they need to hear” in a context that creates unnecessary conflict or embarrassment is self-centered and immature.

Any type of speech can be delivered with the goal of building up or tearing

down. There are some things I like to keep in mind with my speech. In my experience, these are hard to do. They have, over time, become easier, or rather more natural, as I have sought to move these thoughts from rules to keep in mind to making them a part of who I am. I still fail often – ask my family.

Speaking the truth in love is not the same as speaking your mind to make a point about another's behavior or character. Speech that is directed toward resolving a problem or correcting behavior must be done with the other person's good in mind. Getting things off our chest is best saved for confession or venting to a trusted friend. The goal is to help everyone grow. In the Christian context, Paul said in Ephesians 4:15-16, “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.”

Similarly, Colossians 4:6 says, “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.” Honesty is necessary, but we do not always have to tell everyone what we think all

the time.

Speaking your mind may let others know where you stand, but it may leave you standing there alone with lost opportunities. The only way words can move successfully from one person to another accurately is if the speaker and the hearer are not moving away from each other. Proverbs speaks of “fools,” which means one who is not ready to hear what is being said. It doesn't matter how true or needed a word is if the recipient is unable to hear. Proverbs 23:9 says, “Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.”

On the other hand, there are times when speaking one's mind is evidence of a lack of self-control. We can use speech to make a situation better or worse. Proverbs 15 is the well-known reminder that, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Thinking before we speak is always good. “To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!”, and “The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil

things.”

There are also times when it is best to wait. I believe that too many adults have put too much information into the heads and hearts of our children. There are things that we need to know to be able to function as adults or to do our jobs, but our children do not because they are not mature enough or experienced enough to handle them. This is selfish on the part of anxious adults.

The context of Jesus talking to his disciples is clearly different, but the principle holds. He said to them in John 16:12-13, “I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Let us all be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. These things make for growth and peace.

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

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



People need us to tell them about faith in Jesus

Question: I know I need to encourage others to repent and turn to Jesus with their needs for forgiveness of sin. I'm thankful someone shared God's message of forgiveness with me, but fear of disapproval and rejection keeps me from talking about Him to others. How can I get up the courage to share my faith with others?

Answer: First, you need to have the biblical truth firmly embedded in you that faith in Jesus Christ is the only solution for the penalty of sin—eternal death. The Bible says, “For all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23) and “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

Second, you should accept that our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His followers to share how He loves every person so much He died on the cross to pay for his/her sin debt. Unfor-

tunately, many Christians “rarely” or “never” talk to anyone about their faith in Christ. Jesus commissioned His followers to “Go and make disciples” (Mt. 28:19). This has always been His plan.

If you have experienced forgiveness of your sins by faith in Jesus Christ, someone shared God's message of love and invited you to receive Him as your Savior and Lord. Now it is your responsibility to tell others, too. Faith in Jesus isn't just received; it's meant to be shared. Now is the time to act. Don't wait for the perfect time or opportunity, just do it and God will bless your effort. Successful sharing doesn't depend on the results; it's all about being a faithful spokesperson for our Master

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.
- Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.

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St. William Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father Joji 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.
"Whatever It Takes"
Bro. Jamie Baker
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220

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
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

Crayne Community Church

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

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
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 -

Citizens paved the way for home delivery in 1929

Did you ever think about how long Marion residents and businesses have had the opportunity have their mail delivered to their front door? It is rather interesting to read about how it all got started, the people that backed it, and how it affected our present day street names and even your house number, if you lived in town. From the archives of The Crittenden Press, this information was found. It all started from The Press editor at the time, Wm. P. Hogard.

May 11, 1928 – Mail Delivery for Marion

W. P. Hogard, editor of The Press, had this in his column. While I am talking about new things for Marion I'll say that we have a chance to get mail delivery service. Congressman Gregory has written me that if we want it he will make an effort to get the post office department to install city delivery service. He suggests that everyone who lives in Marion write W. V. Gregory Member Congress and Fred M. Sackett, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. and tell them that you want carrier service.

It will help a lot if you will, and it will only cost you two cents. Remember what Josh Billings said about the postage stamp. "That its usefulness consisted of its ability to stick to one thing until it got there."

June 22, 1928 – Marion May Have City Mail Delivery

Lyman H. Sides, post office inspector from Paducah, was in Marion Wednesday in the interest of helping Marion people obtain city mail delivery service.

Mr. Sides discussed this matter with Postmaster V. O. Chandler and others. It was decided that the outlook was very favorable for Marion having this service within the near future.

The inspector and Mr. Chandler went over the city investigating the condition of the streets and sidewalks, which should come up to a certain standard before city delivery is established.

If Marion is to have this service, which is practically assured although



Those living within the city limits were required to get their mail from the carrier or else obtain a box at the post office.

no official steps have been taken, mail will be delivered over the town twice each day. Either one or two carriers will be employed for this work, but final details are to be worked out later.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

April 19, 1929 – Marion May Have Village Delivery

Citizens sign petition to be sent to Washington. Reports made regarding mail delivery.

Within the near future it is hoped that village delivery of the mail will be established in Marion. V. O. Chandler, postmaster of the Marion office, wrote some time ago to Senator Sackett regarding the inauguration of this service here.

Senator Sackett advised that recommendation and reports from Mr. Chandler and from the local post office inspector, Lyman Sides of Paducah, be filed with the department in Washington.

These reports show that the Marion office meets all requirements in postal receipts, and other matters. Upon a request from postal authorities in Washington, a petition has been circulated this week, and signed by over 300 Marion citizens asking that this service be granted Marion. Resolutions favoring the proposal are being passed by most of the town's civic bodies.

The City Council some time ago passed an ordinance binding the city to number the houses and to provide proper street crossings along the route.

Senator Alben Barkley and Congressman W. V. Gregory had written Mr. Chandler, assuring him of their interest in the matter.

According to plans there will be two mail deliveries each day. The service to be used in Marion is designated as Village delivery until it has been in use three years. After that time it is called City delivery by the postal department. Carriers will be under civil service regulations.

May 10, 1929 – Streets named, Houses Numbered

Marion will soon have city mail delivery, according to Postmaster V. O. Chandler, who has received a notification from the Post Office Department in Washington stating that as soon as the city meets certain definite requirements of that department the free delivery of mail will be established in Marion.

City council is having signs bearing the name of the streets placed at each street intersection, and each house along the routes will be correctly numbered and equipped with a mail receptacle.

Mr. Chandler will notify Washington authorities when Marion has fulfilled these requirements.

It is expected that there will be two mail deliveries each day and that practically the entire town will be reached by this service.

Sept. 27, 1929 – Village Delivery Starts Tuesday.

John Wm. Chandler appointed carrier, one delivery to be made daily. Village delivery of mail in Marion will be inaugurated Tuesday, Oct. 1, it was announced by Postmaster V. L. Chandler this week.

John William Chandler has been appointed as carrier. One delivery of mail will be made each day. Leaving the post office at 8:50 a.m. the

residential section of the town will be served. The delivery of mail to the business section of Marion is to be made in the afternoon, with the carrier leaving the post office at 1:30 o'clock.

In keeping with the U. S. postal regulations, Mr. Chandler states that the carrier will not have postage stamps for sale. These must be obtained from the post office. No package or letter with insufficient postage may be accepted by the carrier. All letters given the carrier for mailing must bear a two cent stamp. This includes "drop letters," which formerly went for one cent or one cent and a half.

Must Patronize Delivery

Those living within the city limits must get their mail from the carrier or else obtain a box at the post office. No mail will be given out general delivery, except to transients and those not living within the city limits, whose post office is Marion. (General Delivery is a service offered by the United States Postal Service that allows you to receive mail if you do not have a permanent address.) An exception to the above regulation may be filed with the postmaster, and if accepted, that person or person, may obtain their mail from general delivery.

These rules, Mr. Chandler announces, are all U. S. postal regulations, and must be adhered to strictly.

It is said that if the village delivery proves popular at a later date, city delivery will be established with a great number of deliveries through a section of the city daily.

Oct. 18, 1929 – Street Fair to Celebrate

To celebrate the completion of three of Marion's new concrete streets and the nearing completion of another, new street names and house numbers, in conjunction to help Marion get village delivery of mail, the Parent-Teachers Association held a street fair for everyone to enjoy.

One block of Bellville Street from Main to Court was roped off and a series of booths constructed for the use of the various committees who had charge of different parts of the program.

At noon a barbecue dinner was served in the

court house yard and throughout the day refreshments could be purchased at a number of stands.

At some of the booths games and contests were conducted, while one of the features of the day was a motion picture at the Kentucky theatre.

The largest crowd of the entire program was the attendance at the Old Fiddlers Contest. First prize was awarded to Everett Brewer while second prize went to Jonas Rushing. In the square dances people participat-

ed with the dances called by Byrd M. Guess of Freddonia.

Once again Marion's citizens worked together and got things done and then celebrated together and had a good time.

(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).

NOTICE

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2% Discount 11/01 – 11/30/2025
Face Amount 12/01 – 12/31/2025
5% Penalty: 01/01 – 01/31/2026
21% Penalty: 02/01 – 04/15/2026

To try to offset some of the inconvenience of Holiday closures, our November schedule is as follows:

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 8-4
2 8-4	3 8-4	4 8-4	5 8-4	6 8-4	7 8-4	8
9	10 8-4	11 8-4	12 8-4:30	13 8-4:30	14 8-4:30	15
16	17 8-4:30	18 8-4:30	19 8-4:30	20 8-4:30	21	22
23 8-4	24 8-4	25 8-4	26 8-4	27	28	29

Tax calendar highlights

- Saturday, Nov. 1: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11: Closed for Veterans Day
- Thursday-Friday, Nov. 27-28: Closed for Thanksgiving
- Thursday-Friday, Dec. 25-26: Closed for Christmas
- Wednesday, Dec. 31: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bills will be mailed out October 27

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NEW! 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.

NEW! 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.

NEW! 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.

NEW! 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.

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 – 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 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

Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres - \$357,000

Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$520,725

Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400

Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600

Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - \$2,243,750

Livingston County, KY – 989 Acres - \$3,016,450

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

PENDING! Crittenden Co. KY 0.50 Acre - \$144,900

PENDING! Crittenden Co. KY 175 Acres - \$774,900

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



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for sale

36" Solid wood interior door, beautiful, still in carton, paid \$300, will take \$250; Nice set of gas logs \$250. (270) 704-5047. (2t-42-c)ks

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sales

Large, multi-family yard sale on Friday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 305 N. Walker Street in Marion. Variety of items for all ages. With recent deaths and a business move in our family, this one will be huge! (1t-41-p)

services

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notice

This is Cooper Recovery, repo of a Ford F-150, plate #P5R802, vin #1FTDF-18W8VND29549, owner is Celeste Stone, will be sold Oct. 25, 2025. Pick up at Creekside Apartments, Marion, KY. Contact Cooper Recovery, (270) 704-0943. (3t-42-p)

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ston Ledger and The (Madisonville) Messenger and for only \$250. Save time and money by making one call for all! For more information, contact the classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at advertising@the-press.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocket sports schedule

THURSDAY
CCHS volleyball hosts Henderson

FRIDAY
CCHS football at Ft. Campbell

SATURDAY
CCHS cross country at Paducah

TUESDAY
Volleyball Dist Tour at Rocket Arena



SOCCKER

All District & Region

Crittenden County High School had three players earn All Fifth District honors in soccer. They are (from left) Adri Berry, Mollie Blazina and Ella Geary. Also, Geary was named to the All Second Region team for the second straight year. She's a four-time all-district selection.

VOLLEYBALL

JV team is runnerup

Crittenden County's junior varsity volleyball team finished runner-up at the Henderson JV Regional Tournament last week. Three players were named to the all-tournament team. They were Maeson Martin, Maddie Hearell and Ava Tabor.

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

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

Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct 31
Coyote night, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sep 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
Deer Youth	Oct 11-19
Deer muzzleloader	Oct 18-19
Turkey shotgun	Oct 25-31
Woodcock	Oct 25 - Nov 7
Deer gun	Nov 8-23
Turkey crossbow	Nov 8 - Dec 31
Bobcat trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Squirrel	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Quail	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Rabbit	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Raccoon trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Woodcock	Nov 10 - Dec 10
Coyote trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Bobcat	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Nov 22
Duck	Nov 27 - Nov 30
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Dove	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31
Turkey shotgun	Dec 6 - Dec 12
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Deer muzzleloader	Dec 13-21
Dove	Dec 20 - Jan 11
Deer Free Youth	Dec 27-28
Crow	Jan 4 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Feb 14
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

Muzzleloader & Youth Hunt

The two-day early muzzleloader deer season will be Saturday and Sunday across Kentucky. This weekend's blackpowder season runs simultaneous with the final weekend of the youth firearm season.

Youth hunters have been slow to get going so far this season. On the first day of hunting, only one Crittenden County deer was checked on the KDFWR Telecheck system. By Sunday afternoon that figure had lurched ahead to one dozen, but by Monday the system showed 45 deer taken by youths. Figures were similar in Livingston County where 26 deer were harvested through Monday. The youth hunt is expanded this fall and runs through Sunday, Oct. 19. For the last several years, about 50 deer taken during the two-day youth weekend, but those figures were more than double that 20 years ago.



Crittenden County's soccer team was presented the Fifth District runnerup trophy last week. Pictured are (from left) Coach Jessica DeBurgo, Peyton Smith, Adeline Morries, Dixie Hunter, Zoey Hodge, Mollie Blazina, Ella Geary, Adri Berry, Macibelle Hardesty, Hailey Moore, Kiersten Smith, Ruby Peek, Olivia Topp, Callie Rich, Hayden Peak, Kylie Bloodworth and coach Heather Bloodworth.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

Crittenden falls in Second Region opener

Crittenden County's girls' soccer team capped one of its most productive seasons in recent years Saturday with a hard-fought regional quarterfinal loss to defending champion Madisonville.

The Lady Rockets fell 4-0 in the match at University Heights Academy, but not before showing the same resilience and determination that carried them to their first regional berth since 2022.

Madisonville, which has advanced to the regional semifinals seven straight seasons, set the tone early with a flurry of shots in the opening minutes. Crittenden keeper Macibelle Hardesty turned away five attempts before the Lady Maroons scored at the 10-minute mark. The Lady Maroons added another goal before halftime off of a corner kick. Madisonville's size and experience ultimately wore down the Lady Rocket back line as the Maroons scored two more goals in the second half, both from corner kicks.

Despite limited offensive chances, Crittenden never relented, keeping its tone and forcing Madisonville to work for each score. The Lady Rockets managed their first shot with about nine minutes left, but couldn't find the back of the net.

The loss ends Crittenden's season at 7-11-1, its highest win total since 2022 and tied for the program's fourth-best record in school history. Under head coach Jessica DeBurgo, the team has shown steady progress over her five-year tenure.

Since the program began in 2001, Crittenden has weathered lean years and rebuilding seasons. This year's squad joins a short list of Lady Rocket teams with seven or more victories, a mark reached only six times in school history (2002, 2005, 2006, 2021, 2022 and 2025).

Crittenden County earned its berth in the regional tournament with a 3-2 win over Lyon County in last week's district tournament semifinal round. CCHS lost 8-0 to Trigg County in the championship at Marion.

CCHS CROSS COUNTRY

Crittenden County cross country male athletes placed 10th overall in the team standings with a total of 220 points and an average team time of 22:59. Leading the

Rockets was River Rogers, who clocked a 19:14.44 to finish 25th overall. He was closely followed by CJ Nelson in 32nd at 19:35.29, and Noah Martinez, who crossed the line in 38th at 19:53.70.

Also running for the Rockets were Landon Starkey in 87th with a 26:21.15 and Miles Yates, who finished 91st in 29:51.04.

Crittenden County's Addie Nelson led the Lady Rockets with a strong performance, clocking 25:16.66 to finish 26th overall in a highly competitive regional field. Seventh-grader Braelyn Fulkerson followed with a 30:04.45 for 39th place, rounding out Crittenden's representation at the meet.



Braelyn Fulkerson

CCHS GOLF TEAM

Crittenden County High School's golf team held its postseason awards ceremony last week. Cash Singleton and Georgia Holeman were chosen respectively as MVPs for the boys' and girls' squads. Holeman was a state tournament qualifier this fall.

Hudson Stokes was named Rookie of the Year, Singleton was the Medalist Award winner with the lowest individual average. He also received the Sportsmanship Award. Dawson Johnson was the team's Workhorse Award winner.

CCHS VOLLEYBALL

Crittenden County's volleyball team will host the upcoming Fifth District Tournament at Rocket Arena. CCHS has dominated the league's postseason play for the past seven years and is favored to capture another district crown early next week. The three-team event will be held Tuesday, Oct. 21, with Trigg County squaring off against Livingston Central in the opening round and Crittenden, the No. 1 seed, playing the winner in the nightcap. The Lady Rockets have won the district title the past seven years in a row.

CCHS lost 3-0 at UHA in a match on Monday.



Crittenden QB Ayden Oliver rushes for a gain against Caldwell County.



Rockets pictured are Boone Tabor (11), Ayden Oliver (4), Colton James (19) and Koleson Tinsley (6).



Colton James (left) and Hayden Atwell combine for a tackle.

Junior Pro's 3&4 team working on perfect season

The third- and fourth-grade Junior Pro Rockets left no doubt in their last game on Oct. 4 who sits atop the league standings, shutting out Caldwell County 28-0 in a matchup between the two top teams in the circuit. The win pushed Crittenden to 5-0 on the season and secured at least a share of the regular-season championship with two games remaining.

Quarterback Ayden Oliver set the tone early, breaking loose for a 62-yard touchdown run on the third play of the game. He then connected with tight end Dagan Taylor for the extra point. On the next drive, running back Colton James powered in from three yards out, and fullback Koleson Tinsley added the conversion to make it 14-0 in the first quarter.

Oliver continued the hot start with a 43-yard scramble followed by a 17-yard scoring pass to Taylor late in the first half. Grayson Congenie caught the conversion pass, giving the Rockets a 21-0 lead at intermission. Crittenden's defense then turned away multiple Caldwell threats before Oliver intercepted a pass and returned it

inside the Tiger 5-yard line. James finished the job with his second touchdown of the day on a four-yard run, and Boone Tabor caught the extra point for the final margin.

Crittenden's offense racked up 248 yards on 28 plays with 167 on the ground and 81 through the air, while the defense posted its fifth consecutive shutout. Oliver was 8-of-10 passing for 81 yards and one touchdown, adding 119 yards rushing on five carries. Taylor caught four passes for 50 yards and a score. James rushed 11 times for 46 yards and two touchdowns, and Tinsley contributed two carries for two yards.

Defensively, the Rockets dominated. Caldwell managed just 74 total yards on 27 plays, and only 15 rushing. Rocket linebackers led the charge as Tinsley recorded four tackles, four assists and a tackle for loss; Taylor added three tackles, four assists and a TFL; and James tallied three tackles, two assists and a TFL. Nose guard Blake Sitar added three tackles and two assists. The Rockets' defensive streak remains intact as no

3rd & 4th Season Scores	
Crittenden 32, Trigg Co. 0	
Crittenden 7, Hopkins Co. 0	
Crittenden 47, Webster Co. 0	
Crittenden 25, Union Co. 0	
Crittenden 28, Caldwell Co. 0	
Standings on Oct. 6	
Crittenden County	5-0
Trigg County	3-2
Caldwell County	3-2
Hopkins County	2-2
Union County	1-4
Webster County	0-4

for 79, 2 TDs; Winders 2 for 33, TD; Tinsley 7 for 10; McClain 2 for 5; Tabor 1 for 3; Herndon 1 for -3.

Passing: Oliver 27 of 43, 252 yards, 3 TDs, 2 INTs; Winders 2 of 5, 37 yards, TD.

Receiving: Taylor 11 receptions, 147 yards, 3 TDs; Tabor 10 for 84; Congenie 6 for 25; Oliver 1 for 33, TD; James 1 reception.

Defense: James 19 tackles, 10 assists, 5 TFL; Tinsley 19 tackles, 10 assists, 3 TFL; Taylor 14 tackles, 14 assists, 4 TFL; Sitar 11 tackles, 8 assists, 3 TFL; Winders 7 tackles, 7 assists, 3 TFL, fumble recovery; Oliver 6 tackles, 7 assists, 2 INTs; Morse 6 tackles, 6 assists, 2 TFL, 3 fumble recoveries; Congenie 6 tackles, 3 assists, 2 TFL, INT; Tabor 5 tackles, 6 assists, TFL; Hunt 4 tackles, 5 assists, 3 TFL; Atwell 3 tackles, 2 assists, 2 TFL; others contributing include Crotty, Flahardy, Odom and McClain.

Scoring: Oliver 8 TDs; James 5; Taylor 3; Congenie 1; Winders 1.

Team Defensive Totals: 84 solo tackles, 72 assists, 23 tackles for loss, 5 forced fumbles, 3 fumble recoveries, 2 interceptions, and two defensive touchdowns.



57th Class Reunion

Crittenden County Class of 1968 held its 57th Class Reunion recently. Pictured are (front from left) Phillis Myers Hardin, Peggy Fryar Belt, Teddy Dalton, Vicky Hollis Cox, Gwen Belt Melton, Kathy Bebout Omer, Becky Driver Conger, Sharon Orr Riley, Joanie Stone Glore, Nancy Cook Robertson, Barbara Conway Brickman, (back) Brenda Belt Alexander, Sam Brown, Lynn Walker, Eddie Hunt, Bobby Weldon, Marlin Patton, Ronnie Thomas, Bennie Johnson, Bill Fritts, Robert Orr, James Peterson, Bud Hodge, Wayne Howerton, Debbie Summers McKinney, Sandra Riley Dickerson and Sheila Brantley Truitt.

ART

Continued from page 1

where she painted a rainbow of foods, and to the entry of the high school, where a cosmic mural of astronauts and planets greets visitors.

The district continued to find walls for her. She painted the Rocket Arena conference room with a veterans’ Wall of Honor and a sweeping American flag. It seems as though one project tends to inspire the next. While most of her work is in conspicuous places in Marion, there’s another that graces the VFW building in Princeton.

All told, Rodriguez has created three monumental American flag murals in the region, each requiring careful logistics, safety planning and long

days on scaffolding or borrowed lifts. She recalls one fall break when she worked from sunup until after dark, racing to finish the downtown flag before school resumed.

Her most recent project was commissioned by First United Bank and helped to transform an exterior wall on the restrooms at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Completed over the summer, the mural recreates the baseball field at Gordon B. Guess Field with a stunning three-dimensional effect. From across the park, the painted grass can appear freshly mowed, a trompe l’oeil trick born from painstaking perspective work.

To make something look like you could walk right into it takes patience, she explained, of-

tentimes painting, then stepping back to study the work for a time.

“If you watched me do the flag (in town). I was often just sitting in the parking lot staring at the wall.”

Perspective drawing, a Renaissance-era discovery she now teaches her students, has become central to her approach.

“I think that teaching all of that actually helps me keep updated and I keep challenging myself to find ways to make things look more realistic,” she said.

The same lessons she designs for her students about perspective or shadows are the same tools she uses on the walls.

While many of her murals are personal projects or private contracts, Ro-

driguez loops in students when possible. At the school, she invited her classes to help with sections of cafeteria walls. At the park, neighborhood children asked to join, and she let them fill in patches of grass so they could say they had a hand in the work.

“It’s important to give them that chance,” she said. “One day they’ll drive by and tell their own kids, ‘I painted part of that.’”

Rodriguez’s process begins digitally. Using an iPad, Apple Pencil and the program Procreate, she sketches and superimposes ideas over photos of the wall so clients can visualize the finished product. The back-and-forth can take weeks, but she believes it prevents disappointments once

the paint dries. From there, she studies what materials are needed for the wall surface whether it’s brick, metal, glass and how to safely reach the height required.

For those technical details, she often turns to her father, whose maintenance background helps her determine ladders, lifts and other tools.

It’s not just painting. It’s planning, math, engineering and safety all rolled into one, she said.

In between major murals, Rodriguez keeps busy with smaller commissions. She has painted window displays, Christmas ornaments, cornhole boards and birthday banners.

Those little projects fill the time between the summers when big paint-

ings tend to be scheduled, working those around her day job as a teacher.

Rodriguez, now a mother of two, balanced her most recent large project while only weeks postpartum. The physical demands of climbing, stretching and painting long hours required patience and recovery. But she hopes to keep accepting projects as long as she is able.

For now, no new mural has been commissioned.

Rodriguez’s murals have become part of Marion’s identity, a source of civic pride and daily inspiration and she’s widely considered dthe town’s Rembrandt – an artist whose vision has literally reshaped the landscape.



Benefit 5K winners

Here are top finishers from a recent 5K race at Marion-Crittenden County Park to benefit the Marion Cemetery Association. Pictured are (from left) Millie Bias, Laura Lee Schriber, Karen Winters, Harley Schriber, Erin Faughn, Parker Lingerfelt, Tiffany Roberts and Aubrey Grau, who was overall race champion.

CCES hosts family ‘Fall in Love with Reading’

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Elementary School will host its annual Family Literacy Night and Book Fair on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Themed “Fall in Love with Reading,” the event will feature activities promoting literacy, along with prizes and light snacks for families. Students and parents are encouraged to attend for an evening of fun and learning centered around books and reading.



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SEPTEMBER 2025
Weather Yearbook



**Coldest
Temp
46.0**

**Warmest
Temp
97.6**

Wettest Day 2.25

Mon., Sep. 8

Sun., Sep. 14

Mon., Sep. 22

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	72.1	71.6	70.02	71.3	70.4	69.1
Coldest Temp	46.0	43.0	48.9	44.4	46.3	47.9
Hottest Temp	97.6	92.4	88.9	95.8	88.6	88
Precipitation	3.4	6.5	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.71
Wettest Day	2.25	4.49	0.99	0.86	0.84	1.15

■ Weather in Crittenden County last month was close to normal for September, according to data from the local Mesonet weather station located near Mattoon. The average temperature for the month was 72.1 degrees, with highs averaging 85.3 and lows around 59.0. The warmest day reached 97.6 degrees, while the coolest morning dropped to 46. There were 10 days when temperatures reached 90 or higher, but no readings near freezing. Total rainfall was 3.4 inches over six days of measurable precipitation — right in line with the county's long-term September average. The heaviest rain came on Sept. 22 when more than 2.25 inches fell. Overall, the month marked a return to late-summer warmth with a gradual seasonal cool-down.



Classmates from the Crittenden County High School Class of 1975 gathered recently to celebrate their 50th reunion. Pictured are (front from left) Francis (Hina) Tramel, Laura (Phillips) Pace, Patricia (Tabor) Workman, Connie (Hibbs) Brown, Brenda (Taylor) Adams, Mike Cline, Mary Anne (Green) Kelley, David Kelley, (middle row) Sandra (Trimble) Martin, Janice (Fitzgerald) Hedgepath, Janet (Hearell) Hughes, Carolyn (Herrin) Belt, Carolyn (Todd) Byford, Tommye (Melton) Brantley, Laciada (Belt) Files, Cindy (Travis) Yarbrough, Ardith (Thornton) O'Rourke, Tony Travis, Larry Workman, Gary Cruce, (back) David Hamilton, Dean Ingram, Eddie Hearell, Ed Hazzard, Steve Ford, LaNaye Croft, Greg Binkley, Greg Rednour, Tony Alexander, Debbie (Ray) Day, Donnie Arfleck, Larry Carter, Mark Travis and Gary Damron.

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