



Daylight Saving Time

Set your clocks back one hour this weekend. Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks need to fall back one hour at 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 2.

Lewis Croft Rd. closed

Lewis Croft Road in western Crittenden County will be closed to through traffic Monday and Tuesday of next week while county crews make base repairs to a portion of the road near its halfway point between KY 723 and KY 838.

Trick-or-Treat map

On page 9, see list of who's handing out candy during Friday's Trick-or-Treat on Main Street. The event runs from 3:30 p.m., to 5 p.m., on Halloween.

Veterans are invited

Crittenden County Schools is hosting its annual Veterans Day program at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Rocket Arena. Everyone is welcome to attend. Participants should enter through the main entrance of Rocket Arena. Handicap accessible entry for those requiring assistance is located at the bottom of Rocket Arena. Marion Baptist Church will provide a free lunch reception immediately following the program, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., for veterans and their families.

Considering a run?

Crittenden County Board of Elections will host another workshop at the County Office Complex for prospective candidates at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, the day after the 2026 election filing period begins. The board will offer information on campaign finance rules, qualifications and fees for seeking office, requesting voter registration data and more.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Community Prayer will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 1 at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4 at Rocket Arena conference room.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will have a working session at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10 at city hall.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10 at the board office.



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Stout honored upon retirement Sen. McConnell among speakers at sendoff

STAFF REPORT

In Louisville, the spotlight shone brightly on Marion and Crittenden County last week as one of its most accomplished natives, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Alan C. Stout, was honored in a ceremony full of pomp and hometown pride marking his retirement from the federal bench.

Family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries filled the federal courthouse in Louisville for a program that celebrated Stout's decades of service to justice, his faith and his enduring love for his hometown. Among the ceremony's highlights was the presentation of a key to the City of Marion by Mayor D'Anna Browning, symbolizing the gratitude of the community that helped shape his remarkable career.

The event began with an invocation by Stout's son-in-law, Dr. Kory Cunningham, lead pastor at Hardin Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Stout's grandchildren. Stout's nephew, Corey Crider, performed the National Anthem.

Kentucky Western District chief judges Greg Stivers and Charles R. Merrill presided, introducing Stout's colleagues and guests. U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell offered remarks on behalf of the United States, recalling his



Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning (left) presented Judge Alan Stout (far right) with a key to the city during his retirement ceremony Friday in Louisville. Also pictured are Marion residents Chris Evans and Corey Crider, who participated in the program, and U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (seated). Stout, shown holding the ceremonial key, along with his wife, Doris, plans to return to western Kentucky full time following his 14-year tenure on the federal bench in Louisville.

first encounter with Stout in 1984 while campaigning for his first term in the Senate.

"I first met Alan in 1984 when frankly you couldn't find a Republican in western Kentucky," McConnell said with a laugh. He credited Stout with helping make Crittenden County a strong "red county" during that campaign and beyond.

"There was one little red county - Crittenden. So, I got to know Alan then, and from my perspective he was all by himself. He's excelled as a judge, has been respected by his colleagues and peers, and

well liked in the legal community."

The senator's remarks also revisited Stout's early political leadership, which was largely set aside when he was appointed to the federal bench in 2011. Before that appointment, Stout had been a visible figure in Republican politics, serving on former Gov. Ernie Fletcher's transition team, attending the GOP National Convention, working as a surrogate speaker for President George W. Bush and being considered as the

See **STOUT**/page 9

50 Years in the Valley



Pictured at Thursday's 50-year celebration for Gary Holland at Akridge Farm Supply in Fredonia are (from left) Terry McKinney, Paul Akridge, Holland and Robert Driskill.

Holland celebrated for his half century at Akridge's

STAFF REPORT

When Gary Holland walked into Akridge Farm Supply last Thursday, he thought it was just another workday. What he didn't realize was that the store where he's spent the last half century had planned a surprise celebration in his honor.

Staff, customers and longtime friends filled the Fredonia store around lunchtime to mark Holland's 50th anniversary with Akridge Farm Supply. Some of the suppliers even showed up and Pioneer Seeds and Helena Agri-Enterprises sponsored part of the deal, including a meal at noon.

The event featured a big anniversary banner and a photo display from Holland's years on the job, plus plenty of stories shared among well-wishers who dropped in throughout midday.

"I had no idea," Holland said with a laugh about the surprise party. "I came in, looked around at the pictures and people, and finally it clicked what was going on."

Holland, who now serves as store manager, first went to work for the Akridge family in 1975. At the time, he was finishing his last semester at Murray State University and planned to stay just one year before his wife graduated.



In front of the original Akridge store in Edyville are (from left) Billy Turley, Dean Akridge and a young Gary Holland.

fore his wife graduated.

Holland credits the opportunity to the late Dean Akridge, a Fredonia businessman and former educator, who built Akridge Farm Supply into a regional mainstay. He said that back then Akridge seldom hired outside the family, but decided

See **50 YEARS**/page 3

The very start of laziness

Do you remember when we stopped getting up?

There was a time when Americans were made of tougher stuff. We didn't have participation trophies, curbside grocery pickup or 10-second TikTok attention spans. We had televisions without remote controls, boxes that built character-building.

That's right, there was a day when, if Walter Cronkite said something you didn't like, you didn't work into a lathering huff and jab your thumb at a plastic wand with

magical powers of immediate change. You had to actually get up. Walk across the carpet on your own two legs, all the way to the TV set, which was usually a 200-pound walnut trunklike piece of furniture with rabbit ears. Dad armed ours with a secondary device that looked like a kitchen timer. Instead of a dialing dinner, it worked more like a compass and you could dial up the direction you wanted the outside antenna to face. Pretty smooth, huh? On the TV was another manually rotating dial that you turned either way to circularly-surf past those fuzzy screens on unmanned frequencies in order to get to all three channels: NBC, CBS, and ABC. If we held our mouths just right, there was a chance of tuning into a grainy Channel 7 out of Jackson, Tenn., where we could see PBS programming and the Cardinals play baseball on Sunday. But when the President was speaking on TV, well, he was on all available channels. Your only real alternative was to go outside or sit around and talk to your family, which might explain why we were a stronger form of humankind - at least in my humble opinion.

Enter the remote control, a gadget that was supposed to make life easier. What it really did was begin the slow, comfortable erosion of self-reliance, perseverance and the ability to tolerate things we didn't agree with. Before the remote, if someone on the screen said something stupid, we muttered under our breath and rode it out like real grownups. After the remote, we developed a national twitch: "Don't like it? Change it." Click. Disagree? Hit the arrow button again. Bored after three seconds? Thumb it again. Before long, we weren't just changing channels, we were changing jobs, marriages and moral positions with the same lazy flick of a finger.

We became the world's first civilization to confuse convenience with progress. Instead of learning patience, we learned to demand speed and soon we expected a pizza to come through door within 30 minutes or less.

Later, we swapped interpersonal conversation for digital garbage. Yep, the remote started it all. When the wheels fell off, we just added fresh batteries. The first remote was a spark that lit the bonfire of apathy. After all, once we realized we didn't



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

See **REMOTE**/page 4

Deaths

Little

Michael Wayne Little, 60, of Shawneetown, Ill., formerly of Marion, died unexpectedly on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 at Deaconess Healthcare of Marion, Ill.

He was born April 13, 1965 in Marion to Bernal “Little Jack” and Linda Little. He joined the United States Army straight out of high school in 1983 and continued in his service until retirement in 2009.

Since the birth of his youngest grandchild he has resided in Shawneetown with his daughter. He loved watching them grow and couldn’t wait to see what was in store for them. His time in the service made him proud, but nothing could compare to being a father and “Pawpaw.”

Surviving are his daughter, Ashley (Dakota) Barnes of Shawneetown; three grandchildren, Keltion, Harper and Alex of Shawneetown; a sister, Belinda K. Nall Madisonville; a brother, Kevin Little of South Carolina; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernal Dalfred and Linda Lou Little; and several brothers in uniform. What a reunion that must be.

Services were Wednesday, Oct. 29 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in the West Kentucky Veterans Cemetery in Hopkinsville on Monday, Nov. 3.

Donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Paid obituary

Shoemaker

Clifford Cecil Shoemaker, 68, of Marion, died Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab. He enjoyed playing music in his band The Gypsy Crossing, gardening, farming and continued education.

Surviving are his wife, Beverly (Rudy) Shoemaker; a daughter, Sara Shoemaker of Salem; a son, Joson Price of Salem; three brothers, Bob Shoemaker of St. Paul, Minn., Tom Shoemaker of the Mexico community. and Ken Shoemaker of Maine.; and a grandson, Cree Cummins.

He was preceded in death by a son, Isaac Shoemaker; a brother, Randy Shoemaker; and his parents, Earl and Vivian (Gray) Shoemaker.

Cremation has been chosen by the family. Boyd Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

Mullins

Angela Marie Mullins, 49, of Fredonia, died Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.

Born in Princeton on Sept. 5, 1976, to Michael Gray of Illinois and Betty Miller Gray of Fredonia, she was a loving mother, daughter, sister and friend. One of her greatest joys in life was spending time shopping with her daughter and adding to her collection of purses. She loved being a mom to her wonderful children and especially her fur babies, Bella, Pebbles, Wables and Callie.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a daughter, Kailey Marie Duncan of Fredonia; a son, James Michael (Tabitha) Mullins of Draffenville; and a sister, Brandi (Lyndsey) Johnson of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, James and Marion “Sue” Miller; aunt, Carolyn Scott; and her former husband, James Brian Mullins.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Morgan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cox

Sherry Lee Cox, 51, of Marion, died Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025.

She was a member of Repton Baptist Church and was a coal miner.

Surviving are, Timothy Alan Cox of Marion; two sons, Jimmy Whitehair of Marion and Travis Whitehair of Campbellsville; a brother, Eddie Eugene Ross of West Paducah; four sisters, Wanda Reynolds of Marion, Linda Campbell of Hardin, and Doris Cates and Debbie Ross, both of Tennessee; four grandchildren, Jaden Sherman, Justin Sherman and Freya Whitehair; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul Nelson Ross and Dorothy Nell Stone Ross; two brothers; and one sister.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, at Gilbert Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m., Friday at the funeral home with Bro. George Hollis officiating. Burial will follow in Asbridge Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Hollis

Monty Keith Hollis, 64 of Sturgis, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville.

He had worked for Tommy Elder Farms and enjoyed fishing in his spare time.

Surviving are two sons, Christopher (Heather) Hollis of Dawson Springs and Gary (Stacey)

Hollis of Sturgis; a daughter, Brooklynn Hollis of Owensboro; four grandchildren, Addysynn Hollis, Hudson Hollis, Addulyn Hollis and Eileen Hollis;

his mother, Janice Simpson of Marion; three sisters, Deborah (David) Conrad, Rhonda Hollis and Pamela (Larry) Hedgepath; and three brothers, Mike (Shirley) Hollis, Marlon (Patsy) Hollis and Nathan Fowler.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jim Hollis.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3 at Myers Funeral Home with services to follow at 7 p.m.

Guill

William Johnson “B.J.” Guill, 51, died Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at his home in Fredonia.

He was a member of White Sulphur Baptist Church. Known for his ever-present smile, he never missed a chance to share a good joke. Always just a phone call away, Guill was the kind of person

you could count on for anything, a true jack of all trades.

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Jenny Guill; two daughters, Calleigh Mae Guill and Elisabeth Ann Guill; his father, Jackie (Sandra) Guill; four sisters, Christie (Richard) Storm, LaRay (Johnny) Ladd, Megan (Pablo) Morales and Katie (Brad) Bowers; one brother, Ira Guill; and grandparents-by-choice, Ronnie and Jerelyn Beckner.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Peggy Oliver (Sammy) Lamb; and brother, Billy Duane Williamson.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, at Morgan’s Funeral Home in Princeton with Bro. Danny Sherrill officiating.

Memorials may be made in B.J.’s memory to Caldwell County HOPE Family Resource Center, 105 Education Dr., Princeton, KY 42445, or COPE Youth Services Center, 440 Beckner Ln., Princeton, KY 42445.

Paid obituary



Andrea Nikotakis (center) won the adult category of the Friends of the Library bookmark contest. Also pictured (from left) are Monica Wessel and library director Regina Merrick.

Winners announced in library’s bookmark contest

Winners of a recent bookmark contest held by Friends of Crittenden County Library in celebration of its 20th anniversary garnered 50 entries. Winners in each of the four age groups received a \$50 prize.

The contest was conducted using blind judging by local art teachers and a representative of the Community Arts

Foundation.

Winners were: Jason Hackney - age 3-6 group; Kayleigh Duvall - age 7 - 12 group; Natilee Travis - teen age group; and Andrea Nikotakis - adult.

A reception was held at the library Oct. 16 to announce the winners. Refreshments were provided by the Women’s Club of Marion.



Bentley Vick, 13, harvested this 11-point buck in Crittenden County during the youth hunt. Hunters are gearing up for the modern rifle season, which opens one week from Saturday.

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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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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

City Administrator

CITY OF MARION, KY

The City of Marion, KY is seeking an experienced, qualified applicant to fill the full-time position of City Administrator.

Marion has a population of about 3,100, an annual budget of approximately 4M+ and has 25+ f/t employees. The City Administrator is responsible for the efficient oversight, management, and day-to-day operation of the affairs of the City in accordance with Local, State, and Federal laws.

Demonstrated abilities include, but are not limited to, the exercise of mature judgment and the ability to resolve municipal issues related to continual quality public service and interdepartmental relations; strong financial management; project management; town-planning and land use skills, as well as significant knowledge of municipal law. The candidate of choice will be a proven team builder, will possess excellent leadership skills, be collaborative in nature, effectively communicate, possess the ability to cultivate relationships and advance the initiatives currently underway. The City Administrator is appointed by, and accountable to, the Mayor of Marion.

Requirements: The successful candidate must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in a related field with a specialization in business or public administration, plus administrative/managerial experience in a public jurisdiction or private organization preferred. Salary range for this position is \$65,000 - \$75,000 annually depending on experience and qualifications.

A City Application is available on the City's website (www.marionky.gov).

Deadline for submission of applications is close of business, December 5, 2025, or until a suitable candidate is found. Interviews will be on-going throughout the recruitment process.

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ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL SINCE 2020

Crittenden County Elected Officials

Number of Times Marked Absent from Fiscal Court Meeting

Below is the number of times elected county officials have been marked absent from a fiscal court meeting over the past 5-plus years. Figures for 2025 are through October.

Name	Position	2020	2021	2022
Perry Newcom	Judge-Exec	0	0	0
Dave Belt	Magistrate	0	1	2
Todd Perryman	Magistrate	1	1	5
Willard Guill	Magistrate	0	1	0
Chad Thomas	Magistrate	0	1	2
Greg Rushing	Magistrate	0	3	0
Dan Wood	Magistrate	0	1	1
Rebecca Johnson	County Atty	0	0	2
Daryl Tabor	County Clerk	0	0	0
Wayne Agent	Sheriff	0	0	0
Robbie Kirk	Jailer	1	1	3

Name	Position	2023	2024	2025
Perry Newcom	Judge-Exec	0	0	0
Dave Belt	Magistrate	1	1	0
Matt Grimes	Magistrate	1	4	3
Robert Kirby	Magistrate	2	2	3
Chad Thomas	Magistrate	0	1	1
Travis Perryman	Magistrate	2	1	1
Scott Belt	Magistrate	3	1	1
Bart Frazer	County Atty	1	0	2
Daryl Tabor	County Clerk	0	0	0
Evan Head	Sheriff	3	0	1
Athena Hayes	Jailer	0	2	1

Understanding the above information

Crittenden County Fiscal Court meets in regular session monthly, 12 times a year; however, special-called meetings are often held to address various matters.

The fiscal court consists of six magistrates and is chaired by the county judge-executive.

Constitutional officeholders – the sheriff, county attorney, county clerk and jailer – do not determine policy or cast votes; however, they typically attend meetings as part of their general job responsibilities and the advisory roles they play in local government. In some cases, non-fiscal court members send a representative to meetings to take minutes, provide reports or offer legal counsel, depending on the duties of the specific officeholder. For the purpose of attendance reporting, an absence was not recorded if an assistant covered the responsibilities.

The above information was compiled by the county clerk from meeting minutes from 2020 to 2025 and provided to The Press through an Open Records request.

KSP offers Halloween safety tips

Kentucky State Police are reminding families, motorists and homeowners to take extra precautions to ensure Halloween festivities are safe for everyone this year.

Troopers issued a list of safety tips this week covering everything from pedestrian awareness to costume safety and candy inspection.

Motorists are urged to stay alert for increased foot traffic on Halloween night, slow down in residential areas and be patient with young trick-or-treaters who may dart into streets unexpectedly. Drivers should also be cautious when entering or exiting driveways



and alleys, especially in neighborhoods without sidewalks.

Particular care should be exercised by motorists traveling through downtown Marion between 3:30 and 5 p.m., Friday as hundreds of people will along the streets participating in the annual Trick-or-Treat on Main Street.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make sure children are visible to motorists by using flashlights, glow sticks or reflective tape on costumes and bags. KSP also advises choosing flame-resistant, well-fitting costumes and using face paint instead of masks to

avoid obstructing a child's vision.

Small children should be accompanied by adults, while older kids are encouraged to travel in groups and stay in well-lit areas. All candy should be inspected at home before it's eaten and homemade treats should be discarded.

For homeowners, troopers recommend turning on porch lights, clearing walkways of tripping hazards and using battery-powered candles instead of real flames in jack-o'-lanterns. Pets should be kept indoors to prevent accidents.

State police say a few precautions can go a long way toward preventing injuries or accidents.

Have an enjoyable and safe Halloween, troopers said.

Kentucky Utilities approved for \$10 rate hike

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman has announced a proposed settlement with Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities (LG&E/KU) aimed at protecting affordable and reliable energy for Kentucky families and businesses.

Under the agreement, residential customers will see rate increases of less than \$10 per month,

far below the double-digit hikes sought by utilities in other states. LG&E/KU also agreed to lock in base rates through at least Aug. 2028, a move Coleman said provides "certainty and predictability" for Kentuckians.

"The Attorney General's Office has a duty to protect Kentuckians' affordable and reliable energy," Coleman said. "This agreement keeps

families' residential rates low, but it also protects Kentucky's competitive energy prices that encourage new economic investment and future job creation."

The settlement, which still requires approval from the Kentucky Public Service Commission, continues Coleman's focus on keeping utility costs down. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported that as

Sturgis man charged in Hollis death

STAFF REPORT

A Union County man has been charged with manslaughter following an altercation that allegedly led to the death of another Sturgis resident.

According to the Union County Sheriff's Office, a disturbance involving four individuals occurred Oct. 19 at an apartment building on US 60 West, just outside Stur-

gis. The incident allegedly escalated into a physical altercation between two men and a woman.

One of the men, Monty Hollis of Sturgis, was taken to Union County Deaconess Hospital and later transferred to Deaconess Midtown in Evansville. Hollis died Wednesday, Oct. 22, from injuries consistent with those sustained in the assault, according to autopsy

results.

Following the investigation, deputies arrested Ronald Cummings on Oct. 22. Cummings faces multiple charges, including fourth-degree assault, second-degree assault, first-degree burglary and second-degree manslaughter. Cummings was jailed on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Another accolade for decorated CCMS teacher

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Middle School teacher Neal Bryant has earned another statewide recognition for his leadership and excellence in education. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) recently named Bryant among 24 educators selected as 2025–26 GoTeachKY ambassadors.

The GoTeachKY initiative seeks to recruit and inspire the next generation of teachers while addressing Kentucky's growing educator shortage. Ambassadors serve as advocates for the profession, connecting with students, peers and communities to share the rewards and opportunities of teaching.

"GoTeachKY ambassadors are passionate educators who embody the heart of our profession," said Veda Stewart, KDE's director of educator recruitment and development. "Their leadership helps inspire the next generation to see teaching not only as a career, but as a calling."

Bryant, 46, a 1998 Crittenden County High School graduate, has been teaching middle school science at CCMS for 16 years. He joins a diverse group of ambassadors who will represent the state at career fairs, conferences and community events over the next year.

The GoTeachKY honor adds to a growing list of accolades for Bryant, whose achievements have drawn regional and statewide attention. Earlier this year, he was named the 2024–25 Challenger Learning Center at Paducah's Outstanding Educator, earning the President's Award presented by West Kentucky Community and Technical College President Dr. Anton Reece and Challenger Center Director Mellisa Dun-



Neal Bryant

can.

Bryant's recent achievements also include National Board Certification, a distinction held by fewer than 4% of teachers nationwide. His innovative use of investigative and hands-on learning has become a model for engaging students in scientific exploration.

Other western Kentucky educators selected as GoTeachKY ambassadors include Shannon Barnes of Fulton County High School, Paul Lamb of Sharpe and Calvert City Elementary schools in Marshall County, Melissa Reed of Burns Middle School in Daviess County and Joie Logsdon of Union County.

Woman dies in crash with log truck

STAFF REPORT

A Fredonia woman died Friday afternoon in a two-vehicle crash on KY 91 between Fredonia and Princeton.

According to reports, Angela

Mullins, 49, was traveling in a passenger vehicle that collided with a log truck around 3 p.m.

The Caldwell County coroner pronounced Mullins dead at the scene, WPKY radio reported.

The driver of the log truck had not been identified at press time.

The highway was closed for about seven hours while authorities investigated and cleared the scene, reopening around 10 p.m.

50 YEARS

Continued from page 1

to take a chance on a college kid from Kuttawa."

"I guess it worked out," Holland said with another chuckle as well-wishers passed by shaking his hand and saying a word.

Over the decades, Holland has witnessed the steady evolution of the ag industry and the store itself.

"We were just a farm supply store to start with, then added hardware, plumbing and electrical," he said.

Farming has changed a great deal over the last half century. The farmers are bigger now, and they cover more acres, Holland said, but the store has been fortunate to grow right alongside them.

As for the future, Holland believes hometown service will always have a place.

"I think (customers) are still going to need somebody like us to help guide them through all the new stuff and the technology," Holland said.

Akridge's has an all-star cast of customer service representatives, Holland said, and each is knowledgeable, particularly in his spe-



A photo display on a long table just inside the front door and a large banner behind the service counter signaled a special day for a 50-year employee at Akridge's.

cific areas of expertise.

That same philosophy, rooted in neighborly service and integrity, was long championed by Akridge himself and it remains plentiful to this day.

Holland joked that he might be

good for another 50 years.

"My wife doesn't want me home that much," he said, grinning.

To hear the complete interview with Holland, tune in to The Press' news podcast at The-Press.com.

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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
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CCMS Academic team bests Marshall

Crittenden County Middle School’s academic team beat North and South Marshall middle schools on Tuesday, Oct. 21. The varsity squad of sixth grader Russell Vince, eighth grader Jackson Morries and seventh graders EJ Taylor and Keegan Roberts beat both North and South Marshall's varsity teams. CCMS' JV team, comprised of sixth graders Conner Partee, Fiona Miller, Sam Morries, and Kayleigh Duvall, won one and lost one match against South Marshall.

Livingston students earn national props

Two Livingston Central High School students have earned national recognition for their leadership and commitment to career and technical education. Madison Anderson and Hunter Wilson of Smithland received the SkillsUSA National Statesman Award during the organization’s Washington Leadership Training Institute, held Sept. 20-24 in Washington, D.C. The honor recognizes students who demonstrate strong civic awareness, leadership and understanding of the value of career and technical education. Recipients complete coursework and certifications before attending the national event, where they participate in leadership training and interviews describing their career goals and experiences in SkillsUSA. “The statesman award affirms a student's commitment to responsible leadership and civic awareness,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “It confirms their understanding of SkillsUSA's mission to empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members.”

More than 400 students from nearly 30 states earned the award this year. SkillsUSA, the nation’s leading workforce development organization for students, represents over 440,000 members in career and technical education programs nationwide.

Candidates starting to line up for 2026

Former county jailer Robbie Kirk and local businessman Brennan Cruce have indicated their interest in financing a political campgain in 2026. Kirk and Cruce are the latest among local individuals who have filed statements of spending with the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, signaling their intention. Those who have filed their necessary spending statements are Clerk Daryl Tabor, County Attorney Bart Frazer, Sheriff Evan Head, Jailer Athena Hayes, PVA Todd Perryman and Judge-Executive Perry Newcom. Hopefuls can begin formally filing as candidates next week.

Homemakers seek help for St. Jude hats

Crittenden County Extension Homemakers are collecting crocheted hats to help provide head coverings for patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Those interested can participate by making hats, donating yarn or looms for the Homemakers to use in creating the coverings. Donations may be dropped off at the Crittenden County Extension Office be-



tween 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The deadline for contributions is Tuesday, Nov. 25.

KY housing market slipping since Aug.

Kentucky’s housing market saw \$1.26 billion in real estate sales during September, up 5.2% from last year but down 15.7% from August, according to data released by Kentucky REALTORS®. Statewide, 3,959 properties were sold in September, a 2% year-over-year increase, while the median sale price rose slightly to \$270,000. New listings totaled 6,123 for the month, up 8.8% from a year ago. Homes remained on the market an average of 19 days, up five days compared to last September. “Buyers across the state are continuing to take advantage of decreased interest rates when searching for properties,” said Kentucky REALTORS® President Barb Curtis. “Given our current inventory and the average number of days on the market, Kentucky buyers are in a great spot and the market remains steady with more than \$1 billion in total sales again last month.” Inventory levels rose to 4.27 months, up from 3.54 in August, placing Kentucky in what analysts consider a stable market. Kentucky REALTORS® CEO Josh Summers said now is a favorable time for buyers, noting that lower interest rates and steady inventory are helping to keep the market balanced.

NAILE opens Nov. 6

A Kentucky tradition that began in 1974 has grown into the largest purebred livestock show in the world. The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) returns to the Kentucky Exposition Center Nov. 6-20, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors and exhibitors from across the globe. This year’s event features nearly 27,000 entries across eight species — up almost 2,000 from last year — as competitors vie for the prestigious purple and gold banner. NAILE celebrates the heritage and hard work that define agriculture, offering young exhibitors a chance to showcase their dedication while building the next generation of farmers. Beyond the barns and show rings, visitors can explore the Country Store’s 100-plus vendors selling tack, clothing, toys, and other goods. The North American Championship Rodeo, presented by Rural 1st®, returns to Freedom Hall Nov. 13-15, featuring top professional cowboys and cowgirls. Live music and dining will also be available at The Hitching Post Nov. 13-18. For tickets and a full schedule of events, visit the website livestockexpo.org.

Board of Elections will set 2026’s plan

Crittenden County Board of Elections will meet at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 at Crittenden County Office Complex. This is a regular meeting. The county

election plan for 2026 and meeting dates will be considered.

Livingston Hospital hosts blood drive

The American Red Cross is asking donors across western Kentucky to give blood or platelets as collections typically dip during fall months. A local blood drive will be held Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Livingston Hospital Foundation Community Building, 131 Hospital Drive in Salem, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Donors of all blood types are needed to help maintain hospital supplies ahead of the holidays. Those who give between Oct. 27 and Nov. 16 will receive a \$20 e-gift card and a chance to win one of three \$5,000 prizes. To encourage healthy living during National Diabetes Awareness Month, November donors will also receive free A1C testing, which screens for prediabetes and diabetes. Appointments can be made online at RedCrossBlood.org, by calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or through the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Other upcoming donation opportunities in the region include: Calvert City United Methodist Church, Nov. 3, noon to 6 p.m. (Marshall Co.) Woodmen Life, Benton, Nov. 10, noon to 6 p.m. (Marshall Co.) Paducah Blood Donation Center, multiple dates Nov. 2-16 (McCracken Co.) The Red Cross Kentucky Region, based in Louisville, serves counties including Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and Lyon. For details or to volunteer, visit redcross.org/kentucky.

Gooch plans to run again for KY House

Kentucky state Rep. Jim Gooch Jr. has announced his intention to run for re-election in the 12th House District, which includes Crittenden, McLean, Union and Webster counties. Gooch, currently in his 16th term, has represented the district since 1995 and serves as chairman of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. In addition to his legislative duties, Gooch serves on the Banking and Insurance Committee; Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee; and the Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee. He is also an active member of several caucuses, including the Pro-Life Caucus, Bourbon Trail Caucus, Kentucky Sportsmen Caucus, Western Kentucky Caucus, and Mountain Caucus. Gooch previously served as mayor of Providence from 1982 to 1986 and as a city councilman from 1990 to 1993. He has held leadership roles in numerous civic organizations, including the Providence Chamber of Commerce, Providence Jaycees and Providence Puritan Club, earning the title of Providence Citizen of the Year in 1990. Professionally, Gooch built a career in insurance and real estate. He founded and served as president of Gooch Insurance Associates Inc. from 1982 until 1998 and has been a licensed real estate sales associate since 1987.

Between Printed Editions
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From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago
Marvin Turner, president of Turner and Conyer Lumber Company, is pictured (at left) with Dion Watson and Bob Martin, who had recently joined the Marion corporation. Watson was named vice president and Martin secretary-treasurer. The trio was photographed among stacked lumber at the company’s yard, a reminder of Marion’s bustling wood industry.

10 YEARS AGO

October 29, 2015
■ Katie Keene, a Crittenden County native, played herself as a guest on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” in an inspired set. Alongside Keene were Keith Stout and Phyllis Sykes. Keene shared insights into her acting career and the challenges of breaking into Hollywood with the audience at Fohs Hall. ■ Teena York raised almost \$2,000 to support local police officers after the slaying of Kentucky State Trooper Cameron Ponder. York donated the funds for local law enforcement to use at Jackson Knob Firearms Training Center, led by former Chicago policeman Dale Willingham. ■ The Crittenden County Rockets football team lost to Russellville 46-21 in the district championship game. Travis Fitzgerald stood out as the defensive player of the game, showcasing the team’s commendable efforts. The Rockets’ three touchdowns were by quarterback Nick Castiller with one and Tyler Coleman with two.

25 YEARS AGO

November 2, 2000
■ Crittenden County Homemakers lesson leaders attended a training called “My Kitchen to Yours” on Oct. 30. Laura Wilson demonstrated to Alice Mills and Jean Greenman how to make a decorative bow. The lesson also included heart-healthy recipes and ideas for packaging. ■ The Crittenden County FFA attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville. At the convention, the members were entertained, inspired, and motivated about career opportunities in agriculture. The students who attended were Jenna Haugen, Amber Polk, Sarah Long, Nicole Sexton, Vince Mitchell, Jeremy Binkley, Scott Rich, and Robert Holloman. ■ Barbara Wilson of Marion made history in the Cairo, Ill., Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2649. Wilson became the first woman member of the Cairo VFW Post when she transferred her membership to the local post. She graduated in 1985 from Crittenden County High School and then spent eight years serving in the United States Army. She became a life member of the military service organization and was installed as a Post 2649 trustee.

50 YEARS AGO

October 29, 1975
■ The Marion City Council decided that there would be a curfew for minors on Halloween night starting at 11:30 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m. the next morning. Parents could face a fine of up to \$100 and 30 days in jail if their child violated the new rule. ■ At Marion Baptist Church, the installation of W.M.U. officers and leaders took place, led by Mrs. Shelby Beaty. The officers were Merle Dunning, Lois Brown, and many others, who were installed and instructed on their duties. As the church recognized its W.M.U. programs, Carma Lee Jackson served as the director. A get-acquainted banquet was scheduled to inform mothers and children about the mission groups. ■ The CCHS seniors were spot-on when they predicted the Crittenden County Rockets would outshine the Caldwell County Tigers. Their creative float, a highlight of the homecoming parade, vividly displayed the outcome of the game. Randy Guess and Tracy Hicks were among those who helped bring their vision to life.

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

REMOTE

Continued from page 1
have to walk five feet to solve a small problem, it was only a matter of time before we decided we shouldn’t have to work eight hours to earn a paycheck, either. Social skills followed the same path. Once, we used to argue in living rooms face-to-face over whether Gilligan would ever get off the island. Now, we argue with strangers we’ll never

meet, hiding behind tiny little screens and we can’t even agree on what truth is – just what “page” we want to live on. The decline of integrity might’ve started the day someone said, “Don’t get up, honey. Just use the remote.” It was the beginning of our cultural nap, a great national snooze button we’ve never really recovered from. Maybe the cure isn’t in politics, policy or even

preaching. Maybe it’s as simple as pulling the batteries out of the remote for a week and getting back to some basics. Sure, I’ve sort of been stuck on a soap box lately, but as of Friday I turned three score and one. That gives me the experience and right to be overly critical and judgemental. Let the channel stay where it lands. Watch something you don’t like. Sit through the commercial.

Learn again the ancient art of patience, the old-fashioned muscle of tolerance. Who knows, maybe we’ll even talk to each other during the commercials just like we used to, back when we still got off the couch.

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.

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A call for self-control in an uncivil age

The infection of incivility continues to spread. There are days when I think it isn't so bad, then



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

On a larger, more serious scale – societal violence is nothing new either. What has changed are the reasons given for it, the perpetrators, and the victims. What else has changed is our access to a nearly infinite source of video (much of which cannot be trusted) and 24/7 news distribution. When editors or producers or politicians decide they want to pull the rest of us in one direction or another, they make sure that every incident that can be construed to suit their cause is widely distributed.

From the standpoint of the Bible, they are

pursuing what they are passionate about and convincing others to be passionate about the same thing. It all comes down to power and control. When self-control fails us, we fall victim to whoever we think can bring order. It is and has always been a dangerous place to be – as a person and as a society.

From the ballfield to the family to the courthouse to the street – wherever we are, self-control is powerful. It has the power to set boundaries or enforce them when crossed. Self-control adds stability to any situation. Self-control will aid with that relatively new concept of “deescalation.” It is especially important when those nearby are not practicing it. Lack of self-control always has a price to be paid.

Failure is not always violent or noisy. It can also be parental anxiety being pushed onto children. Think about cellphones here. Have we forgotten that children did just fine (in fact were likely safer) at school before we start-

ed carrying weapons of emotional destruction everywhere? When parents fail at self-control, it is taught to their children.

Lack of self-control in the use of anything leaves us open to all kinds of self-inflicted pain. Proverbs 25:28 says starkly, “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.” Lack of self-control is an indication of not respecting the boundaries of other people. It is an indication of no respect for oneself or those around. In my experience there are many who are completely unaware of this. (Ever been in public when another person thinks it is appropriate to have a speaker-phone conversation?)

In the same wisdom tradition, the Wisdom of Solomon makes the connection to wisdom, justice, and courage, in 8:7 it says, “And if anyone loves righteousness, her (wisdom’s) labors are virtues; for she teaches self-control and prudence, justice and courage; nothing in life is more profitable for men than these.”

Also, when Paul was arrested in Jerusalem near the end of Acts we see that ancient society in general connected self-control to justice and judgement. “After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess; and

he sent for Paul and heard him speak upon faith in Christ Jesus. And as he argued about justice and self-control and future judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present; when I have an opportunity I will summon you.” At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. But when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison. (Acts 24:24-27)

When Paul was encouraging his student, Timothy, to finish what he started, he said, “Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.” (1 Timothy 1:6-7).

Self-control is a prerequisite to a civil society.

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Jesus is the “gateway” to God

Question: I think all religions are valid and any expression of spirituality is sufficient to come to God. Christians who believe Jesus is the only way to Him are narrow-minded. I want a relationship with God and am I right that any religious expression of spirituality is sufficient for a relationship to Him?

Answer: The Bible doesn't teach any expression of spirituality toward God is sufficient. Jesus said, “I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison



them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved” (Jn. 10:7, 8). Many believe Jesus is a good teacher, but you can't believe He is a good teacher and reject what He taught.

Jesus established His claim to being the only way to a relationship with God is His resurrection. He came back from the dead—no one else in human history has done that!

So, when Jesus made this bold claim about being the only “gate” to coming to God, you can believe Him because He validated it by His resurrection.

To go through the “gate” Jesus provides to a relationship with God, you must turn from your sin and ask Him for forgiveness. Through a sincere prayer ask Jesus to come into your heart as your Savior and Lord. Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor and get involved in a church that will help you to grow in your faith.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Freedom General Baptist Church
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87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion
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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 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.
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Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.
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Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.


FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
David LeNeave, Pastor


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2 Peter 3:18
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Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.


Unity General Baptist Church
4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
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 -


Forgotten crossings: Crittenden County’s lost covered bridges

The old wooden covered bridge is a vanishing landmark in Kentucky. In 1945 there were 45 examples of this picturesque structure spanning Kentucky streams. But the latest count in 2025 shows only 11 of the spans standing.

Unique in Structure

Before the last of these covered bridges is piled on the scrap heap of antiquity, Kentuckians who have never seen such a structure would do well to view one of these monuments of the state’s romantic past. The Kentucky Department of Highways says they can be found only in nine counties – Bourbon, Braken, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Robertson and Washington.

The covered bridge is unique in structure and surrounded by an aura of history, most of them being 75 to 150 years old. They were built at a time when iron and steel beams were not be had. The first covered bridges were limited in span by the length of the beams which could be sawed

out of rough logs. Later the builders devised a plan of setting a pair of heavy timbers, one above the other with diagonal planking nailed to the sides, creating a crude but practical truss.

In plans for these old bridges, specifications usually required that “the timber be of good yellow poplar and the bridge be well covered with a good shingle roof and the sides well boxed in with a good grade of weather-boards.”

Presumably, the siding and roof were to protect the trusses, floors and underpinnings from snow and rain. Another theory to account for the roofs was that the builders were carpenters, accustomed to building frame houses, the design of which was copied in the bridges. The roofs had to be high enough “for a covered wagon or one loaded with hay to pass under it with convenience.”

These bridges lacked the magnificence of their modern counterparts, but as “sparkling” sites in horse and buggy days they were unexcelled.

Two Covered Bridges in Crittenden

Only two covered bridges are known for sure to be located in Crittenden County – the Crooked Creek covered bridge and the Irma-Salem covered bridge. Although some records in Frankfort say Crittenden County had several covered bridges, the Crooked Creek covered bridge was the only one that was ever talked about or had stories written about it in the local paper. I have no idea when the old covered bridge was built and have never found any information to tell the date, other than what was in a 1954 article from The Crittenden

Press shared by Mrs. Fred Gilbert.

Mrs. Fred Gilbert recorded a family story that one night in October 1875, during a torrential rainfall, a son was being born to the wife of James M. Gilbert of the Crooked Creek neighborhood. A neighbor was sent to Marion several miles distant on horseback to get a doctor. It was during the late hours of night, being guided only by lightening and the intuition of his horse, he reached the covered bridge. The creek was rolling high and rapidly. He got about half way across the bridge when it pulled loose from its mooring. He held to the saddle and the horse swam back to the same side on which he entered the bridge. The bridge was probably built several years before 1875.

The End of the Covered Bridge

From The Crittenden Press, in a severe windstorm on Nov. 11, 1940, the covered portion of the Crooked Creek bridge blew down. Abutments and floor had been repaired recently and these were not damaged. It appears that one of the few covered bridges in western Kentucky will soon become a thing of the past.

Initials, names and insignia are carved into the hardwood of the old rafters or painted crudely in apparently fadeless inks, so that this old landmark bears a revealing history of the business growth of the county, the political favorites of the county and the intimate romances of the neighborhood. It is a favorite spot for picnics. Young people still stroll through its cool interior in summer or listen from the “big rocks” underneath, to the clomplomp of the horses’ hoofs as they trot across the bridge.

The old Fords Ferry Road was the main road to the Ohio River until Highway 91 was built. The old bridge was



This postcard preserves the history of the Crooked Creek bridge. It shows Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilberts crossing the bridge in its early days before the weather took its toll on the structure.

crossed by many covered wagons transporting early settlers from Kentucky and the south to what is now the state of Illinois.

New Bridge

Since only the covered portion of the bridge was damaged during the November 1940 windstorm, the bridge stayed that way, with some of its rafters showing, until 1948 when at the meeting of the fiscal court in March of that year, a committee was appointed to investigate the rebuilding of the bridge across Crooked Creek on the old Fords Ferry Road.

A few months later, in an item in The Crittenden Press dated Nov. 19, 1948, it states that the bridge across Crooked Creek at the old covered bridge site will be open for traffic Saturday, Nov. 20. The scrap from the old bridge will be offered for sale at that time. T. H. Fowler was the contractor. This must have been the end of the old wooden bridge.

Irma Covered Bridge

The other known covered bridge was located at Irma and spanned the Coefield Creek. It was located on KY 723, 2.5 south of Irma. After almost giving up on finding out anything about this second covered bridge, I was told that Carol and Margaret Croft who live on the Carol Croft Road off of KY 723 might remember something about it. When I called, Mrs. Croft told me that her husband, Carol, remembered the bridge and that she had a picture of it. Mr. Croft has since passed away, and I am so thankful that I got to visit with them when I did. It was so great to talk to someone who remembered the old covered bridge. They were a pleasure to get to know.

Mr. Croft told me the covered bridge was rather large, and it was about the length of four cars. He told me that he remembered when he was about 9 or 10, in 1936-37, that he and the Porter boys, Jess and Harry, would climb in the rafters of the bridge and when the Pepsi truck would pass through on its round from the Lewis Croft Store going to the store at Irma, they would grab them a Pepsi. As the truck would go through the bridge and exit out the other side there was a high spot on the road that made the back of the truck rise up in the air as it cleared the bridge. What a special treat for these three young boys, as it must have been a quite an adventure as they waited until just the right time to grab their prize drink.

He also remembered another time he and his brother were loading loose hay on their wagon to take to their barn on the Raleigh Rd. (now the Carol Croft Rd.) and wanting to get through faster, they overloaded the hay wagon by piling the hay too high, as the too-high-piled wagon excited the covered bridge over the rise, the hay was caught by the rafters and pulled off the wagon. He smiled and said it took them longer to reload it than it would have to made two trips.

By the late 1950s the old covered bridge had gotten in really bad condition and was torn down. The the new concrete bridge that was constructed to take its place was built downstream and ready for use in 1959.

The old covered bridges of Crittenden County are truly a part of our forgotten passages of time. I was not fortunate



This covered bridge was located on the Irma-Salem Road (now S.R. 723 S). This picture, taken around 1936-37 shows Jesse Porter at left and Harry Porter enjoying a ride on their bicycles. (Picture shared by Margaret and Carol Croft)

to be able to see either of these two bridges. (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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legal notice

Notice is hereby given that on October 22, 2025 Rommel Ellington Jr. and Marcie Ellington of 3287 Fishtap Rd., Marion, KY 42064 was appointed co-executors of James Patrick Jamison, deceased, whose address was 220 South College Street, Marion, KY 42064. Rebecca Johnson, P.O. Box 415, Marion, KY 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-executors before the 22nd day of April, 2026 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court. Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-43-c)

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Advertisement for Crittenden County Local Planning Committee Meeting and Public Forum Meeting

The Crittenden County Schools' Local Planning Committee will conduct a public forum and meeting of the Crittenden County Local Planning Committee on November 11 at 5:30 p.m. CT at the Rocket Arena Conference Room, in the arena directly behind the high school at 519 ½ West Gum Street, Marion, Kentucky. 42064.

The local planning meeting will be preceded by and start immediately after a PUBLIC FORUM. These meetings are informal gatherings to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee in the development of a proposed District Facility Plan for the Crittenden County Schools.

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-010 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on October 16, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the Fiscal Court held on September 18, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the County Administrative Code to include Chapter 13 regarding emergency management drone policy.

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Administrative Office Building, Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 364
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-4600
October 16, 2025

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-009 ENACTING AS AN ORDINANCE, A CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE COUNTY OF CRITTENDEN, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING, AND COMPILING CERTAIN EXISTING GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE COUNTY DEALING WITH SUBJECTS EMBRACED IN THE CODE

Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on October 16, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the Fiscal Court held on June 17, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance revises, amends, and restates for the purpose of codification existing ordinances of the Crittenden Fiscal Court. Henceforth the general ordinances of the County of Crittenden as herein revised, amended, restated, codified, and compiled in book form are adopted as and shall constitute the "Code of Ordinances of the County of Crittenden."

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Administrative Office Building, Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 364
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-4600
October 16, 2025

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-011 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET OF THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on October 16, 2025, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a special called meeting of the Fiscal Court held on October 3, 2025, at 3:45 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the 2025-2026 Budget such that there shall be an increase in the receipts in the amount of \$274,402.51 and an increase in appropriations of the same amount.

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Administrative Office Building, Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 364
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Ella Geary

Rogers paces boys team berth; Geary & Potter qualify for state

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County’s boys’ cross country team has earned a trip to Lexington after a strong showing Saturday at the Class 1A Region 1 Championship held at Logan County High School. The Rockets finished fourth overall in the team standings, securing one of the coveted qualifying spots for the KHSAA State Championships.

Junior River Rogers led the way for Crittenden, finishing 11th overall with a time of 19:08.83. He was followed by C.J. Nelson in 16th at 19:48.20, Noah Martinez in 18th at 19:59.01, Gaige Markham in 28th at 20:38.35, and Landon Starkey in 41st at 23:03.25. Also competing for the Rockets were Aidan Musser (49th, 24:18.33) and Miles Yates (50th, 24:27.38). Markham and Yates both ran personal bests.

Crittenden’s boys finished with 106 team points, placing behind University Heights, Fort Campbell and Dawson Springs. Easton Bourland of Dawson Springs was the boys’ individual regional champion, clocking in at

16:49.59, which equates to about 11 mph.

In the girls’ race, Crittenden County narrowly missed qualifying as a team, falling just three points short of the final state-qualifying spot. However, two Lady Rockets will represent the school individually at the state meet. Senior Ella Geary finished 14th with a time of 24:55.30, and junior Presley Potter placed 17th in 25:28.30, both earning individual qualifications.

Rounding out the Lady Rockets’ top seven were Addie Nelson (19th, 26:24.40), Braelyn Fulkerson (21st, 26:28.90), Ella Whitney (22nd, 26:34.80), London McCord (25th, 27:40.40), and Hannah Whitney (31st, 34:24.40). Fulkerson and McCord both ran personal bests.

The Lady Rockets scored 73 points, placing fourth behind Dawson Springs (32), Fort Campbell (47), and Murray (70). Jade Green of Murray was the girls’ individual champion with a winning time of 20:31.10.

The KHSAA Class 1A State Championships will be held next weekend at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.



River Rogers

SportsShorts

FOOTBALL

First Region Standings

First District

Team	Overall	Dist.
Mayfield	8-1	5-0
Crittenden Co.	6-3	4-1
Caldwell Co.	6-3	3-2
Fort Campbell	3-6	1-3
Trigg County	2-6	1-3
Todd Central	1-8	0-5

Second District

Owensboro Catholic	8-1	3-0
Hancock County	6-3	2-1
McLean County	4-5	1-2
Fort Knox	3-6	0-3

BASKETBALL

Middle School Results

8th Grade Girls
Livingston 40, Crittenden 32
Mela Penn 12, Addie Nelson 10, Lydia Hearrell 2, Olivia Mattingly 4, Kora Penn 5.

South Hopkins 55, Crittenden 27
Fiona Louden 6, Mela Penn 13, Addie Nelson 3, Lydia Hearrell 2, Olivia Mattingly 3

Caldwell 37, Crittenden 26
Brooklyn Lovell 2, Louden 4, M. Penn 6, Nelson 6, Hearrell 2, Mattingly 6

Crittenden 41, Trigg 34
Louden 2, M. Penn 8, Nelson 6, Hearrell 5, Mattingly 12

7th Grade Girls
Crittenden 36, Livingston 22
Mela Penn 8, Addie Nelson 4, Lydia Hearrell 3, Olivia Mattingly 11, Ellie Binkley 4, Kora Penn 5, Mattie Moss 1.

South Hopkins 32, Crittenden 9
Mela Penn 1, Olivia Mattingly 4, Kora Penn 2, Mattie Moss 2.

Crittenden 35, Caldwell 15
Mela Penn 12, Addie Nelson 10, Lydia Hearrell, 3, Olivia Mattingly 10.

Crittenden 31, Trigg 21
M. Penn 8, Nelson 9, Hearrell 4, Mattingly 2, Ellie Binkley 8.

8th Grade Boys
Crittenden 61, Livingston 25
Kash Myers 29, Oakley Sherer 6, Brier Brown 10, Beau Maraman 4, Noah Moss 2, Rex Boone 2, Bode Merrill 2, Eli Taylor 6.

7th grade Boys
Crittenden 53, Livingston 39
Rex Boone 5, Tripp Martin 7, Noah Moss 29, Eli Taylor 9, Knox Champion 3.

FOOTBALL

Junior Pros undefeated

Crittenden County’s 3-4 grade Rockets capped an undefeated regular season Saturday with a 12-0 win over Caldwell County.

Crittenden rolled up 193 total yards of offense while holding Caldwell to negative yardage. Colton James led the way with 12 carries for 97 yards and both Rocket touchdowns. Ayden Oliver added 65 yards on 11 carries and completed 4-of-6 passes for 35 yards. Koleson Tinsley caught one pass for 27 yards to highlight the receiving corps. Defensively, the Rockets were dominant, limiting Caldwell to minus-3 yards on 20 plays. James led the team with six tackles, one assist and a tackle for loss. Jake Morse and Chase Winders each recorded two tackles and multiple stops behind the line. Grayson Congenie broke up two passes in the shutout effort.

The 5-6 grade Rockets fell 14-0 to Caldwell in their regular-season finale. Both teams will play in the youth league jamboree Saturday and Sunday at Rocket Stadium.

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County pulled off another second-half comeback Friday to clinch home-field advantage for the opening round of the Class 2A playoffs, edging arch-rival Caldwell County 27-24 in a nail-biter at Rocket Stadium to close out regular-season district play.

The Rockets (6-3, 4-1), who have now beaten the Tigers (6-3, 3-2) three of the last four years, trailed 17-7 at halftime after Caldwell settled for a field goal despite reaching the 1-yard line late in the second quarter. When Tiger playmaker Kam Wilson left the game with an injury just before the half, Crittenden seized momentum, scoring 20 unanswered points to complete one of its biggest wins in recent years at Rocket Stadium.

The victory guarantees Crittenden a home playoff game Nov. 7 and marks just the second time in the school’s last two stints in Class 2A that it has finished somewhere other than the No. 4 seed in the district standings. The Rockets will host McLean County to open postseason play. Mayfield will Fort Knox and Caldwell County will open the playoffs at Hancock County. The other First Region playoff game hinges on this week’s matchup between Trigg County and Fort Campbell, which was postponed from more than two weeks ago. The winner will play at Owensboro Catholic to open the 2A postseason.

Quarterback Quinn Summers and leading receiver Caden Howard connected for two touchdowns, while Summers and running back Trae Taylor each added rushing scores. Summers also connected with Dokota Sosh for a first-half passing touchdown.

Crittenden’s defense turned in another stellar performance following its dominant showing at Fort Campbell the previous week. Against the Falcons 7 days earlier, Crittenden rallied to pull off the largest second-half comeback in school history. Against the Tigers, the Rockets came back from 10 down to



The Rockets come off the field celebrating a big play Friday against Caldwell County. Pictured are (from left) Quinn Summers (12), Noah Byford (9), Gary Hall (60), Braydin Brandsasse, Brayden Poindexter (15) and Jay Stevenson (8).

capture the most pivotal triumph of the fall. Leading the charge were Sosh, who intercepted two passes, and Davis Perryman, who added another pick to help seal the win.

There will be one more regular-season game next Friday at Hopkins Central. It’s a non-district matchup.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Caldwell County	7	10	0	7
Crittenden County	7	7	7	6

SCORING PLAYS

Cald-Mattocks 1 run (kick good) 6:09, 1st
Critt-D.Sosh 15 pass from Quinn Summers (Brown kick) 2:02, 1st
Cald-K.Wilson 28 run (kick good) 7:31, 2nd
Cald-Richey 10 field goal :01, 2nd
Critt-C.Howard 11 pass from Summers (Brown kick) 9:12, 3rd
Critt-Howard 64 pass from Summers (Brown kick) 5:224, 3rd
Critt-Taylor 3 run (Brown kick failed) 10:03, 4th
Cald-D.Willson 1 pass from Lander (kick good) 4:04, 4th

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County’s volleyball season ended Tuesday night with a straight-set loss to Webster County in the opening round of the Second Region Tournament at Hopkins County Central.

The Lady Rockets fell 25-8, 25-16, 25-17 against a team that’s proven to be one of the best in the region this fall.

Crittenden entered the postseason on a high note after capturing its eighth consecutive Fifth District championship last week, but the team couldn’t carry that momentum into regional play. The Lady Rockets had shown steady improvement late in the season, leaning on defense and service consistency to win key matches. However, the Lady Trojans, ranked second in the region behind Henderson County in the KHSAA power index, proved too strong in the tournament opener.

Webster improved to 22-6 on the season, while Crittenden closed out its 2025 campaign at 8-15.

Senior Lacey Boone recorded three kills on 14 attacks, and senior Aly Yates added two kills and 13 digs. Juniors



PHOTOS BY ELLIOT EVANS

Above at left, Crittenden County senior libero Aly Yates makes a big effort to reach a ball during Tuesday’s regional tournament. Behind her are Maddie Hearrell (2) and Lola Cratty (3). Above right is senior Lilah Sherer setting a shot for a teammate.



Braelyn Belt and Maeson Martin contributed four and two kills, respectively, and junior Layken Gilchrist added two

kills. Senior setter Lilah Sherer had 13 assists and seven digs in her final match.



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Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala

Award recipients celebrated during the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Gala are (from left) Brandon Peters, Young Tradesperson of the Year; Jeremy Dempsey, accepting on behalf of Whitetail Properties for Excellence in Social Responsibility; Brad Hart, accepting the Legacy Award presented posthumously to his father Keith Hart in honor of four decades of community involvement and customer service at Marion Feed Mill; Shawn Bright and Crystal McCorkle, accepting the Community Spirit Award and the Chamber Partner of the Year Award for Crittenden Community Hospital; Corey and Michelle Crider, Up and Coming Business of the Year; Tashena Hill, Top Woman in Business Award; Serena Dickerson, Volunteer of the Year; Shannon Hodge, Crittenden County Schools Person of the Year; and Barbara Hodge and Britt Wright, Business of the Year for Hodge's Sports & Apparel. Not pictured was Katie Wheeler, Young Professional of the Year. As part of its program, the Chamber also recognized runners-up from a pool of more than 100 nominees. Honored as runners-up were Travis Fitzgerald, Young Tradesperson; Cutter Singleton, Young Professional; Fred Stubblefield, Volunteer of the Year; and Becky Tyner Belt, Community Spirit Award; Crystal Wesmoland, Crittenden County Schools Person of the Year; Chapel Hill Head Start, Up and Coming Business; Shanna West, Woman in Business; The Crittenden Press, Business of the Year; and Leroy Hodge, Legacy Award. Singleton, a local entertainer, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

STOUT

Continued from page 1
Kentucky Republican Party's top choice to run for attorney general – a race he ultimately declined to pursue for family reasons.

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Charles Merrill and Charity Bird and Neil Bordy, representing the bar and trustees, also spoke. Representing Marion and Crittenden County, Press Publisher Chris Evans delivered a lively hometown narrative of the judge's life and career.

"I'm a newspaper man, so today I'm going to tell the small-town west Kentucky version of Judge Alan Crider Stout," Evans said as he began tracing Stout's legal career that was born on a borrowed manual typewriter at his mother's kitchen table in Marion, earning respect as a young attorney and becoming the longest-serving county attorney in Crittenden County history – 21 years.

As a young attorney, Evans said Stout gathered respect, gained a reputation for strong intellect and earned the trust of his community.

"He has spent his entire career seeking justice for all, from the trenches of the legal system to its robed pinnacle."

Evans entertained the crowd with a retelling of the legendary Tyson Chicken Trial, when Stout, as county attorney, prosecuted a case involving a "trespassing smell" from an industrial chicken operation near Greenwood Heights. As a result of the conviction on those novel grounds, Tyson Foods soon left town.

"It's a legendary story



Judge Alan Stout's grandson, Crider Cunningham, and wife, Doris, participate in the official de-robing ceremony during the judge's retirement last week in Louisville.

in Marion, and if you don't believe me, just read The Crittenden Press," Evans told the standing-room-only crowd gathered inside the cavernous courtroom.

In addition to his public service, Evans recounted Stout's long list of civic, educational and professional achievements, including being a Murray State University graduate and former regent, a member and leader of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, an active church leader and philanthropist, and president of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees.

Evans praised Stout and his wife, Doris, for their lasting generosity toward Marion and for spearheading preservation and fundraising efforts for Fohs Hall, the town's historic civic cen-

ter. "Almost single-handedly, Alan has managed to raise enormous sums of capital to keep that wonderful and cherished icon of Marion, Kentucky preserved," he said. "Alan Stout is a true Crittenden County Hall of Famer."

Evans concluded his remarks by recalling that 15 years earlier, the Chamber of Commerce had presented Stout with an oversized gavel as a token of gratitude when he left Marion to take his judgeship in Louisville.

"Today, instead of presenting my friend with a cane to limp home on, I would like to introduce the Mayor of Marion, D'Anna Browning, to present Judge Stout with something perhaps more appropriate for the occasion," Evans said, as Browning stepped forward to deliver the key to the city.



Local judges attending were (from left) Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers, retired Chief Circuit Court Judge Rene Williams, Judge Stout, Circuit Court Judge Daniel Heady and District Court Judge Ben Leonard.

The program continued with reflections from Stout's children, Katie Stout Cunningham and Logan Stout, who spoke of their parents' faith, partnership and example.

"Throughout his career, Dad has always been steady and united with Mom, truly side-by-side in every season and every chapter," Cunningham said. "Their partnership has been the embodiment of devotion. Every road trip, every case, every late night, they've been a team."

Quoting pastor Eugene Peterson, she described her father's life as "a long

obedience in the same direction," guided by faith and integrity. "The Latin phrase *Salus populi suprema lex esto* – the welfare of the people shall be the supreme law – captures him perfectly," she said, pointing out that he has always sought the best interests of the people and what is right for his community, whether in Marion, Paducah or the federal bench.

Logan Stout, the judge's son, described his father as an example of persistence, provision and purpose.

"In the past, Dad showed persistence – a

relentless work ethic and commitment to what's right," he said. "In the present, I see provision. He's always been there for us. And looking to the future, I see purpose, a deepening of faith, focus and relationship. Dad, you're going out on top. You've finished this chapter with sharpness, grace and excellence."

After an official "Retirement of the Robe," Stout offered his own reflections and gratitude. His daughter-in-law, Stevie Stout, produced a video tribute, and unveiled was a portrait of Stout by Maria Rodrigues Pereira that will hang in the federal courthouse.

Judge Stout's retirement marks the close of a distinguished career that began in Marion and rose to the federal judiciary, but his legacy remains firmly rooted in the values and community that shaped him. For the people of Marion and Crittenden County, his success has brought pride and recognition far beyond the county line, a reflection, as Evans put it, "of a life dedicated to making his hometown a better place to live" through his resources and vast network.

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Nine individuals face felony indictments

STAFF REPORT

The Crittenden County Grand Jury in October returned indictments against several individuals on felony and misdemeanor charges ranging from drug trafficking and strangulation to possession of defaced firearms and cultivation of marijuana.

An indictment by a grand jury is not a determination of guilt or innocence. It only means there is sufficient evidence to move a case forward in Crittenden Circuit Court.

Following are those indicted earlier this month.

- Joseph Michael Cervantes, 34, of Marion was indicted on charges of second-degree strangulation and fourth-degree assault (domestic violence, minor injury). The strangulation charge is a Class D felony, and the assault charge is a Class A misdemeanor.
- Court records indicate that Marion police responded to a call on Oak Street about 3 p.m. Sept. 9. There, they found a family member of the suspect who claimed she had been strangled. Cervantes told police that he had been attacked by the alleged victim.
- Richard J. Hardin, 43, of Marion was indicted for first-degree criminal trespass, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (second

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

GRAND JURY

offense, methamphetamine), and possession of drug paraphernalia. The possession charge is a Class D felony, while the other two counts are Class A misdemeanors.

The police report alleges that on Sept. 4 Hardin located a key to a home in Marion, entered it, took a photo of himself while inside and sent it to someone. Marion Police Department and Crittenden County Sheriff's Department both responded to the call.

- Tiffany N. Henderson, 37, of Eddyville was indicted for first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (first offense, more than two grams of methamphetamine), first-degree possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The trafficking charge is a Class C felony, the possession charge a Class D felony, and the remaining two are misdemeanors.
- This case involved a traffic stop on U.S. 60 West, and Henderson was alleged to have had a pound of meth stuffed inside the front of her pants. David Simms Jr. is a co-defendant in the case.
- David Simms Jr., 45, of

Nebo was indicted on nine charges, including having no tail lamps, disregarding a stop sign, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance (second offense), first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (first offense, more than two grams of methamphetamine), failure to wear a seat belt, failure to produce an insurance card, failure of owner to maintain required insurance (first offense), no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, and being a first-degree persistent felony offender. The trafficking charge is a Class C felony, the DUI and insurance offense are misdemeanors, and the others are traffic violations.

- Justin E. Rose, 34, of Marion was indicted on eight separate charges, including two counts of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine and hydrocodone), possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, and first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (less than two grams of methamphetamine). The trafficking and possession charges are Class D felonies, the wanton endanger-

ment counts are also Class D felonies, and the paraphernalia and marijuana offenses are misdemeanors.

Court records indicate that in November 2024, police and officials with the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services went to visit a home on East Mound Park and found drugs and a nine-year-old inside the residence.

- Steven Austin Travis, 28, of Marion was indicted on charges of possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, a Class C felony; falsely reporting an incident, a Class A misdemeanor; and carrying a concealed deadly weapon, also a Class A misdemeanor.
- Court and police records indicate that on May 3, Marion Police Chief Bobby West responded to a call from Travis, who was at Livingston Hospital. The police report says Travis told the chief that he'd been shot in the leg by an unknown assailant the day before while walking in Marion. Further investigation, the report says, points to an accidental gunshot wound. Travis is believed to have been carrying a handgun in his pants pocket when it went off. Because he is a convicted felon, charges were filed.
- William Wheeler, 47, of Marion was indicted for cultivation of marijuana (more than

five plants, first offense), a Class D felony.

The citation alleges that Wheeler was in possession of 54 plants on July 15 at a home in Crittenden County.

- Beverly A. Sigler, 58, of Marion was indicted on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine), a Class D felony; possession of a defaced firearm, a Class A misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, also a Class A misdemeanor.
- A criminal investigation alleges that on Jan. 17 Sigler was in possession of a Savage rifle with its serial number removed and was also in possession of drugs.
- Jeffrey R. Patterson, 55, of Marion was indicted on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine), a Class D felony; possession of a defaced firearm, a Class A misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, also a Class A misdemeanor.
- A criminal investigation alleges that on Jan. 17 Patterson was in possession of a Savage rifle with its serial number removed and was also in possession of drugs.
- All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Monthly student recognitions were announced by the board of education last week. Rocket Role Models for October exhibiting the Crittenden County Schools' core value of excellence are (front from left) Birdie Brown, Liam Schillar, (back) CCMS student Catelynn Maddux and CCHS student Noah LaPradd.



COPS grant will help pay for new school security system

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Schools is the recipient of a three-year, \$500,000 COPS Grant. COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) is a federal program within the U.S. Department of Justice that provides grants for law enforcement for policing initiatives. The grant will be used for a variety of safety upgrades, including improving security of entrances to the middle school, some of which already were included in the current fiscal year budget. The grant requires a 25 percent local match, or \$167,000 over the life of the grant, according to Superintendent Tonya Driver.

In her monthly report, Driver said that completion of the middle school addition is nearing its end, as construction fencing and materials have been removed from

the parking lot. Additionally, a circle drive for bus drop-off and pick-up has been completed adjacent to the west end of the new middle school wing. A new traffic routine for student pick-up and drop-off will not be implemented until after Christmas break.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted \$13,295 from the Kentucky Education Technology System (KET'S) to be matched by the board.
- Created a replacement cost of \$5 each for students who lose bus badges. Badges are required for electronic scanning when entering and exiting buses.
- Accepted a \$5,000 donation from Seimens. The money will be used to purchase 3D printers for use at the middle and high schools.
- Formally approved the establishment of a Na-

tional Arts Honor Society at Crittenden County High School.

- Approved creation of a Heath Services assistant to be split between Crittenden County Elementary and Crittenden County Middle/High School campuses to aid the district nurses for 6 1/2 hours a day. The position district began the school year without an assistant, but Driver said now that nurses are starting to process Medicaid reimbursement, it is a necessary position.

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The real meaning of diversification in investing

In the world of investing, we've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." It's solid advice that emphasizes the importance of diversifying your investments. Unfortunately, some people misinterpret this wisdom to mean they should avoid consolidating their investment accounts and keep their money spread across multiple financial institutions, often working with several different financial advisors.

However, when financial professionals talk about diversification, they're referring to diversifying your investment assets, not your accounts. There's a big difference between the two, and confusing them could hurt your financial future.

Scattered accounts may affect costs, paperwork and advice. When your assets are spread among multiple financial institutions, you could face several drawbacks. First, you're likely paying more in fees than necessary. Multiple providers often mean multiple account fees, transaction costs and mutual fund ex-

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penses that can add up quickly. Generally, the more assets you have with one financial provider, the more opportunities you have for reducing or eliminating these costs.

Managing scattered accounts also could create a paperwork nightmare. You'll receive multiple monthly statements and numerous tax forms, making it much harder to see the big picture of your financial health. This complexity can lead to missed opportunities and poor decision-making.

Perhaps most important, working with multiple financial advisors may result in conflicting advice and duplicated investment strategies. Without a comprehensive view of your entire portfolio, each financial advisor may recommend investments that don't work well together, potentially delaying your progress toward reaching financial goals.

There's strength in con-

solidation. Consolidating your accounts with a single financial advisor offers numerous benefits. You'll have opportunities to develop a closer, more comprehensive relationship with someone who understands your complete financial picture. This financial advisor can provide informed guidance and help eliminate the conflicting advice that may come from working with multiple professionals.

Consolidation also makes it easier to implement a well-diversified portfolio that fits your level of risk tolerance. When all your investments are in one place, you can see exactly how your assets are allocated and make strategic adjustments as needed. It becomes simpler to gauge aggregate investment returns, assess your portfolio assets and rebalance when necessary.

For retirement planning, consolidation can be

especially valuable. IRAs at different providers can be consolidated at any time without tax consequences when assets are transferred directly between providers. When you retire, your 401(k) can typically be rolled over into an IRA, streamlining your retirement income strategy.

True diversification still matters. While consolidating accounts makes sense, diversifying your actual investments remains crucial. A good financial advisor will help you carefully build a balanced mix of stocks and bonds appropriate for your age and goals. As you approach retirement, this typically means shifting toward a more balanced portfolio that still provides growth to combat inflation while offering stability and income.

Diversification goes beyond just stocks and bonds. Take bonds, for instance: You can diversify



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by bond type (municipal, corporate and government), bond maturity (through a strategy called "laddering") and bond sector to spread risk across different parts of the economy.

How to get started. If your retirement savings and investment accounts are scattered among various financial institutions, consider consolidating everything with one trusted financial advisor. The streamlined record-keeping, potential for reduced fees and comprehensive financial guidance can help improve your wealth-building potential while making your financial life simpler to manage.

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