

## Humid weather quite prevalent this summer

Western Kentucky endured its most humid summer on record, with the National Weather Service in Paducah reporting extreme and prolonged humidity from late June through mid-August. Paducah typically experiences about 176 hours each summer with dew points of 75 degrees or higher, a level considered very uncomfortable, but this year that figure soared to 446 hours. Cape Girardeau logged 479 hours, and Poplar Bluff topped the list with 547 hours. Although no city in the region officially hit triple digits, Paducah, Carbondale, Evansville and Cape Girardeau each reached 98 degrees on Aug. 19. The dangerous combination of heat and humidity mirrored nationwide findings that many households are struggling with extreme heat. For more on Crittenden County's August weather see page 3.

## Who is getting hot?

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 American Housing Survey found that 10% of U.S. households or about 13.2 million were uncomfortably hot for at least 24 hours during the past year. Renters were more likely to report heat discomfort than homeowners, 13.6% compared to 8%. Apartment dwellers (12.6%) and those in manufactured homes (11.6%) also reported higher rates of discomfort than residents of single-family homes (8.8%).

## Chamber nominations

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its 2025 awards through Sept. 15. Awards will be presented at the Chamber Gala on Saturday, Oct. 25 at Fohs Hall. Nominations may be submitted online at [crittendencountychamber.org](http://crittendencountychamber.org) or in person at the public library or Extension office. Awards include Volunteer of the Year, Young Professional of the Year, Young Tradesperson of the Year, Top Woman in Business, Crittenden County Schools Person of the Year, Up and Coming Business of the Year, Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility, Business of the Year, Community Spirit Award and the Legacy Award.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion City Council will meet Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall.
- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall. The board has established the third Monday of each month as its regular meeting date.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 at its office on East Bellville Street.

# Marion couple wins Dream Home

## Hodges say they are not sure what to do with prize

STAFF REPORT

Timothy and Hope Hodge have never tried to live too large, and they weren't necessarily looking to start. Yet last Friday afternoon, their quiet life in rural Crittenden County was interrupted when Timothy's name was announced on live television as winner of the 2025 St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway. The couple, who live on a retirement income in a 14x70-foot mobile home on 45 acres of family land once owned by Timothy's grandmother, watched the drawing together on WPSD-TV. "We were both watching," Hope said. "Timothy was sitting on the couch and I was in my easy chair when they announced Timothy Hodge was the winning ticket, and we just both stared at each other. We couldn't believe it. "The second thing we did was say, "We're going to be millionaires,"" Hope added. "Well, not quite," Timothy added, but there will be a



Timothy and Hope Hodge live near Frances on a 45-acre farm.

nice payday at some point. Timothy, 65, then responded in the only way he could think of in the moment. "I went outside and smoked a cigarette," he said with a laugh. The prize is a newly built, 2,700-square-foot residence in Paducah's Westwood Hills neighborhood, valued at about \$665,000. The three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath house was the centerpiece of the 20th annual giveaway, which raised more than \$923,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through the sale of nearly 9,300 tickets. For the Hodges, though,

the victory is bittersweet. Both in their 60s, they have spent recent years focused on health. Hope, 71, has battled COPD and endured hospital stays. Timothy, now retired, spent more than four decades on the City of Marion's maintenance crew before leaving in 2022. They bought their winning ticket the old-fashioned way. Tickets were available online, but they don't have internet. After seeing the commercials on television and getting an invitation letter in the mail, Timothy just wrote a check and mailed it in. It was the first time they had ever purchased a Dream



Rendering of a home they won in Paducah's Westwood Hills

Home ticket. Timothy said he did it "just to help the kids" at St. Jude. He's played the Kentucky Lottery some, with a couple of nice scratch-off wins in the past, but nothing remotely close to this. "It ain't hit yet," Hope said. "It's the most I ever won in my life and Timothy, too." Since the announcement, their landline phone has rung off the hook. Cell service is spotty in the area. They can only pick up a cell signal in the driveway. "Friday it rang 10 or 11 times," Hope said. "Usually we get one or two calls a day, if that, and most of those are telemarketers." While the house is stunning, the Hodges are trying to be realistic about whether they can or want to keep it. It would be an upgrade, See **HOUSE**/page 3



**Burn Bans are Now in Place in Crittenden and Livingston counties**  
Flames engulfed about five acres owned by Brent Highfill and farmed by James Penn in a challenging vegetation fire last Wednesday on the east side of US 641 between Crayne and Fredonia. Crews from Salem, Fredonia, Marion, Shady Grove, Caldwell County and Sheridan fire departments, along with Crittenden County EMS, the Sheriff's Department, Kentucky Division of Forestry, and several local farmers, joined forces to battle the blaze. The operation involved 8 brush trucks, 8 side-by-sides, 6 tankers, 2 engines, 2 bulldozers, 2 skid steers, a backhoe and a tractor with a large disk, plus a large number of personnel. Judge-executives in Crittenden and Livingston issued countywide burn bans this week. See **page 3** for more information.



Simms

Henderson

Pound of drugs, cash and more seized after traffic stop on US 60 West



## 2nd biggest meth bust in county history

STAFF REPORT

A late-night traffic stop last week on U.S. 60 West led to the second largest methamphetamine seizure in Crittenden County history, according to Sheriff Evan Head. Around 11 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2, the sheriff stopped a rollback wrecker truck near the intersection of U.S. 60 West and KY 1668 (Crittenden Springs Road) after observing it roll through a stop sign at the end of Crittenden Springs Road and travel without illuminated tail

lamps. The driver, identified as David B. Simms, 45, of Nebo, was taken into custody along with a passenger, Tiffany Henderson, 37, of Edyville. Inside the vehicle, the sheriff allegedly found about 454 grams or about one pound of methamphetamine, \$2,600 in U.S. currency, a bag of shredded cash, marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Head said the damaged bills discovered in a baggie are a mystery. "It's unusual, and we're still trying to figure out what

it means," Head said. Simms was charged with felony first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance greater than two grams, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, disregarding a stop sign, failure to maintain insurance and other traffic offenses. Henderson was charged with felony trafficking in a controlled substance (meth), possession of meth, possession of marijuana and possession of drug parapher-

## False claim deferred for one year

STAFF REPORT

A local businessman who last year accused the county attorney of physical assault has reached a plea agreement with prosecutors that could eventually clear his record. Kent Withrow, 50, of Marion entered an Alford plea last week in Crittenden District Court. An Alford plea allows a defendant to acknowledge that enough evidence exists for a conviction without admitting guilt. Special Prosecutor Lee Riddle of Madisonville offered Withrow a deal that amounts to one year of deferment or probation as the prosecutor characterized it in court last week. If Withrow avoids further offenses over the next 12 months, the charges could be dismissed when he returns to court Sept. 2, 2026. After that, the case could potentially be fully expunged from

See **METH**/page 3

See **CASE**/page 4



## Deaths

### Cone

Claudean Cone (nee Crider), 91, died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025. She was a Christian and former pastor.



Surviving are children April (Steven) Knapp and Joan (Paul) Neu; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Cone; and children Craig Adam, Frank Jr., Nathan and Carol Cone.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Grand Stand Restaurant, 4428 Hamilton Middletown Rd., Liberty Township, OH 45011 from 5-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25.

### Millikan

Chantel Denyse “Chicken” Millikan, 54, of Marion, died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025



at Deaconess Health in Madisonville. She was a member of the Providence High School cross country track team, coached baseball with her father, was a member of the cast in the movie “A League Of Their Own,” and was an alumnus of Western Kentucky University and Oakland City University.

Surviving are her children, Seth Millikan, Teague Millikan and Raylee Wesley, all of Marion; a grandson, Vincent Millikan of Marion; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by a son, Damon Millikan; her parents, George R. “Red” and Brenda Benton; and a brother, Michael Coleman.

Services were Monday Sept. 8 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Sugar Grove Cemetery.

### Deatherage

William Jerry L. Deatherage, 81, of Salem, died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

He was born in Crittenden County to the late Robert and Elsie May (C o s b e y) Deatherage. He spent most of his time with his grandmother Ruth Champion. A man of faith, he was a devoted member of Salem Baptist Church. He proudly served his country as a United States Air Force veteran during the Vietnam era.

Deeply committed to his community, Deatherage was a former magistrate of Livingston County and shared his talents



as a certified engineer and maintenance supervisor at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services, where he worked for more than 20 years.

Surviving are his loving wife of 61 years, Phyllis Deatherage; a daughter, Jacinda (Rusty) Lee Deatherage Renner of Lola; a granddaughter, Jacey Lee Campbell of Lola; a brother, Robert Deatherage of Kissimmee, Fla.; and a nephew, Jimmy Deatherage.

He will be remembered for his steadfast dedication to family, faith, and service.

Funeral services were Monday, Sept. 8 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Military honors will be rendered following the service, with burial in Salem Cemetery.

*Paid Obituary*

### Croft

Michael John Croft, 44, was called to Heaven on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025. He was born Jan. 30, 1981, in the middle of a 14-inch snowstorm at Crittenden Hospital in Marion. He was a 1999 graduate of Crittenden County High School.

Croft fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a United States Marine



in 2003 when he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a combat veteran and served two tours in Iraq, holding the position of forward observer and calling out the precise coordinates of enemy locations.

He was awarded several medals of bravery and achievement for selfless acts he performed to save his brothers in arms from enemy fire. He also received numerous awards for achievements on the home front, including superior performance as a rifle range instructor and excellence in coaching his team to win the championship game in the Marine Corps Basketball Tournament.

Croft experienced his share of pain and used his difficult experiences for the greater good by educating others on PTSD and the benefits of soldiers owning pit bulls for therapy and mental health. He was a strong advocate for the breed and worked to dispel negative myths. He had a gift for connecting with pit bulls who had suffered trauma from abuse or had been used as fight dogs, rehabilitating them into calm, loving pets and giving them the voice they deserved.

He was a talented artist who loved music and dance and belonged to several dance groups. He was known for his infectious smile and his quirky but hilarious sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by his

family, friends, co-workers and his Marine Corps brothers.

Surviving are his loving mother, Deborah (Jason) Luton; father, Brian (Kelly) Croft; daughter, Brianna (Zach) Hermacinski; grandmother, Carolyn (James Driver) Rose; aunts, Jennifer (Jose) Gracia and Laura (Danny) Koon; cousins, Meighan (Gabe) Mott and Blake Martin; and great-aunt, Gayle Myers, whom he fondly called “Mama Gayle.”

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, John Rose and Harold Croft; cousins, Brandon Martin and Jerry Lynn Myers; great-aunt, Paulette Myers; great-uncles, Ronnie Myers, Tony Myers and Jerry Myers; many of his Marine Corps brothers; and his beloved pit bull, Rocco, whom he rescued from a fight ring and rehabilitated.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, with burial in Maplevue Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m. until the service time Friday at the funeral home.

Military rites will be held at the cemetery.

Donations may be made to Homes For Our Troops, 6 Main St., Taunton, MA 02780, or Project Hope Humane Society, 1698 W. 10th St., Metropolis, IL 62960.

*Paid Obituary*

## Community Calendar

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

### Thursday, Sept. 11

- The Virgil Jones VFW in Marion will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building located at 412 N. College St. Refreshments will be served.

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

- Crisis planning starts at 2 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

- New Era meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office.

### Saturday, Sept. 13

- Time well spent will begin at 9 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

### Monday, Sept. 15

Marion's VFW located at 412 North College St. has breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. at the post, cost is \$8 or a donation can be made.

### Wednesday, Sept. 17

- Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.

### Thursday, Sept. 18

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

- There will be a fall soil sample class beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

# September is Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide has affected more and more people in recent years. It does not matter how old you are or what your background is. This month is meant to raise awareness about suicide and make it easier to talk about.

**It is important to remember:**

Suicide is preventable. There are many ways we can help someone before it's too late, starting with paying attention to warning signs. These can include someone seeming very sad or hopeless, or talking about not wanting to live. It's essential to listen with kindness and provide the support they need. Sometimes, just being there for someone can make a big difference.

Talking about suicide will not make someone more likely to take their life. If you suspect someone may be suicidal, it is important to make sure they are safe and to ask if they are thinking about suicide. This can help determine what steps need to be taken next.

Help is always available. The number for the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is 988, and trained professionals are available 24/7 to assist anyone in crisis or feel-

ing suicidal.

During Suicide Prevention Month, let's all work together to learn more about suicide and

support those it might affect.

Often, when an individual dies by suicide, many around them express shock. That is because we usually do not know how someone will react during a crisis. That is why it is essential to have a plan in place for when a bad day occurs — just as we

have fire extinguishers in our homes or a plan for where to go if a tornado comes through. None of us wants these events to happen, but having a plan in place ahead of time can reduce harm. Being prepared for such an event does not cause it to occur.

To help people be more prepared when a bad day happens, the Crittenden County Extension Office is offering a class called Code Red. This program will help participants increase confidence and competency in discussing mental health crises with youth, which could include thoughts or discussion of suicide. It will also help participants understand the importance of creating a safety plan before having their worst day. During the

class, participants will work to create their own Code Red Safety Plan.

Code Red will be offered for two days at the Extension Annex. It will take place at 2 p.m. Sept. 11 and 5 p.m. Sept. 22. Call the Extension Office to sign up.

If your business or organization is having an event or is willing to host

an event to have Code Red presented, call the office at 270-965-5236 or email rebecca.woodall@kysu.edu.

In addition, suicide prevention materials are available free at the Crittenden County Extension Office.

Together, we can make a difference.



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# Lynch’s 4-H service kept her hopping in August

**STAFF REPORT**

Crittenden County 4-Her Emme Lynch spent much of August in Louisville representing Kentucky youth as she carried out her duties as a state officer during the Kentucky State Fair.

Lynch, who is serving this year as Kentucky 4-H State Reporter, arrived Aug. 10 to join fellow officers in preparing Cloverville, the signature exhibit that showcases hundreds of 4-H projects from across the Commonwealth. The exhibit, a centerpiece of the fair, draws thousands of visitors to see the best work of young people in areas ranging from livestock and crops to clothing, crafts and science.

For the next two weeks, Lynch was a constant presence at the fairgrounds, working nearly every day to support contests, special programs and leadership events. On opening day, she attended the Commodity Breakfast, spoke about civic engagement opportunities, helped hand out awards at the poultry show and later assisted at the 4-H Foundation Ice Cream Social, where she networked with donors who help fund scholarships and opportunities for Kentucky 4-H members.

Her responsibilities continued with the 4-H Foundation breakfast and board meeting the following day, and by Friday afternoon she was helping judges at the rabbit show. Saturday was camp day, when 4-H camp staff from across the state gathered to teach traditional dances and games. Lynch pitched in alongside them, keeping the spirit of community alive.

Sunday brought the Junior Fashion Revue, which gave recognition to younger 4-Hers for their clothing and textile projects. Early the next week she was helping with the horticulture contest, supporting State Teen Council Day, and checking out the small town farmers exhibits and market goat shows.

Midweek, she participated in the Sunshine Show, a special livestock event for youth with special needs, and assisted with Science, Engineering and Technology Day. Thursday featured one of the fair’s marquee events, the Farm Bureau Ham Breakfast. The famed country ham auction reached an unprecedented \$10 million, a highlight Lynch witnessed firsthand before attending the Farm Bureau picnic and the Championship Drive, the capstone of livestock showing where the state’s top exhibitors are honored.

Her final days included helping with agriculture and natural resources exhibits, assisting in Cloverville, and supporting wherever needed before the fair closed. She returned home the next Saturday after helping pack up the massive exhibit.

In addition to her daily assignments, Lynch served as a mentor to younger 4-H members, encouraging them to explore opportunities in civic engagement, leadership, science and technology. Along the way, she met donors, handed out awards, assisted judges and made connections that will carry forward long after the fair ended.

By the close of the event, Lynch had represented Kentucky 4-H in countless ways from leadership breakfasts and board meetings to late nights in Cloverville, and said she was grateful for the opportunity to serve.



Emme Lynch

## Friends of Library celebrating big with anniversary contest

The local organization Friends of Crittenden County Public Library is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a book-mark design contest to be held Sept. 10-30. Official entry forms and rules will be available at the library, through the bookmobile librarian and from art teachers and librarians at Crittenden County elementary, middle and high schools.

Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in four age groups: 3-6, 7-12, 13-17 and 18 and older.

Entrants may choose one of two themes: “My Favorite Book” or “Why I Love My Library.” The contest is open to all Crittenden County residents, CCPL cardholders regardless of residence and students of Crittenden County schools, including homeschoolers.

The Friends group is funding the contest. Prizes will be presented at a reception at the library Thursday, Oct. 16. For more information, contact Library Director Regina Merrick at 270-965-3354 or Friends event chair Jenny Zimmer at 513-675-3633.

## Exam, audit of clerk & sheriff good

The Office of the State Auditor released an agreed-upon procedures (AUP) engagement for the Crittenden County Clerk’s fee account for calendar year 2024, a review that looks at receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, leases, contracts and liabilities from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2024.

State law requires annual examinations of county clerks and sheriffs. Since 2018, offices with a record of clean audits may apply for an AUP in lieu of a full audit to reduce costs while maintaining accountability. The Crittenden County Clerk’s Office received approval for the 2024 AUP under KRS 43.070(1)(c).

Auditors reported one finding: The clerk’s office prepared 12 monthly delinquent tax reports and made payments on time, but disbursements did not agree to the monthly report for the month tested.

In a response included with the report, the clerk’s office said it inadvertently failed to include \$41 in postage in the May 2024 distribution to the county attorney during a transition of duties tied to a deputy clerk’s pending retirement. After the issue was discovered, the county attorney waived corrective action.

Separately, the state auditor recently released the audit of Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head’s 2023 tax settlement, finding no issues.

The annual review, required by state law, examines the sheriff’s settlement of property taxes and related accounts. Auditors reported that Head’s financial statement fairly presented the taxes charged, credited and paid for the period of Sept. 1, 2023, through Aug. 31, 2024.

The report also noted no matters involving internal control or financial reporting that were considered material weaknesses.

Each year, the auditor issues two reports for every sheriff in Kentucky, one on the tax settlement and another on the office fee account.

The sheriff’s duties include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for fiscal court and local courts of justice. The office is funded through commissions and fees collected in conjunction with those responsibilities.

The audit information for both the clerk and sheriff is available at the state auditor’s website.

## MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of August 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	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	3,392	1,829	1,630	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	6	13	11	150	12.5
Domestics	8	6	7	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	6	3	3	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	5	7	3	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	8	3	9	112	9.3
DUI arrests	0	1	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	1	0	2	51	4.3
Traffic citations	26	45	19	212	17.7
Other citations	14	13	22	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	9	4	4	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	9	8	6	69	5.8
Security checks/alerts	71	61	81	720	60.0
Calls for service	196	229	245	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500  
Police Chief Bobby West

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Marion Police Department  
Marion-KY

## HOUSE

Continued from page 1 they said, but taxes, insurance and utilities on such a huge home might be too much for their retirement income.

For now, the couple plans to visit Paducah soon to see the home in person.

“We haven’t decided what to do with it,” Timothy said. “We’re trying to figure it all out.”

Hope agreed. “We are going to take our time and decide,” she said.

Winning has been a lifetime highlight for a couple who have spent their lives on the quiet side of Frances, the small community in western Crittenden County, about an hour’s drive from the new Dream Home they just won in Paducah.

## AUGUST 2025

### Weather Yearbook



Coldest Temp 48.7	Warmest Temp 96.1	Wettest Day 1.7
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Wed., Aug. 27	Tue., Aug. 19			Tue., Aug. 26		
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	74.6	75.5	75	76.1	77.1	83.6
Coldest Temp	48.7	53.5	56.3	58.1	58.3	57
Hottest Temp	96.1	96.8	95.6	91.7	91.9	90.5
Precipitation	4.0	0.8	5.4	4.7	5.9	2.8
Wettest Day	1.7	0.3	1.13	2.55	2.42	0.5

■ One key data point from from August was Aug. 27 when the mercury dropped to 48.7, which is the coldest Crittenden County August day recorded in more than 10 years. August here brought a mix of late-summer heat and an early taste of fall. The month’s hottest reading came on the 19th when the mercury climbed to 96°, accompanied by a sweltering heat index of 106°. Just over a week later, a cool snap dropped morning lows to 48° on the 27th, the chilliest mark of the month and a reminder that autumn is around the corner.

Rainfall was sparse, with only two measurable events totaling about 4 inches for the month. The heaviest came on August 26 when a soaking 1.7" fell. Otherwise, most days stayed dry, and seven afternoons topped 90°. Overall, August averaged 74.6°, about normal for late summer, with warm days balanced by cooler nights as the month drew to a close.

## Trooper assaulted on I-24 in Livingston

A Louisville man was taken into custody Monday afternoon after he assaulted a state trooper on the I-24 Cumberland River Bridge in Livingston County, according to Kentucky State Police Post 1.

Trooper Landon Stewart encountered Ravon Briggs, 28, about 3:26 p.m., Monday while Briggs was walking across the bridge. Pedestrian traffic is prohibited on interstate highways, and Stewart stopped to assist him off the roadway for safety reasons.

Police said Briggs refused to identify himself or follow directions. After verbal commands, Stewart attempted to take him into custody. Briggs then assaulted the trooper, who was able to subdue him with help from a motorist.

Stewart sustained a minor injury during the altercation.

Briggs was arrested and charged with third-degree assault of a police officer, resisting arrest, menacing, third-degree criminal trespassing and parking on a limited access highway. Authorities also discovered three outstanding warrants for his arrest.

## Dry conditions promot county burning bans

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and Livingston Judge-Executive Michael Willaims each issued a countywide burn ban early this week, citing dry conditions and an increased risk of wildfires.

The executive orders, effective immediately, prohibits all outdoor burning under authority of KRS 149.401. That statute allows counties to restrict open burning during periods of extraordinary wildfire hazard and provides for misdemeanor penalties if violated.

The bans mean residents and visitors in Crittenden and Livingston counties must refrain from burning yard debris, household waste, campfires, bonfires or other outdoor fires. Even open-pit cooking or grilling could fall under the restriction. The orders will remain in effect until lifted by public notice.

## METH

Continued from page 1 nalia.

Both suspects were lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center. Simms was scheduled to be arraigned Sept. His is bond was set at \$50,000 cash. Henderson was also scheduled for arraignment this week and her bond was at \$25,000.

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City Council meets in regular session at city hall at 5 p.m., on the third Monday of each month



## I-24 is one lane in Trigg County until Sept. 19

A daytime lane restriction on Interstate 24 eastbound near mile marker 62 in Trigg County began on Monday as crews repair damage to steel beams on the KY 124 (Cerulean Road) overpass. Eastbound traffic will be limited to one lane with signs directing motorists to merge into the open lane. Drivers should use caution.

A temporary signal will manage alternating one-lane traffic on the KY 124 overpass at mile point 3.84. The project, paused in late April for additional engineering work, is expected to wrap up around Sept. 19, weather permitting.

## USDA FSA has some upcoming deadlines

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency is reminding producers of several upcoming deadlines and program updates.

Deadline for submitting subsequent acre application updates under the Emergency Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP), which helps farmers recover from natural disasters, is Sept. 30.

New enrollments and re-enrollments for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) open Oct. 1. CRP pays landowners to remove environmentally sensitive acres from production and plant species that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. The FSA office will be closed Oct. 13 in observance of Columbus Day.

On Nov. 3, ballots for County Committee elections will be mailed to producers in local administrative areas up for election. County Committees give farmers a direct voice in federal farm program decisions at the local level.

## Students can learn to sew, etiquette, speaking and more

Local students can pick up practical skills for everyday life through Life 101 as part of the afterschool Crosswalk program. Life 101 covers money management, sewing, etiquette, public speaking, leadership and other life skills.

Classes meet Tuesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 213, Ms. Mardis’s classroom. For more information, students may contact Brittany Mardis or Jeff Hughes.

On Monday’s the Crosswalk program has a bike club from 3 to 4:30 p.m.



## Sainthood granted to first Millennial

The Catholic Church recognized its first Millennial saint Sunday as Pope Leo XIV canonized English-Italian teenager Carlo Acutis in a ceremony at St. Peter’s Square.

Acutis, dubbed “God’s Influencer,” died in 2006 at age 15 from leukemia. A skilled computer programmer, he created a digital catalog of church-recognized miracles that gained worldwide attention. His tomb has drawn millions of pilgrims, and Pope Francis attributed two miracles to him in 2020 and 2024, paving the way for sainthood.

Also canonized was Pier Giorgio Frassati, an Italian Catholic activist from the early 20th century.

The Roman Catholic Church recognizes more than 10,000 saints, though the exact number is uncertain due to lost records. Acutis’s canonization marks a modern milestone, reflecting the church’s effort to connect with younger generations.

The United States has its own canonized saints, including Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint; Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint; and Katharine Drexel, a Philadelphia heiress who dedicated her life to missions and schools for marginalized communities. Others include John Neumann, Damien of Molokai, Marianne Cope and Rose Philippine Duchesne.

## BBB warns about string of scams

Better Business Bureau is warning consumers about a string of scams reported in September.

Employment scams continue to rise, with fraudsters sending fake job offers using the names of companies such as Costco, Kroger and Target. Victims often receive text messages with links leading to phishing sites.

BBB also received reports of Portlyn Shipping, a fraudulent company offering work-from-home “reshipping” jobs that are not legitimate. Another animal-related scam involves a supposed raccoon adoption, patterned after the common puppy scam, where “breeders” refuse to meet in person and keep demanding money.

Scammers are also using fake mugshots in a new version of

the emergency scam, attempting to trick relatives into sending bail money. Local influencers and business owners have been targeted by con artists posing as podcasters who request remote access to personal devices.

Other reports involve fake invoices claiming to be from Best Buy and other companies, fraudulent loan offers by phone, and bogus calls from people claiming to be process servers. Online shopping scams are also surging, particularly through TikTok, with victims either never receiving their orders or receiving counterfeit goods.

Additionally, passport renewal scams are duping U.S. citizens into paying fees for forms that are free to download from the official government website, exposing personal and financial information to potential theft.

BBB urges consumers to verify businesses at bbb.org and never click suspicious links, provide remote access to devices, or share sensitive information with unknown parties.

## Candidate workshop coming up soon for local hopefuls

Prospective candidates in local 2026 elections are invited to a campaign finance workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. at the County Office Complex. Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor will explain financial reporting that must be done before any candidate runs for office. The meeting is not mandatory but merely offered to help answer questions.

## Globetrotters’ tour is coming to O’boro

The Harlem Globetrotters will celebrate their 100th anniversary with a stop in Owensboro during their “100 Year Tour.”

The world-famous basketball entertainers will play at 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Tickets go on sale Sept. 22 at 10 a.m. through OwensboroTickets.com.

The Globetrotters will debut special 100-year jerseys as they face the Washington Generals. Fans can expect a free 5th Quarter autograph session.

Founded in 1926, the Globetrotters are credited with breaking racial barriers, integrating the NBA with Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton, and showcasing legends like Wilt Chamberlain and Meadowlark Lemon. Today’s roster includes men and women who hold more than 60 Guinness World Records.

Separately, Withrow has a pending lawsuit against Crittenden County over an open records dispute. That civil case is still active in circuit court with depositions underway. Withrow is also on a two-year court-ordered deferment in two other criminal cases from misdemeanor charges issued by Kentucky State Police for criminal coercion, harassment (no physical contact) and harassing communications.

## CASE

Continued from page 1 his record.

Withrow was ordered to pay \$193 in court costs. Judge Brandon Knoth presided as special judge.

Withrow was charged by state police with a misdemeanor charge of falsely reporting an incident. The accusation stemmed from a Dec. 19, 2024, confrontation

following a Crittenden Fiscal Court meeting, after which Withrow reported to 911 dispatchers that County Attorney Bart Frazer had assaulted him by grabbing his neck. Video footage later showed that claim to be unfounded. Frazer responded to the the court’s decision in a formal news release, which is printed below in its entirety as a letter to the editor. Withrow was offered the same opportunity.

# Crittenden Press Letters to the Editor

## County attorney responds to case against Withrow

To the Editor,

Last December while leaving the Fiscal Court meeting I attempted to speak with Kent Withrow regarding social media posts he had made about me. The interaction escalated. A few hours later, as a result of Mr. Withrow reporting to authorities that I had physically assaulted him, I was being interviewed by the Kentucky State Police. Of course, given the evidence, and in this case thankfully there was video of the incident along with eyewitnesses, I was not charged.

Upon further investigation, Mr. Withrow was charged with False

Reporting an Incident to Law Enforcement for his accusations against me. A special judge was appointed as well as a special prosecutor. I have purposefully stayed silent on this matter as the process worked its way through the court system.

On Wednesday, September 3, a plea arrangement was entered where Mr. Withrow entered an Alford plea and his sentencing was deferred for one year conditioned upon no offenses during that time. I fully endorse this outcome and the work of Lee Riddle (Hopkins County Attorney) who was the special prosecutor.

Mr. Withrow may maintain otherwise, as he maintains many ideas which simply are not based in reality, but his plea carries the same consequences as a standard plea of guilty. The Kentucky Courts have held, by his plea, he may be able to avoid formally ad-

mitting guilt, but he nonetheless consents to being treated as if he were guilty with no assurances to the contrary (Wilfong v. Com., 175 S.W.3d 84, 102 (Ky. Ct. App. 2004)).

So, with his consent, I shall treat him as the liar he has shown himself publicly to be.

It is the highlight of my career as a lawyer to serve as Crittenden County Attorney. I look forward to continuing to serve in that capacity with honor and integrity as long as I am able. It is evident, this county has challenges but we must work together, with a single purpose, to fix them. Let’s start now. Let us use this Commonwealth’s creed as our guiding principle, “United we Stand, Divided we Fall.”

Bart Frazer  
County Attorney  
Crittenden County, Ky.



**From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago**

Fifty years ago this week, Sheriff Austin Cook (center) and State Troopers Ronald Kirk (left) and David Gentry displayed nearly seven cases of beer confiscated during a raid in the Dycusburg community. The Sept. 3, 1975 bust led to charges of bootlegging. The entire county was “dry” at the time.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### September 10, 2015

■ Jerry McDonald, a retired coal miner of 43 years, joined the Crittenden County Elementary School staff as a custodian and became a balloon artist. “I just love giving them to kids,” McDonald said.

■ The Rocket football team won its third straight game to open the season after beating McLean County 31-8. Nick Castiller was the catalyst for the offense, carrying the ball 18 times for 100 yards and throwing for 201 yards. Running back Dylan Hollis added a 90-yard touchdown.

■ Johnson’s Furniture and Appliance was selected as the September Business of the Month by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce. A third generation of the Johnson family was now operating the business.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### September 14, 2000

■ The Rocket boys golf team won its 12th straight match against Hopkinsville. Matt Stone and Jason Guess led the team, each shooting 39, as they defeated University Heights Academy 162-163. Other top competitors were Derrick Doods with a 41 and Ryan Dunn with a 43.

■ Crittenden County cross country runner Schuyler Powell finished second in the Caldwell County Invitational on Saturday. His teammates also placed, with Brandon Jackson finishing sixth, Megan Cavins fourth and Tiffany Witherpoon eighth in the girls race.

■ Seven Crittenden County High School students were granted state child care skills standard certificates after taking a test. Among them were Mary Ann Schaibley, Lindsey Teer and Rebecca Woodall.

## 50 YEARS AGO

### September 11, 1975

■ Rocket football player Mark Hamby was named player of the week against Webster County. Although he didn’t score any of the touchdowns for the Rockets, he had 15 carries for 100 yards, along with two solo tackles and one assisted tackle.

■ Walker Frazer and A.B. Wicker won first place in the Marion Country Club Men’s Golf League in Thursday night’s tournament, and Sam Smith and Buck Travis won overall in Tuesday night’s tournament.

■ The bridge on Caldwell Springs-Maple Sink Road washed out in late April. Drivers who used that road had to take a 9-mile detour, and there was talk about individuals withholding their taxes until the bridge was fixed.

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

## Letters POLICY

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

## The Crittenden Press

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# Finding what you are not looking for

About 40 years ago, I went into the bookstore at the university where I was in graduate school. I went there to buy some books. I also found the woman that I was to later marry. Some years later, her father and I were catching blue crabs in Galveston Bay. It was that day that he found the lot on which he would build a house.

I was sitting in my office in Michigan (which I did not do very often) and got a very strange phone call from a man who had just returned from Australia. As I recall, even after we finished our conversation, I was a little confused as to what he



**Sean NIESTRATH**  
Faith-based columnist  
**Guest Columnist**

wanted to do. All I knew was that I said “yes” and agreed to meet with him. Thus began one of the better friendships that I developed after the age of 40.

I know that many people have their best ideas and most profound insights while mowing grass or doing some other habitual task that frees up the mind. Wonderful things can happen in our lives while we are expecting something else, or nothing at all. But this is no accident, and it is not luck. I was “looking” for a life partner. My father-in-law was looking for a building site. My answer to most ideas I

hear nearly always tends toward “yes.” None of this, however, happens unless one has made proper preparation, or is at least ready to act and learn.

Serendipity happens when opportunity meets preparation. All of us pass by opportunities every day. Most of them are not radically life-changing, but they do add up. What if one were to take every opportunity to pass on a word of encouragement to those around us? It takes no time and costs nothing. What if one were to take one opportunity in 10 to help someone who clearly needs a hand? It takes preparation to be able to offer encouragement. It takes a well-managed life to have the resources (time being the primary one) to help another person.

Serendipity happens when opportunity meets a life open to new horizons. Openness does not

happen on its own. There are some people who are naturally more adventurous than others, but most of us have some capacity to develop some degree of openness to new things.

Serendipity happens when opportunity meets willingness to act. Being surprised by an unexpected blessing or event is a fleeting moment. Acting on the event requires some effort.

I believe there are things we can do that will make finding those wonderful things we aren’t looking for more likely. It will make finding things we are looking for in unlikely places more likely as well.

The first is obvious – show up. Even when we don’t feel like it or are not quite sure what to expect. Few good things happen when we are inert. Second, when we show up, be there. Pay attention to those around us and the

environment. Life will put us in the most unexpected places and around the most unexpected people – soak it in. Carry with us the best attitude we can have in the situation we are in. We all have those meetings and events that we might rather avoid. Don’t make things worse with a stinky attitude. I have been known to be pleasantly surprised at how a quick attitude adjustment can change an outcome. Be open to new opportunities. Be willing to listen and learn in every place we find ourselves.

The apostle Paul wrote this to the Christians in Philippi, “Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which

is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:3-7)

Life is better spent than saved. It is by spending our lives for the benefit of others that we will find our own. This is not weakness. It is not failing to take care of ourselves. It is only when we take care of ourselves that we can sacrificially care for others. Along the way we will find what we weren’t looking for – and be the better for it.

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

## God’s always at work for our good

**Question:** My closest friend in high school recently betrayed me. Now she is saying I have done things I didn’t do. She slandered me on Facebook. I don’t know how to deal with all this drama. Can God help me work through this turmoil?

**Answer:** Yes, God can and will help. He is a loving God who cares for His children. Instead of trying to deal with your problems on your own, start by asking God

**ASK the PASTOR**  
By Bob Hardison

to give you His wisdom in dealing with your hurtful situation. “Come near to God, and he will come near to you” (James 4:8). He will give you calmness to deal with your turmoil.

When dealing with the person who has hurt you, take

the high road. Don’t try to put yourself in a winning position and her in a losing one. Victory isn’t discrediting those who oppose us. Instead of seeking to get even, seek reconciliation. Speak kind words of forgiveness and kindness. Be merciful. Set aside any desire to return harsh words of blame and accusations. Winning God’s way is turning an adversary into a friend.

In all circumstances, in-

cluding stressful ones, God is always at work for our good. One of the greatest promises to believers is: “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Throughout your stress and hurt, look for ways God is bringing some good out of your hard time.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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**Religious Outreach**

■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrant-pc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.

■ 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.

■ 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 Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.

■ Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

■ The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

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315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.  
Rodney Phelps, Pastor  
(270) 704-2400  
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com  
Follow us on Facebook

**St. William Catholic Church**  
  
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.  
Father Joji Joseph  
860 S. Main St.  
Marion, Ky.  
(270) 965-2477

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

**DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
  
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297  
Phone: (270) 965-2220  
“Whatever It Takes”  
Bro. Jamie Baker

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

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

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

**Freedom General Baptist Church**  
  
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 -



# Travis laid groundwork for modern schools

Following is some history of the early county school system and the improvements that were made because of a young man's love of learning and education — and his desire to provide a better education for the county's young people.

### Early History

To set the stage for the story, some early history of this young man's life helps explain why the changes he made were important to him later as county superintendent. This man was E. Jeffrey Travis, and I'm proud to say he was my grandfather. Although he died when I was only 7, and I never got to talk to him as an adult, through old issues of The Crittenden Press I have found many improvements he helped create to make our county a better place to live and grow. These are from his own words.

E. Jeffrey Travis — the subject of this article — was born July 13, 1869.

"I was born near Bells Mines at the old Miller farm. When I was 3, the family moved to a farm near Cave Spring. We lived there until I was 18.

"Sometime during the fall and winter months we were permitted to go to school for a period of three months. The schoolhouse was called Buzzard Roost. Sometimes my father, W.C.M., was teacher; others were Bud Perryman, Rice Phillips and even my grandfather, James Harvey Travis. By the time I was 16, I had worked my way through Ray's Arithmetic through compound numbers, had read in the Fifth Reader, and spelled through the Blue Book something less than 40 times. With a little bit of writing on the one small blackboard and my slate, these had constituted my curriculum up until after I was 18.

"We moved back to Bells Mines about 1888. After that my existence changed. Different scenes, different associations, different employers — it was a whole different world than what I had been used to. But when I was 21, I had a desire to return to school and obtain some kind of an education. I started to school again, to my father, who was teaching at Green's Chapel. I went eight months straight.

"In the summer I came to Marion and attended a normal school for six weeks. The school was conducted by the Rev. James F. Prince and S.T. Moore. At the end of this school I took the examination for teachers and made a good second-class certificate. I continued teaching for 17 years. After that, in 1909, I was elected county school superintendent, and again in 1913."

### Common Day for County Schools



E. Jeffrey Travis is pictured among the other young men and women at one of Crittenden County's early Teachers' Institutes as they prepare for their new profession of being a county school teacher.

The first improvement came in August 1911 — a great day for the children

of Crittenden County. This was the day set apart for all the common schools of the county to begin.

We believe that our efficient Supt. Jeff Travis did the right thing when he named the same day for all schools to begin. He had in mind that the common school should be true to its name — a common day for all schools to begin, each with a worthy teacher.

It had long been the custom for Crittenden County schools to begin whenever it best suited the teacher or trustee — any time from the third week in July to the second week in September.

The Teachers Institute would often be held after some schools had already been in session for one to three weeks, while others had not yet started. Each teacher mapped out his own program of study, if he had one.

Now, the Teachers Institute is held before any school begins, and all start at the same time. We now have a daily program each teacher is supposed to follow. Each teacher has a course of study with instructions on how to use it. Every month, teachers receive a printed list of exam questions based on the outlined course of study.

Crittenden is the only county in the state that does this. These improvements have been working and growing for the past three years.

### Longer School Term

Feb. 17, 1918 — Written for the paper by Supt. Travis

There was a time when people thought that three months a year was a sufficient length for a school term. Gradually it has grown to seven months for rural schools, and nine

or 10 for city and town schools.

May I pause right here and ask: Is the town boy or girl entitled to more time, or better facilities for securing an education, than the country boy or girl? No. But if you ask the taxpayer in town, you will see where the town child gets the advantage.

Nearly all the rural schools that did not end last week will end this week. The children will have little or no chance to continue their schoolwork.

Of course, that time will not be wasted, but likely it will not be spent in the most profitable manner. Hundreds of children in the county will have nothing to do but romp and play until schools start again in August.

Why not, then, could the patrons of each district get together and employ some competent teacher to teach at least two more months? It could be done with very little individual cost — not more than \$1.50 per month. Should there not be enough pupils in one district to pay a teacher, two or three districts could join in securing a teacher and let her work in the most convenient schoolhouse. I will take the responsibility to say the county board would cheerfully pay the necessary incidental expenses.

There are not many things that come by chance, or "happen so." Personally, I know of none. Everything that has come to me has been either by my own actions or inactivity. If we want our children educated, we must do our part.

Some people never see anything but the dollar mark in a business proposition. Others look upon the larger children — especially boys — as assets, in the same class as mules, horses or other livestock, valuable because they are money earners. To them, the boy's first duty is to do his part of all the farm work, even to building the plant beds ready to be burned in early spring.

After all this, he is ready to start to school. Of course, there is not much more of the school term to come, and the boy looks upon it as a sort of holiday. Before the teacher can engage his best interest, the school year ends. This same parent may then complain that his children have not learned a thing and blame the teacher.

This sounds like talk at least 20 years old, yet some of these notions and practices still exist in Crittenden County. A census taken last spring

shows 495 people over age 20 are unable to read and write.

The most phenomenal thing in my six years as superintendent occurred last fall when the father of four school-age children sat with me an entire afternoon to discuss how he might evade the compulsory law and keep his children out of school. He even said that if fined, he would "lay it out" in the county jail and afterward things would be the same. He admitted he had no objection to the teacher.

To my mind this is no

less a crime than robbery. We have heard it said many times that a child never pays for its raising. I think this is the sentiment of a man who never sees anything but the dollar sign. If he willfully prevents the child from attending school, no word fits the case so well as "robbery."

A little money added to the public fund, a few months added to the regular school term, and a little more time and energy given to community interests will, in a few years, provide a better school system and give our children a better-educated future. Let's continue school into the spring months, as the city school does.

The longer school term for county students did not become a reality until many years later. But the groundwork was laid, and the idea planted in people's minds, for the future.

(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](#)).



Brenda Underdown  
County Historian

### Forgotten Passages

## ORDINANCE 08-18-2025-01 City of Fredonia, Kentucky AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR TAX YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, the Fredonia City Council annually establishes the ad valorem tax rates for real and personal property situated within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, pursuant to KRS Chapter 132.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Fredonia City Council as follows:

Section 1. The tax rate for the tax year 2025 is hereby fixed at the rate of 26.9 cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) worth of taxable real property, including franchises; said taxes are hereby levied on all real property situated within the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, belonging to persons, partnerships, corporations and/or fiduciaries, and shall be divided as follows: the 26.9 cents levy shall be paid into the city General Fund for city purposes.

Section 2. The tax rate for the tax year 2025 is hereby fixed at the rate of 26.9 cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) worth of taxable personal property, including franchises; said taxes are hereby levied on all personal property situated within the City of Fredonia, Kentucky, belonging to persons, partnerships, corporations and/or fiduciaries, and shall be divided as follows: the 26.9 cents levy shall be paid into the city General Fund for city purposes.

Section 3. All city property taxes for the 2025 tax year shall be due by and subject to the discounts and penalties as provided for in KRS 134.015 and all other applicable state law.

Section 4. All ad valorem city taxes for 2025 shall be collected by the Caldwell County Sheriff.

Section 5. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, and this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon the required readings, passage and publication.

So passed upon first reading this 18th day of August, 2025.

So passed upon second reading this 4th day of September, 2025.

Jimmy Don Seibert  
Mayor, City of Fredonia  
ATTEST: Rachael Vickrey  
City Clerk, City of Fredonia



ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES AND FINDINGS AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES OF THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY CLERK

For The Period January 1, 2024 Through December 31, 2024

The Crittenden County Clerk applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement for calendar year 2024 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. The summary below presents those findings for which an exception (an instance of noncompliance with the criteria) was identified during the AUP engagement.

During the AUP engagement of the Crittenden County Clerk, the following exception was noted:

- The county clerk prepared 12 monthly delinquent tax reports. Payments were made timely, but disbursements did not agree to the monthly report for the month tested.

Findings related to procedures for which there were no exceptions identified, and official responses to exceptions are not included in the summary above but can be found in the full report. A copy of this report is available on the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at [auditor.ky.gov](#).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Allison Ball*  
Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

June 24, 2025

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## CITY OF MARION NOTICE OF TAX-RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion City Council will hold a public hearing on the 15th day of September, 2025, during the time of the City Council special meeting which begins at 4:50 p.m. at the city building, 217 South Main Street, Marion, KY. The purpose of this hearing is to receive taxpayer input on the proposed real estate ad valorem tax rate for 2025. This notice is required by KRS 132.027 as passed by the Kentucky General Assembly.

The tax rate for the preceding year (2024) was \$ .2290 per \$100 of valuation, which produced revenue of \$234,369.00. The City proposes to increase the tax rate for 2024 to \$.2290/\$100, for which the revenue (without new property) is expected to be \$274,890.00. This year's compensating tax rate \$.2220/\$100, for which the revenue (without new property) is expected to be \$266,488.00. Revenue from new property and personal property is expected to be \$37,938.00.

The City of Marion proposes a tax rate which will exceed the compensating tax rate, but the proposed rate is the same as the preceding year. Additionally, the proposed rate is expected to produce revenue from real property, exclusive of revenue from new property, of less than four percent (2.23%) over the amount of revenue which would be produced by the compensating tax rate.

The revenue in excess of the revenue produced in the preceding year is proposed to be allocated to the General Fund to be administered according to the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

/ss/ *Cortny Cosby*  
Cortny Cosby, City Clerk

# Classifieds The Crittenden Press

## The Crittenden Press

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is 5 p.m., Monday

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### for sale

Hickory tree on the ground. Bring a saw, a way to load and haul. Call 270-562-1910. Come and get it. (2t-37-p)

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### free

FREE Hay. Call (812) 424-8689 or (812) 550-6938. Located at 2339 S.R. 387, Old Dam 50 Rd, Marion. (2t-36-p)

### yard sale

Yard sale Friday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at 331 Lilly Dale Rd., Marion. Summer and winter clothes, twin bed with mattress, pictures, knick-knacks, much, much more. (1t-36-p)

### real estate

REDUCED! House for sale at 220 S. Weldon, 3 BR, 1 bath, yard barn, garden plot, \$39,500. (270) 704-4445. (2t-34-p)

### services

CONCRETE WORK: Parking lots, garages, steel buildings, walls, sidewalks, driveways, room additions, rock driveways, clean ditches. Call for quote (270) 724-4672, Joe Mattingly Concrete Construction. (12t-40-p)

### notice

Old man is experimenting on everyone in the target zones from St. Louis to Point Pleasant to the Ohio River. I have Morgellon's since 1997. Put an ad back in this newspaper. I will be interested in the information you have for me. Remember 7557. (1t-36-p)

Advertise your job opening, event, items for sale, auction etc. in this newspaper plus 83 other Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), The Sturgis News, The (Princeton) Times Leader, The (Providence) Journal-Enterprise, The Union County Advocate, The Henderson Gleaner, The Livingston 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](mailto:advertising@the-press.com).

### legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2025 Gerald C. Orr of 429 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064 and Ronald W. Orr of 1218 State Route 120, Marion, KY 42064 were appointed co-executors of Janice Orr Wright, deceased, whose address was 310 S. Walker St., Marion, KY 42064. Vance Cook, 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 on or before the 3rd day of March, 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-36-c)

Notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2025 Sharon V. Belt of 2331 U.S. Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY 42064 was appointed administratrix of Raymond E. Belt, deceased, whose address was 2331U.S. Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY 42064. Robert Frazer, 200 S. Main St., 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 administratrix before the 4th day of March, 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-36-c)

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court, Marion, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement: Cobie Evans, of 100 W. Adair St., Smithland, KY 42081, administrator of Charlotte Hensley, deceased, whose address was Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center, 201 Watson St., Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on October 1, 2025. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-36-c)

PUBLIC NOTICE-A public hearing will be held by Crittenden County Fiscal Court at the County Office Complex on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 8:30 AM during the regular meeting for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments in regards to proposed Ordinance O-25-007; related to Amendment to the Crittenden County Administrative Code and proposed Ordinance O-25-008, related to Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles. All interested persons are invited to the hearing and may submit verbal or written comments. Any person(s) who can not attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments should call the Office of Judge Executive at 270-965-5251 or email [yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org](mailto:yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org) by Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 3:30 pm so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments. Copies of the proposed ordinance may be obtained at the Judge Executive Office located at 200 Industrial Drive, Suite A, Marion, Kentucky. (1t-36-c)

### bid notice

Marion-Crittenden County Park Board invites sealed bids from qualified contractors to repair, clean/prepare, and paint the public restrooms at Marion-Crittenden County Park in Marion, Kentucky. Contractors may bid the entire project or submit separate bids for any of the three components: Repairs, Cleaning/Surface Prep, and Painting. Work includes repairing or replacing partitions, doors, hinges, latches, brackets, wall anchors, fasteners, and surface-mounted accessories so stalls are fully functional; patching minor masonry/concrete and wall defects to create paint-ready surfaces; pressure-washing interior walls, ceilings, stalls, and floors; deep cleaning and degreasing fixtures and partitions; scraping/sanding loose coatings, feathering edges, and spot-priming bare metal or masonry; masking/protecting adjacent finishes; and applying Park-supplied paint per manufacturer instructions to achieve a uniform finish, followed by removal of masking, touch-ups, and final cleanup so the restrooms are ready for public use. The contractor shall furnish all labor, equipment, and materials other than paint (including primers, patching compounds, sealants/caulk, cleaners, masking materials, abrasives, fasteners, and replacement hardware/partition parts), verify primer/paint compatibility before starting, use commercial-grade products installed per manufacturer instructions and applicable codes, comply with OSHA and all safety requirements, protect fixtures/floors/electrical/plumbing, properly contain and dispose of wash water, chips, and waste off-site, and immediately report concealed conditions requiring additional work. Contractors must be licensed to perform work in Kentucky and local jurisdictions, carry general liability and workers' compensation insurance (where required) and provide at least two references upon request. A minimum one-year warranty on workmanship and repairs is required from the date of acceptance. Restrooms can be closed to the public during active work; closures must be coordinated with the Park representative. Work should be substantially complete by Nov. 1, 2025. Bids shall include either a lump-sum price for the full project or separate prices for Repairs, Cleaning/Surface Prep, and Painting; a proposed schedule; proof of insurance; references; and any exclusions or assumptions. Mail or deliver sealed bids marked "Restroom Renovation Marion-Crittenden County Park" to Marion Tourism Commission, PO Box 174, Marion, KY 42064. Bid deadline noon Monday, Sept. 15, 2025. The Park Board may award the entire project to one contractor or award components separately to multiple contractors based on price, qualifications, schedule, references, and overall best value, and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive informalities. Site visits are recommended to verify conditions, measurements, and any repair parts needed. Direct questions to Chris Evans, Park Board Chairperson, 270-704-0435. (2t-36-c)

### statewide

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GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-3141.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-877-581-3053 today!

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing will be held by Crittenden County Fiscal Court at the County Office Complex on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. during the regular meeting for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments in regards to proposed Ordinance O-25-007; related to Amendment to the Crittenden County Administrative Code and proposed Ordinance O-25-008, related to Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles.

All interested persons are invited to the hearing and may submit verbal or written comments. Any person(s) who can not attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments should call the office of Judge Executive at (270) 965-5251 or email [yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org](mailto:yvette.martin@crittendencountyky.org) by Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments. Copies of the proposed ordinance may be obtained at the Judge Executive office located at 200 Industrial Drive, Suite A, Marion, Kentucky.

Use QR Code to Search Kentucky Public Notices or go to [kypublicnotice.com](http://kypublicnotice.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS  
Rocket sports schedule

**THURSDAY**  
Golf at Deer Lakes GC  
Soccer at Caldwell County  
**THURSDAY**  
Football hosts Union City, Tenn.  
**SATURDAY**  
CCMS Football hosts Trigg County  
Jr Pro football hosts Hopkins County  
Cross Country at Calloway County  
**MONDAY**  
Golf at Deer Lakes GC  
CCHS Volleyball at Union County  
**TUESDAY**  
Soccer hosts Muhlenberg (Senior Night)  
CCMS Football hosts Webster County

**Friday’s HS Football Scores**  
Union County 46, Caldwell County 22  
Paducah Tilghman 55, Mayfield 29  
Murray 32, Graves County 14  
Madisonvilles 72, Hopkins Central 14  
Marshall County 28, Trigg County 27  
Butler County 52, Todd Central 0  
Hancock County 45, Ohio County 0  
Hart County 62, Caverna 14  
Logan County 45, Russellville 0  
McCracken Co. 65, Clarksville NW 26  
McLean County 24, Grayson County 7  
Owensboro Catholic 28, Apollo 21  
Mckenzie (TN) 42, Christian Co. 12  
Fort Campbell 55, Fort Knox 18  
Calloway County 48, Fulton County 14

**CCMS falls by 4 on road**  
Crittenden County Middle School lost a 14-point lead in the second half on the road last Thursday at South Hopkins. The hosts scored all their points in the second half en route to a 26-22 win over CCMS. Coach Ethan Dossett said his team had just 15 players due to injury and attrition, and fatigue was a big factor late in the game. Noah Moss rushed for a touchdown and 110 yards while Kevin Little also scored a TD and gained 75 in the game. Jacoby Lynch caught a touchdown pass from Conley Palmer.

GOLF  
CCVFD hosts fundraiser

Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department will host its third annual Zach Latham Memorial 4-Person Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Deer Lakes Golf Course. The tournament begins at 9 a.m., with entry costing \$280 per team, which includes one mulligan, a skirt per player, and lunch. Teams with a hole sponsor may enter for \$380. Cash prizes will be awarded, including for long drive and closest-to-the-hole contests on all par 3s. To enter by credit or debit, contact Chris Cooksey at 270-704-1116, Scott Hurley at 254-247-9222, or Ric Hughes at 270-988-4653. Proceeds will benefit the volunteer fire department and help purchase much-needed new equipment.

DISTANCE RUNNING  
5K to benefit cemetery

A “Say Goodbye to Summer” 5K to benefit the Marion Cemetery Association will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 at Marion City-County Park. Entry fee is \$20. A one-mile fun run will be offered for a \$10. Top 3 males and top 3 female finishers were be awarded. Entry forms are available at The Crittenden Press.

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	Sept 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
Early wood duck	Sept 20-24
Teal	Sept 20-24
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
Deer Youth	Oct 11-12
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

**Archers have taken 41 deer**  
Crittenden County archers and crossbow hunters had taken 41 deer as of Tuesday, following the season opener Saturday. Thirty-five were harvested with a bow and arrow, and the rest by crossbow. Livingston County has reported 29 deer.

# Sophomore QB gets keys to offense

STAFF REPORT  
Crittenden County handed the keys to its offense to a sophomore Friday night, and Conner Poindexter made his first varsity start one to remember.  
After a sluggish opening half that saw the Rockets net only 11 rushing yards, Crittenden shifted gears. Abandoning the single-wing look it experimented with last week, the Rockets spread the field and let Poindexter use both his legs and arm to guide the attack. The result was a 27-8 victory over Webster County, the first win of the season for the Rockets (1-2).

Poindexter accounted for two touchdowns and some critical first downs on the ground, helping CCHS move the chains after halftime.  
“We switched to the single wing in the second quarter and that didn’t really work out so they went back to the 10-personnel stuff,” Poindexter said. “Coach said I need you to get some big runs and I need you to be smart with the football. So that’s what I did.”  
The Rockets’ only first-half spark came from senior Trae Taylor, who delivered a near record-setting 97-yard kickoff return late in the second quarter to answer Webster’s lone touchdown, which followed a Crittenden fumble. Taylor’s runback was the second longest in school history and the program’s best in five seasons. It kept CCHS from trailing at halftime against a team it’s traditionally handled with ease. The Rockets have now won 37 of its 51 games all-time against Webster dating back to 1972. Crittenden has never lost to the Trojans when it has scored at least 14 points. The Rockets beat WCHS for the



PHOTO BY ALLISON EVANS

**Rocket receiver Noah Byford picks up yards after a tap pass from during Crittenden County’s victory Friday night at home against Webster County.**

16th straight time.  
Once the spread offense clicked, the Rockets got production from multiple sources. Poindexter’s 23-yard touchdown run and Taylor’s 3-yard plunge in the third quarter sealed the game.  
Defensively, CCHS was lights out. Webster finished with just 17 yards in the second half and did not complete a pass all night. Eli Lovell and Brayden Poindexter picked off throws, and Jay Stevenson tallied three tackles for loss.  
“Defensively, I thought Jay Stevenson had a heck of a night. He just exploded in that second half and made a difference,” coach Gaige Courtney said.  
Courtney also pointed to Taylor’s kickoff return as the turning point.  
“That really got us going,” he said. “Conner did a good job. The first start is tough as a quarterback. That’s a lot of pressure and I thought he handled it very well.”  
Crittenden will host Union

City, Tenn., this Friday. The west Tennessee powerhouse will be a new opponent for the Rockets. The team is hoping starting QB Quinn Summers and its record-setting receiver Caden Howard will be back in the lineup after missing the last two games. Union City is a four-time Tennessee state champion, but off to a 1-2 start. The team has been in the state quarterfinals the past three seasons.

**SCORE BY QUARTER**  
Webster County 0 8 0 0  
Crittenden County 7 6 14 0  
**SCORING PLAYS**  
C-Noah Byford 5 pass from Conner Poindexter (Mitchell Brown kick) 9:46, 1st  
W-Ty Phillips 12 run (Hayden Wright run) :36, 2nd  
C-Trae Taylor 97 kickoff return (Adri Berry kick failed) :21, 2nd  
C-Poindexter 23 run (Brown kick) 8:56, 3rd  
C-Taylor 3 run (Brown kick) 2:05, 3rd  
**TEAM TOTALS**  
First Downs: CCHS 11, WCHS 5  
Penalties: CCHS 6-50, WCHS 12-75  
Rushing: CCHS 31-117, WCHS 40-145  
Passing: CCHS 10-15-1, 94; WCHS 0-2-2

Total Yards: CCHS 211, WCHS 145  
Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 1-1, WCHS 3-1  
**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**Rushing**  
CCHS: Taylor 18-48, Eli Lovell 3-18, Joel Bumpus 3-12, Poindexter 7-39.  
WCHS: Daniel Perez 2-(-18), Phillips 13-50, Andrew Boucher 1-5, Gator Jones 7-17, Dylan Poe 7-24, Tyler Kautzman 5-49, Wright 5-18.  
**Passing**  
CCHS: Poindexter 9-14-1, 86; Taylor 1-1-0, 8. WCHS: Wright 0-2-0.  
**Receiving**  
CCHS: Lovell 2-43, Dokota Sosh 2-23, Davis Perryman 1-1, Byford 4-22, Taylor 1-5.  
**Defense**  
Brandsasse 5 solos, 3 assists, TFL; Hall solo; Pierson 3 solos, 3 assists, TFL; B.Poindexter 6 solos, 8 assists, TFL, interception; D.Sosh 2 solos; Stevenson 5 solos, assist, 4 TFLs; Taylor 2 solos, assist; Byford 5 solos, assist; Musser 2 assists; Rich 2 solos; Curnel 2 solos, fumble recovery; Lovell 4 solos, interception; Bumpus 6 solos, 2 assists, 2 TFLs.  
Players of the Game: Offense Eli Lovell, Defense Brayden Poindexter, Jay Stevenson, Joel Bumpus. Line-man Braydin Brandsasse, Special Teams Trae Taylor.  
Records: Crittenden 1-2, Webster 0-3

## CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

**Crittenden County’s Hayden Peak (25) and Ruby Peek (6) work to control the ball during a recent soccer match in Marion.**

## LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

Crittenden County’s girls’ soccer team is off to the best start of any Rocket fall sport, improving to 6–3 after an 8–0 shutout of Union County on Monday.  
Junior Kylie Bloodworth scored five goals, while sophomore Adri Berry added two and senior Ella Geary chipped in one. Assists came from Geary (2), Berry (2) and sophomore Haley Moore (1). Junior goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty had two saves and picked up her first shutout of the season.

The Lady Rockets traveled to Hopkins Central (8–1) on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.  
Crittenden cruised to a 9–1 home victory last week over Union County. Geary led the Rockets with three goals and two assists. Senior Mollie Blazina added one goal, Bloodworth scored twice with an assist, junior Ruby Peek netted one goal with an assist, and Berry had two goals and an assist. Hardesty made two saves in the win which came on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

## LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

Crittenden County dropped a pair of volleyball matches last week, falling to Henderson County 3–0 on Sept. 4 and to Heritage Christian of Hopkinsville 2–0 in the All “A” Regional Tournament at Livingston Central on Sept. 6.  
Against Henderson, the Lady Rockets came up short 25–13, 26–24, 25–13. In tournament play, they lost to Heritage Christian 26–24, 25–21. CCHS went into the tournament as the defending champion. Crittenden is now 4–8 on the season.

## CRITTENDEN COUNTY GOLF

Crittenden County’s boys’ golf team got a nice win Monday at Deer Lakes, edging Caldwell County by five strokes behind continued strong play of Cash Singleton. Dawson Springs also competed in the event.  
The Rockets posted a team score of 189, led by Singleton’s 45 as medalist. Mitchell Brown shot 46, Bentley Rushing 48, Jaxton Duncan 50 and Hudson Stokes 51. Caldwell finished at 194. Scott Cochran paced the Tigers with a 45, but he lost top honors on a countback.  
CCHS senior Georgia Holeman shot a 53 in girls’ competition while Abby Korzenborn was on her heels with a 54.  
Crittenden County’s boys’ defeated Union County in a three–way match last Thursday at Morganfield. The Rockets posted a team score of 186, led by Duncan’s medalist



PHOTOS BY GREG PERRYMAN and DEONA MCCORD

**Lady Rocket freshman Grayson Travis (left) blocks a shot by Henderson County’s Lilly Payne during action last Thursday. Pictured at right are cross country runners Addie Nelson and Ella Whitney leading the way for CCHS.**



round of 45. Singleton carded a 46, Stokes shot 47, Rushing 48 and Levi Quertermous 49. Union County finished at 190 and Dawson Springs placed third with a team total of 264. In girls’ action Holeman and Korzenborn each shot 49s for CCHS while Union’s Elizabeth Hancock medaled with a 43.

## CCHS CROSS COUNTRY

For the Lady Rockets, Addie Nelson placed 38th in 26:03 to pace Crittenden County runners at Saturday’s 5K at the McCracken County Invitational in Paducah. She was followed by Ella Whitney 44th in 26:43, London McCord 57th in 30:14 and Hannah Whitney 62nd in 33:29.  
On the boys’ side, Crittenden’s Chad “CJ” Nelson finished 27th in 19:09, Noah Martinez 28th in 19:11 and River Rogers 44th in 19:50. Livingston Central was represented by Brayden Keeling, who placed 85th in 22:58, and Jesse Sharp, who was 109th in 32:48.

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# Local forester says nuts are aplenty this fall

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky hunters may find better conditions this fall thanks to a strong crop of white oak acorns across the region, a critical food source for deer, turkeys and other wildlife.

A local forester says that after a lighter mast year in 2024, white oaks appear to be “really loaded down” this season. Acorns, hickory nuts and other mast help sustain wildlife heading into winter and influence game movement during hunting seasons.

“Mast” is the term biologists use to describe nuts produced by forest trees. White oaks, red oaks, hickories, beech and black walnuts are among the most important mast producers in Kentucky. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service recognizes four native species of white oaks in the state – white oak, bur oak, chestnut oak and chinquapin oak.

White oaks are especially valuable because their acorns are less bit-

ter than those of red oaks, which contain higher tannin levels.

“For deer, white oak acorns contain less tannin so they’re sweeter, they taste better to deer so they will preference white oak,” said Canaan Dugger, a forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Dugger said his field visits this summer suggest that white oaks are faring better than red oaks.

“Everything I’ve been seeing right now, they’re really loaded down,” he said. Last year, he noted, the state nursery in Calvert City collected mostly black walnuts because white oaks produced poorly.

Acorn crops are notoriously variable. Late freezes, heavy rains during pollination or droughts in midsummer can wipe out much of the

production. Dugger said he is watching to see how this year’s dry conditions may affect mast quality, since acorns stressed by heat and drought are more vulnerable to weevils and other pests.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources conducts an annual mast survey, walking the same routes each year to check for nut production. Last fall’s survey showed just 42 percent of white oaks with acorns, compared to 79 percent of red oaks and 44 percent of hickories.

The impact on hunters can be significant. When mast is plentiful, deer and turkeys feed almost anywhere, making them harder to pattern. Sparse mast, on the other hand, concentrates wildlife near fewer food sources and increases hunter success.

Dugger said hunters and landowners should think beyond acorns alone.

“It’s really important to think about the white oaks in the fall, but you



duces acorns. That’s why he encourages people to manage existing stands.

“It’s always worth trying to work with what you got,” he said. Such practices include removing unwanted and invasive tree species.

This fall, though, prospects are encouraging. Hunters heading to the woods may well find the forest floor crunching with one of wildlife’s most important food sources – white oak acorns.



City of Marion crews have been locating and repairing water line leaks, which has taken on greater importance as the town continues to suffer from its more than three-year-old water crisis. Pictured above is City Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor working to repair a leak that began oozing up from beneath West Belleville Street. Tabor said a company hired to help locate leaks has found 18. He characterized them as “small leaks” that are within the city’s ability to repair, so no further contracting may be necessary. At the August Marion City Council meeting, it was noted that Marion’s current water loss is just above 25 percent. During the early stages of the crisis, those losses were approaching 50 percent, then were reduced to around 18 percent. However, recent conditions have been favorable for water line breaks, keeping the city maintenance crew busy.

## Learn to fish, select rod & bait

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Extension Service is starting a new 4-H Fishing Club this fall for youth ages 9-18. The club will meet Sept. 23 and 30 and Oct. 14 and 21 from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Participants will learn how to select rods, reels and tackle, practice knot tying and casting, and

study fish species and water safety.

Participants will also be fishing on each date at a small Crittenden County lake that includes a fishing pier. Those who register will be provided directions to the location which is a short drive from town.

Bait and tackle will be provided, and some poles

are available, though participants may bring their own. Youth age 16 and older must have a valid fishing license.

Cost is \$5, and space is limited. Registration is required by calling the Extension office at 270-965-5236. Members are expected to attend all four meetings.



Middler Softball

Crittenden County Middle School closes out its fall softball season Thursday with a road trip to Webster County. The team includes (front from left) Scarlett Bock, Callie Hildebrand, Elizabeth Greenwell, London McCord, Danielle Farmer, Whitley Lovan, Kinley Copeland, (middle) Brooklyn Lovell, Brandie Hackney, Mattie Moss, EmmaShae Holland, Karlee Jent, Blakelee Gardner, Aubry Odum, Kora Belle Penn, Aria Kinnis, (back) Coach Stephanie Galusha, Assistant Coach Chad Nelson, Addie Nelson, Catelynn Maddux, Fiona Loudon, Mela Penn, Isabel Geary, Kaylynn Little, Assistant Coach Matt Jent and Graduate Assistant Coach Jaycee Champion.

have got consider all the time in the spring and summer and think about what deer are eating then,” he said. Practices such as timber stand improvement and stump sprouting can provide valuable browse during antler growth and fawning seasons, he said.

For those hoping to plant white oaks, Dugger said patience is required.

“For a good white oak tree, I mean you’re looking probably a couple decades,” before it pro-

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# Could supreme court hear arguments in Marion?

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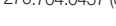





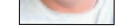
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