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KIA WORLD WAR I FRANCE
OCT 6 1889 + SEPT 12 1918

The Crittenden Press

Last wish marks soldier's resting place | Page 6

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

TWO DOLLARS



Steel Mags

Show-only tickets are still available for weekend events

The stage is set for Steel Magnolias at Fohs Hall, where a talented local cast will bring the beloved Southern classic to life this weekend. Evening performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

Last-minute ticket options remain available through the Fohs Hall box office and online, but seating is limited.

The cast features:

- Terra Haire as Shelby, a rising actress known for her dynamic roles in community productions.
- Holley Curnel as Annelie, a new face on stage bringing fresh energy to the ensemble.
- Katie Keene as Clairee, a seasoned Fohs Hall performer with credits spanning stage and film.
- Lindsay Sizemore as Truvy, whose charisma has anchored past local theater hits.
- Trish Gage as M'Lynn, a veteran of regional productions with decades of stage and producing experience.
- Brittney Meredith-Miller as Ouiser, widely recognized in the community for her powerful performances in dramatic roles.

Together, these six women embody the heart and humor of Robert Harling's story of friendship, resilience and love.

Homecoming Parade now open to entries

Entries are being sought for the Crittenden County High School homecoming parade, scheduled for 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2. Line up starts at 4 p.m. All organizations and sports teams are welcome. Email entry information to staci.blackburn@crittenden.kyschools.us or call (270) 965-2248.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 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.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Marion Code Enforcement Board meets at 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the county office complex in Smithland.



Author and journalist Tim Farmer

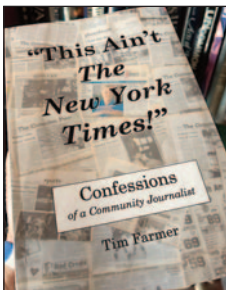
Back to the Future

Crittenden Public Library presents forum featuring 50+ years of community journalism

STAFF REPORT

Four of Crittenden County's most recognizable names in community journalism will share the same stage Saturday morning, offering a rare glimpse into the stories behind the stories that have shaped local life for more than half a century.

From 10 a.m., until noon on Saturday, Sept. 20, Crittenden County Public Library will host a special forum and book signing featuring newspapermen whose combined careers stretch back to the early 1970s, a living record of how this community has been covered, chronicled and remembered through the pages of its local press.



Former Press reporter Tim Farmer will sign copies of his newly released book "This Ain't The New York Times" during Saturday's event at the library in Marion.



Tabor



Evans



Lucas

Tim Farmer, who launched a decades-long career in community journalism after a short but formative stint at The Crittenden Press, and John Lucas, who began at The Press in 1973 before becoming a West Kentucky bureau chief and columnist for the Evansville Courier & Press, headline the event. Joining them will be Chris Evans, current editor and publisher of The Crittenden Press and Daryl Tabor, a former editor now serving as Crittenden County Clerk.

Farmer credits Lucas's mentorship during his months in Marion for inspiring a career that took him from Kentucky to Virginia,

See **EDITORS**/page 10

Current Situation Marion's Water Crisis

STAFF REPORT

Marion's water crisis continues to deepen as city leaders track falling levels at Lake George and brace for more hot, dry weather, even as state officials have denied multiple requests for emergency support.

"Please understand my concern that we could very



Browning



well run out of quality raw water soon," Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning wrote late last week in an email message to state and regional agencies that might offer some help. "I am not a fan of

brinkmanship when it comes to supplying our people with potable water."

At Monday's Marion City Council meeting, the mayor

See **WATER**/page 4

Effective tax rate unchanged

STAFF REPORT

With the Crittenden County Board of Education and the City of Marion finalizing tax rates over the last few days, taxpayers can now calculate their bills. Although a handful of rates have changed, the effective overall rate remains the same from 2024 to 2025.

The school board voted Tuesday to take a 4 percent revenue increase, the maximum it could adopt without being subject to recall. That raised the real property tax rate fractionally, from 51.4 to

Your 2025 Local Tax Rates

TAX DISTRICT	Change from '24	2025	2024	2023	2022
State of Kentucky	-0.3	10.6	10.9	11.4	11.5
City of Marion	-0-	22.9	22.9	22.5	22.4
Crittenden County	-0-	11.4	11.4	11.8	11.6
School District	+0.2	51.6	51.4	51.6	49.0
Extension	+0.1	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1
Health Tax	-0-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Public Library	-0-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Tradewater*	+1.39	36.29	34.9	33.6	33.7
TOTAL	-0-	109.00	109.00	109.6	106.6

Total does not include Tradewater | Values are shown as cents per \$100 of assessed

See **TAX**/page 3

Renesting with 120 children

Relaxing on a Saturday morning is a hard skill to re-learn.

After 20 years of Saturdays toting kids to soccer, softball, basketball, baseball and football camps, practices and games, there comes a time when suddenly there are virtually no parental demands. Saturday mornings are no longer reserved for following

offspring around; instead, my new normal is preparing to enrich the minds of 120 sixth graders.

I'm a new sixth-grade teacher.

Spending Saturdays lesson planning for my 11- and 12-year-olds involves doing prep work about memoirs and metaphors – and then there's the required college coursework necessary for my alternative teaching certification. In case you haven't heard, I've taken on a new midlife career now that motherhood's first stages are waning.

Odd that as my youngest daughter is starting the last year of her high school career, I'm starting my first full year of my second profession.

The transition from Saturday dates at the ballpark to Saturday morning coffee over a college textbook is an odd one. Instead of recording hits and strikeouts, Mrs. Evans is recording lesson plans for sixth graders and discussion board responses to a college professor's question about teaching exceptional children in the classroom.

The reward of raising three children versus teaching 120 each day is the same. You nurture them, instruct them, expect them to try their best and celebrate with them when they succeed.

With this teaching career comes 100 new friends each year, friends that greet you at football games and seem surprised to see you as a normal person in the grocery store.

It's rewarding when students you've had in the past stop by for hugs, pop into their old classroom and talk about new things they're learning.

I've always heard teachers speak of how rewarding the profession is – experiencing that "ahh-ha" moment when the "lightbulb comes on" and students grasp a concept. Now I get it. It's rewarding when you hear students self-correct a grammar error or become comfortable enough to read aloud after politely declining for weeks. It is heartwarming to see last year's sixth graders smile and say good morning, ask you what you did this summer and give you a hug (something they never did when they were students in your classroom). Maybe it's the extra three months of maturity that sent them from sixth to seventh grade; maybe it's a familiar face when they're learning the new faces of their seventh-grade teachers; or maybe it's their way of nonverbally admitting "it was kind of fun in sixth-grade English class."

Saturdays look a little dif-

See **CLASS**/page 3

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Runyan

Myra Monfort Runyan passed away on August 2, 2025 in her home in Fort Collins, Colorado. She was 87 years old, the wife of Marion native, William Runyan and the daughter-in-law of Ed and Dell Runyan, also of Marion. In Marion, she was a friend of Judy Winn and Linda Williams.

A retired lawyer, philanthropist, artist, and interior decorator, she led a distinguished public life in her legal profession, was a talented painter and pianist, and was particularly dedicated to an extraordinarily active and generous lifetime of support of a variety of charitable, educational, and civic enterprises.

From her childhood in Brooklyn, NY, she dedicated herself to working assiduously to achieve the utmost with her talents through hard work and application. She was the daughter of Jewish immi-



grant families from Eastern Europe. Her father, Beneian Veretilny (later changed to Ben Cohen) landed on Ellis Island with his siblings and mother from Odessa, Ukraine in 1913; her maternal grandparents had emigrated from Latvia in the late 1880s.

As a young girl she attended Erasmus Hall High School in Flatbush, Brooklyn, one of the oldest high schools in America, as well as one of the most academically distinguished in New York City. She was a leader from the beginning, serving as editor of the school newspaper and the math magazine, and graduating Salutatorian and "Most Likely to Succeed" in a class of over twelve hundred members. Awarded a New York State Regents Scholarship, she attended Barnard College, the adjunct college for women of Columbia University, where she majored in philosophy and was graduated in 1960 cum laude.

She attended the University of Colorado Law School, receiving her Juris Doctor degree in 1975, one of the earlier women to receive a law degree from that institution. As a stu-

dent she was recognized with an American Jurisprudence Award; she was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1976 and clerked at the Colorado Court of Appeals in Denver. Her legal research skills in the latter position were widely admired. In 1977 she was hired as an attorney for the large packing firm of Monfort of Colorado, ultimately serving as Chief Legal Counsel for the Fortune 500 Company. The latter was a signal accomplishment for a female lawyer at the time.

After the death of her husband, Ken Monfort, in 2003 she was married to William Runyan, of Fort Collins, Colo., a retired college music teacher, and she left her home in Florida to live with him in Fort Collins. There, she came out of retirement, and reinvented herself as a water lawyer. She enjoyed driving into the mountains to meet ranchers and walk the ditches. In Fort Collins, she continued to exercise her considerable talent as an artist, and actively studied piano. After a visit to Marion with her husband, she purchased the first of many mares and a champion stud, and

opened a breeding farm, Highland Farms, in Fort Collins for gaited Kentucky Mountain Horses. Her horses won many ribbons at horse shows in the Bluegrass Region.

Resuming her many activities as a philanthropist, she worked through her foundation, the Kenneth and Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation. Her interests and activities in civic support were many — during both her time in Florida and in Colorado. She gave generously to the Boys and Girls Clubs in both states, helping to build facilities and support programs. She supported ocean research at the Mote Marine Laboratory, as well as major support for food banks and various humane societies. Support for higher education was a major interest, and she gave generously to the University of Colorado, the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, the Eastman School of Music, Barnard College, the Ringling School of the Arts in Sarasota, and others. She served on myriad other philanthropic boards of symphonies, museums, and other

charitable and scientific organizations. A particular interest of hers was Rotary Clubs International — she was president of her club in Florida, and initiated and funded programs of the club there and in Colorado.

Myra Harriet Cohen was born on July the Fourth, 1938 in Newark, New Jersey. The family moved when she was an infant to Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NY. After college, she lived in Hempstead, Long Island, NY before moving to Colo.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. William Runyan of Fort Collins, Colo., her son, Bradley (Tonya) Ellins of Greeley, Colorado, and her daughter, Rachel Ellins (Joseph) Iozzia of Longmont, Colorado. Surviving grandchildren are Justin Ellins, Sarah Ellins, Amanda Iozzia, and great-grandchild, Hudson Ellins. She is survived by stepchildren, Richard Monfort, Kyle Futo, and Charles Monfort, as well as stepchildren, David Runyan, Jonathan Runyan, and Allison Ahlm, and many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren in Fort Collins, Denver,

New York, and beyond.

She was predeceased by her parents, Ben and Alice Cohen, her sister, Norma Raymond, her first husband, Lynn Ellins, her second husband, Kenneth Monfort, and her stepdaughter, Kaye Monfort.

While modest and never desirous of praise, the awards, citations, and recognition that flowed to her like a river during her long life had little value for her compared to the deep satisfaction she took in her work for society. She saw her personal resources as a gift to her that without question should be passed on to the benefit of others less fortunate. She was talented, intelligent, gracious, articulate, pretty—and always stylish! But those inherent virtues pale before the essence of her being: love for her family, commitment to the betterment of society, and a deep, personal generosity to others and every virtuous cause. She was an accomplished, beloved and noble woman.

Paid obituary

Younger generations lead surge in churchgoing for first time in decades

By DIANA CHANDLER
Baptist Press

BOULDER, Colo. — For the first time in decades, Gen Z and Millennials are attending church more frequently than older adults, Barna and Gloo reported Sept. 3 from its latest State of the Church research.

But despite the rise, the average Christian still only attends church 1.6 time per month, or twice every five weeks, researchers said.

“We were able to analyze our data in a fresh way to show what many pastors feel — that even really regular churchgoers do not attend that often. Among all churched adults, we found that they attend, on average, 1.6 times per month, or roughly two out of every five weekends,” Barna Vice President of Research Daniel Copeland

said. “This new analysis of the tracking data helps us better understand the frustrations pastors feel when they are trying to build momentum for their congregations, such as series-based preaching and mobilizing volunteers.”

Younger generations are attending church nearly twice as often as they did five years ago, researchers said, with Gen Z and Millennials averaging 1.9 and 1.8 weekends a month, respectively, in the first half of 2025.

Elders and Boomers both averaged 1.4 times a month in attendance January through July, researchers said, noting Elders’ drop from 2.3 times monthly in 2000, and Boomers’ decline from twice monthly. Gen X has remained steady, averaging 1.6 times monthly.

Attendance for young-

er Christians is the highest it has been since they reached adulthood and became old enough to be included in Barna’s tracking, researchers noted.

“The fact that young people are showing up more frequently than before is not a typical trend,” Copeland said.

The increase in attendance has not signaled an increase in devoted disciples, Barna Group CEO David Kinnaman said, but gives pastors opportunities to create paths for spiritual mentoring that can help deepen the faith of younger generations.

“The significant drop-off among older generations shows that the fabric of congregational life is changing. It’s more frayed and less gray than it was a decade ago,” Kinnaman said. “The influx of new generations represents a

massive opportunity for congregational leaders, but this renewed interest must be stewarded well.”

Researchers advised churches to develop discipleship strategies that acknowledge and account for attendance that is less than half of all Sundays, recommending digital tools, church apps for texting, small groups and online resources for spiritual growth.

In uncovering these findings, researchers said they focused on adult Christians who attended church the past six months, highlighting the

behavior of people already engaged in church life.

The 2025 State of the Church is based on online and telephone interviews within nationwide random samples of 132,030 adults conducted over 25 years through July. These studies are conducted utilizing quota sampling to represent all U.S. adults by age, gender, race, ethnicity, region, education and income, researchers said. The data also includes 5,580 online interviews collected January through July with quota sampling.

Regarding Gen Z, researchers only began

tracking their churchgoing in 2017 and 2018, when the group born as early as 1990 reached adulthood. Data collected likely mirrored the attendance of the youths’ parents, researchers said.

Additional details from the 2025 State of the Church are available at StateoftheChurch.com and Barna.com. Gloo markets itself as a technology platform for the faith ecosystem, providing values-based artificial intelligence, resources, insights and funding, and serving over 100,000 faith, ministry and nonprofit leaders.

Community Calendar

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

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.

Saturday, Sept. 20

- The annual Salem Day Festival will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The family event will feature vendors, food, inflatables, music and free games for children. Organizers are still seeking vendors to set up booths. Those interested in participating as a vendor may contact Tiffany Newcomb at (270) 508-2384.
- Food as Health On a Budget will begin at 8 a.m., Time Well Spent begins at 9:30 a.m. and the Top 10 Soft Skills to Success starts at noon at the Crittenden

County Extension Annex.

Monday, Sept. 22

- WITS Workout is at 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library.
- Code Red Crisis Planning begins at 5 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.
- BQA will have a meeting at the Crittenden County Extension office beginning

at 6 p.m.


- Time Well Spents starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

- Hooks and Needles meets at noon at the Crittenden County Public Library.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

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



Crittenden County Animal Clinic

SURGICAL PROCEDURES

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

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Crittenden Co. Public Library presents

THIS AIN'T THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Small-town Journalism Then and Now



Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:00am in the meeting rm.

Join veteran journalist Tim Farmer, along with his former and current newspaper peers, Chris Evans, John Lucas, and Daryl Tabor.

Mr. Farmer's book will be available to purchase after the presentation.

This program is free and open to the public.

Man who ran over chief sentenced to prison

STAFF REPORT

The man who injured Marion’s police chief a year ago while escaping arrest on a motorcycle has pleaded guilty to that and other crimes and was ordered to spend nine years behind bars.

Christopher McKinley, 40, of Marion, pleaded guilty last Thursday in Crittenden Circuit Court to a number of felony and misdemeanor charges in two cases, including one involving the striking of the police chief with a motorcycle while trying to elude capture last September. A felony charge of tampering with physical evidence was dismissed.

McKinley was sentenced to six years on a Class C felony charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, two years for wanton endangerment for running into Marion Police Chief Bobby West with his motorbike and two years for third-degree fleeing or evading police. He was sentenced to lesser time for the other misdemeanor charges and fines on some. The defendant also had his probation revoked in a previous felony charge, adding one year to his new sentence.

In total, McKinley received a nine-year sentence. Court records say that in September 2024, local police attempted to serve multiple warrants at an apartment complex on the north side of Marion. McKinley fled the scene on a motorcycle, striking Chief West, who suffered minor injuries. McKinley remained at large for just over two months.

In December, McKinley was apprehended after attempting to flee law enforcement officers outside his residence. He fled into nearby woods on the north side of town, behind a Dollar General. Sheriff Evan Head and Chief West pursued McKinley, who was

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT

found hiding in dense brush. A search of McKinley and his belongings uncovered drug paraphernalia, scales and a pouch containing methamphetamine, hypodermic needles and other items.

•Devin Michael Souvongkham, 30, of Marion, pleaded guilty to felonies in separate cases, both involving additional misdemeanors. For felony charges of criminal mischief and theft of a controlled substance, he was sentenced to one year each with the time to run consecutively for a two-year term, which will also run concurrently with other lesser time for the misdemeanors and fines. A DUI and leaving the scene of an accident conviction will also mean extended driver’s license suspensions.

Police had charged Souvongkham with huffing or inhaling fumes and vapors from an air duster can (canned air) on June 21, then operating a white Jeep in the Darben Plaza parking lot, where he crashed into the front of the Dollar Tree building, causing more than \$1,000 in damage. The police report alleges that Souvongkham then drove away from the scene without notifying anyone inside the building.

In the second case, Souvongkham was charged with a spate of incidents on June 8, during which he and another, yet unnamed individual, entered four unlocked vehicles on Rochester Avenue, taking items including money and a prescription bottle of Xanax.

•Tyler James Smith, 28, of Morganfield, pleaded guilty to third-degree burglary, a Class D felony, and third-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, a Class A misdemeanor, for a June burglary of a resi-

dence on Mott City Road in Crayne. According to court records, a juvenile also took part in the burglary. Smith was sentenced to one year for burglary and 365 days on the misdemeanor with time to run concurrently for a total of one year to serve.

•Lecarto Visquaze Pendleton, 49, of Cordova, Tenn., indicted in December on three Class D felony charges of third-degree assault of a corrections officer and three misdemeanor charges for third-degree terroristic threatening, was able to cut a deal that will allow him to keep his job as a paramedic in Memphis and not affect his military reserve status.

Pendleton was charged in October of last year for an incident inside Crittenden County Detention Center when Pendleton struck three corrections officers causing injury to them, and also threatened to kill them.

Pendleton had been booked into the jail as an inmate from Lyon County, charged with DUI, reckless driving and other traffic infractions. Guards were assisting him in transferring from street clothes to jail garments, court records indicate.

Pendleton, represented by attorney Cody Hooks of Eddyville, agreed to a guilty plea on six misdemeanor charges. three amended charges of attempted assault and three for terroristic threatening, in return for being allowed to serve his jail time over a period of two years at least five days a month.

Judge Daniel Heady sentenced Pendleton to 365 days on each count with 90 days to serve. He was given credit for time served last fall, leaving 81 on the sentence.

The plea agreement was agreed to by the county jailer, prosecutor Wes Hunt told the court.

Indictments handed down in 3 Marion felony cases

STAFF REPORT

A Crittenden County grand jury returned indictments last week against three individuals.

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

Indicted last week were:

- Justin Thomas Defreitas, 32, of Marion was indicted for resisting arrest, a Class A misdemeanor; possession of a controlled substance, first degree, second offense (methamphetamine), a Class D felony; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor; and illegal possession of a legend drug, a Class B misdemeanor. Court records indicate a Marion patrolman conducted a traffic stop on a pickup Defreitas was driving just before 11 p.m. Aug. 10. The stop was made on Poplar Street after the officer allegedly observed the defendant driving erratically before pulling into the Five Star Convenience Center parking lot. Patrolman Corey Golithly’s report indicates the suspect had a warrant out of Warren County, and when attempting to make the arrest, Defreitas resisted. The alleged drugs were found in the vehicle or on the suspect’s person, according to the police report.
- Steven Austin Travis, 20, listed as transient with no fixed address, was indicted for receiving stolen property valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000, a Class D felony. Court records indicate that on Aug. 15, Marion Policeman Jerry Parker observed the defendant sitting in a vehicle on the roadway on West Depot Street. He was originally taken into custody on an outstanding warrant, and the grand jury charges followed.
- Keith Lindsey Wyatt, 54, of Hopkinsville was indicted on charges of speeding 26 mph over the limit, a violation; reckless driving, a violation; fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle), a Class C felony; possession of a controlled substance, first degree, first offense (methamphetamine), a Class D felony; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Court records indicate that shortly after 7 a.m. July 27, Marion Police Chief Bobby West responded to a home on Old Shady Grove Road regarding an emergency protective order. When he arrived, the suspect allegedly fled the scene in a Chevrolet Malibu. The officer gave chase on Country Drive at speeds up to 63 mph in a 25 mph zone. Wyatt eventually stopped on Old Morganfield Road and was arrested. The alleged meth was found in a small baggie inside the suspect’s wallet.

Water Line Survey Coming

Information included in September’s bill

STAFF REPORT

Marion Water Department is notifying all customers this month about a national survey to identify the material of service lines and the potential health risks if lead pipes are present. City leaders stressed the effort is unrelated to the community’s ongoing water crisis.

An informational insert is being mailed with monthly bills, except to one property. That customer will receive the notice by hand delivery since it is already known that the service line may contain lead. A city crew is expected to dig there to verify the material.

The insert, which will be include with this month’s water bill, outlines steps to reduce possible lead exposure, including flushing lines before use, using certified filters, cleaning faucet aerators, consuming only cold water and having water tested. It also explains health effects that can result from lead in drinking water, such as developmental problems in children, higher risks of heart disease and high blood pressure in adults,

TAX

Continued from page 1

51.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The personal property rate rose from 51.9 to 52.1. Vehicle taxes remain at 54.1 cents and utility rates at 3 percent.

The district projects the new real property rate will generate about \$2.34 million in revenue, up about \$102,000 from last year. Personal property taxes are expected to bring in \$419,000, compared to around \$411,000 a year ago.

Countywide, most tax rates remain steady in 2025. The state property tax rate dropped slightly from 10.9 to 10.6 cents, marking the fifth straight year of decline. The Crittenden County rate stayed at 11.4 cents, and the City of Marion’s rate held at 22.9 cents. The library and health districts were unchanged and the Extension Service tax rate inched up a tenth of a cent to 4.5. Tradewater showed the sharpest increase, climbing from 34.9 to 36.29. That only affects landowners along the river.

Property owners in the county will pay \$861 for every \$100,000 of assessed value. For those inside the City of Marion, the additional city levy will add \$229 per \$100,000.

Crittenden County tax bills will be mailed in late October by the sheriff’s office. A 2 percent discount is available for November payments. Full payment is due Dec. 1, and bills become delinquent after Dec. 31.

City of Marion tax bills will be mailed later this month. Payments are due by Nov. 1, with a 25 percent penalty added beginning Nov. 2. They also become delinquent after Dec. 31.

County tax bills include additional assessments: fire acres at 2 cents per acre, \$30 fire dues for county property owners unless exempted by July, and the E-911 fee of \$36, which applies to all property owners without discount or penalty provisions.

The effective tax rate is 109 cents per \$100 of assessed value in the City of Marion and 86.1 cents per \$100 elsewhere in the county.

Father, son are indicted in Grand Rivers meth case

STAFF REPORT

A Livingston County grand jury returned indictments Monday against three individuals involved in the same case in July when a deputy made a routine traffic stop on U.S. 62 in Grand Rivers.

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

Indicted were Susan Binkley, 51, of Marion; Jason G. Millikan Jr., 20, of Grand Rivers; and Jason G. Millikan Sr., 47, of Grand Rivers.

The grand jury indicted all three with felony trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, more than 2 grams of methamphetamine. Binkley and Millikan Sr. were cited as subsequent offenders, while the younger Millikan faces a first offense.

Additional charges against the three include possession of drug paraphernalia and trafficking in marijuana, 8 ounces to less than 5 pounds, by complicity. Both Millikans were indicted with firearm enhancements connected to the alleged trafficking offenses.

Binkley also faces a separate count of marijuana possession. She was released to a treatment program Aug. 20 on a \$25,000 cash bond.

Millikan Jr. remains lodged in McCracken County Jail on a \$50,000 cash bond. Millikan Sr., held at the same facility, faces the most extensive list of charges. In addition to the drug and trafficking counts, he was indicted for operating on a suspended or revoked license, failure to wear seat belts, failure of a non-owner to maintain required insurance and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. His bond was set at \$100,000 cash.

Court records say that on Monday, July 14, at about 1:13 p.m., an SUV occupied by the three was stopped for an alleged seat belt infraction and because the driver, Millikan Sr., was known by law enforcement to have a suspended operator’s license. The vehicle’s owner was identified as passenger Susan Binkley, who gave verbal consent for a search of the vehicle.

Located inside was a black backpack containing a .22-caliber handgun with a loaded magazine, about 1 pound of marijuana in a zip-lock bag, a plastic cylinder with about 4.12 grams of suspected methamphetamine and a working digital scale.

CLASS

Continued from page 1

ferent around here these days in the absence of ball bags and muddy cleats falling out of the trunk, but I’m grateful for the new kids and the new skills I’m helping them develop. Everyone warns of the empty nest when the youngest heads off to college, but I’m thankful the groundwork has been laid for a full class roster and Saturdays full of lesson planning.

Allison Mick Evans, is a third generation owner of The Crittenden Press and although she’s still involved in the newspaper, she’s also taken on the role of a full-time language arts teacher at Crittenden County Middle School.

eSUB

1 YEAR

\$32

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Highway closed in Glendale area until end of Oct.

Highway KY 2123 in rural Crittenden County closed Wednesday, Sept. 17, at mile point 1.63 for a bridge replacement project, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced.

The closure, just south of Glendale Church Road over Caney Fork Creek, is between KY 297 and KY 1668. Work is expected to be finished by the end of October.

Traffic counts show about 68 vehicles use this section of roadway daily.

Daleske named to list at SNHU

Amber Daleske of Fredonia has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's President's List for the summer 2025 term.

The honor is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who earn at least a 3.7 grade-point average. The summer term at SNHU runs from May through August.

Judge Stout to perform ceremony of naturalization

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Alan Stout of Marion will preside over a naturalization ceremony at Murray State University next week — the first of its kind in the school's history.

The event is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Rather Hall, where 50 applicants from Kentucky and surrounding states will take the oath of citizenship. Such ceremonies are held monthly in Kentucky and are always overseen by a federal judge.

For Stout, 68, this will be his third naturalization ceremony but his first at his alma mater and in western Kentucky. Stout practiced law in Marion for 30 years before being appointed to the federal bench, where he has served the past 14 years. He will retire next month, with a formal ceremony planned Oct. 24 in Louisville.

CAF hosting event for pumpkin florals

Community Arts Foundation will host a Pumpkin Floral Arrangement Workshop at Fohs Hall on Sept. 25. Led by The Apron Wife, the event offers participants a chance to create their own seasonal centerpiece using fresh flowers and pumpkins. Space is limited, and reservations are encouraged.

Area students are honored by HCC

Three area students earned academic honors for the summer 2025 semester at Hopkinsville Community College. Elijah Davis of Marion was named to the President's List, while Megan Burton and Janetta Cox of Fredonia were recognized on the Dean's List. Sydney Hill of Eddyville was also named to the President's List. Students must maintain at least



a 3.5 grade-point average to qualify for the Dean's List, while those earning a 4.0 GPA are placed on the President's List.

Friends of Library hosts bookmark contest this month

Friends of Crittenden County Public Library reminds the public of its 20th anniversary bookmark design contest, which runs through Sept. 30.

The contest is open to all county residents, library cardholders, and students in Crittenden County schools, including homeschoolers. Cash prizes will be awarded in four age groups: 3-6, 7-12, 13-17 and 18 and older.

Entry forms and rules are available at the library, from the bookmobile librarian, and through school art teachers and librarians. Contestants may choose between two themes: "My Favorite Book" or "Why I Love My Library."

Winners will be recognized at a reception Oct. 16 at the library. For details, contact Library Director Regina Merrick at 270-965-3354 or Friends event chair Jenny Zimmer at 513-675-3633.

Beef Bash Saturday

Beef Bash 2025 will be held Sept. 20 in Versailles, offering a full day of youth and adult beef education programs. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 1051 Midway Road with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

Youth sessions will be available throughout the day, while adult educational sessions will cover topics such as bale grazing, forage, reproduction, precision diagnosis and new research programs. A lunch break, trade show and awards program is scheduled for noon.

Adult registration is \$15 and children are \$5. The Crittenden County Extension Office is organizing a group to attend. Call the office to reserve a seat.

Livingston seeks help in Salem investigation

Livingston County deputies responded to multiple 911 calls on Sunday from residents reporting an individual banging on doors and attempting to enter homes.

Livingston County Sheriff's Department says deputies found Heather Myers, 49, near the scene and took her into custody as a suspect. Livingston County EMS transported Myers to a nearby hospital for treatment, authorities added.

Deputy Zackary Dunigan is leading the criminal investigation. Residents with information, reports of property damage or surveillance footage are encouraged to contact the sheriff's department.

Cecil Croft Road work going on this week

Cecil Croft Road in rural eastern Crittenden County will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 17-18, about 3,200 feet southeast of the Hooten Road intersection for major repairs to a base failure.

Officials are asking motorists to adjust travel plans and avoid the area during the closure.

Crews will work to complete the project as quickly as possible to minimize the impact on local travel.

Dentist coming to CCMS in November

Crittenden County Middle School will host a school dentist Nov. 13-14. Students may pick up a dental form in the front office, and parents can also complete the online form www.myschooldentist.com/CMCKKY_schsrn%7D.

All forms must be returned by Oct. 27. The program, coordinated by the school's Family Resource and Youth Services Center, offers students an opportunity to receive dental care and maintain healthy smiles.

City code enforcement issues fines of \$4,460

Marion code enforcement has handled 14 new complaints in August and issued \$4,460 in fines, according to its monthly report at Monday's city council meeting by Officer Tanya Byers.

In all, 13 notices of violation and 16 citations were served. Thirty-one violations were abated, bringing the total resolved this year to 74.

Five cases were appealed to the Code Enforcement Board, four of which have been completely abated and one partially. Final orders were filed on properties at 504 W. Elm, 422 S. Weldon, 421 S. Walker and 302 N. Walker, the last of which has been paid and abated.

The Code Enforcement Board will meet Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. Starting this month, final orders will be posted on the city's website, where residents can also sign up for email updates under HB 422. Invoices are set to go out Oct. 1.

Body found in river near Uniontown

Kentucky State Police are investigating after a vehicle and human remains were found in the Ohio River near a boat ramp off Dike Lane in Uniontown on Friday morning.

A scuba diver discovered the submerged vehicle and alerted authorities. When the vehicle was recovered, human remains were also located.

Investigators said the remains have not yet been identified but may be connected to a Union County man reported missing in 2006.

The remains have been sent to the Kentucky State Medical Examiner's Office for identification and analysis. State police are working with local authorities, and more information will be released as the investigation continues.



From the Press Archives – 25 Years Ago

Several Crittenden County High School students earned state Child Care Skills Standards Certificates following a test in the spring. Pictured are Mary Ann Schaibley, Lindsay Teer and Rebecca Woodall, who were among those recognized for their achievement 25 years ago.

50 YEARS AGO

September 18, 1975

- The Rocket football team won its third game of the season after beating McLean County 28-0. Danny Hodges and Mark Hamby led the team with two touchdowns each to carry the Rockets to victory.
- Mike Hunt earned player of the week honors against McLean County. Hunt held the Cougars' offense to only 66 yards for the game. He carried the ball once for 14 yards.
- A Regional Program of Professional Development for Vocational Personnel in the Pennyriple region was launched with the goal of improving instruction at all vocational schools.

25 YEARS AGO

September 21, 2000

- The Crittenden County High School academic team won its first meet of the season at Dawson Springs. The team beat Providence High School but lost to Dawson Springs.
- Paul Heady and Brent "Danny" Witherspoon led a project to save the Blackford Railroad Bridge over the Trade-water River in an effort to preserve a piece of community history. State legislators Mike Cherry and Jim Gooch also worked to secure funding needed to finish the project.
- The Rocket football team beat Ballard County Memorial 24-20. The win boosted the Rockets' home-stadium winning streak to 13 in a row. Keith Wilcox set the momentum by recovering an onside kick at the Rockets' 41-yard line.

10 YEARS AGO

September 17, 2015

- Four Crittenden County Middle School students were chosen by Murray State University to participate in Young Leaders in Action, a program designed to prepare teens for future community leadership roles. The students were Hannah Bell, Kyron Hicks, Lily Berry and Ellie McGowen.
- Lauren Gilchrist shot an 86, 14-over par, to finish 17th overall in the Kentucky All "A" Classic Girls State Tournament at Woodson Bend Resort Golf Course. It was Gilchrist's second straight year qualifying for the state golf tournament; the previous year she finished 46th overall.
- The Junior Pro Rockets won two games and lost one against Caldwell White at Marion. Micah Newcom scored three rushing touchdowns, and Tyler Belt scored two. Levi Piper scored on an 8-yard run, and Bennett McDaniel rushed 15 yards on three carries.

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

Livingston man dies in crash on Tiline Road

STAFF REPORT

A Tiline man died following a single-vehicle crash Sunday evening in rural Livingston County.

The wreck happened about 5:50 p.m. on Tiline Road south of Smithland, when a pickup truck left the roadway and over-

turned, according to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

The driver, 43-year-old Derek Russell, suffered serious injuries and was flown to Deaconess Medical Center in Evansville. He died Monday from his injuries.

WATER

Continued from page 1

gave further updates on the water situation. According to engineering estimates, Lake George currently holds about 17.6 million gallons of impounded water, but only 12.3 million gallons can be drawn above the siphon elevation at 582 feet. Nearby Old City Lake, the town's other raw water source, is contributing roughly 6 million gallons, though that figure does not account for the last two feet below its intake. Together, the two reservoirs are providing about 18 million gallons of usable raw water.

Browning told the city council that engineers estimate the supply amounts to about 60 days of raw water, although the lower the reservoirs go, the tougher the water is to treat.

The mayor also cautioned that the two-month estimated supply does not factor in evaporation losses, sediment buildup or the declining quality of water at lower depths. Rising manganese levels, in particular, could compromise drinking water supplies well before the reservoirs are depleted.

City leaders are exploring whether pumps could be secured to access water below the siphon level, which could extend capacity but would likely complicate treatment if quality issues worsen.

Despite mounting concerns, state officials recently denied Marion's request for an emergency declaration. Without that designation, the city cannot trigger outside bottled water distribution, which had been briefly approved and then rescinded late last month. The refusal leaves Marion without the immediate backup that residents relied on in 2022, when a breach in the Lake George levee forced state agencies and the National Guard to truck in water and hand out pallets of bottled water for weeks.

Officials warn that the community should not view the 60-day projection as a guarantee. With rainfall scarce and temperatures still high, the timeline could collapse quickly. Without state recognition of an emergency, the city is left balancing reservoir management, treatment challenges and public confidence as the crisis lingers.

The mayor's comments during Monday's meeting also included another plea for understanding from the community during these difficult times.

"I have been in touch with our leaders, the media and sounding the alarm since June," she said. "I have sent messages to Sen. Jason Howell, Rep. Jim Gooch, the Division of Water, Gov. Beshear's office and others. We are not operating in a bubble. I assure you that every stakeholder is fully apprised of our situation."

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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The weight of words

As one who speaks publicly about the interpretation and application of the Bible, it is important to always bear in mind the weight of those words. I do not have a wide audience. I do not have anything new or profound to say. However, there are people who listen and take what I say seriously – terrifying – or it should be.

I recall an instance when something I said was misunderstood which resulted in violent behavior. It was alcohol-related, and no one was injured, even though there was significant property damage. I was shocked to learn that what happened was a result of something that I had said. What happened was not my fault in any way. I was nowhere around when it happened. However, the words that I spoke during a class opened up space for some very bad decisions to be made.

The problem was my context differed from that of the hearers. There was no way that I meant what they said I meant. To make matters worse, there were some who were looking for reasons to criticize and undermine the work I was doing. The misinterpretation, then, became what I said in their eyes.

This is the process that describes what happens every day for those who choose one source of editorialized news entertainment – often mistaken for news. We all have agendas, and we are entitled to them. Those we listen to are not always forthcoming with what they are up to.

When misinterpreted (intentionally or otherwise) information that has become “fact” hits a deranged mind, there will be trouble. There is no way to stop some of the violence that happens, but we could all do better

at attempting to close the space for it.

How might we do better?

Stop spreading “outrage.” The number of intentionally false stories that I see shared on social networks may well outnumber those that are true. Even if the person that shared the story is someone you trust, check where it originated. It is hard to report on an event accurately when trying to do so. It is much easier to spread a

half-truth that suits one’s way of viewing the world. Understand who is listening, and why. Jesus said, “Do not give to dogs what is holy and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you.” (Mt. 7:6). Be careful with our words and keep in mind your context and that of your listeners. Add to that, it is difficult to control context in some media.

We are fortunate to live in a society that still values freedom of speech. It feels as though we are teetering on losing it. We have been through times like this before, so I believe that we will get through it this time as well. There are nearly 350,000,000 of us. That many people in a society that values freedom and individualism are going to have some friction. There will be clashes of ideas and ideals. Value the freedom of others as much as your own.

We still, I believe, have good systems and checks and balances in place. They are being challenged today as they have not been in nearly a century. It is important for us and our leaders to respect those systems. The fact that they are being stressed is part of the process.

I believe that too many of us want to do things our own way without

regard to the sensitivities or morality that has made our remarkable wealth and freedom possible. We are too ready to make assumptions about people whom we know nearly nothing about and are ready to believe the worst.

Bringing balance back in such an environment gets increasingly difficult. We have churches full of people who belong to one political party and the doors are closed to those of the other – shame. We have preachers who put politics or nation above the good news of God’s care and concern for all people.

We have created an environment where some believe it is O.K. to take misguided vengeance into their own hands. Political violence has always been part of our nation, but it is on the rise. The Bible is full of stories of people who sought God’s blessing by doing it their way. They did so by crossing boundaries put in place by God for our own good. When we ignore processes, we cross boundaries. If the Bible is a guide, we learn that when we try to do it our way – somebody else pays the price. Sometimes people die. I pray that all of us will stop supporting those things that make for division and hatred.

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.

A righteous relationship with God begins with faith

Question: I’ve tried to be a good man all my life. I’ve centered my life in my career, my money, my education and my family. I’ve had a good life, but I’ve come to the painful reality I left God out entirely. I know I can’t go back and do my life over. So, how can I begin a relationship with God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things?

Answer: A right relationship with God begins with faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb. 11:6). Everyone has faith in something. Now is the time to direct your faith to God. He is a rewarder of those who believe in Him and diligently seek Him.

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

Faith in Christ. Living faith begins by establishing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. God loves you so much He sent Jesus to die on the cross to bear the punishment for your sins. To begin your relationship with God, you must let go of your sins (repent) and put your trust in Christ. Confess your faith in Christ as your Savior and Lord.

Grow. Trusting in Christ is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship, you should start attending a Bible study group where Christ is preached. Study the Bible, and God’s Spirit will help you grow. And, then, be baptized as an expression of your faith in Christ.

Share. Your faith is meant to be shared. Talk with someone who is far from God about the ways God has made Himself known to you.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

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

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES
in local 2026 elections

You are invited to a:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Sept. 23
6 p.m.

at the
County Office Complex

The meeting is not mandatory but merely offered to help answer questions.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor will explain

FINANCIAL REPORTING
that must be done before any candidate runs for office.

PLEASANT GROVE GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH

will have

Revival

Monday, Sept. 22-Thursday, Sept. 25
7 p.m. each night

Preaching
Monday & Tuesday
will be
Bro. Heath Martin

Preaching
Wednesday & Thursday
will be
Bro. Matt Grimes

Church is located 4 miles north
from Salem on Highway 723

WORSHIP

with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

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.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Join us for praise & worship
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children’s & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
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

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
PINEY FORK
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.
SUNDAY School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.

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 -

Honor Veterans Day brings closure for two local soldiers

Friday, Sept. 19 is an Honor Veterans Day, honoring those who were prisoners of war and missing in action. I'd like to honor and remember Thomas Perkins for his nightmare days in a German prison camp and Robert M. Davis, though not missing in action, his resting place had been missing since 1918. His story first appeared in The Press in May in honor of Memorial Day. This is a gratifying ending to that story.

Robert M. Davis - Unmarked Crittenden County WWI Hero

In the first Crittenden County Cemetery Books, published in 1972, there was a note in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery listings, that Mrs. Ruby Bebout Croft had submitted, that said "Bob Davis, WWI serviceman killed in action and was buried there without a stone.

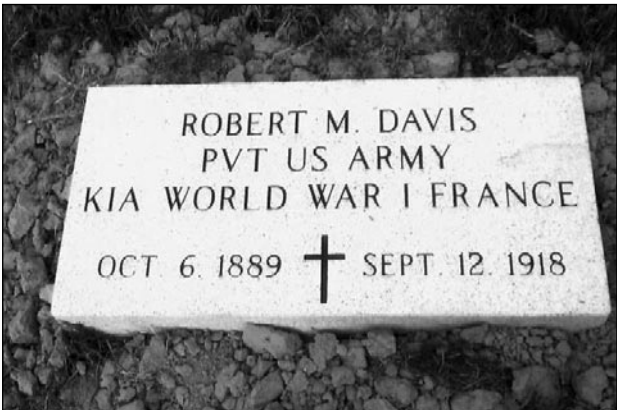
After further checking, Robert M. Davis, has a war record listed in the Crittenden County WW I Historical Register book that was compiled after World War I was over. It shows that Robert M. Davis entered into service on Oct. 24, 1917 at Marion and sent to Camp Taylor, Ky for training.

Later Death Information
From the St. Louis Star and Times, Oct. 18, 1918. Private Robert M. Davis, Company C, 6th Infantry, was killed in Action Sept. 28, according to notices to his mother, Mrs. Fannie D. Davis, who was living in St. Louis with her daughter on 619 Slattery Street. Davis has a wife and two small children living at Tolu. He was drafted and trained at Camp Taylor before being sent overseas. Two brothers, Thomas and Walter, are privates in Company 1, 138th Infantry in France.

From the Kansas City Star newspaper on Nov. 24, 1918
Robert M. Davis, another member of the intelligence staff, volunteered to act as a runner while the troops were in Montrebois Woods. It was his duty to keep in touch with the various battalion headquarters and the brigade headquarters. The boche (German soldiers) were shelling the woods and filling it was gas. It was up to Davis to find the other battalions and carry the news back through regimental headquarters. Davis did it but he was knocked down by exploding shells seven different times.

Body Sent To Marion
His remains were sent back home to Marion for burial and he is buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery without a marker. His mother Fannie Millikan Davis is also buried there without a stone.

Rest of Story
Soon after this article appeared in The Crittenden Press on May 22, 2025, I got a call from my neighbor, the late Eddie Hunt. He was touched by the story of Pvt. Davis not having a marker and wanted to get a monument to mark a grave for him. Eddie asked if I would help him with the information needed for the stone. He contacted Henry & Henry with his request, and they were glad to help. Eddie at first contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs to find out if he could get a military marker, and also Lauren Carr at Henry & Henry tried, but they were told only a family member could request a military marker. With that source out of reach, we turned to Henry & Henry with the information needed for a stone and they proceeded with the request.



After 107 years of not having a monument to mark his grave, Pvt. Robert M. Davis now has this beautiful new stone to honor his service to our country.

Roger Hearell, a caretaker of the Pleasant Grove Cemetery where we knew (through the archived military information in The Press and more family research) that Pvt. Robert M. Davis had been buried over 107 years ago in an unmarked grave at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. I asked Roger for permission to place a stone in the cemetery and if he would help identifying a place to put the stone. He gracefully agreed and knew where other members of the Millikan family were buried. Pvt. Davis's mother was a Millikan and was buried there with other members of her family. He located in an empty spot near other Millikan family members, which would be Pvt. Davis' great-uncles.

On Sept. 2, 2025 Henry & Henry set the memorial marker for Pvt. Robert M. Davis. This lost hero of WW I now has a beautiful marker to remember him and his service to our country.

The very sad part of this ending is that Eddie Hunt passed away shortly before his project was finished. His wife Barbara wanted this wish finished that was so important to him. It is completed now, and I know Eddie would be proud of the memorial marker, that through his efforts was made possible.

Thanks to Henry & Henry for all their help and also to Roger Hearell for helping with the location of the stone.

Thomas Perkins – Prisoner of WW II

In 1942 Thomas was drafted into the military service and was trained to serve in the Army Air Corps. During his service he was made a staff sergeant.

He was sent overseas in 1943 and was stationed in England with the 8th Air Force. He was assigned to a B17 Bomber doing raids over Germany. His position on the B17 Bomber was a ball turret gunner under the belly of the plane.

On July 28, 1943 the "Flak Happy" bomber plane was issued to his crew. Fifteen days later on a bombing mission over Bochum and Gelsenkirchen, Germany on Aug. 12, 1943 this plane was shot down, shredded by German fighters with anti-aircraft

guns, sending the men on board tumbling through the sky, fumbling with parachutes and praying for survival. When they landed on the ground, the crew was captured by the Germans and sent to a prison camp.

Their survival now meant their hell on earth was just beginning. In this raid four planes were shot down and 11 soldiers were killed. The rest were captured and taken as prisoners.

When Thomas and the crew of the Flak Happy were captured, they were first funneled into a processing center, Dulag Luft, near Frankfurt, Germany, for interrogation. Then they were packed like cattle into filthy box-cars and shipped by rail to the prison camps as prisoners of war.

Thomas and the crew were taken to Stalag 17-B, one of the Nazis' most notorious and harshest prisons camps. The prison camp was a series of long, single-story buildings. Each one was divided into halves shared by 150 to 240 men and sometimes many more, who also shared straw-filled, flea-ridden mattresses in triple-deck bunks.

A single stove with scant fuel (54 pounds of coal per week), wash basins into which cold water ran only a few hours each day, and a single indoor latrine for use af-



Staff Sgt. Thomas Perkins, from the Mexico community, spent 21 days in the Nazis' most harsh prison camp, Stalag 17-D. He only lived a few months after being released and sent home to recuperate.

ter dark (for daytime use, there were multi-hole latrines a short walk from the barracks). Because of lack of heating and an insufficient number of blankets, the men slept two to a bunk for added warmth. The thin cotton blankets issued by the Germans were described as "tablecloths" by the captives. Lighting facilities were very poor, and many light bulbs were missing at all times.

An average daily menu might contain 3 potatoes, 1 cup of soup, ½ cup of weak coffee, 22 grams of bread and 3 grams of margarine. Although Red Cross boxes of food and supplies were issued to the prisoners, few, if any, ever reached the men, and if they did, there wasn't much left in the boxes to help keep them alive.

Two separate wire fences charged with electricity surrounded the area, and four watchtowers equipped with machine guns were placed at strategic points. The guards were brutal and would shoot at anything they thought suspicious.

Staff Sargent Thomas R. Perkins existed in these conditions for 21 months. During this time, his feet had become frozen in the prison camp and his health



The late Eddie Hunt worked with Henry & Henry Monument Company to secure a stone for Pvt. Davis's unmarked grave after learning his story in The Crittenden Press.

was very bad. He was liberated from the camp on May 3, 1945, but because his health was so bad he had to wait two months before coming home. They released him on July 6, 1945. Thomas came home to the states, but he was to report back for duty in Florida about the middle of September 1945.

Thomas became ill

shortly after he returned to the states with a bad throat infection that antibiotics would not cure. He died in Florida while staying with his sister. His body was shipped back to the Mexico community in Crittenden County, and he was buried in the Mexico Cemetery on Sept. 11, 1945 with full military honors. Thomas was also given the Air Metal during his service to his country.

Rest in peace, these heroes of the past and may they never be forgotten.

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

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Purchase a tennis ball from The Mary Hall Ruddiman Shelter for \$25 for a chance to win up to \$500

The winning ball will be selected by one of our shelter pups on **Saturday, Sept. 27 at Marion City-County Park** during the Suicide Prevention Walk at 6 p.m. hosted by the Kentucky Extension Office

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Scan one of the QR codes to pay and secure purchase.

Mary Hall Ruddiman Shelter
25 Just A Mere Rd., Marion, KY
(270) 965-2006

Must sell all 100 or drawing will be postponed

FRIENDS MARK 20 YEARS WITH BOOKMARK CONTEST

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/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"**

MY FAVORITE BOOK

WHY 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

Classifieds

The Crittenden Press

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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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sale

Huge moving yard sale Sept. 25, 26 and 27, 1677 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Marion. New and used Tupperware, glassware, kitchenware, puzzles, games, toys and much more. Rain or shine. (1t-37-p)

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Trailer for rent located at 3147 S.R. 838, Salem, KY 42078. Deposit \$375, Rent \$375/mo., 6 month agreement. Contact (270) 988-4310 or (270) 704-0013. (2t-38-p)

services

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notice

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.

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bid notice

The Crittenden County Board of Education is accepting sealed bids for the following lots:
Lot 1: 1 - 3' x 6' two door black metal cabinet;
Lot 2: 1 - 3' x 6' 6 inch teal two door metal cabinet;
Lot 3: 1 - 7 ½ foot tall wood trophy/display case, glass front, broken glass shelves;
Lot 4: 1 - Two door black filing cabinet 6 ½ feet tall by 3 feet wide;
Lot 5: 2 "t" 7 foot long 29 inches tall computer tables with three cord slot openings at black of each table, gray in color;
Lot 6: 1 - Three shelf black media cart slanted top 2 feet in depth 29 inches in width 4 feet tall;
Lot 7: 5 - Four drawer metal filing cabinets
Sealed bids must be submitted to CCBOE at 601 West Elm Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064, by Friday, September 26, 2025 at 1 :00 p.m. at which time they will be opened. Sealed bids must include the lot number(s) for which you are bidding. For more information, contact Brian Kirby at 270-704-1166. Crittenden County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. (1t-37-c)

stateside

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Inflation is at 40year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-844-262-5602

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

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

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 20 Acres - \$65,000

This property offers an exceptional blend of features tailored for deer and turkey hunting enthusiasts. The landscape is marked by areas of exposed rock that add a rugged charm and unique character.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY – 30 Acres - \$112,500

This diverse hunting property offers an exceptional blend of varied terrain and habitat types, made even more unique by its history as an old quarry.

REDUCED! Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$436,000

Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

Crittenden County, KY – 70 Acres - \$244,900.00

Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY – 4,291 Acres – OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS – CONTACT AGENT!

With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and multiple lodges with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity! A part of this listing is under contract – contact agent.

Livingston County, KY – 147.7043 - \$565,000

This exceptional hunting tract serves as a main travel hub for wildlife, featuring an extensive creek network that enhances its habitat diversity. Features an established trail system throughout!

Livingston County, KY – 88 Acres - \$288,200
Livingston County, KY – 105 Acres – \$357,000
Livingston County, KY – 159 Acres - \$520,725
Livingston County, KY – 161 Acres - \$547,400
Livingston County, KY – 353 Acres - \$1,129,600
Livingston County, KY – 718 Acres - \$2,243,750
Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - \$3,016,450

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

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 2 Acres - \$219,900

Charming 2BR, 1.5BA with tons of light, a big deck for sweet tea sippin', insulated garage, and a white picket fence. Cozy, bright, and full of southern charm!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900

This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 52 Acres – \$225,000

Tradewater River hunting tract with cabin, 8.5+/- open acres, timber, pond, and food plot potential. No road frontage, gated gravel access, and 2,000 feet of riverfront in a QDM area.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 55.79 Acres - \$299,000

This unique combination tract offers the best of both worlds—an established equestrian setup with excellent deer and turkey hunting opportunities, all tucked away in a quiet, secluded landscape.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 63.46 Acres - \$239,900

This well-rounded hunting tract offers a strong mix of habitat types and features ideal for whitetail and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 13+/- acres of open ground.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 80.92 Acres - \$307,500

With plenty of edge and transition cover, areas of dense bedding and security cover, and numerous funnels and pinch points, this property is tailored for successful hunting!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 117 Acres - \$575,000

This phenomenal hunting property offers outstanding opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl enthusiasts, making it a must-see for the avid outdoorsman. Includes 44+/- acres of open ground!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 153.5 Acres - \$614,000

Well-balanced mix of open and wooded ground with fencing, wildlife potential, and strong hunting prospects. Ideal for livestock, food plots, and recreation, this property packs a big punch!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 214.74 Acres - \$834,600

Open and wooded mix with fencing, great access, and exceptional hunting potential. Great layout for livestock, food plots, and recreation, this is a highly usable property with a lot of upside!

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 10 Acres – \$59,900

This tillable acreage offers investment opportunity with 10+/- tillable acres ready for agricultural production.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY – 129.52 Acres - \$679,000

This scenic and versatile farmstead offers a rare opportunity to own multiple homes and a well-rounded blend of agricultural, recreational, and residential amenities!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocket sports schedule

THURSDAY
Golf at Providence GC
Soccer hosts Lyon County
CCMS Football at Ballard County

FRIDAY
Rocket Football at Mayfield

SATURDAY
Cross country at Paducah St. Mary
Junior Pro Football hosts Webster Co.

TUESDAY
Golf at Deer Lakes GC
CCHS Volleyball hosts Webster Co.
CCMS Football hosts Henderson North

Last Week’s HS Football Scores
Madisonville 25, Paducah Tilghman 22
Breckinridge 28, Edmonson 17
Bruceton (TN) 39, Fulton County 16
Caldwell Co. 56, Webster County 14
Calloway Co. 45, Ballard Memorial 6
Davies County 60, Christian County 7
Ft. Campbell 36, Hopkins Central 16
Fort Knox 31, Thomas Nelson 7
Gibson Southern 40, Henderson 14
Graves County 19, Union County 15
Grayson County 15, Butler County 14
Hart County 28, McLean County 20
Hopkinsville 55, Trigg County 28
Logan County 22, Greenwood 21 (OT)
Mayfield 39, McCracken County 3
Muhlenberg County 41, Ohio County 6
Murray 55, Marshall County 28
Owensboro 34, Owensboro Catholic 21
Rockcastle County 49, Powell County 0

CCMS wins with 11

Crittenden County Middle School won for the first time of the season last week, beating James Madison 22-8 on the road and scoring 22 unanswered points in the second half. Noah Moss rushed for a touchdown and caught a pass from Brady Polk for another. Kevin Little scored a rushing TD and had a conversion run. Polk also rushed for a two-point conversion. Little had a big game on defense, including a sack and Eli Taylor and Conley Palmer each had an interception.

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	Sep 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
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
Rabbit	Nov 10 - Feb 10
Raccoon trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Woodcock	Nov 10 - Dec 10
Coyote trapping	Nov 10 - Feb 28
Bobcat	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Nov 22
Duck	Nov 27 - Nov 30
Canada goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Snow Ross goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
White-fronted goose	Nov 27 - Feb 15
Dove	Nov 27 - Dec 7
Coyote night, lights	Dec 1 - March 31
Turkey shotgun	Dec 6 - Dec 12
Duck	Dec 7 - Jan 31
Deer muzzleloader	Dec 13-21
Dove	Dec 20 - Jan 11
Deer Free Youth	Dec 27-28
Crow	Jan 4 - Feb 28
Youth waterfowl	Feb 14
Coyote daytime	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

Hunters bag 72 deer

As of Tuesday, Crittenden County archers had bagged 72 deer, including 29 males. Eight of those were by crossbow hunters. Livingston had reported 41 harvested deer, including a dozen males, and 3 deer by crossbow.

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County has found its stride just in time for the start of district play. The Rockets (2-2) head to perennial powerhouse Mayfield Friday night on the heels of back-to-back wins, including last week’s gritty 21-14 victory over Union City (Tenn.).

On a night when Union City brought its championship pedigree across the state line, Crittenden countered with reinforcements. Quarterback Quinn Summers and receiver Caden Howard returned from early-season injuries to give the Rockets’ offense a much-needed lift. Summers connected with seven different targets for 171 yards, while Howard hauled in five passes for 117 yards, including a 48-yard strike that gave CCHS its first lead early in the third quarter.

Freshman Joel Bumpus added his first varsity touchdown on a one-yard plunge, and fellow receivers Trae Taylor and Howard both scored to complete the Rockets’ offensive output.

But it was Crittenden’s defense that made the difference, capitalizing on Union City’s miscues. The Golden Tornado coughed up five fumbles and threw an interception. Noah Byford’s pick and recoveries by Bumpus, Keegan Pierson, Gary Hall, and Jay Stevenson proved pivotal as the Rockets converted turnovers into points.

Union City quarterback Jack Theobald’s early exit with an injury helped swing momentum, and despite a late scoring strike by backup Adrian Crawford, the Rockets bled out the clock with their ground game to secure the win.

Howard said it was “a blessing” to be back on the field so soon. “Quinn started getting in rhythm and hit me



PHOTO BY ALLISON EVANS

Rocket wideout Caden Howard carries the ball on a rare rush out of the backfield. Howard and QB Quinn Summers were back last Friday after missing two straight games due to injury.

in stride. I couldn’t ask for a better quarterback. The turnovers on defense were huge. That kept us fighting and kept our energy up.”

Coach Gaige Courtney echoed the importance of regaining key players, but also credited others.

“We’ve kind of had a rough road starting out with injuries, and we came out slower than we wanted to. There are so many guys who made an impact tonight, and getting a couple of guys back helped. But those other guys around them really played well. We always talk about turnovers and winning that battle. We were definitely on the right side of it tonight.”

Now comes the true measuring stick. Crittenden County opens Class 2A, District 1 play on the road against Mayfield, one of the state’s top-ranked programs. The Cardinals (3-1) have already beaten Graves County, Christian County and McCracken County this season, their only loss coming against Paducah Tilghman.

History underscores the challenge. The Rockets are just 2-15 all-time against Mayfield, with their only wins coming in 2008. In the two most recent meetings, Mayfield won 46-6 in 2023 and 42-6 last season.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Friday at War Memorial Stadium in Mayfield.

SCORE BY QUARTER
Union City, Tenn. 7 0 0 7
Crittenden County 0 7 14 0

SCORING PLAYS
UC-Rodney Jenkins 35 run (Alex Landerous kick) 7:41, 1st
CC-Trae Taylor 5 pass from Quinn Summers (Mitchell Brown kick) :49, 2nd
CC-Caden Howard 48 pass from Quinn Summers (Brown kick) 8:37, 3rd
CC-Joel Bumpus 1 run (Brown kick) 3:07, 3rd
UC-Khazarian Scates 33 pass from Adrian Crawford (Landerous kick) 3:48, 4th

TEAM TOTALS
First Downs: CCHS 10, UCHS 10
Penalties: CCHS 7-50, UCHS 14-132
Rushing: CCHS 27-67, UCHS 44-237
Passing: CCHS 15-24-1, 171; 1-3-1, 33
Total Yards: CCHS 238, UCHS 270
Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 1-1, UCHS 9-5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing
CCHS: Taylor 20-44, Bumpus 2-15, Howard 2-6, Summers 3-2. UCHS: Andre Small 14-79, Logan Puckett 2-8, Jenkins 2-35, Crawford 22-128, Jack Theobald 2-2, Team 2-(-15).
Passing
CCHS: Summers 15-24-1, 171. UCHS: Crawford 1-3-1, 33.
Receiving
CCHS: Howard 5-117, Taylor 3-14, Noah Byford 1-0, Dokota Sosh 3-34, Bumpus 1-(-8), Eli Lovell 1-8, Davis Perryman 1-6. UCHS: Scates 1-33.
Defense
Brandsasse solo, 6 assists; Hall 4 solos, assist, fumble recovery; B.Poindexter 10 solos, 2 assists, 2 TFLs, caused fumble; D.Sosh 4 solos; Stevenson solo, 2 assists, 2 fumble recoveries; Summers solo; Taylor 4 solos, 2 assists; Byford 5 solos, 2 assists, interception; Perryman 2 solos, 2 assists; Blazina assist; Lovell 3 solos; A.Rich assist; Bumpus 4 solos, 3 assists, TFL, caused fumble, fumble recovery; Herrington assist; Curnel assist; Pierson 3 solos, 2 assists, fumble recovery, 2 caused fumbles.
Players of the Game: Offense Howard and Summers, Defense B.Poindexter and Byford; Lineman Keegan Pierson; Special Teams Mitchell Brown.
Records: CCHS 2-2, UCHS 1-3

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN

Crittenden County’s Braelyn Merrill (17) returns a shot against Christian County last week as Maddie Hearrell (2) moves in.

LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

Crittenden County’s girls’ soccer team dropped a pair of road matches last week, falling 9–3 at Caldwell County on Thursday and 8–0 at Hopkins Central on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Senior Ella Geary paced Crittenden with three goals against Caldwell, while teammates Haley Moore and Kylie Bloodworth each had an assist. Crittenden goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty recorded 11 saves against Caldwell and added 10 more in the Hopkins Central loss.

The Lady Rockets are now 6–5 on the season and were scheduled to host Muhlenberg County on Tuesday. Results were unavailable at press time.

LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

Crittenden County’s volleyball team notched its 11th consecutive win over Union County with a 3–1 victory on the road Monday night. The Lady Rockets improved to 6–9 on the season while the Bravettes slipped to 3–12.

CCHS claimed the first, third and fourth sets, winning 25–18, 22–25, 25–21, 25–20. Braelyn Merrill had a strong showing with five aces and five kills, while Aly Yates anchored the defense with 22 digs. Maddie Hearrell recorded 21 set assists and Lilah Sherer added nine. At the net, Maeson Martin powered the offense with 11 kills, and Emerye Pollard chipped in four. Lola Caddy also delivered five aces.

The Lady Rockets had dropped a five-set match at home last week to Christian County, 23–25, 12–25, 25–15, 25–17, 15–7. Seniors Lacey Boone and Pollard paced the team with eight kills each in that loss. Merrill and freshman Grayson Travis contributed five apiece. Sherer finished with 25 assists, Hearrell led the defense with 22 digs, and Pollard and Sherer added 17 and 19, respectively. Eighth-grader Ava Tabor chipped in two service aces.



PHOTO BY ELLA WHITNEY

Rocket harriers River Rogers (219) and CJ Nelson were in virtual lockstep much of way during Saturday’s 5K cross country meet at Calloway County.

CCHS CROSS COUNTRY

Crittenden County’s cross country squad participated in a race Saturday at Calloway County. In girls’ competition Presley Potter was 36th in 26:43.46 and Ella Whitney 45th in 28:05.30. Union County’s Tristan Coy won the boys’ race in 16:13.30. Crittenden County’s top finishers were CJ Nelson, 24th in 19:31.60, followed closely by River Rogers, 25th in 19:33.10, and Noah Martinez, 32nd in 20:00.80. Livingston Central was led by Brayden Keeling, who placed 96th in 25:13.40. Other Livingston runners included Phillip Wilson, 108th in 28:45.70; Hunter Wilson, 116th in 31:30.60; Brenden Parish, 118th in 32:07.60; and Jesse Sharp, 119th in 33:52.10.

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CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT



Members of the newly created joint city and county ethics board were sworn to duty last week by Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom. Taking the oath are (from left) Susan Yarbrough, Dan Wood and Mickey Alexander.

Ethics board sworn to duty

STAFF REPORT

Marion-Crittenden County Code of Ethics Board held its first organizational meeting Sept. 9, laying out deadlines, reviewing disclosure forms and setting its 2025-26 calendar.

The joint city-county board was created this year after both governments adopted a consolidated ethics code to meet state law requirements. Kentucky’s General Assembly in 1994 mandated that every local government establish a code of ethics, and recent amendments to KRS 65.003 reaffirmed those rules.

Board members are former mayor Mickey Alexander, chosen by the City of Marion, Susan Yarbrough, also representing the city, and Dan Wood, selected by Crittenden Fiscal Court. Wood is a former magistrate. At last week’s meeting, Alexander was elected chair and Wood vice chair.

County Clerk Daryl Tabor, designated as the board’s administrative officer, outlined filing requirements for candidates and officeholders and their spouses and dependents. The new financial

disclosure form requires reporting of income sources exceeding \$25,000, business interests worth more than \$50,000, real property other than a primary residence valued at \$50,000 or more, gifts of more than \$1,000 outside the immediate family, and creditors owed more than \$50,000 other than a primary home or personal vehicle.

Candidates for next year’s elections will be the first to file under the new ordinances. Deadline is Jan. 9 for those seeking partisan offices, June 3 for nonpartisan races, and Aug. 25 for write-ins. Elected officials and certain appointed officials must file annually at the first of each calendar year. The board approved meeting dates following each of those deadlines to review compliance.

Tabor noted that the forms, once submitted, are public records under the Open Records Act. Some elected officials have been filing similar disclosures in past years, but now all reporting will be handled jointly by the new board.

Board members discussed the scope of enforcement and how much oversight is expected.

Yarbrough asked who would verify assets such as stocks. County Attorney Bart Frazer, who was advising on the ordinance, said filings are primarily “pro forma” and the board’s role is to hear complaints, not to investigate or validate every report.

Failure to file, or filing incomplete or false information, carries penalties. Civil fines are set at \$25 per day up to \$500, and intentional omissions can rise to misdemeanor charges.

Frazer reminded the board that the ethics reforms stemmed from scandals of the early 1990s, notably Operation Boptrot, which led lawmakers to impose tougher standards on local governments.

The board approved its 2025-26 calendar, but members acknowledged they may not meet often in years with no elections. Special meetings can be called by the chair if a complaint is filed. Complaints are to be submitted at the County Clerk’s office, which also maintains disclosure records for public inspection.

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Workers Cody Grant and BJ Tosh earlier this week were pulling off a crippled appendage on the front of what was most recently Coach’s Cleaners on East Carlisle Street in Marion. Plans are to renovate the building, which could be home to a new restaurant, Airbnb and other businesses.

New development on Carlisle St. will revive one-time post office

STAFF REPORT

The wrecking ball has been swinging on historic Carlisle Street this week, clearing the way for a new chapter in one of Marion’s oldest business blocks.

Local developer and business owner Todd Riley purchased the Blue-Nunn Building, better known in recent decades as Coach’s Cleaners, last November through his company, Drake Rentals. The property has stood for more than a century, first serving as Marion’s post office from 1905 until 1918.

Riley said plans are in the works that could bring a restaurant to the space by the end of the year. Other possibilities include apartments, a venue area and several Airbnb units upstairs. The second floor has already been gutted and could accommodate four short-term rentals totaling about 3,600 square feet.

The renovation design calls for New Orleans-style balconies front and back of the building with wrought iron railing and historic details to complement its original architecture. Riley said he envisions a “cool look” that will honor the past while creating new opportunities. A gated alleyway beside the building will also become part of the project, providing a private outdoor sitting area.

“I think there will be a tenant in here by the end of the year,” Riley said, noting that interest has grown since cleanup began.

The building’s history is tightly bound to Marion’s growth in the early 1900s. Following a devastating fire in March 1905, Carlisle Street, which was then known as Bank Street, was rebuilt with new brick structures that gave rise to the “Busy Bee Block,” a nickname for the flurry of commerce that sprang up. The Blue-Nunn Building was among those projects, and by the fall of 1905 it opened as the town’s new post office.

“By 1912, the facility was already too small to handle the community’s growing mail volume,” wrote historian Brenda Underdown in one of her articles a few years ago. Crittenden County native Sen. Ollie M. James pushed for a larger federal building, and in 1917 bids were opened for construction of the new post office at Carlisle and College streets, which is also currently undergoing some minor renovations.

In its early years, the 1905 post office also housed business suites upstairs, just as it may again. Today, Riley hopes its second century will be marked by renewed life as a hub for dining, lodging and entertainment.

Cole Springs officially changes to city precinct

STAFF REPORT

Cole Springs housing complex, annexed into Marion last year to receive city services, has now been added officially to a city voting precinct.

Crittenden County Board of Elections held a special meeting last week to shift the development, which straddles McMican Road, from a county precinct into one of the city’s. The move affects only precinct boundaries on the map and does not change representation in any district. Cole Springs remains in Magisterial

District 6, represented by Scott Belt, and in Crittenden County School Board District 5, represented by Ryan McDaniel.

The change places Cole Springs voters in Precinct SE2, where ballots are cast at Crittenden County Office Complex.

Cole Springs has 42 residential units and could eventually generate 100 or more voters, according to Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor.

So far, only five resi-

dents of the housing complex have filed formal change-of-address notices with the clerk’s office. Election officials plan to mail reminders instructing all Cole Springs residents to update their voter registration and motor vehicle records before the end of the year.

The county election board is made up of Tabor, Sheriff Evan Head, and two members appointed by local Republican and Democratic parties.

ATTENTION

The City of Fredonia recently passed Ordinance NO. 07-21-2025 regulating potable water sales that are transported outside of the boundaries of the Fredonia Water System for the purpose of being potable water. This ordinance is to regulate water being purchased and transported out of the City of Fredonia for ingestion or consumption purposes only. If you are purchasing water for agriculture or livestock reasons, then this does not apply to you as a vendor. This ordinance establishes new regulations on water that are being bought, loaded into tanks for transport, and consumed outside of the Fredonia Water System services.

The new regulations for potable water are simple and a visit to Fredonia City Hall will have you ready for your potable water needs. First you will need to obtain a Potable Water Drinking License that will need to be purchased and renewed annually. The tank that will be hauling water will need to be registered and inspected annually to registration date. Water loads can be purchased during normal business hours and \$0.05 charge per gallon purchased will be due at City Hall per load. This can be paid cash or check, payable to the Fredonia Water System.

This ordinance is to protect Fredonia Water System from any damage or hardship that may occur during a water emergency outside of our water system. In past instances, there were over \$70,000 in damage to our water system due to other water systems emergencies. During this time, we did seek help and advisement from Frankfort and that request was neglected. That neglect tells me that we were on our own.

Just a reminder to all, that storing potable water in large plastic tanks is not safe and the chlorine will burn off rapidly. The Fredonia Water System is not responsible for water once it leaves the tap. The full text of the ordinance is available to the public during regular business hours at Fredonia City Hall located at 312 Cassidy Ave., Fredonia, KY. 42411

At A Glance

The more things change, the more they stay the same at public library

STAFF REPORT

Library use has changed dramatically over the past two decades, reflecting shifts in technology, internet access and reading habits. Data from 2005 to 2025 show clear trends, some expected and some surprising, in how local patrons remain very engaged with Crittenden County Public Library.

In-person visits are less than half what they were just 10 years ago, a decline largely tied to the rise of electronic resources, said Librarian Regina Merrick. The library's director admits that before stepping back into her role with the library, most of her personal use came through the Libby app, not in the building itself.

"I hardly came to the library except for programs and Friends of the Library meetings, because I constantly had an eBook on my Kindle checked out through our library's Libby app," said Merrick, pointing out modern evolution of library users reflected in her own usage.

Video circulation has followed its own trajectory. Between 2005 and 2015, checkouts spiked as VHS tapes gave way to DVDs. Since then, circulation has dipped only slightly. In fact, poor internet service across much of the county has kept DVDs popular, with many residents still checking them out weekly or more, the librarian said.

Technology use inside the library also looks very different. In the early 2000s, public computers were in such demand that users were limited to one-hour sessions and often had to wait in line.

"Now, we never have all the public-access computers full, and they get 2 hours," Merrick said.

Smartphones, laptops and widespread WiFi have shifted usage away from desktop stations.

Books & Media BY THE NUMBERS

- Library visits** have been cut in half since 2015, but online use is up.
- DVDs are still popular** likely because of poor rural internet service.
- Public computer demand** has dropped sharply as smartphones and WiFi have come to dominate electronic information.
- The library spends considerably less now on **print books**, but children continue to check out traditional books at a similar rate to 15 years ago. Those figures approach 10,000 annually.
- Audiobooks remain popular**, but almost exclusively in digital format through the library's online app Libby. About 90 percent of the library's e-checkouts are over that platform.
- Print magazines have dropped** significantly at the library, but it currently has nearly 6,000 digital titles.

Spending on materials has followed the same pattern. In 2015, more than \$37,000 went toward print books; today that figure has dropped below \$20,000 as the budget tilts toward digital licenses and subscriptions. Audiobooks illustrate the change most starkly: 90 percent of circulation now comes from digital downloads, with the CD collection cut in half this year due to lack of demand.

Magazines have nearly disappeared from the shelves, too. Print subscriptions have dwindled from about 50 titles to fewer than 20, while the library



Jansen Wright and his mother Jessica Wright stopped in the library a few days ago to check out a book he'd been waiting to read and Bookmobile librarian Shawnee Pace had it reserved behind the counter.

now offers almost 6,000 digital magazines across 28 categories.

One area has stayed steady. Children's and young adult books continue to be checked out more than 9,000 times annually, showing that parents and kids still prefer the feel of a printed book in hand.

"The county's population has not grown, so these shifts are less about

demographics and more about behavior," Merrick said. "The library remains well-used, but how people access it, and what they take home, has changed with the times."

On a separate matter, Merrick says the library public restrooms have been restored to working order after several weeks of issues over the summer.



Crittenden Livingston Water District's plant on the Cumberland River south of Salem is being doubled in size as part of the ongoing three-phase expansion project.

CLWD approves app for \$7.5 Phase 3 loan

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden-Livingston Water District has been invited to apply for a \$7.5 million loan through the State Revolving Loan Fund to help pay for Phase 3 of its multi-year infrastructure project. Board members met in special session last week to approve application for the deal.

Terms of the loan call for 50 percent of the debt to be forgiven once the project is completed. The balance would be repaid at 1.75 percent interest over a 30-year term.

Phase 3 is currently estimated at \$15 million, though project consultant Tim Thomas told district leaders the figures are "a little dated." This would mark the first money allocated to that portion of the work.

District Superintendent Abbie Adamson said they hope to begin Phase 3 simultaneously with Phase 2 in order to shorten the overall completion timeline. The three-phase undertaking was conceived about

three years ago, and leaders say at least three more years remain before the entire project is finished.

Phase 3 includes laying about 15 miles of new 12-inch transmission line from the water plant on the Cumberland River at Pinckneyville to Salem, then from Salem to Marion. Another major element will be running a new 12-inch main under the river to restore a redundant connection for Livingston County customers on the southwest side. The original river crossing broke several years ago, and a smaller pipe was threaded through it to maintain service.

The district last week approved a resolution to finalize its application for the loan, which has already received preliminary approval. CLWD had originally asked for \$15 million but is expected to receive only half of that amount. Thomas said the application ranked No. 11 out of

more than 80 projects statewide competing for revolving loan fund dollars.

Meanwhile, Phase 2 design work is about 30 percent complete. That portion of the project – plant expansion from 2 million gallons per day to 4 million and development of PFAS treatment – was first projected at \$24 million, later revised to \$33 million. Engineers are expected to present updated cost estimates later this month.

Phase 1 work is also advancing. A new 300,000-gallon clear well at the plant is expected to be ready to hold water by the end of September. However, a companion project to install a new connector line between Grand Rivers and North Marshall Water District has been delayed pending approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction across Kentucky Dam. Heightened security measures have complicated that process.

EDITORS

Continued from page 1 where he helped start a newspaper. His recently published book, *This Ain't The New York Times! Confessions of a Community Journalist*, reflects on both the humor and heartache of small-town reporting. Signed copies will be available for \$15 following the program.

Lucas, who joined The Press just two days after graduating from Western Kentucky University, spent years covering the people and places of western Kentucky and the tri-state, logging thousands of miles along the way. He often reminds others that the role of a community newspaper is not only to report the big stories, but also to notice "every load

of yellow corn that rolled through town."

Evans, who began his career in journalism in 1979, has led The Press since 1993, balancing his roles as editor, publisher and advocate for community life while keeping alive the paper's tradition of local storytelling.

Tabor, who had multiple tenures at The Press, built a reporting career spanning Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida, including a tour with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq while covering Fort Campbell troops for Hopkinsville's Kentucky New Era. Though now the elected county clerk, his connection to journalism and to this community remains strong.

Together, the four will reflect on how local news has evolved from hot type and hand delivery to the

digital era, and on why trusted, independent community journalism still matters in an age when many places have slipped into "news deserts."

The program begins at 10 a.m. at the library. Light refreshments will be served, and the public is warmly invited to attend what promises to be an engaging conversation with the men who have been writing Crittenden County's history for decades.

For details, contact the library at 270-965-3354 or email director@crittendenlibrary.org.

You can hear more about the event on The Crittenden Press' Thursday, Sept. 11 news podcast with John Lucas. The podcast can be found online at ThePress.com.

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