



The Crittenden Press

Key district matchup Friday for Rockets | Page 8

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TWO DOLLARS

State cautions town about secondary sources of water

Marion officials said late last week that any business or residential water customer considering the use of hauled or secondary water sources must first have its city water supply shut off to prevent possible back-flow and cross-contamination. The Kentucky Division of Water contacted Marion officials after a WPSD-TV report last Wednesday mentioned that a local business may have been using an alternate water source.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield said state regulators called to remind local leaders of the requirement. While there is currently no emergency requiring businesses to supplement or switch their water supply, those who choose to do so may call city hall to have their meter turned off and later restored at no charge, she noted.

This week's rainfall, about 2.5 inches on Monday, has helped relieve some of the stress on Marion's drinking water system. However, city leaders caution that without steady rainfall, the town's supply will remain fragile until the Crittenden-Livingston Water District completes its expansion and can provide additional support.

Funding approved to put roads back together

Judge-Executive Perry Newcom announced Monday that Crittenden County has received \$101,400 from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Rural and Secondary Roads program to repair part of Chapel Hill Road and Earl Patmor Road. The funding was approved by Commissioner Bobbi Jo Lewis and will cover repairs to the two roads, which were damaged during work on the Lake George levee after the city's water emergency that began in 2022.

"These jobs will be submitted to the paving contractor along with our FD-39 project and Flex paving projects as already approved," Newcom said.

He credited KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer Kyle Poat for helping confirm the damage was tied to the levee work and for supporting the county throughout the city's water crisis.

The city has received funding to repair the section of Chapel Hill Road from Industrial Drive to the City Limits.

Burn Ban is lifted

The countywide burn ban that took effect Monday, Sept. 8, in Crittenden County has been lifted following recent rainfall. See more on page 4.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25 at the library.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30 at Rocket Arena.



Jailer Athena Hayes makes a presentation during last week's fiscal court meeting.

Financial Tug of War

County judge says jail could bankrupt general fund; jailer contends she's doing her best in difficult times

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden Fiscal Court spent almost two hours last Thursday wrestling with jail finances as Judge-Executive Perry Newcom warned that at the current financial burn rate the county "will be bankrupt next month" unless the jail can stop the bleeding.

Four magistrates attended the regular fiscal court meeting, but Robert Kirby and Scott Belt were absent. A larger than normal crowd was in attendance because of interest in the fallout since last month's county court meeting when magistrates voted to ask for Jailer Athena Hayes' resignation, which she rejected. There were about 25 people in the audience, prompting Judge Newcom to open by asking magistrates to introduce themselves, a first, he said. Magistrates present were Matt Grimes, Dave Belt, Chad Thomas and Travis Perryman.

Much of the meeting centered on whether the county can continue subsidizing the jail at levels far above what was budgeted. Newcom said transfers into the jail fund have already reached \$149,000 in the first two and a half months of the fiscal year, which is more than half of what the court had planned to assist for the entire 12-month



Newcom

The detention center's finances remain a running tug-of-war. The jailer says she is caught between rising costs and other pressures beyond her control. The county's fiscal court is demanding greater accountability to prevent the jail from draining the general fund.

budgetary period.

The judge said the county cannot remain financially solvent by putting so much money into the jail. He said the county is being forced to choose between patching roads and replacing culverts and balancing the jail budget. He projected that, at the present trend, more than \$700,000 would be required this year to keep operations whole.

"We can't sustain this," he said.

Magistrate Matt Grimes said constituents are asking why roads aren't being fixed.

"This isn't political," he said. "People want roads. I know I'm not liked right now, but

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DETENTION CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

Figures Presented by Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Fiscal Year	Revenue Receipts	Expenditures	Gain / Loss
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	\$2,338,729.12	\$2,877,569.12	-\$538,840.00
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018	\$2,516,479.75	\$2,770,600.12	-\$254,120.37
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	\$2,951,311.12	\$2,948,103.52	\$3,207.60
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	\$3,120,086.87	\$3,201,200.50	-\$81,113.63
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	\$3,445,585.13	\$3,203,735.92	* \$241,849.21
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	\$3,468,733.12	\$3,468,387.85	\$345.27
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	\$3,499,567.03	\$3,472,315.69	\$27,251.34
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	\$3,668,941.82	\$3,783,076.88	-\$114,135.06
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	\$3,383,081.27	\$3,791,354.93	-\$408,273.66

* Included ARPA-COVID funding.

Prior to FY19, the jail never finished a year in the black

City of Marion ups fines | Tightens Animal Regs

New penalties proposed for city code violations

STAFF REPORT

City of Marion is moving ahead with new penalties for code violations, part of a broader effort to crack down on nuisances and improve community appearance.

An ordinance introduced at last week's city council meeting amends the town's fine schedule for violations ranging from junked vehicles and garbage to weeds, animals and occupational licenses. The measure will on the table for final passage in October.

If approved, the changes would raise fines across the board, with some penalties doubling or tripling compared to current levels. In addition to steeper fines, the ordinance increases administrative costs assessed with each violation from \$35 to \$185.

Under the proposal, uncontested fines would range from \$25 for a first garbage or weeds offense to as much as \$400 for repeated junked vehicle violations, plus towing. Those who contest citations before the code enforcement board could face maxi-

Council suggests horses, hogs, others are prohibited

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council introduced an ordinance last week that would declare it a nuisance to keep hogs, chickens or other animals inside city limits and would tighten rules on stockyards, barns and animal enclosures, part of the council's broader push over the past year to clean up town properties and address health and safety concerns.

The proposed ordinance would amend Section 90.05 of city code to make keeping hogs and chickens unlawful within Marion. It also outlines when any stockyard, barn or enclosure for livestock or exotic animals could be allowed and establishes a case-by-case exception process that requires City Council approval at a regular meeting. Applicants would have to file in writing with the city clerk at least 10 days before the meeting.

The measure lists livestock covered by the restrictions – including horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, oxen, ponies, ratites such as emu and ostrich, and poultry such as chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys – as well as exotic animals such as tigers, lions, mon-

What is your own answer?

We have all heard and read the opinions of countless mouthpieces in recent days, each scrambling to frame the assassination of Charlie Kirk as either a singular act of madness or another signpost on the road to national ruin. Perhaps most shocking, at least on its surface, is the disbelief that such an event could unfold here in America.

But disbelief is not a luxury history affords us. It was only months ago that the sitting President of the United States stood an inch or two away from being rendered in 4K resolution in a scene eerily reminiscent of the Zapruder film. We act as if these eruptions of violence are bolts from oblivion, forgetting how often they have punctuated our own story.

Consider Lincoln, gunned down in the theater just as the country was staggering out of its bloodiest war, still soaked in the sorrow of hundreds of thousands of dead. Or McKinley, felled by an anarchist's pistol at the dawn of the 20th century, when the nation's industrial might was surging but its social order frayed. JFK, Dr. King, Robert Kennedy, the healthcare CEO in New York... the roll call is longer than most care to recite. Each killing seemed unthinkable in its moment, and yet each was not only thinkable, but inevitable given the conditions of the society that bred it. And, I fear the breeding ground is today far more fertile than ever.

So why do we persist in shock? Is it willful ignorance, or a refusal to admit that the American experiment is far messier than the civics textbooks promised?

Look overseas for a moment. In Nepal, only weeks ago, the government tried to ban 26 social media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube, thinking it could quiet dissent. Instead, it ignited fury. A campaign targeting the corruption and privilege of politicians' children caught fire online, and when the state reached for censorship, thousands of young people stormed parliament. Nineteen lay dead before the government re-elected.

The lesson is plain: Whether in Kathmandu or western Kentucky, people are not easily muzzled. Liberty, once tasted, is not easily surrendered. Yet liberty can carry with it a terrible price of volatility and sometimes blood.

Here in our own country, we lament polarization in Congress, at rallies and even in the pulpits. Yet have we not been here before? The Civil War was the most polarized we have ever been, and it tore the nation apart. The 1960s brought riots in the streets, assassinations of leaders, and bombings in cities.

The question, as Socrates might put it, is not whether this is surprising – because it is not – but whether we have the stomach to endure the cost of freedom, and the will to repair its excesses.

Think about the daily toll



Chris EVANS
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

The Crittenden Press

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Deaths

Hart

Richard Keith Hart, 71, entered this world to two loving parents, L.G. and Mary Virginia (Harness) Hart, on Oct. 31, 1953 in Morganfield. A pumpkin baby, he took delight in being born on Halloween, even if his older sisters, Barb and Kay, were disappointed in they missed trick-or-treating opportunities. He had an adventurous childhood, full of activities and mischief, that he often shared fondly.



A proud Brave, hart graduated from Union County High School in 1971 and loved to recount old football stories from his proud years on the Union County football team and his many social activities. He was quite the catch, at least according to him!

He then spent one year at Henderson Community College before transferring to Murray State University, where he graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in history and political science. While at Murray State, he joined the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, immediately gaining many brothers and lifelong friends. He treasured his time with his SigEp brothers and the many shenanigans they engaged in during their time together – which became stories he loved to tell over the years.

After graduating from Murray State, he taught at Breckenridge Job Corps Center (now known as the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center) for one year before leaving the educational field to join his beloved fraternity brother and dear friend, Charlie Hunt, in business at the Marion Feed Mill. Hart and Hunt owned and operated the Feed Mill side by side for over 40 years, growing it into a fixture in the community. He was immensely proud of and devoted to the Feed Mill. He cherished the role it played in Marion and beyond and the deep relationships he

and Hunt developed with their customers and employees over the years. In 2008, his service was marked by his receipt of the Chamber's Customer Service Award.

In 1978, he went on his first date with the love of his life, Valerie Rodell, and they never looked back. They were married on Sep. 8, 1979 in Champaign, Ill., and then began growing their life together in Marion. They added their first son, Kyle, to the family in November 1982, followed by Brad a few years later in August 1986. Their lives quickly became filled with activities with their sons and their friends, from school and church activities to sports and hunting fields. Hart threw himself into that whirlwind of activity, always present, always teaching, always opening the door to friends of his boys (even if they called to ask while on the way!), and cherishing the memories made.

Hart also fully threw himself into his new hometown of Marion. Over his almost 50 years in Marion, he was engaged in many community and civic endeavors, including serving as a member and ultimately chairman of the Crittenden County School Board for 15 years (during which time he was instrumental in getting the new gym built), president of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Rotary Club, Lions Club and Park Board, Sunday school teacher, and a coach of little league football for many years. He absolutely loved coaching football (including the many wins!) and his time spent with the countless kids that played for him, cherishing his title of Coach Hart, which kids would call him for many years after playing for him.

Later in life he enjoyed traveling with his wife, finally accomplishing his goal of visiting all 50 states in 2019. He also excitedly added the title of Granddad, welcoming two granddaughters, Ellie and Harper, who quickly made up for the daughter he never had. He loved them immensely, spoiling them with sugary treats, a slip of a \$20 or two, and most importantly, lots of

hugs. Hart passed away comfortably surrounded by many loved ones on Sept. 16 after bravely fighting a severe case of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Surviving are his wife, Valerie; two sons, Kyle and Brad (Betsy); two adored granddaughters, Ellie and Harper; a sister, Kay Greenwell; brother-in-law, Gordon Rodell (Pam), and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews, cousins and his beloved dog, Sadie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis Gilbert and Mary Virginia Hart; and his sister Barbara Walter.

He loved deeply (and was known to shed a few tears, whether happy or sad) and was fiercely loyal to those he loved (the "forgive others" part was hard for him) – always willing to offer whatever assistance he could at the drop of a hat. He was also an incredibly proud person, never missing a chance to brag about his family or friends. Full of wit and wisdom, he was in his element regaling an old story or telling a joke, with a sly grin and a twinkle in his eye. Because of this, he never met a stranger and became beloved by many, even those who only knew him for a brief time.

He left this world at peace, ready to take his final trip to see his Lord in Heaven, where he is living once again full of breath and life, no doubt already recounting stories and telling jokes to the many he was excited to see again. He will be deeply missed, but memories of him and the imprint of his amazing life will be forever felt and carried by those who were so fortunate to have had their lives touched by him.

We will forever love you, husband, dad, granddad, brother, uncle, chairman, business partner, teacher and coach. You ran an incredible race, and were without a question a good and faithful servant. Now enjoy your rest until we see you again.

Services were Saturday, Sept. 20 at Gilbert Funeral Home with buri-

al in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in Hart's honor to the Vince Clark Foundation of the Crittenden County Educational System (tiffany.blazina@crittenden.kyschools.us).

Phelps

Affectionately known as "Ivy" by his friends, Marion Ivy Phelps, of Fredonia, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, at the home of his daughter in Crestwood, Ky. He was one of eight children born to the late Reg and Vivian Phelps. A man of deep devotion to his family, his friends and his faith, Ivy was a lifelong member of the Fredonia C.P. Church, where he served as elder and song leader for many years. His commitment to community was evident through his involvement in the Masonic Lodge, the Fredonia Heritage Society and the Fredonia Valley Riding Club.

Ivy was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 35 years, Laura Kathryn (Brown) Phelps; sons, Kevin and Chris Phelps; two brothers, Jerry Phelps and Bro. Don Phelps; and son-

in-law, Anthony "Tank" Hillyard.

Lovingly known as "Pop" to his family, he is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Phelps) Hillyard, and his son, Marion Anthony "Tony" Phelps. He also leaves behind three brothers, Bill (Linda) Phelps, Darrell "Buzz" (Paye) Phelps and Doug (Kaye) Phelps; and two sisters, Nancy Carroll (Phelps) Huffstutter and Margie (Phelps) Carner. His legacy continues through his grandsons, Joshua Hillyard and Seth (Jessica) Hillyard of Louisville, Ky., and seven great-grandchildren: Andrew, Maddie, Lucy, Dylan, Lucas, Sam and Owen.

The world has lost a timeless storyteller whose

laughter was infectious and whose presence could light up any room — may his kindness, loving spirit and cherished memory remain a lasting blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Curtis Franklin officiating. Burial will follow in Rowland Cemetery in Fredonia.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, at Morgan's Funeral Home, with Masonic rites at 7 p.m.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Ivy's memory to Rowland Cemetery, P.O. Box 682, Princeton, KY 42445.



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Ameila Jane Sexton
HOMETOWN COWGIRL
CHAMPION MUTTON BUSTER

Ameila Jane Sexton, daughter of David A. and Ally Sexton of Marion, earned the title of 2025 Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Grand Champion Mutton Buster. She was awarded a buckle from Montana Silversmiths and \$100 savings certificate.

Ameila won first place Saturday, Aug. 2 from a field of 60 kids and a score of 91, and advanced to the second round of the youth mutton busting event. There she again scored a 91 and earned a spot competing in the Grand Champion round Aug. 9. Ameila drew a sheep that shot out of the chute and wowed the crowd as she rode it to grand champion title while setting the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo arena record with a score of a 98.

Ameila began riding sheep in the Kentucky Junior Rodeo Association two years ago, and it has developed into a passion of hers. Ameila always enjoyed watching the movie "8 Seconds" with her grandparents, and Lane Frost quickly became her role model.

She grew up in rodeos. In fact, the Sikeston Rodeo five years ago (Aug. 8, 2019) was her Poppie Greg Sexton's last rodeo and the first for Ameila and her sisters. "It was an honor and a blessing to be able to ride in the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo and set the arena record where she knew her Poppie was looking down on her from heaven," her mother Ally said.

You can catch Ameila riding on the back of her daddy's truck in the 2025 Crittenden County Homecoming parade on Thursday, Oct. 2.

Ameila would like to say thank you to all of her family and friends who showed up for her and cheered her on in Sikeston and also those who watched at home in their living room on the Cowboy Channel!

If your child or someone you know is interested in sheep riding contact the Sextons at Il Bar S Sexton Ranch for Mutton Bustin lessons and all your other rodeo needs at (270) 704-2195.



Ameila Sexton is pictured directly above with her grandfather, the late Greg Sexton, in 2019 and with her siblings and parents, David and Ally Sexton, after winning at the Sikeston Rodeo.

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Keeping our republic civility and conviction

Conviction is an interesting state of mind. It demands silence in one instance if the time is not quite right, but compels action in another when it is. The trouble, as it seems, is charting the correct course when under conviction and when to surrender to that conviction. I am reminded of Oliver Cromwell’s famous quote, “I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible that you may be mistaken.” I think about this quote often in both my professional life as an assistant felony prosecutor and attorney, and personally in how I honor the vows of marriage to my wonderful wife, and the most important job I could ever have, being a father.

My conviction began percolating through recent events as local as one can possibly get – the machinations of local city and county government. A law professor I had, who pulled himself out of the Eastern Kentucky “holler” and into the upper echelons of the legal world, had a colorful way of describing local government in Kentucky. He would bellow while deep in a lecture that, “local government in Kentucky is like square dancing; it ain’t pretty, it ain’t popular, but by God it has structure.” As I’m sure you are aware by listening to and reading local news, our city and county need to square dance with a lot of issues.

Then, I bear witness to tragic and abhorrent events unfolding across our nation. Unfathomable acts of violence occurring recently in multiple states and across the political spectrum, and born from those unfathomable acts, the immediate, vicious, and unrepentant social media finger pointing, theorizing and speculation. Finally, at what were historically mundane proceedings, you see utter contempt and disdain laid bare in the dialogue, theatrics, and “scorekeeping” for social media soundbites going on between and among lawmakers and testifying parties in congressional oversight hearings.

My conviction, which has finally spurred me to act, is not one of substance. I am not here to comment on a preferred political or policy outcome to “X” or “Y” issue. I do not have a solution to county

Op-ed



The author, Wes Hunt, is a lifelong Crittenden Countian and assistant commonwealth attorney for the 5th Judicial District that includes Crittenden, Union and Webster counties.

funding issues and I certainly do not have a solution for the larger problems we face as a nation. No, my conviction lies just underneath any substantive political or policy choice. My conviction leads me to comment on the eroding norms, practices and procedures that we have all historically agreed upon even if we did not agree with the outcomes it produced. This is a conviction of civility; a conviction of norms; a conviction of process.

I submit that our Founding Fathers were very keen on the notions for which I offer comment, which is to say, what I have to offer is, in a certain sense, nothing new. In Federalist No. 51, James Madison writes: “But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary.” Indeed, the entire point of laws, government or even the societal structure that we have crafted is that we assume (hopefully only occasionally) that the worse parts of our human nature will need to be corralled, and that we have an effective way to indeed corral those worse parts. Men are indeed not angels. Therefore, we must have structure. This takes the forms of the constitution, our statutes, regulations, court decisions and the list goes on with all of the formal legal processes you can think of.

Beyond this, as Madison aptly states, our government (local government especially) is a reflection of our human nature. The weight, gravity and credibility that is attributed to our constitution, laws and legal processes is derived from our collective human na-

ture and experiences as Americans. Heretofore, this human nature included a certain respect or justified deference to norms, practices and procedures. This manifests in sometimes unknown, peculiar, or even innocuous ways such as standing before the judge when court comes to order, swearing an oath to the Kentucky constitution in which you promise not to have engaged in a duel with a deadly weapon, or referring to an official (even from an opposing party) by their title and not some social media nickname (you have no doubt heard about respecting the office even if you do not respect its occupant).

Rejecting these norms, practices, and procedures can also easily manifest in innocuous ways leading to an erosion over time, especially in the social media era in which we are navigating. Nicknames, ceaseless attacks and taking as gospel truth what is shouted on social media if it aligns with your own personal views are just a few examples. But more troubling, rejecting these norms, practices, and procedures, it seems to me, are manifesting in much more direct and nefarious ways, such as proclaiming that things you disagree with are evil and deserve to have violence visited upon it just because you disagree with it; showing outright contempt for and denigrating members of a coordinate branch of government and their role; or rebuking the results of a free and fair election if your preferred candidate/issue did not win.

It is not hard to see where my true conviction lies as most of the examples I have given are either directly derived from, or propagated through, social media. However, social media in and of itself may just be the catalyst of an underlying symptom of our nature. After all, the government we get is a direct reflection of that very nature. In our seemingly eternal quest to be first, right and superior about anything and everything no matter how trivial on social media, I truly fear that we have lost touch with what I consider a sacred norm; meaningfully engaging with those with whom we funda-

mentally, or even viscerally, disagree.

Social media has undoubtedly made us a “more free” society with the ease of access to thoughts, opinions, and theories. But, unrestrained freedom is anarchy and in fact no freedom at all. Oxymoronic perhaps to say, but freedom, especially the freedom granted by social media, must be tempered for our free society and fragile democracy to endure. The old saying goes that “my right to swing my fist ends where the other person’s nose begins.” I am truly afraid that in this time, in this era, the phrase would skew more to “my right to swing my fist ends where the other person’s nose begins... unless they are (Democrat/Republican/etc.).”

So, what can our human nature as Americans then agree upon to temper our less angelic nature on social media?

Responsibility. Revisiting Federalist No. 51 it is clear that Madison contemplates the idea of responsibility in maintaining an enduring democracy. He writes, “In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.” Obliging to control oneself is simply another way of saying to act with responsibility.

Heretofore, how did we ensure that we ourselves obliged ourselves to control ourselves? Norms, practices and procedures. These norms, practices and procedures are the currency in which we trade civic responsibility. When we erode the norms, practices and procedures that underpin our policy and political choices, we erode the weight, gravity and credibility of those policy and political choices leading to outright disrespect, or as we have seen recently, contempt. When we cannot compromise we tend to seek easy comfort in the validation that social media brings that conveys a false sense of strength of numbers or unity of cause.

After all, the most damning thing about social media is that it is ultimately just a product designed to sell you something (look to the astro-

nomical stock market valuations of publicly traded social media companies and conglomerates). It does not have to be a tangible product. Social media companies make money in terrifyingly creative ways disguised as a service. I am regularly updated about the latest trends that social media companies are exploring in what resources they are deploying, and how they are targeting their “customers” at legal conferences I regularly attend. I am personally shocked, horrified, and (ironically) awestruck at the level of sophistication and resources that these social media companies are able to deploy, generate algorithms and computer programming, and finely tune content to keep you engaged, keep you clicking and keep you typing on their respective platform. Time spent on their platform means money to them, and selling eternal outrage and distrust of historical norms maximizes time spent on the platform. This is exactly why you will not see my family unit on social media. My wife and I have made the decision that it’s the most “oblige ourselves to control ourselves” decision that we can make for our family unit.

America, Kentucky and Crittenden County are not perfect. Our democracy is an evolving experiment that has endured for nearly 250 years and I pray that my daughter enjoys the same freedoms responsibly, honors those who came before her, and takes pride in what it means to be a Crittenden Countian, Kentuckian and American. Benjamin Franklin famously said, “A Republic, if you can keep it...” I challenge you, myself and the greater community to keep it. Keep it by thoughtfully engaging with those with whom you disagree. Keep it by honoring our norms, practices and procedures when it is time to make a tough policy decision, find difficult common ground or cast a challenging vote. Keep it by recognizing social media for what it is (a product) and what it is not (a personal news service). Keep it by being civil. Most of all, keep it with conviction.

Remember the Golden Rule

I often write about my memories of growing up in Salem. Most of the time, these are happy memories; those were the best days. There are a few memories, however, that are not so happy.

I remember as a kid being home from school in first grade one fall day – Nov. 22, 1963. I don’t remember much about my sickness. I only remember seeing on TV that our president, John F. Kennedy, had been shot. They used the word “assassinated,” although I didn’t really understand what that meant. I was, however, old enough to know right from wrong, and I knew that it must be really wrong to shoot the president.

A few years later, I heard the word “assassinated” again when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot April 4, 1968, in Memphis. Having learned about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, I understood that ugly word much better. A few months later, Bobby Kennedy, John Kennedy’s brother, was assassinated June 6, 1968, in Los Angeles. Terrible memories.

Yes, I learned at church that murder was very wrong in God’s eyes. I also had parents who taught me right from wrong and that we are to treat others as we would want to be treated. Sadly, I expect that very few of today’s children in elementary school have heard about the Golden Rule. What about high school students? Do they know what the Golden Rule is and why it is so important in our culture? What about college students? In fact, it would probably surprise you to know how few adults can quote you t h e Golden Rule.

It’s one of the very f i r s t verses I m e m o r i z e d as a kid. Of course, I learned it from the King James Version of the Bible, which was all we had back then: “As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” Over the years, as new translations and paraphrases came along, the Golden Rule became a little easier to say and understand: “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.”

By the way, who spoke these familiar words? Hopefully you know that they were spoken by none other than the Lord Jesus himself. If you have a “red letter edition” Bible, these words from Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:12 are printed in red letters. (Note: The gospel writers all wrote from their own perspectives and memories; the Matthew version is slightly different but contains the same basic truth.) In fact, many of the good things in our culture come from the teachings of Jesus.

Sadly, fewer and fewer children are growing up in Sunday school and worship, which means these great truths of Jesus are no longer taught and practiced by a huge

QUESTION

Continued from page 1

that doesn’t even make headlines anymore: School shootings that leave classrooms soaked in grief; the brutal knifing of a young woman on public transit in North Carolina; suicides spurred by online cruelty; lives wrecked in spirals of drugs and despair. We are so accustomed to freedom that we forget it is not always benign.

What is the root of our sickness? Is it mental illness, untreated and festering? Is it social media, magnifying our rage and envy until it explodes? Guns, ideology, religion? I wonder if the more uncomfortable answer is simply this: We may have granted ourselves more freedom than we know how to responsibly manage.

That leads inevitably to the question of speech itself. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once said the First Amendment does not give one the right to falsely yell “fire” in a crowded theater. That simple metaphor has guided a century of debate about the limits of expression in a free society. The Supreme Court also revisited the notion in 1969 after an incident involving a KKK rally. The court found that government may not forbid speech advocating the use of force or unlawful conduct *unless* this advocacy is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.

Perhaps it is time we confront anew what constitutes speech that is free, speech that is critical or even hateful, and what constitutes speech that is reckless or destructive to the point it endangers lives.

Then, who gets to decide where the guardrails go? Tough questions, they are indeed, for tough times.

Defining such boundaries may be as difficult as defining free will itself. Justice Potter Stewart admitted, when faced with obscenity, that while he could not write a crisp definition of hard-core pornography, he “knew it when he saw it.” Free speech, like obscenity or freedom itself, resists a clean definition. Yet without definition, we stumble through blood and outrage, unsure where liberty ends and license begins.

Our friends across the sea in Great Britain, who still vainly consider themselves our progenitors, are having similar struggles amid the Wild Cyber West environment of social media. Yet, this is not a contemporary problem, and we have no copyright on it. Social media has simply given the matter new legs.

Plato, who lived nearly 2,400 years ago, warned in *The Republic* that unchecked

freedom can degrade into chaos, and chaos into tyranny. He argued that too much liberty can be as dangerous as too little, for it dissolves order and leaves people clamoring for control. If that is true, then our American experiment sits forever on the razor’s edge, balanced between the intoxicating promise of personal liberty and the destructive potential of its abuse.

Are we willing to scrap this experiment, to surrender liberties in exchange for safety? Would we tolerate restrictions on speech, assembly or the press if they promised fewer killings and calmer streets? These are not questions to answer lightly, for the cure may be nastier than the disease.

And so we wrestle. Each act of violence shocks us, though it should not. Each time we profess disbelief, though we know better. Each time we say, “This cannot happen here, not again,” though history insists that it can and it certainly will.

Honestly, we know what should fix it: Stronger institutions, less tolerance for extremism and more courage to regulate where necessary. But knowing and wanting are two different things. And the truth may be that we are too timid, too divided or too in love with our own independence to endure the remedy. Yes, social media, we might admit, is far more dangerous than the guns we so broadly fear. Would you consent to a new definition of decorum defined by existing authority? If the same state that can muzzle social media to quiet dissent in Nepal or the UK could one day muffle or silence your voice, your church and even your newspaper... would you be willing to acquiesce?

Oh, these questions... they’ve been pressed time and again. Alas, where shall we go for answers... to the poets, the saints, ancient philosophers, contemporary thinkers, the pragmatists? Of course, the Bible would be a good start.

Even the Good Book, if we examine critically, is full of deceit, murder, incest and anarchy. “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes,” Judges 21:25. But, can we agree that it may also include the answer? If not, please expose an appropriate guidepost.

Freedom has always come at a steep price. The enduring question – illuminated for us by Plato, Justice Holmes, and Justice Stewart – is whether we possess the courage to accept these consequences of its purest form, or the resolve to define it more closely and defend that definition.

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



Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

Brown is retiring from Farm Bureau

After more than two decades with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance, career agent Ricky Brown, 67, is retiring effective Oct. 1. Brown has spent the last 21 years at the Marion office, capping a 55-year career in sales and service, including a long tenure at Trice Hughes Chevrolet before joining Farm Bureau in 2004. He earned several Farm Bureau service awards during his tenure.

Brown's colleague Larry Davidson also recently stepped away in retirement, marking another change for the long-time local insurance team.

Taking over as the new Farm Bureau agent in Marion will be Brodi Sutton. The office is located at 109 Court Street, just behind the Crittenden County Courthouse.



Brown



Jazz Band looking for CCHS students

Crittenden County School District's Crosswalk program has launched a new Jazz Band program open to all high school students.

The group, directed by the school's new band director, Isacc Carter, will rehearse each Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. in the band room. Students interested in participating are encouraged to attend.

The Jazz Band offers an opportunity for young musicians to expand their skills and perform in a creative, collaborative setting.

Closing of 2123 will last weeks

Highway KY 2123 in rural Crittenden County will remain closed through October. The highway closed Wednesday, Sept. 17 at mile point 1.63 for a bridge replacement project.

The closure, just south of Glendale Church Road over Caney Fork Creek, is between KY 297 and KY 1668.

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.

Webster man is sentenced to 30 years for abuse

A Webster County man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison for the rape and abuse of an infant.

Attorney General Russell Coleman and Commonwealth's Attorney for the 5th Judicial Circuit Zac Greenwell announced Friday that Mykill D. Puckett, 26, pleaded guilty in Webster Circuit Court to rape of a victim under 12, incest, first-degree assault, first-degree criminal abuse of a victim under 12, and first-degree wanton endangerment.

As part of his plea, Puckett will not be eligible for probation. He will serve five years of post-incarceration supervision, be subject to a 10-year protective order keeping him away from the victim, and remain on the Sex Offender Registry for life.

"The abuse in this case was simply horrific," Greenwell said, crediting Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Bobby Murray for leading the prosecution and thanking the Attorney General's Office for its support.

Coleman said the outcome demonstrates prosecutors' determination to confront "the worst conduct imaginable" and send a message that such crimes will not be tolerated in Kentucky.

The Kentucky State Police investigated the case. Murray and Ramsey Dallam, deputy director of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Unit, prosecuted on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Shelter takes in 12 dogs in Aug.

Crittenden County Animal Shelter reported 12 dog intakes in August 2025 and 15 dogs transferred to rescue. Three dogs were adopted and two were reclaimed by owners. The shelter recorded no euthanasias and no medical deaths. As of Aug. 31, the ken-

nel held 35 dogs, with 44 more in foster care.

Shelter receipts for the month totaled \$443.01 — including \$165 in pet adoptions, \$25 in reclaim fees and \$253.01 in donations.

Class of 1975 reunion in Oct.

Crittenden County High School Class of 1975 will hold its reunion Oct. 2-4.

Class members are invited to gather at 5:15 p.m., Oct. 2 at the Marion & Co. parking lot to ride a float in the Homecoming Parade. On Oct. 3, classmates will sit together at the football game.

The main reunion is set for 6 p.m. Oct. 4 at The Venue, the former Woman's Club of Marion. Food will be provided, and alumni are encouraged to come visit and enjoy the evening.

Donations will be accepted for the Quarterback Club in honor of Donnie Beavers and Gerald Ford.

Impersonation case is heading to grand jury

A Crittenden County man accused of impersonating a peace officer will have his case sent to a grand jury following a preliminary hearing last week in Crittenden District Court.

Special District Judge Kim Gilliam found probable cause last Thursday in the case against Roderick "Rick" Mills, 62, of Marion, who is charged with impersonating a peace officer, a felony. Mills was arrested Aug. 5 after allegedly trying to stop a vehicle at Liberty Fuels while wearing a black polo shirt with a badge, according to court documents. Security video reportedly showed him exiting a black Dodge Charger and approaching a female driver.

Authorities also allege that Mills is the person believed to have stopped another driver in another part of the county. Both witnesses told Sheriff Evan Head that Mills gave the appearance of being law enforcement.

Mills is represented by attorney Don Thomas of Benton. During the hearing, Thomas made it known to the court that that Mills is an Alcohol Beverage Control officer and Code Enforcement officer in another jurisdiction, for which he is authorized to wear a badge.

A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence. It examines the prosecution's case and decides whether it should move forward in circuit court as a felony.

Burn Ban I Fire Season

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom lifted the countywide burn ban Tuesday. However, the statewide fire hazard season begins Oct. 1 and runs through Dec. 15, which means burning during daylight hours, between 6 a.m., and 6 p.m., is prohibited anywhere there's a woodlot or grassland within 150 feet of the fire.

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RULE

Continued from page 3
Kirk, and hate goes entirely against the Golden Rule.

Charlie has achieved the ultimate victory; he is now in heaven with his Savior. Regardless of which side of the political pendulum you stand, we are all Americans. Let me encourage you to pray for Charlie's family as they try to cope with this tragic turn of events and adjust to the new normal without their husband, dad and son. While you're praying, pray also for our nation that we might return to our Christian foundation.

Where did the good ol' days go?

Chris Clarke grew up in Crittenden and Livingston counties and has an equestrian ministry called Happy Trails.



From the Press Archives – 50 Years Ago

Firemen were called to the South Main Street home of Rickey Guess on a Sunday afternoon after flames broke out in a mobile home. The blaze was believed to have been caused by an electrical heating system, but no one was injured. Firefighters Frank Conger, Gilbert Tabor, and R.C. Hamilton worked to locate the source of the fire and spray down the interior. The alarm was first reported by a neighbor.

50 YEARS AGO

September 25, 1975

- Senior football player Mike Cook was named Player of the Week for his efforts in the victory over Fulton City. Cook was credited with four solo tackles and two assisted tackles, as well as rushing for 178 yards in the game.
- The Crittenden County cross-country team placed second at the Three Rivers Meet in Providence. David Perryman was the top runner for the Rockets, placing sixth with a time of 14:02. Keith Cosby and Steve Roberts followed just behind, placing eighth and ninth.
- After more than 30 years as president, cashier and trust officer of Farmers Bank and Trust Co. of Marion, H.D. Sullenger was elected treasurer of the Kentucky Bankers Association at its 81st annual convention. Sullenger was also treasurer of the Crittenden County Chapter of the American Red Cross and a member of the board of directors of the Marion Country Club.

25 YEARS AGO

September 28, 2000

- Crittenden County 4-H Shooting Sports team captured awards at the Kentucky State 4-H Shoot. Allan Jones, Chris Watson, Beckie Campbell and Jordan James all placed in their respective positions Sept. 16 at the Bluegrass Sportsman Club in Wilmore.
- Brandon Jackson recorded a personal best at the cross-country meet in Providence. He finished 13th with a time of 24:24, and in the girls division Meghan Cavins finished eighth with a time of 28:24.
- The Crittenden-Livingston Water District hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off a \$7.1 million project. Donnie Beavers said the project would increase the district's ability to serve remote areas in both counties.

10 YEARS AGO

September 24, 2015

- Rocket senior golfer Reid Baker shot an 84 at the golf match in Muhlenberg. Alongside him, Will Tolley shot a 96. Sammie Greenwell, Tate Roberts and Logan Belt each shot 100. Those scores advanced the Rocket boys golf team to the First Region Golf Tournament.
- The Rocket football team beat Webster County 48-12 on the road at its homecoming game. Quarterback Nick Castiller rushed for 118 yards and threw for 155. Alex Cosby caught eight passes for 97 yards and returned a kickoff 82 yards for a touchdown. Cosby's kickoff return was the first for Crittenden since 2011.
- Crittenden County Attorney Rebecca Johnson's office was honored as one of the 20 top-performing firms in the state between July 2014 and June 2015. Her office was among the top eight with 1,000 or fewer cases.

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

The Crittenden Press

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Escaping the feedback loop

It is immensely difficult to summarize how I think we have arrived at the place we are at in our nation right now. Even harder is approximately eight-hundred-word bites. I have thoughts about this process. I do not expect agreement.

I know that we no longer have much space for nuance in our current public discourse. How many times have you heard someone cornered into, “Just answer ‘yes,’ or ‘no.’” That is accusatory and often disrespectful. I know that it does not take much searching through our history to find supporting evidence for whatever we want to say. Reminds me of The Preacher, “There is nothing new under the sun.” I know that sometimes the biggest problems we face in our lives sometimes have their roots in an overreaction to a situation that happened years ago. Since we are not so good at taking personal responsibility, it is just easier to forget that and blame and accuse.

Having wasted a few words, let me waste a few more. I am by nature optimistic – sometimes delusionally so. We will, as a nation, get through



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

this (which I stated in last week’s column). What no one knows is what getting through this will look like. From the perspective of a socially and religiously conservative person who believes that I have no right to force my beliefs on another – here are some thoughts.

I remember Ronald Reagan playing a role in mobilizing southern conservative churches in the 1980 election. This coincided with the forming of the “Moral Majority”, in which Jerry Falwell went against the traditional Baptist stance of keeping church and state separate. The very name of the movement spelled trouble. If I am part of the “moral” group, then what is the other group?

This marked a move of the language of religious morality into the realm of politics. This is not the first time it happened – abolition and temperance did the same. The difference is that from the beginning the moral majority was attached to a political party. Although the group was dissolved about a decade later, the fallout is still with us.

The issue of abortion is an example. Reading the

statements of the Southern Baptist Convention on the topic from the 1970’s until now is enlightening. It is a study in how getting into a moral argument will move a person or a group into ever more radical stands and excluding those who disagree.

Political rhetoric has always been harsh and over-the-top. What I believe has changed is that we now have trouble distinguishing between those who disagree with us politically and those who disagree with us on church doctrine. When this happens, people in different parties become “evil” and “sinners.” Because we all need to appeal to a morality greater than ourselves, those who do not believe in God use different terms. Language borrowed from the last ‘moral’ war. Hence the use of the labels “nazi” and “bigot.”

We have now sunk so low as to compare the amount of “evil” the other side has done. How stupid have we become when we start counting which side has done more violence or committed more crime? Where has our sense of ‘murder is murder’ gone. Where has our sense of ‘hate is hate’ gone? Where is forgiveness? Where is personal responsibility? When did it become just fine to spread unverifiable information just to prove a point or hurt the “other side”?

When we hate or refuse

to forgive that which God cares for, we have moved away from his mandate to ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ When we look at another human being and see offense rather than pain or fear, we have forgotten that we are to care for each other. When we fear or hate that which God created, we have become idolators. We have created a god in our own image and called it God.

We have arrived at justifying Lamech’s vengeful, “I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged seven-fold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold.” (Gen. 4:23-24). We must not forget Jesus’ response to Peter’s question, ““Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.”

The point of dialogue is not to embarrass the other person. The first point of discussion is to listen. It is only by hearing what the other person is saying, and why, that we can better understand. Understanding is a prerequisite to agreement and solutions. May we all do our part to make things better, not worse.

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.

Religious Outreach

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

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

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.

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

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

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

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

■ 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.

White Chapel Church & Cemetery

will have its annual meeting
Sunday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m.

Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 64, Marion, KY 42064

Cemetery and church are solely operated by donations only.
All donations will be appreciated.
Everyone welcome, please attend.

Ground your faith and life in obedience to God’s word

Question: Because of my parents' lifestyle drug use, I've had a difficult childhood and teenage years. Our unstable home-life has contributed to my backwardness and feelings of inferiority. I have faith in God and my dream is to become an engineer. What counsel would you give me to reach my goal?

Answer: First, I commend you for having faith in God and for having a chal-

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison

lenging career goal. Those two things are a good basis for building a good future.

Furthermore, I urge you to make Bible reading and study a daily habit. When it became Joshua's turn to lead the Israelite nation, God told him, “Do not let

this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night; so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Josh. 1:8).

God wanted Joshua to continuously put His Word in his heart and put them into daily use. If Joshua did so, he would then be, protected and granted success. The same is true for you and everyone else who

obeys God's Word.

If you don't have a plan for daily Bible reading and studying, ask for help from your pastor, group leader, or a mature believer. Keep God and His Word as the center of your life, and with God's help you can become an engineer or anything you choose. Stay close to God and reach for the sky!

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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175 Mexico Rd. (270) 965-4059
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.
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220
Bro. Jamie Baker

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu Methodist Church

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

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

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

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

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

Crayne Community Church

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

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

Marion Church of God

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

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian

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

Marion Methodist Church

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

Frances Community Church

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

Hurricane Church

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

Unity General Baptist Church

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

Marion Church of Christ

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

Tribune and Crayne gatherings recall community spirit

Each year that goes by the old communities and the families that lived there are more forgotten. What a pleasant time spent for us older generation to recall and remember the way things used to be when we were growing up in these wonderful friendly communities of our youth.

May 1996 Friends remember old times

When the country grocery store at Tribune closed its doors for the last time in 1962, the once tight-knit community grew apart. Folks moved away, new families moved in and neighbors became strangers.

Like many small communities, the country store was the commercial and social hub of the area. People came to the Tribune grocers store, which was owned for many years by Lynn Orr, for gas, lumber, dry goods, shoes, groceries and there was even a feed mill and blacksmith shop out back.

The country store was the center of the universe, or so the folks who lived in the east-central part of the county between the Depression years and the early 1960s.

When the store was thriving, doing as much as \$3,500 in receipts on a good Saturday, the gas station and general store was not only a place to purchase goods, it was also a gathering spot. Charlie Orr, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Orr, operated the store between 1938 and 1957, remembers that business hours were long and on a cold winter's night, men would flock around the heating stove for a friendly game of Rook or Checkers.

Times change and when the store went out of business many of the people who lived in the Tribune area lost touch with one another. That's what spurred the younger generation of Tribune descendants to host a community reunion on the grounds of the old store.

Charlotte (Orr) Mott, Marilyn (McDonald) Holt and Sandra (McDonald) Belt were the first three to begin pushing for the community to hold a reunion.

With a little more inspiration from Lucille Roberts and Charlie and



Crayne Day in 1985 was full of yard sales, vendors and booths from one end of town to the other. Talking and visiting with neighbors and friends was all part of the fun.

Gladis Orr, the plans were drawn, the old store site bush hogged and trimmed and several phone calls and RSVPs were made.

The results were nearly perfect, organizers say, after the first Tribune community reunion held at the well-known crossroads where Ky. 120, Ky. 654 and Copperas Springs Road converge.

More than 100 residents, former residents and their relatives attended the gathering under a large oak tree. The sun was hot, and it kept the old flames of friendship burning as some folks were reunited after not seeing one another for more than 30 years.

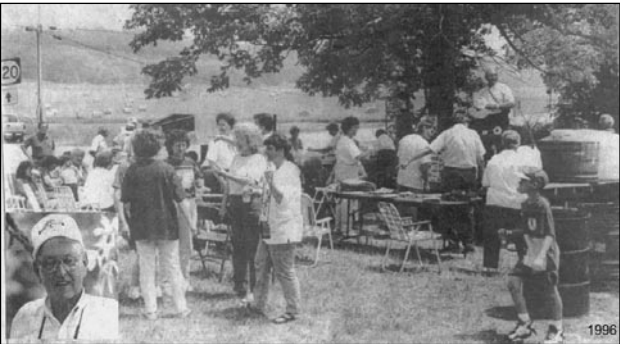
The history of the area was also on everyone's tongues. Charlie Orr grew up in Tribune while his family ran the country store. He saw the community

during its prime, when horse drawn wagons would be lined for hundreds of yards waiting to get to the mill to grind their grain into livestock feed.

Across the street from the store was the New Salem or Hills Chapel Church. Just down the road near the Copperas Springs, where mineral water bubbled to the earth's surface, was the community school house. People would come from miles around for a drink of spring water.

The spring always ran the same – never faster, never slower, Charlie Orr said. It ran one gallon per minute.

Orr was just 14 when his parents began operating the store. He even ran it himself for one year, in 1957, after his parents retired. Perry and Mildred McDonald operated the store from 1958 until they closed it for good in 1962 after an auction sale of the inventory. The old structure still stands and while some of the reunion organizers were



Folks gathered under the shade trees at Tribune in 1996 to look at old photos and remember their days living in the Tribune community. In the left corner is the late Charlie Orr enjoying the day with friends.

cleaning up the area they found several antiquated store credit ledgers.

Folks at the reunion flipped through the pages of the old journals and found where they or their ancestors had charged items at the grocery store during the early 1940s. One line on the ledger listed five gallons of gasoline sold to Press Guess for \$1.30.

“We were so surprised we found these old journals,” Sandra Belt said. “I’m surprised they were still here after all these years.”

Belt even found in the ledger entries where her father had purchased a tricycle for her. The cost was \$7.50. She was two years old at the time.

Family names that lived in the Tribune community during the middle of the century are still familiar here – Hunt, Orr, McDonald, Travis, Roberts, Hurst, Drennan, Hillyard – and most of them were at the reunion.

Charlie Orr said it was a shame that despite all the modern conveniences that make life easier, people still tend to find less time to visit with our neighbors. (The remains of the old Tribune grocery store was torn down in the mid 1990s.)

Wonderful Crayne Days of Yesteryear

The first Crayne Day meeting was held in the lobby of the post office. This was in 1984. The idea was proposed by postmaster and lifelong local resident Rose Ann (Stalion) Bebout.

Rose Ann thought it would be a good way for neighbors and the community to get together and have a fun day and

visit with everyone. When she mentioned the idea to her friend and neighbor Peggy Malcom, it was a hit and they immediately started to work on their plan. Several group meetings with the interested residents of Crayne took place at the Post Office to make plans and find ways to let people near and far know about this very special day.

There would be yard sales, bake sales, craft booths, and specialty items booths were invited to attend and sit up. Folks that like to swap and trade knife collections or other items were also invited to attend and show their collections. There would be different home-town foods for sale, if you got hungry during the day, and to end this fun filled day would be some special singing groups for everyone to enjoy.

It wasn't long until Crayne Day had become a huge hit and was a much looked forward to yearly event. It was always the first Saturday

in June.

Out of town residents of the Crayne community would plan their vacation at this time so they could be here on this day. For some out of town Crayne folks it would be a three-day homecoming event. On Friday night would be the Crayne Cemetery Fish-fry, then on Saturday the big Crayne Day, to walk up and down the little community and reunite with old friends and neighbors. Then Sunday would be the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church homecoming where many of the visitors and community residents had attended church for many years.

The highway from the top of Crayne hill where you exited the community hosted, yard sales, vendors, food sales, and people would be lined on both sides of the highway. A favorite item everyone wanted was one of Ruby Frantz's homemade fried apple pies. Ruby sold them for \$1 each, and they sure didn't last

long. People still talk about them and wish for one today.

Time and events have a way of changing things, and such it was with Crayne Day. The 2000 tornado that devastated our little community also hurt some of the spirit that had created Crayne Day. It never was the same after this and the annual event was called off for several years.

Most all the former residents who helped and enjoyed those first days have passed away, their houses now are homes to different families and only a few of the original family members are left in the community.

Wanting to keep the history alive, the late James Robert Dorroh, organized the last Crayne Day for June 5, 2009. It would be the 25th anniversary of that first Crayne Day in June 1984.

Although there was only a scattering of people there with only a few yard sales, it was an enjoyable morning for those of us that attended.

We miss those days of yesteryear.


(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).

re-elect

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county clerk

2026



Republican
for
Crittenden County Clerk
May 19, 2026

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Dear Valued Clients, Friends, and Family,

As I prepare to retire on October 1, I want to take a moment to thank each of you who have been a part of my journey. Looking back, I see a lifetime of work, beginning when I was just 12 years old. For 55 years, with the last 50 spent working solely on commission sales, I have been blessed beyond measure by the kindness and trust of so many people.

My career path has been shaped by wonderful opportunities and experiences. In 1970, I started at Charlie Hodge's Westside Market. One of my most rewarding experiences was working the farm driving a tractor for H.B. Phillips. By 1974 at age 16, I was working at Beavers Brothers Texaco, followed by R.F. Brown Chevrolet and J.R. Chevrolet in 1975. In 1984, I joined Trice Hughes Chevrolet, and in 2004 I began this chapter with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance. Each step has brought me relationships, challenges, and blessings that I will never forget.

Through it all, my wife Linda has been my greatest supporter. For nearly all of these 50 years in commission sales, she has stood beside me, encouraging me, believing in me, and sharing the ups and downs that come with this kind of work. I am deeply grateful for her unwavering love and partnership.

To my friends, customers, and colleagues: thank you for the kindness you've shown me through the years. Serving you has been an honor. Your support has not only sustained my career but enriched my life in countless ways.

And above all, I want to thank God. It has been such a blessing to walk this path, and I know I could not have done it without His guidance and grace. He has truly been good to me, and I give Him all the praise for the experiences and relationships I have been fortunate enough to share with you.

As I close this chapter and step into retirement, I carry with me gratitude, memories, and faith. Thank you again for allowing me to be part of your lives for so many years.

Sincerely,
Ricky Brown

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Sept. 25

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

Friday, Sept. 26

- Food Distribution will be from 8 a.m.-noon at Crittenden County Food Bank located at 402 N. Walker St. in Marion.
- Crittenden County Friends of the Library will have a book sale at the Crittenden County Library from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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NEWS

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The Crittenden Press

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125 East Bellville
Marion, KY 42064

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-15 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TAX
LEVY FOR THE YEAR OF 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its special called meeting held on September 17, 2024 , at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular called meeting of the City Council held on September 15, 2025, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance levies an ad valorem tax on each One Hundred Dollar of Fair Cash value of the below listed property in the City of Marion, Kentucky:

\$.2290 per One Hundred Dollar	Real Property
\$.2710 per One Hundred Dollar	Personal Property
\$.2290 per One Hundred Dollar	Public Utilities
\$.229 per One Hundred Dollar	Motor Vehicles
\$.229 per One Hundred Dollar	Motor Boats

These assessments are due by November 1, 2025. If paid after a 25% penalty will be assessed. and shall bear interest at the rate of ten per cent (10%) per annum.

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

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
LEGAL SERVICES OFFICER
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS -AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
September 22, 2025

Classifieds *The Crittenden Press*

The Crittenden Press

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information@the-press.com

Open weekdays
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Advertising deadline
is 5 p.m., Monday

for sale

Diamond Cut aluminum toolbox for a full-size pickup truck; also, a camper shell topper for a full-size pickup truck. (270) 969-2704. (2t-39-p)

free

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)

wanted

Someone to do ironing a couple times a month. Women's clothes only. (270) 969-2704. (2t-39-p)

for rent

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

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

notice

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.

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 "7" 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

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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)

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BIDDING OPEN NOW - Bidding Closes: Wed., October 1st @ 3:00 PM

SHOP EQUIPMENT • MACHINERY • TRACTORS • 4-WHEELERS
MOWERS • MOTORCYCLE • VEHICLES • GARAGE & MORE!

PREVIEW: Wednesday, October 1st, 2024 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM

SHOP EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY:

Frontier Metal Tool Chest On Wheels W/ Contents, Saylor Beal Air Compressor-80 Gal. - VT-735-80, Troy Bilt 2700 Max PSI 175CC, Viper GT AC Service Center, Industrial Shop Fan, Snap On Signature Series BRA 7180V Air Compressor, Craftsman Metal Tool Chest On Wheels, Coats 700 Computer Tire Balancer 115 Volt, Pro-Go Alternator Starter Tester, Benwil TP-7 Automotive Lift, Lincoln AC 225 Arc Welder, Oversized Floor Fan, COATS 1001 Direct Drive Wheel Balancer

TRACTORS - 4 WHEELERS - MOWERS- MOTORCYCLE:

Honda 550 Four Motorcycle, Massey Ferguson Deluxe 35 Model 2134, Ford 5000 Tractor, 16HP 46" Cut Zero Commercial Riding Mower, 33" Cut Snapper Mower - SR1433, White Outdoor - LT 1500 - Cruise Matic, Bletz Industries INC Tri Rod, Polaris Four-Wheeler, Honda Push Mower - Harmony HRB 215

VEHICLES:

Chevy Task Force 1957 Truck, 1958 Chevrolet

Biscayne, Red Camaro 1971 sport coupe, Long Wheel Base Chevy Square Body Pick Up Truck, 1995 White Chevrolet Camaro, 1968 Chevrolet Camaro

HOME, GARAGE AND MORE:

Lawn Mower Jack, HI-Jack House Jack, Cast Iron Assortment (One Is Lodge Brand), Wrenches Open And Boxed Ends, Hand Tools - Angle Grinder - Air Sander And More, Air Dye Grinders And Impact Wrenches, Tools- Drill Bits, Sockets, And More, Hand Tools Mixture And Tool Box, Truck Topper - Leer EA 708171 - Motors, Metal Car Ramps, Metal Sign - Allen's Tire Service, Scrap Metal- Motors- Hood-Equipment, Coca-Cola Merchandise - Large Lot, Searchers Rights- Christmas, Glassware Coca-Cola, Entire Room: Pool Table, Lamps, Shelf + More, Pro Safe Gun Safe, Four-Wheeler-Scrap Metal- Shop Corner Contents, Shop Wall Contents - Scrap Metal And Shop Items, Outdoor Signage, Multiple Ladders- Metal Wheel Cart, Metal Shop Compartment Storage Shelf

PICK UP DATE: Thurs. Oct. 2nd - 9am - 3pm • 111 Sturgis Road (HWY 60) Marion Ky 42064

Make arrangements to pick-up your items. HARRIS AUCTIONS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOAD OUT OR PICK UP! NO SHIPPING!

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Total Print Readers
(2.2 million)

53%

Total Print & Digital Readers
(1.9 million)

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KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Crittenden Press

Source: The Kentucky State Study 2023: Conducted by Coda Ventures, Base: Total adults, multiple responses

The Press Online

CrittendenPress.Blogspot.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued orders on July 31, 2025 and September 11, 2025, scheduling public comment meetings to be held on October 13, 2025 at 5 p.m. Central Daylight Time, at Hopkins County Fiscal Court, 56 North Main Street, Madisonville, KY 42431; October 14, 2025, at 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, at Bluegrass Community & Technical College: Keenland Room, 500 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40508; and October 16, 2025, at 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, at Middlesboro Community Center, 705 N. Petersborough Ave., Middlesboro, KY 40965 for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company applications for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114.

ATTENTION LAND OWNERS

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FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT KENTUCKY LAND SPECIALIST, MARK WILLIAMS (270) 836-0819

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

Three-bed, 1.5-bath home with open living area, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, newer roof, carport, storage, yard, washer/dryer access on half-acre lot in Marion city limits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 - 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

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 – 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.

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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.

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! 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!

SOLD! 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!

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UPCOMING EVENTS
Rocket sports schedule

THURSDAY
CCHS soccer hosts Hopkinsville
CCMS football hosts Caldwell
FRIDAY
Rocket football at Trigg County
SATURDAY
CCMS football Conference Playoffs
MONDAY
Soccer hosts St. Mary's
CCHS volleyball hosts Madisonville
TUESDAY
CCHS soccer at Paducah Tilghman

CCMS loses to Webster

Crittenden County Middle School's football team lost last Thursday 36-14 at Ballard County. Noah Moss scored the team's two touchdowns. Last Tuesday, Sept. 16 at home CCMS lost 44-20 to Webster County. Moss scored two receiving touchdowns and one rushing touchdown. The team is 1-7.

DISTANCE RUNNING
5K Saturday at Park

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.

HALL OF FAME
Former warden honored

Retired Crittenden County game warden Randy Conway has been inducted into the Union County High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Conway, a 1983 graduate of Union County, was a stand-out on the baseball field, earning four varsity letters and twice being named the team's Most Valuable Player. As a senior, he hit .352 with four home runs and 40 RBIs while also posting a 6-2 pitching record with 44 strikeouts. He went on to play collegiately at Southeastern Illinois Junior College and later at Cumberland University, where he helped lead the Bulldogs to their first NAIA World Series appearance. That team was also inducted into the Cumberland University Hall of Fame.

BASKETBALL
Shot clock coming to HS

A shot clock is coming to Kentucky high school basketball. The KHSAA Board of Control voted 13-5 last week to implement a 35-second shot clock for both boys' and girls' basketball starting with the 2027-28 season. A proposal to move up the start date to 2026-27 was voted down. Kentucky will become the 33rd state to adopt a shot clock, joining the majority of states that have already made the change. The move comes after an August survey showed nearly 60% of Kentucky schools favored allowing the KHSAA to experiment with a shot clock until national approval.

OUTDOORS
KY Lake highly ranked

Kentucky Lake has been ranked among the nation's cleanest lakes. Lake.com recently placed the western Kentucky reservoir seventh in the United States following an analysis of water quality data from the 100 largest lakes by surface area. The study reviewed factors such as dissolved oxygen, pH balance, turbidity and levels of ammonia, phosphorus, sulfate, lead and total dissolved solids. Kentucky Lake, one of the region's most popular destinations for anglers and boaters, is well known for crappie, bass and catfish fishing.

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

After Mayfield, CCHS turns to Trigg

STAFF REPORT
For Crittenden County, the message is simple: Put Mayfield in the rearview mirror and focus on what lies ahead. The Rockets (2-3) were humbled last week in their Class 2A First District opener, losing 49-7 at No. 3 Mayfield. The Cardinals, perennial state powers, flexed their muscle from the opening kickoff, racing to a 35-0 lead in the first quarter and scoring on every first-half possession plus a 70-yard punt return. By halftime, the running clock was in effect and the outcome was already decided. Crittenden's offense never gained traction, limited to just 39 rushing yards. Senior quarterback Quinn Summers finished 13-of-23 passing for 107 yards before giving way to sophomore backup Conner Poindexter. Jay Stevenson caught four passes for 46 yards, including the Rockets' only touchdown, while senior record-setter Caden Howard was held to 32 yards on four grabs. The setback was not unexpected against a Mayfield program chasing yet another district crown, but the Rockets' season hinges on what happens next. This Friday's road test at Trigg County looms as a pivotal turning point. With Mayfield the clear favorite, the rest of the six-team district finds itself battling for position. Only four will make the playoffs, and for the first time in recent memory, a postseason



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS
Quarterback Quinn Summers gets off a pass at Mayfield.

berth is not guaranteed for Crittenden County. Even more important, the top two finishers earn the right to host a first-round game. That makes the Rockets' clash with the Wildcats in Cadiz a de facto elimination bout in the race for second place. Trigg County (3-2) entered the season ranked No. 15 in the Courier-Journal's Class 2A preseason poll and showed firepower in its opener, a 54-0 shutout of Ohio County. The Wildcats have speed on the edges and a physical ground game that will challenge a CCHS defense anchored by linebacker Brayden Poindexter and lineman Braydin Brandsasse. The rivalry itself adds spice. Crittenden and Trigg have played nearly every sea-

son since the late 1950s. The series is virtually even over the decades, with stretches of dominance swinging back and forth. Just a few years ago, the Rockets held the upper hand, but Trigg has often been a tough out at Perdue Field. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Friday in Cadiz. In a year where nothing is automatic, the Rockets understand the stakes: beat Trigg, and they remain firmly in the hunt for second place and a playoff home game. Lose, and the path to November gets much steeper. **SCORE BY QUARTER**
Crittenden 0 0 7 0
Mayfield 35 7 7 0
SCORING PLAYS
M-Ashton Flint 31 pass from Gray

Robbins (pass failed) 8:47, 1st
M-Malik Taylor 50 run (kick failed) 6:20, 1st
M-Elijah Morris 30 pass from Robbins (Angel Torres kick) 4:38, 1st
M-Mak Hoover 70 punt return (Torres kick) 1:23, 1st
M-Hoover 35 run (Torres kick) 1:04, 1st
M-Ja'Aubry Sherrill 21 run (Torres kick) 4:50, 2nd
M-Anderson Smith 30 pass from Sawyer Stinson (Owen Byrd kick) 8:00, 3rd
C-Jay Stevenson 17 pass from Quinn Summers (Mitchell Brown kick) 1:30, 3rd
TEAM TOTALS
First Downs: CCHS 8, MHS 11
Penalties: CCHS 5-25, MHS 1-5
Rushing: CCHS 16-39, MHS 14-171
Passing: CCHS 14-25-0, 114; MHS 9-15-1, 159
Total Yards: CCHS 153, MHS 330
Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 1-1, MHS 0-0
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing
CCHS: Logan Nolan 8-36, Trae Taylor 3-(-3), Joel Bumpus 1-1, Conner Poindexter 3-9, Summers 1-(-4). MHS: Taylor 4-82, Sherrill 4-38.
Passing
CCHS: Summers 13-23-0, 107; C.Poindexter 1-2-0, 7. MHS: Robbins 5-8-0, 96; Stinson 9-15-1, 63.
Receiving
CCHS: Caden Howard 4-32, Taylor 2-10, Stevenson 4-46, Dakota Sosh 1-0, Brayden Poindexter 1-15, Hayden Hughes 1-7, Joel Bumpus 1-4, Logan Nolan 1-0. MHS: Hoover 2-30, Flint 1-31, Kirby 1-22, Morris 1-30, Smith 1-30.
Defense Brandsasse 3 solos, TFL: Hall solo, assists; Pierson assist; B.Poindexter solo; Stevenson 2 solos; Taylor solo, assist; Musser 2 solos, assist; Nolan assist; Perryman solo; Curnel 2 solos; Lovell 3 solos, interception; Bumpus 2 solos, 3 assists; Herrington solo, assist; Hughes 2 solos; Byford solo, assist.
Records: CCHS 2-3, MHS 4-1

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN
Crittenden County's Dixie Hunter (23) makes a move during a recent soccer match at Marion.

LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

The Lady Rockets' soccer team has slipped into a late-season slump, dropping four straight matches, including two district decisions. On Monday, Crittenden lost 9-1 at Trigg County, finishing district action without a win. At Trigg, Ella Geary scored the only CCHS goal on an assist by Kylie Bloodworth. Last Thursday at home, the Rocket girls lost a district match 2-1 against Lyon County. Ella Geary provided the lone goal, keeping Crittenden within striking distance, but the Lyons' defense held strong to preserve the win. On Tuesday, Sept. 16, CCHS finished in a 2-2 tie against Muhlenberg County as Adri Berry scored both points on assists by Geary and Kylie Bloodworth. Crittenden closes out the regular season with two more tests, Thursday at home against Hopkinsville and Tuesday at Paducah Tilghman.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY GOLF

Crittenden County senior Georgia Holeman has earned her first trip to the state golf tournament after carding a 91 at the First Region Tournament on Monday at Rolling Hills Country Club in Paducah. She finished 16th out of about 50 golfers. Holeman shot a 45 on the front nine and 46 on the back to secure one of 10 individual qualifying spots outside of the top two advancing teams, Marshall County and McCracken County. The course played as a par-72. Teammate Abby Korzenborn shot a 133 and finished 38th. It was a steady round for Holeman, who strung together several pars and held her score together despite a couple of tough holes. She had posted back-to-back medalist finishes leading into the regional tournament.



Holeman
State Qualifier

Holeman advances to the upcoming first leg of the state championship at Calvert City Country Club on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Other super regionals will be held at Pendleton Hills and Winchester. The top finishers from those events will move on to the KHSAA Girls' State Championship in Bowling Green on Oct. 6-8. The Boys' State Championship will follow Oct. 9-11. •Holeman was medalist for the second straight match last Thursday at Providence Country Club. She shot a 45 to lead seven female golfers in the match against Webster County. CCHS's Abby Korzenborn shot a 47 to finish third. The Rocket boys improved their season record to 5-5 winning at Webster County by one stroke. Jaxton Duncan, Cash Singleton and Bentley Rushing each carded a 45 to



PHOTO BY ELLA WHITNEY
Rocket runner Noah Martinez stretches out on the 5K run Saturday at Paducah St. Mary.

lead the Rockets. Hudson Stokes shot 47 and Levi Quertermous added 48 to round out the team scoring. Dawson Johnson also played for the Rockets, finishing with a 56. Also last week, Jaxton Duncan and Cash Singleton led a CCHS win at Deer Lakes against Caldwell County. The Rockets won by 5 strokes as Bentley Rushing carded a 45, Mitchell Brown 46 and Hudson Stokes 48 to round out the scoring. Dawson Johnson shot a 55 and Levi Quertermous 56. On the girls side, senior Holeman was medalist with a 45 and teammate Abby Korzenborn shot a 55. The Rocket golf team played in the First Region Tournament Tuesday at Murray, but none of the boys qualified to advance to the next round.

LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

Crittenden County's volleyball dominance over the Fifth District continued Monday with a straight-set win at home over Livingston Central, 25-21, 25-19, 25-13. Lacey Boone led the front-line attack with 11 kills, while Maeson Martin added eight and Breaelyn Merrill seven. Lilah Sherer turned in 29 assists, while Maddie Hearell and Emerye Pollard had 15 digs apiece. Pollard also finished with three aces. CCHS has won the district championship the past seven years and has not lost a regular-season league match during that stretch.

CCHS CROSS COUNTRY

Crittenden County's cross country team competed Saturday at Noble Park in the Paducah St. Mary Invitational race. Rocket runner CJ Nelson was the only CCHS athlete to medal. Here are CCHS results for the boys' race: 23. Chad Nelson (18:50.68), 43. River Rogers (20:01.67), 47. Noah Martinez (20:05.38), 95. Gaige Markham (22:13.22), 118. Aiden Musser (24:31.98), and 126. Miles Yates (26:17.29). Four girls competed in the event. Addie Nelson led the Lady Rockets with a time of 26:00.51, followed closely by Presley Potter in 26:01.04. Ella Whitney was next across the line in 27:26.58, and London McCord finished in 31:23.47. Livingston Central's boys raced and here are results for the Cardinal runners: 116. Brayden Keeling (24:25.84), 122. Phillip Wilson (25:08.22), 135. Jesse Sharp (31:43.83).



Actresses (from left) Holley Beth Curnel, Lindsay Sizemore, Brittney Meredith-Miller, Katie Keene, Terra Haire and Trish Gage take a bow after Saturday’s performance.

Crowd loves Steel Magnolias, proves a Fohs Hall fan favorite

STAFF REPORT

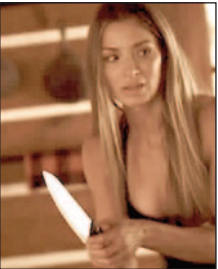
The weekend's two-day performance of “Steel Magnolias” at Fohs Hall drew large crowds and rave reviews. Audiences praised both the performances, which included a dinner Saturday night, by local actresses and an atmosphere that included laughter, tears and memories stirred by the production.

The cast included Lindsay Sizemore as Truvy Jones, Holley Curnel as Annelle Dupuy-Desoto, Katie Keene as Clairee Belcher, Shelby Eatenton-Lacherie played by Terra Haire, M'Lynn Eatenton played by Trish Gage, Ouiser Boudreaux played by Brittney Meredith-Miller, and The Voice of KPRD portrayed by Cole Foster.

Behind the scenes, director Teresa Foster led a strong production team.

Actress Katie Keene is also appearing in a new indie thriller “Killer Content” now streaming on multiple platforms, including Apple TV, Amazon Prime, YouTube and Fandango.

The horror film features Keene in a leading role and was created with a team of independent filmmakers.



Kim Vince served as producer, John Michael Gage as sound engineer and Cameron Hernandez as light engineer. Construction and set design were handled by Darlene Abell, Lauryn Faulkner, David Foster, Kathleen Guess, Braden Locke, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Jessica Sherer, and Kim and Mark Vince. Braden Locke also managed tables and hall decorations. Kim Vince was stage manager, assisted by London McCord and

stage crew members.

Saturday’s dinner was catered by Catering and Creations and served by CCHS FCCLA, adding to the evening’s appeal. Special thanks were also given to Wanda Olson and Market House Theatre for providing many of the props and accessories.

The combination of talent and community support produced one of the most memorable Fohs Hall performances in recent years.

CODES

Continued from page 1

mum fines of up to \$1,000 for building and construction code violations, \$500 for animal violations and \$450 for junked vehicles.

City leaders say the move is needed to keep pace with inflation and to strengthen enforcement. Mayor D’Anna Browning and members of the city

council have pushed through a series of ordinances and clean-up initiatives over the past year, reflecting a more aggressive approach to blight and nuisance properties.

“This is part of an overall effort to make sure our town is cleaner and safer,” Browning said previously in reference to the council’s stepped-up code enforcement strategy.

ANIMALS

Continued from page 1


keys, bears, zebras, alligators and venomous reptiles.

To qualify for an exception, the site would have to meet several conditions: the facility must sit at least 300 feet from any residence or business; have a concrete floor with proper drains tied into an enclosed city sewer and adequate water to allow thorough daily wash-downs; demonstrate that the public welfare would not be negatively affected; and be located on agriculturally zoned property of at least five

acres.

Final action could come in October as the council continues a series of measures aimed at improving property conditions and public health across the city.

The ordinance would not affect properties within the city that are currently zoned for agriculture, of which there are very few. It was also noted during the council meeting that no existing situations involving the types of animals or operations addressed in the ordinance would be “grandfathered” into the system and allowed to remain.



AUGUST 2025

Activity Report

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

	Aug	2024 Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	6	7.6
Complaints	46	66.8
Papers Served	30	53.0
Unsuccessful Service Attempts	7	5.5
Total Service Attempts	74	104.1
Transports	2	4.3
Special Detail	8	58.7
Training Hours	25.5	41.1
Verbal Warning	23	24.4
Courtesy Notice	—	—
Criminal Citation	13	17.7
Officer Assist	12	5.7
Building Checks	54	50.6
Total Manhours	578.50	832
Bailiff Court Hours	117.25	86.7
Cases Opened	4	8.0
Felony Arrests	4	8.8
Followup Investigations	14	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	7	10
Motorist Assists	2	8.3
DUIs	0	2.5
Traffic Citations	7	14.1
General Policing	182	156
Call for Service	41	21

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Apply holistic approach to planning for future

When you plan a trip, you consider not only the destination but also the climate, activities that interest you, transportation needs, anticipated costs, best time to go and coverage for your work, home or pets. It's a holistic approach - looking at your trip from a variety of angles.

It's wise to apply that same holistic thinking when you plan for your financial future - that is, bringing into the picture all elements of yourself.

Here are some things that may affect your financial strategy:

- Your views on helping your family - Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy, and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to save money for their college education, and if so, how much, and in what investments. When they're

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for major expenses such as down payments on a new home or a new car. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how and when to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

- Your personal beliefs - As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of

course, for the estate-planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

- Your purpose in life when you retire - Having a purpose can bring fulfillment beyond financial security. Leading up to retirement, your purpose may involve providing for your immediate family, bringing value to your profession or contributing to your community. When you retire and step off your career path, you're entering a new world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Or spend more time volunteering? Can you pur-

sue hobbies that give you a chance for self-expression? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how much income you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

- Your health - Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can



Grant Rogers
Financial Advisor

be enormous - in fact, a private room in a nursing home can easily cost \$100,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters

Grant Rogers
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(270) 965-0944

Fed cuts could affect your rates

The Federal Reserve’s quarter-point cut in benchmark rates won’t move mortgage or lending costs overnight, but it will ripple through the economy in coming months. The 30-year fixed mortgage rate now sits at 6.23 percent, while the prime lending rate is 7.5 percent. Mortgage rates tend to follow long-term bond yields, which can ease if markets be-

lieve rate cuts will continue, potentially lowering borrowing costs for homebuyers. The prime rate, by contrast, is directly tied to the Fed’s moves, so credit cards and home equity loans could get cheaper more quickly. Both shifts reflect the Fed’s attempt to stimulate hiring even as inflation remains elevated.

Crittenden County Rescue Squad Annul Fundraisers for 2025

CRITTENDEN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD’s yearly fundraiser for this year is about to begin. You should be getting your letter in the mail starting next week.

Again, this year we are sending out letters asking you for a donation.

YOU WILL NOT BE CALLED FOR A DONATION, nor will anyone be going door to door asking for donations - we will ONLY be mailing out donation requests to all Crittenden County residents.

You will receive an envelope with a letter and a self addressed envelope (addressed to **Crittenden County Rescue Squad, Inc, P.O. Box 346, Marion, KY**) in the mail in the next couple of days. Simply put your donation in the envelope and send it back to us.

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES DIRECTLY TO THE RESCUE SQUAD.

Please remember - Crittenden Co. Rescue Squad is 100% volunteer and is funded by your donations! We DO NOT receive any money from your Fire Dues. We never charge for any of our services, and are the only group in the county that does auto extrication and water rescue. Our member's are 100% volunteer and never receive any pay for the work they do.

The **CRITTENDEN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD** would like to say “Thank You” for your continued support and donations.

If you would like to help your community and would like to join, we are gladly accepting new volunteers!



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JAIL
Continued from page 1
I'm trying to do what's best for the county."

Magistrate Dave Belt stressed support for Jailer Athena Perry personally, but added that without more high-revenue inmates, the facility will keep losing money.

"We can't keep going like this," he said, at one point suggesting it might have to be shut down if red ink persists.

Rumors from social media drew a direct rebuttal. Jailer Hayes and Judge Newcom said the court never discussed buying a dishwasher for the jail and denied other online claims. County officials stressed that the jail is not paid off, it is still paying on construction bonds with interest. Hayes said the jail is paying \$323,000 a year in principal and \$165,000 in interest on jail-related debt.

"When the jail was built, the county knew it would be a burden," she said.

Three out-of-county jailers from Nelson, Simpson and Larue counties traveled to Marion to support Hayes. They are all members of the Kentucky Jailers Association for which Hayes is a board member. They took turns pointing out that housing prisoners is an expensive, mandated service across Kentucky, not a Crittenden-only problem. Nelson County Jailer Justin Hall, a 19-year government budget veteran, questioned whether local officials had toured day-to-day jail operations before passing judgment.

"I drove two and a half hours to be here," he said, then began to lay out how other jails across Kentucky are facing mounting expenses and fewer state inmates to help pay the bills.

Simpson County Jailer Eric Vaughn, who serves as vice president of the Kentucky Jailers Association, called his operation one of the state's most efficiently run jails and said his county's contribution is quadruple Crittenden County's.

Judge Newcom interjected, cutting Vaughn's statement short, arguing the comparisons weren't "apples to apples" given Crittenden's smaller tax base. Larue County's jailer said his county supplements the jail substantially more than Crittenden does, calling the incarcerations business, "a necessity."

Jailer Hayes delivered her August report and defended the operation's efficiency and safety while acknowledging relentless cost pressure, largely due to inflation and an aging facility.

"We are operating extremely efficiently," she said, arguing that roughly 95 percent of the revenue needed to run the jail is generated internally when flows are normal. She highlighted thousands of inmate work-release hours in 2024, which is work the county would otherwise have to pay for from other sources. Crews mow public properties across the county and do litter abatement, too. She estimated a labor value of about \$706,000, and noted the canteen fund spent \$59,000 on mowing and maintaining county property.

"There's a cost to cleaning up the county," she said, then pointing out how inflation is having its own impact.

"My power bill and grocery bill don't look like they did three years ago. Everyone is struggling," Hayes said.


On compliance, Hayes said the jail has been written up for overpopulation at every inspection during her tenure, but stressed that conditions remain professional and safe. She said federal inmate counts have sagged due to a federal budget crunch, distance and medical-cost considerations.

"The only reason we continue to see inmates



Simpson County Jailer Eric Vaughn was one of a handful of jailers from across the state to show up in support of Crittenden Jailer Athena Hayes, in foreground.

Crittenden County Detention Center



DETENTION CENTER REPORT

September 18, 2025

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

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

LAST MONTH CASH FLOW

Total Receipts \$293,965.95

Disbursements \$316,109.80

JAIL CENSUS	Aug 2025 Avg	July 2025 Avg	Monthly Average 2024
State Inmates	85.1	76.8	75.38
Federal Inmates	50.5	49.2	67.69
Other County Inmates	25.8	26.4	21.82
Crittenden County Inmates	16.4	15.6	19.86
TOTAL INMATES	177.8	168	184.75
Highest Daily Count	188	176	195.67
Lowest Daily Count	167	165	178.75

Last Month	REVENUE	August 2025	July 2025	Monthly Average 2024
State Housing Payments		\$93,191.58	\$84,179.88	\$81,220.16
Federal Housing Payments		\$89,205.00	\$86,982.00	\$116,235.25
Federal Transport Payments		\$8,980.00	\$5,725.70	\$13,566.71
Lyon Co. Housing Payments		\$26,820.00	\$28,944.00	\$21,399.00
Other County Housing Payments		\$960.00	\$320.00	\$1,802.17
Weekend/Work Release		\$1,280.00	\$240.00	\$477.33
TOTAL HOUSING		\$220,437.38	\$206,391.58	\$234,709.79

Last Month	ANALYSIS	August 2025	July 2025	Monthly Average 2024
Cost of Crittenden Inmates		\$20,320.00	\$18,800.00	\$19,290.67
Numbers of Co. Housing Days		380	470	602.83
County Daily Housing Rate		\$40.00	\$40.00	\$32
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates		12.6	15.16	19.86

from Nashville is our relationship. I don't decide how many they send," she said.

Judge Newcom countered that he had spoken with U.S. Marshals contacts in Missouri about resuming placements from the Eastern District of Missouri. He said they're ready and willing to send additional federal inmates here. Hayes has said in the past that distance had been cited as the budgetary reason Missouri officials had pulled out of this jail. Hayes questioned why Newcom had not shared that news with her earlier and asked that any such information be forwarded so she could act on it.

Newcom and magistrates pointed out that federal inmates garner a much higher per-diem, so housing Uncle Sam's prisoners is more attractive than state inmates. It means the difference in \$35.34 per day for state inmates and \$57 for federal.

Hayes emphasized that the number and type of inmates are not solely within her control and tend to fluctuate with federal and state policies and enforcement cycles.

The court's broader budget posture framed the debate. Newcom put slides on large screens in the room that were difficult to read from the gallery, but which he said reflected the county's history of jail subsidies. He pointed out that the county set aside money to help the jail in the current budgetary cycle that began on July 1, after the jail struggled to meet financial obligations last fiscal year. He said the FY26 budget as submitted showed jail revenues falling short of anticipated expenses of \$3.85 million.

"We agreed to supplement jail operations by \$237,176 in this budget," he said. "We've already spent \$149,000 of that in the first 10 weeks."

The judge added that occupational and insurance taxes have already been increased and there's no other pot to raid to support the county's general fund. He said there is no other place to turn for revenue.

"We can't raise taxes over four percent," he said. "At our current pace, we're bankrupt next month."

Newcom pressed Hayes on coding to exhausted line items in the jail budget spreadsheet after

his office emailed monthly notices last year outlining exhausted funds.

Hayes said she has always made herself available to discuss the situation with county leaders, but now that hostile action has been taken she wants correspondence to be in writing or discussions to be held in recorded meetings.

"I can't change inflation. I can't negotiate the water bill down. Repairs and maintenance are up. When we're under advisories, we hand out 600 bottles of water per day, and that takes staff," the jailer said.

The judge said he was asking the court to amend revenue assumptions downward, cutting expected federal and state housing to match recent actuals, and to reset the jail's FY26 budget to something "reasonable" given the last two months. He reiterated that the discussion was about solvency, not personalities.

Newcom has said the jail's success hinges on housing federal inmates. He notes that when the jail finished in the black, it was during years with lucrative federal contracts. The jail's healthiest year, FY21, was also bolstered by COVID-era financial assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act. See table on page 1.

"We have not talked about closing the jail," the county judge said, responding to earlier comments in last week's meeting. "We're responsible for the fiscal solvency of the county."

The meeting ended without formal action of any sort, but with lines clearly drawn.

"We've cut everywhere we can," Hayes said. "We're not acting out of malice. The world is different than it was three years ago."

Newcom agreed that the jail runs "thin" when it comes to expenses and making necessary cuts on that side of the financial sheet. But, he was firm in cautioning that both sides have to balance.

"We will get this fixed," Newcom said, "but it would be better with your input."

By statute, the judge said the county can make necessary changes.

"It's time for hard decisions," Newcom said.

The jail, he said, is a necessity, "but so are roads," tying the jail's woes to other county issues.

County leaders say the jail budget needs to be amended in order to reflect current trends. The county had budgeted putting just under \$20,000 a month into the jail fund, but since the new fiscal year began about three months ago, the figure has been close to \$50,000.

Hayes, a longtime jail employee, was elected to serve as jailer in the 2022 general election and her four-year term began in January 2023.

Anyone interested in further information may download the county's full presentation from last week's meeting by going to The Press Online or from this link: www.the-press.com/CC-JailInfo.pptx.



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