

## NO BOTTLED H<sub>2</sub>O

### State denies plan to hand out free water

Kentucky Emergency Management has denied Marion’s request for bottled drinking water under a local emergency declaration, Mayor D’Anna Browning said late Tuesday. Browning said she is very disappointed in the latest decision, which followed further review by Kentucky Emergency Management and the Kentucky Division of Water. The free water distribution, which the mayor said was previously approved for Sept. 8–13, has been canceled. The city said updates will be provided if conditions change.

## Students start year with silent moment

Crittenden County students are starting each school day this year with a moment of silence. The new practice, which began with Tuesday’s first day of school, follows Kentucky law (KRS 158.175) requiring a daily one- to two-minute period for quiet reflection. Students may meditate, pray or take part in any other silent activity that does not interfere with others. During the moment of silence, students must remain seated without making distracting displays. Teachers and staff cannot direct how students should use the time. School officials said they hope the pause will give students a calm, focused beginning to the day and encourage families to discuss with children how they might choose to observe the moment.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8 at city hall.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet for a working session at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the Rocket Arena conference room.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the courthouse.
- Marion City Council will meet Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall.
- Marion–Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at city hall. The board has established the third Monday of each month as its regular meeting date.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 at its office on East Bellville Street.



Smithland’s hydroelectric dam has been generating power for less than a decade, but its roots reach back much further. From Crittenden County’s Riverview Park and Marion’s fire department to recreation, jobs, and tax revenue in Livingston County, the dam’s influence has long left its mark, and continues to shape the region today.

# Hidden in Plain Sight

## Legacy of Smithland Dam runs deep

BY CHRIS EVANS  
PRESS EDITOR

Hidden in plain sight, Smithland Dam is a modern marvel that quietly shapes life across western Kentucky. From Princeton to Paducah, its influence flows far beyond the Ohio River, leaving lasting marks on communities. In fact, this engineering giant can be credited with Marion’s downtown fire station and even Crittenden County’s Riverview Park, unexpected legacies of a structure many hardly notice.

Last week, a group of Livingston and Crittenden County officials went behind the locked gates of Smithland Dam to tour one of the Ohio River’s newest hydroelectric plants, a facility that blends decades of planning with modern engineering. Completed in 2017, the Smithland Hydroelectric Station channels the steady force of the Ohio into electricity that now powers hundreds of thousands of municipal customers across nine states. The navigational dam itself dates to the 1970s, but the hydro project was first envisioned in the late 1980s and, by a twist of fortune, the City of Marion was the original municipal permit holder.

Last week’s visit was organized by representatives of American Municipal Power



Standing on the service deck of the hydroelectric side of Smithland Dam below a sweeping overhead crane that’s used to maintain equipment in the bowels of the structure are area leaders and AMP representatives who toured the facility last week. From left are three AMP representatives then Livingston County Attorney Allen Wilson, Livingston PVA Elisha Hubbard, Crittenden County Attorney Bart Frazer, Livingston Clerk Sonya Williams, Livingston Judge-Executive Michael Williams, Smithland Mayor William Hesser, Roger McGrew, Livingston Jailer Benji Guill, Livingston Ledger reporter Scott Waggoner and two AMP employees.

(AMP), the nonprofit agency that owns and operates the plant. Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams, County Clerk Sonya Williams, PVA Elisha Hubbard, Smithland Mayor William Hesser, Roger McGrew, Jailer Benji Guill, County Attorney Allen Wilson and Crittenden County Attorney Bart Frazer were among those who joined the

tour. Walking inside the hydro station, visitors were struck by its scale. The power house rises nearly 100 feet from its foundation, but much of the important machinery sits below the river’s surface. Engineers explained that the Smithland plant is a “run-of-the-river” facility, meaning it

See **DAM**/page 3

# Slow it down through Carrsville

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has reduced speed limits along KY 135 in the Livingston County town of Carrsville. Signs were installed last week.

A new 35-mph speed limit is now in effect on the state highway where it runs through the heart of the small hamlet on the Ohio River.

The new speed zone begins at the intersection of Main and First streets on the east side of Carrsville and extends to Fleet Street on the west side of town, about one-half of a mile.

Additionally, KYTC has designated two 45-

mph transition zones extending a quarter mile before and after the 35-mph speed zone on each side of Carrsville.

Approximately 101 vehicles travel this section of KY 135 in an average day.

According to KYTC spokesperson Carrie Dillard, Carrsville Mayor Deana Gerding had reached out to transportation officials requesting a reduction in speed along KY 135 within the city to improve safety.

“During their evaluation, transportation engineers identified areas with comparable populations and lower speed limits and determined that Carrsville met the criteria for a similar adjustment,” Dillard said.

# Tax rates will be finalized; bills sent soon

STAFF REPORT

Now that Marion has proposed its 2025 property tax rates, only Crittenden County School District and Tradewater special taxing district remain to make final determinations before tax bills are mailed next month.

The school district plans to make its final determination at a meeting at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9. No major increase is anticipated, based on preliminary school board discussions.

Meanwhile, Marion City Council

## 2025 Crittenden County Proposed Tax Rates

TAX DISTRICT	Change from '24	2025	2024	2023	2022
City of Marion	-0-	22.9	22.9	22.5	22.4
Crittenden County	-0-	11.4	11.4	11.8	11.6
School District	-?-	**	51.4	51.6	49.0
Extension	+0.1	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1
Health Tax	-0-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Public Library	-0-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Tradewater	-?-	***	34.9	33.6	33.7

\*\*School district will set its rate Sept. 9; \*\*\*Tradewater not yet reported.

Values are shown as cents per \$100 of assessed value

# Kitchen gnats galore

They’re back. Seems like they’re worse in late summer and fall. If you’ve left a banana on the counter recently, you know what I’m talking about. Fruit flies – those little kamikaze gnats that seem to materialize from nowhere – are staging their periodic invasion.

They hover over apples, drown in sweet tea glasses and buzz in your face with no fear of consequences.

But here’s the part you may not want to know:

Those fruit flies didn’t come from nowhere. If you’ve ever sealed a piece of fruit in a jar and later found squirming maggots, you’ve seen the proof. Eggs were already there, laid so neatly and small on the skin that you couldn’t even see them. Warmth and time finishes the job, and before long you’ve got the makings of a horror film playing out inside your kitchen.

Science settled this centuries ago. People once believed in “spontaneous generation,” that life just bubbled up out of rotting fruit or meat. Then along came Francesco Redi in the 1600s, who proved maggots only appear where flies have been. Still, it’s hard not to sympathize with our ancestors when you open your trash can and a dozen little bugs zoom into your hair and nostrils.

Now here’s another kicker: You’ve probably eaten fruit fly eggs before. Actually, we all have. They’re harmless, just a speck of protein your stomach dissolves without complaint. The USDA even has “acceptable levels” of insect parts allowed in food, because erasing nature from the dinner table is impossible. You’ve survived it just fine.

So what do we do? Try washing your fruit, cover the bowl and rinse your peaches under the tap. I’ve started putting bannans inside the pantry. The aggravating little gnats find them, but it’s only the smart ones, so numbers are mitigated.

When cleaning your fruit, they say a splash of vinegar water helps. I use Dawn! But no matter how diligent you are, a stray egg or two will survive. That’s life. And in early September, life seems to be buzzing all over the kitchen counter.

I suppose there’s a lesson in this: the things that bother us most often come from what was already there, unseen, long before we noticed. Fruit flies, like problems, don’t just appear. They’re planted quietly, and if left alone, they hatch into real trouble.

Meantime, keep the bananas in your gun safe if you want fewer visitors. Or just accept that fruit fly season is here, and swatters are in fashion. They’re really good for training and honing those hand-eye reflexes.

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 EVANS  
Press Editor & Publisher  
About Town





KY 295 remains closed at the Livingston Creek Bridge at the Crittenden-Lyon County Line, but it is expected to reopen soon. Estimated project completion is the end of September, weather permitting. Additionally, KY 387 (Dam 50 Road) is closed at Crooked Creek for another bridge replacement. This closure cuts off Riverview Park traffic from KY 91 North. Estimate for project completion on this bridge in the northern part of Crittenden County is early November, weather permitting.

## Sutton announces Farm Bureau move: Eddyville to Marion

Crittenden County native Brodi Lane Sutton has been named the new Agency Manager at Crittenden County Farm Bureau, according to her social media post.

Sutton, who grew up in the county, said the role



Sutton

feels like “coming full circle.” She noted that Crittenden County has always been home, where she learned the value of hard work and the importance of community support.

“I’m really grateful for the opportunity,” Sutton said. “It’s an honor to serve the community I proudly call home.”

Sutton also expressed

appreciation to her Lyon County clients and friends, saying their trust and support have been an important part of her professional journey as she worked at the Farm Bureau office in Eddyville.

Her hiring follows the recent retirement of long-time agent Larry Davidson.

## Community Calendar

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

**Thursday, Sept. 11**

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

**Thursday, Sept. 18**

- Crittenden County Public Library Friends of the Library meets at 6 p.m. in the library meeting room.

**Thursday, Sept. 18**

- Crittenden County Public Library Board meets in the library meeting room at 5 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 26**

- Crittenden County Food Bank will have distribution from 8 a.m.-noon at 402 N. Walker St. in Marion.

## THROW BACK THURSDAY

OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879



Harley Haegegin, president of the Crittenden County Lions Club (left), presents Jessie Grimes with a \$500 check for the Crittenden County Rescue Club during the first week of September 1975. The donation recognized the Rescue Club’s service at that year’s Crittenden County Fair, where members assisted with parking, monitored activities, and provided security throughout the four-night event.

## 50 years ago

**September 4, 1975**

- The Rockets football team won the season opener 19-12 over the Lone Oak Purple Flash. Danny Hodges and Mark Hamby each ran the ball eight times giving them 86 of the 90 yards rushing; Mike Hunt led the team in tackles with six for the game.
- Dr. Stephen Burkhart was named chairman of the Crittenden County Hospital board of directors after the resignation of Dr. R. M. Brandon.
- Gary Biggs and Bob Buckalew combined to capture the Best Ball Tournament played Labor Day weekend at Marion Country Club. The pair shot a 67 to take the honors of the first place spot in the tournament.

## 25 years ago

**September 7, 2000**

- The Rocket football team won its sixth game, keeping their home win streak alive. Daniel Campbell recorded his career high rushing yards with 71 on six carries.
- Entertaining entrepreneur Richard N. Hanson visited CCES and left quite an impression on the young students. Hanson gave two performances where he constructed brooms and told stories about his younger days in Hickman, Ky., and gave away both brooms at the end of his visit.
- The Rocket golf team won its 10th straight match to start its season. Derrick Dooks and John Tyner both shot 38 to earn co-medalist honors and lead the Rockets to a 160-171 victory over Caldwell County at home.

## 10 years ago

**September 3, 2015**

- Daniel McKinzie of Marion showed off his talents by turning a log into art. With a chainsaw, he carved animals from pieces of timber.
- Six-year-old Cheyenne Camp competed in the Miss America Coed Kentucky State Pageant, where she earned the title of Miss Bluegrass State Princess. By virtue of her win, Camp advanced to a pageant in Orlando, Fla.
- The Rocket football team won its game 48-24 over Hopkins Central for the second win of the season. Running back Dylan Hollis scored three touchdowns and QB Nick Castiller ran for two and threw for one touchdown.

## New area code coming to KY

A new area code is coming to north-central Kentucky as the supply of 502 numbers runs out.

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator notified the Kentucky Public Service Commission on Tuesday that a 761 overlay will be introduced for the 502 area code region, likely beginning in 2027.

Existing 502 numbers will not change, but new customers may be assigned 761 once 502 is exhausted.

With the change, residents will be required to use 10-digit dialing when making calls within the 502/761 area code. NANPA projects the 502 supply will run out in the third quarter of 2027.

The PSC opted for an overlay instead of a split, citing lower costs and efficiency. The 761 code is expected to provide enough numbers for about 30 years. Kentucky currently has five area codes; this will be the sixth. The 502 area code, one of the original codes established in 1947, once covered the entire state.

## UK grad Stephens joins local pharmacy

KB Pharmacy has welcomed a familiar face to its team. Bobby Glen Stephens, a 2025 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, has joined the staff as a pharmacist.

Stephens, a 2017 graduate of Crittenden County High School, completed his undergraduate work at Murray State University before pursuing his pharmacy degree at UK.



Stephens



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Marion Fire Department (top) was constructed largely with proceeds from the city's sale of its stake in the Smithland Dam hydroelectric project. Riverview Park (above) was developed on the Ohio River after the removal of Dam 50. When the structure was dismantled to make way for Smithland Dam, Crittenden County received the former dam property and transformed it into a recreational park.

# DAM

Continued from page 1  
does not store large amounts of water but instead uses the natural flow of the Ohio to turn turbines.  
At the very base of the structure, three massive bulb-type turbines sit in concrete chambers. Each turbine is 25 feet in diameter and turns at only 60 revolutions per minute – slow compared to the 3,600 RPMs of a typical coal-fired generator, but the sheer volume of water passing through the blades generates enormous torque. That rotation spins the generators in the upper levels of the powerhouse, creating electricity.  
Before the river ever reaches the turbines, it passes through heavy steel trash racks at the intakes. These racks catch floating logs, trees and other debris that often sweep down the Ohio, preventing them from damaging the machinery. Maintenance crews routinely clear the screens, especially after high water events. AMP representatives say trash is removed from the screens and put into a dumpster while organic material is allowed to continue down river.  
Above the turbines, the powerhouse control room looks more like a modern office than an industrial plant. From there, operators monitor river levels, turbine speeds, and energy output on multiple large television-style screens. The entire facility is staffed by only nine cross-trained employees, with one additional worker who splits time between Smithland and another AMP hydro project. The company is in early stages of a plan to engage local school districts to help train students who might find a career in dam operations.  
The plant can generate up to 76 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 20,000 homes. Output fluctuates with river conditions. Too much water and the turbines cannot handle the flow; too little and the generators cannot reach capacity. On average, Smithland produces 250,000 to 300,000 megawatt-hours annually, AMP reps said.  
While the hydro station is new, the dam itself is not. Smithland Lock and Dam was authorized in 1965, built through the 1970s, and completed in 1980. Its original purpose was not electricity but navigation and flood control. Two massive locks, each 1,200 feet long and 110 feet wide, sit on the Illinois side of the river and allow tows with dozens of barges to

move through. Eleven Tainter gates across the river span control the water level, raising the upstream pool about 22 feet above the downstream side.  
For decades, the dam produced no power. The idea of adding hydro capacity circulated as early as the 1980s, and Marion, Ky., unexpectedly played a key role.  
Former Marion Mayor Mickey Alexander recalls that the opportunity came almost by chance. “It started in the early 1980s,” Alexander said. “A man named Jim Price from South Carolina called City Hall looking for a municipal partner for a hydro project. Back then, federal rules gave priority to developers with a city partner, so he started making calls off a map. When no one answered in Paducah, he called Marion.”  
Smithland didn’t even exist on the map used by Price.

Alexander, then a city council member, said City Administrator David Cobb agreed to put Price on the council’s agenda. That decision eventually gave Marion a sliver of interest in the Smithland project. For years, the plan languished as potential developers struggled to find financing. Some partners went bankrupt, and for long stretches nothing happened. But Marion’s name remained attached.  
By the 1990s, U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford helped keep the license alive, and eventually AMP – then known as AMP-Ohio – acquired the rights. When AMP finally moved forward with construction, Marion negotiated a buyout of its interest.  
Crittenden County Attorney Bart Frazer, who was city attorney at the time, remembers flying to Columbus, Ohio, with Alexander and then City Administrator Mark Bryant to meet with AMP.  
“It wasn’t long after that trip that Marion received a check for \$1 million,” Frazer said.  
Alexander said the windfall came at the right moment.  
“Once we built the new City Hall, we knew we needed a modern fire department. That money funded the beautiful station we have today on Main and Bellville,” he said. “It was a happy day for Marion when that check arrived.”  
Livingston County continues to benefit directly from Smithland Dam through the franchise tax it receives annually, a steady revenue stream tied to the hydroelectric station’s presence along the Ohio River. Critten-

den County, meanwhile, saw its reward at the front end of the project.  
While the focus today is on Smithland, it is worth remembering that the dam replaced two earlier navigation structures with deep ties to the region. Lock and Dam 50 once stood upstream near Cave In Rock, Ill., above the Crittenden County ferry crossing. Lock and Dam 51 was located just a mile below Berry’s Ferry in Livingston County near Golconda, Ill. From the 1920s to about 1980, those two Ohio River dams served as fixtures of commerce and river traffic before they were dismantled as part of the modernization that ultimately led to Smithland Dam’s construction.  
Today, there is a park at the former Dam 50 site in Crittenden County. Riverview Park has modern camping spots, a boat ramp, a seasonal pier and other amenities for campers and picnickers.  
AMP today operates five hydro plants, along with one coal and one natural gas facility, and serves 130 member municipalities in nine states. It acts much like a cooperative, pooling resources for smaller municipal utilities. Paducah Power and Princeton Electric Plant Board are among Kentucky’s AMP members.  
Smithland is considered one of AMP’s “crown jewels,” tour guides told those attending last week’s look at the facility.  
The company employs about 210 people system-wide and has paid more than \$21 million in taxes since beginning operations. Locally, the plant has nine full-time employees who manage not only generation but also maintenance of the dam’s recreation areas, picnic shelters, fishing piers and grounds. Recreation is a mandatory part of AMP’s charge as operator of the hydro facility.  
For the local leaders touring the facility, the visit was both educational and a reminder of how regional decisions can have long-lasting impact. The Smithland plant may send most of its power to cities hundreds of miles away, but its story is tied to a phone call answered at Marion City Hall more than 40 years ago.  
As Alexander put it, “All we did was put our name on a document.” But in the end, it gave Marion a fire station and tied the community forever to the Ohio River dam down in Livingston County.

# Water District discusses expansion, leaks, loss and pending rate hike

STAFF REPORT  
Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD) board met last week in regular session, discussing persistent leaks, the pending water rate increase and future expansion projects.  
Superintendent Abbie Adamson reported that crews repaired nine main leaks and 23 service leaks in the previous week, but water loss remains troubling. The district lost 36 percent of its treated water in June and 38 percent in July.  
“It is not looking any better for August, which has been as bad a month as we ever had,” Adamson said.  
The cost of producing potable water from the Cumberland River is about \$3 per 1,000 gallons. CLWD retails water for \$3.34 per 1,000 gallons, meaning the district is operating with a thin margin, particularly when so much water is lost.  
The firm Reveal has been engaged to help locate leaks. One proposal would involve placing listening devices on all customer meters to detect underground water loss, but the \$3,000-per-day cost and required district labor made the plan prohibitive.  
“We still have water leaks that we cannot find,” Adamson said, noting some likely run straight down without surfacing.  
The board agreed to consider other, less costly options Reveal might offer.  
Board member Tim Capps raised concerns about the long-term ability to address the problem.  
“Leaks aren’t going away. They are going to get worse,” he said, questioning whether the district has the resources to keep two repair crews working constantly.  
Customer requests were also considered. A Mexico community resident

asked for greater relief on a bill caused by a private leak, but the board denied the request, citing its standard policy of writing off only a portion of such charges.  
On capital projects, the board heard from water consultant Tim Thomas about Phase 3 of CLWD’s expansion. Since engineering firm Hussey Gay Bell is not contracted for that portion, Thomas said the district must advertise Phase 3 engineering. Phase 2 is currently about 30 percent engineered.  
Thomas said securing an engineer now would position CLWD to pursue new funding opportunities and possibly expedite construction.  
CLWD could theoretically have Phase 2 and Phase 3 work going on at the same time, “making this whole thing a little shorter,” Thomas said.  
Expediting is considered important given Marion’s ongoing water crisis and CLWD’s recent troubles. Plans are for Marion to eventually rely entirely on CLWD. Right now, CLWD is periodically supplying Marion with about 30 gallons per minute, but only when it’s in position to do so.  
The district also discussed how to use more than \$800,000 in federal grant funds awarded several years ago for line extensions. Those dollars must be spent by the end of 2026. One option could be to build lines without charging them with water until expansion is complete, though officials acknowledged residents may be frustrated with “dormant” service lines.  
Meanwhile, CLWD’s pending water rate increase has yet to receive final approval from the Public Service Commission. Regulators have given preliminary approval to a smaller increase than the district originally requested.



## Let there be more light

New LED lights were installed Friday at the pickleball and basketball courts at Marion-Crittenden County Park by C3 Electric, improving evening play at both courts. Additional upgrades are planned this fall, including restroom renovations, for which contractors are now being sought.

# Bale Trail registration now open

Registration is now open for the 2025 Bale Trail, an annual 4-H fundraiser that showcases creative hay bale displays across Livingston County.  
Crittenden County will not be having a bale trail program this fall.  
The Livingston entry fee is \$20 per location, with proceeds supporting local 4-H programs. Participants must submit a written entry form and payment by Sept. 26. All displays must be visible from a public roadway and completed by noon that day to be included on the official map and considered for judging.  
Both traditional fall décor and non-traditional painted or themed displays are welcome. Entries must remain family-friendly, with no political, commercial, alcohol, drug or racial content allowed.  
Public voting will run Oct. 1-31, and winners will be announced Nov. 1 during the Annual Bale Blast at the Livingston County Extension Office in Smithland.  
For entry forms or more information, contact Sharee Schoonover at 270-928-2168 or sharee.schoonover@uky.edu.

# TAX

Continued from page 1  
introduced its tax levy during a special meeting last week, suggesting to keep the real estate and public utility property tax rate at 22.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The rate on personal property will be 27.1 cents per \$100.  
The ordinance also proposes the motor vehicle and motorboat rates at 22.9 cents per \$100, in accordance with state law. Due to higher assessments on some properties and the addition of new property, the city expects to generate about \$57,000 in additional tax revenue at the real estate rate. That

revenue helps fund police and fire protection, street maintenance and other city services, according to the ordinance.  
A second reading to make the rates official is scheduled for later this month. Once approved, tax bills will be mailed within a few weeks. Unpaid balances after Nov. 1, will be subject to a 25 percent penalty.  
Crittenden County Board of Education will set its property tax rates Sept. 9. Based on earlier discussions, the district is leaning toward adopting last year’s rate with exonerations, which would result in an effective tax rate of 51.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

ELECTED CITY MAYOR | COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



# Local ag producers can get help from spring storm losses

Agricultural producers in Crittenden and Livingston counties who lost property due to recent natural disasters are eligible for physical loss loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers these loans for losses caused by Tornadoes, winds, and flooding that occurred during April 2, 2025 through April 6, 2025.

FSA is offering these low-interest emergency loans to producers with a qualifying loss. Approval is limited to applicants who suffered severe physical losses only, including the loss of buildings and livestock. The deadline for producers in designated primary and contiguous counties to apply for loans for physical losses is April 20, 2026.

Physical loss loans can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay. Please contact FSA for more information on loan eligibility and the application process. FSA office information is available at farmers.gov/service-center-locator. Additional FSA disaster assistance program information is available at disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

# Texas firm buys Kuttawa marina

A Texas-based private equity group has purchased Kuttawa Harbor Marina and its well-known restaurant, Hu-B's, marking a new chapter for one of Lake Barkley's most storied waterfront properties.

New Haven Marinas of Carrollton, Texas, announced the acquisition a few weeks ago, expanding its growing portfolio of marinas across three states. The company recently acquired Green River Marina in Campbellsville and now adds Kuttawa Harbor's 354 slips and hospitality offerings to its



holdings.

Co-founder Josh Conley said New Haven's strategy is to invest in properties with strong foundations and potential for growth. He said Wayne Breedlove will remain involved in the operation.

Breedlove, bought and managed the marina starting in 2011 and rebranded it as Hu-B's, is credited with reviving the harbor and bringing a festive, family-friendly atmosphere to Old Kuttawa. Hu-B's added boat rentals, live music, tiki hut-style décor and the restaurant, which became a popular lake destination for food and live music.

Before that, the marina was locally owned for nearly four decades, dating back to 1974 when Rudy and Eudell Bennett and Don and Ruth Colburn first developed the property. Rudy Bennett later became known for creating the famous Rudyburger.

# USDA offers loans for farms affected by spring storms

Farmers and producers in parts of Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri who suffered damage from severe weather this spring may now be eligible for federal assistance.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has announced the availability of low-interest physical loss loans for agricultural producers who sustained damage from tornadoes, high winds and flooding that struck between April 2-6, 2025.

The loans can help repair or replace physical property critical to farming operations, including equipment, essential buildings, fixtures to real estate, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay.

Primary counties in Illinois eligible for the program include Alexander, Clark, Gallatin, Hardin, Iroquois, Johnson, Pulaski, Union and White. Producers in several

contiguous counties in neighboring states may also apply, including Ballard, Crittenden, Livingston, McCracken and Union counties in Kentucky. Farmers in Indiana's Benton, Gibson, Newton, Posey, Sullivan and Vigo counties, as well as Missouri's Cape Girardeau, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties, are also covered. Application deadline is April 20, 2026.

More details and assistance are available at local USDA Service Centers. Producers may also use tools at farmers.gov, including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet and the Loan Assistance Tool, to determine their eligibility and loan options.

# Livingston schools join UK in historical plans for Ft. Smith

Livingston County Schools are partnering with the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council to expand historical and cultural opportunities at Fort Smith.

UK Assistant State Archaeologist Brian Mabelitini and Heritage Council Site Protection Program Administrator Nicole Konkol toured the site Wednesday and met with district leaders. They praised the work of the district's Historical and Cultural curriculum committee and said they are eager to collaborate on future programs.

District officials said the effort reflects a commitment to honoring Livingston County's history while engaging students in heritage education.

# WKRBC will host blood drive here

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center will host a community blood drive at Crittenden County High School on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donors should check in at the school office upon arrival. The regional center is encouraging participation to help meet the need for blood across western Kentucky.

Between Printed Editions  
Tune in to The Press Online  
for breaking news.  
We also ask that you subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

# Crittenden Press Letters to the Editor

## Clark County Jailer writing to support Jailer Hayes' work

To the Editor,

It recently came to my attention that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court requested the resignation of Jailer Athena Hayes. As a Board Member of the Kentucky Jailers Association, I took notice. I had my CFO, a retired CPA, go over the financial records of the Crittenden County Detention Center, fully expecting to find a financial disaster. What he found was both amazing and surprising.

My CFO found that the Crittenden County Detention Center is one of the highest performing detention centers in Kentucky when it relates to finances. My CFO's source of information was the Kentucky Department For Local Government (www.kydlgweb.ky.gov). Total operational expenditures for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025 totaled \$11,046,748. The total net taxpayer contributions for those same years were \$560,981. This means that Jailer Hayes raised 94.92% of the funds required to operate the detention center, and in a time that we've experienced very high inflation.

I further investigated and found that Jailer Hayes was the Class D Coordinator from 2014 until she took office as your constitutionally elected Jailer in 2023. For those of you who aren't familiar with the local jail systems in Kentucky, our Class D Coordinators are the people who find the revenue and utilize our excess capacity to raise money for our taxpayers. Without the Class D Coordinators hunting down every dollar of revenue, the taxpayers would have to foot the entire bill.

Jailer Athena Hayes is an asset to your county. There are 119 Fiscal Courts in Kentucky that would jump at the chance to hire an Athena Hayes. At a time when most counties of any size are annually contributing millions of dollars to their jails, you are not only contributing very little, but Jailer Hayes is employing local people who pay county and city payroll taxes, spend their money in your community and pro-

vide health insurance and retirement for your neighbors, friends and family that work for her.

In addition, Jailer Hayes Community Inmate Work Program provides valuable services that the taxpayers would otherwise have to pay for with tax dollars. If you were to factor in everything, I know that you will find that your Detention Center, as it is run by Jailer Hayes, is a major contributor to your community.

I would look hard at the motives of the people who asked her to resign, as it is obvious folly. Based on numbers alone, Jailer Hayes is one of the best Jailers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Jailer Frank Doyle  
Winchester, Ky.

## KY Jailer Association president calls on court to retract vote

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Kentucky Jailers' Association (KJA), we are submitting a letter of support for Jailer Athena Hayes, who serves as the dually elected jailer for Crittenden County. As an elected official, Jailer Hayes serves as a constitutional officer, where she was elected by the citizens of Crittenden County. We submit this letter to express our full support for Jailer Hayes and her continued service.

It has come to our attention that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County requested the resignation of Jailer Hayes at a recent Fiscal Court meeting. Specifically, we received information the county judge and magistrates jointly presented and voted on a motion, which was not listed as an item on their agenda. Furthermore, this occurred without the knowledge and physical presence of Jailer Hayes. Therefore, Jailer Hayes received no viable opportunity to be present, represent herself and/or provide any defense at the meeting.

This is very disheartening and discouraging due to the Fiscal Court serving as the primary governing authority for the county. The relationship between the Fiscal Court,

elected officials and other department heads is intended to be one of interdependence and mutual respect. Each county in our Commonwealth has the statutory responsibility to provide for the incarceration of its prisoners (KRS 441.025). Each member of the Fiscal Court and every elected official, including the jailer, serve an important role in this process.

These recent actions are also concerning due to a lack of information or evidence that Jailer Hayes was asked to resign for any moral or ethical reason. Jailer Hayes is held in high regard by the KJA and has extensive knowledge of corrections management and jail operations. Jailer Hayes is in good standing with the KJA and actively serves on our Board of Directors.

Since jailers are elected to a constitutional office, Jailer Hayes has an obligation to fulfill the term granted to her by the citizens of Crittenden County. Therefore, we respectfully request the Crittenden County Fiscal Court to publicly retract its prior vote asking for the resignation of Jailer Hayes. This can be executed by adding another voting item to the next meeting agenda or a similar process the County Attorney recommends. We also humbly ask that Jailer Hayes and the public are invited to the meeting, so she has an opportunity to respectfully engage the Fiscal Court members since she was not afforded that opportunity during the last meeting.

Our hope and aim is for Jailer Hayes to receive the level of respect and support she deserves from the governing authority of your county. As mentioned earlier, the respective positions of all counties should be based on mutual respect, support and interdependence. We hope that will be the case here. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Joshua Lindblom, President  
Kentucky Jailer's Association  
Elizabethtown, Ky.

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. See our complete letter policy at our website The-Press.com.

## JAILER HAYES RESPONSE TO FISCAL COURT REQUEST FOR HER RESIGNATION

To the citizens of Crittenden County, all local and interested parties: Aug. 25, 2025:

I have been advised that without notice to me, the members of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, specifically Magistrates, Matt Grimes, Chad Thomas, David Belt, Scott Belt, Travis Perryman, Robert Kirby and with the support of Judge Executive Perry Newcom voted to request my resignation as Crittenden County Jailer. I actually attended the August 21, 2025, Fiscal Court meeting and gave my monthly Jailers Report and answered numerous questions. After my report I had obligations that required me to depart from the meeting at 9:30am. I was given no notice of any intention to discuss or vote on a request to ask me to resign, or I would have stayed to address it at that time. I have still not received a written reason for the vote, only a call from the Judge Executive notifying me of the request for my resignation which I respectfully declined.

I was elected by the citizens of Crittenden County in a fair election. I have worked diligently to perform my job to the best of my ability the entire time I have been in office. I can only be removed by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly, and I have no plans to step down.

The atmosphere that Kentucky's jails operate in today is much different than it was 4 to 5 years ago. The number of State Inmates has dropped dramatically while operational costs have risen at an unprecedented rate. Crittenden County Detention Center is also fighting the water crisis that Marion, Kentucky is currently addressing, ironically starting the week, I won the primary election. This adds another layer to the financial strain the Detention Center now faces.

The Crittenden County Detention Center was built in 2007. The structure and equipment such as HVAC, locks, fire suppression systems, hot water heaters, kitchen equipment, etc. are aging, therefore causing maintenance costs to rise along with efficiency problems. The water crisis has added to those woes, by putting a strain on the plumbing and other operational systems due to debris in the water.

During the time that I have been Jailer, the jail has been run efficiently, with as little cost to the county as possible. The Jail provides a service that is required by statute, and we are bound to safely and securely incarcerate inmates in a manner that is moral and ethical while providing all life sustaining services. The Crittenden County Detention Center is a leader in the field of Corrections. The fact that you don't hear much about the jail is a sign of efficiency and cost-effective operation.

I have obtained a grant for new washers and dryers for the facility. I have reached out to the KY DOC to receive surplus inmate uniforms and equipment that has saved the county thousands of dollars. I have obtained a grant for video equipment and software that has allowed for the virtual court appearances of prisoners here and across the state which has saved countless tax dollars on transport costs, while enhancing the security of the court proceedings. I have also reduced the number of staff at the Detention Center cutting as much as possible to payroll without jeopardizing safety and service. Staff have taken on additional duties with very little complaint as they are aware of the need to reduce costs.

I have increased the number of work sites for inmate labor to include the City of Marion, The Marion Water Department, Marion Convenience Center, Victory Garden, Mowing Crew and litter abatement. I have also started the Crittenden Cares Program that has helped with multiple non-profit, city, and county projects that can be completed during the fall and winter months which has helped those agencies save resources that they would have had to spend on labor.

I am an active member of the Kentucky Jailers Association and have been elected by my peers, for the past 2 years, to serve on the KJA Board of Directors. I believe it is important to be at the table discussing the best interests of all Kentucky Jails and representing Crittenden County on a State level while learning from other Jailers and building relationships that I can call on during times of need.

I have repaired the relationship with local law enforcement and the Circuit Clerks Office which was badly damaged when I took office. I have worked as a team player assisting as many agencies as possible every time they call.

We have a great Jail that this county should be proud of. We have a Jail that enriches the community by more than financial gain. We help to change the lives of inmates and their families through effective incarceration.

I don't work for the County Judge Executive or the Fiscal Court. I work for the people of Crittenden County who elected me to this office. I stand by my record and believe I have effectively done the job the people have elected me to do and that will continue.

I will not be intimidated by political attacks, especially those that are unfounded. I have done and will continue to do the job I was elected to do and distractions such as this will not deter my effective discharge of my legal and Constitutional office. I would suggest that the Fiscal Court and County Judge Executive focus on making life better for our citizens, instead of wasting time playing politics.

I am willing to answer any question any citizen, or the media asks. My door is always open as it has been the entire time that I have been your Crittenden County Jailer.

I want to give my most sincere thanks to everyone who has reached out to support me and to encourage me to stand up to the attempt at intimidation. The community response has been humbling and so appreciated. The support that has been extended to me from the Kentucky Jailers Association and the many Jailers across the State has been amazing.

In closing I want to say that being elected as Crittenden County Jailer has been one of the highlights of my life. It is not an easy job. It is a calling. I am proud of the job I do, and I will continue to do it for as long as the Citizens of Crittenden County will have me.

Sincerely,  
Athena Hayes, Jailer

*The jailer's response was printed in last week's edition with unintended edits. The version above is the original, unaltered text.*

# The Crittenden Press

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# Immigration, freedom, and the dignity of work

Accurate or not, it is hard for me to separate labor from immigration. I think it is my life experience in the U.K., Honduras, and here at home that have linked the two. I recall a few conversations with West Indian immigrants from what is called the Windrush generation (1950s) in the U.K. The recent T.V. drama “Three Little Birds” tells the stories of three women who immigrated from Jamaica to the U.K.

It is difficult to be unaware of central American immigrants in recent years and the valuable labor that they provide. Many leave their home and families to send money back home. They do this because they want better for their children. People will endure great difficulties providing freedom and a better future for their children.

In a 1980 Labor Day address, President Jimmy Carter referenced the labor movement to freedom. The context was Lech Walesa and the transformation of the Polish government. “As you all know, Labor Day is a uniquely American celebration, designed to let the world know the history and the contributions of working people of our great country. But that’s not all that Labor Day is about. Labor Day is also about freedom. It’s almost impossible to separate the trade union movement of this world from freedom. It’s also about a struggle of American workers to organize and to demand for themselves, legitimately, better working conditions and at the same time to extend democracy for all Americans.”

Samuel Gompers, one of the founders of the A.F.L., was himself a Jewish immigrant from London. He found work as a cigar maker. In his autobiography we read of the pride of being a craftsman and the freedom that being good at something provid-

ed. The conditions under which they worked were undoubtedly awful by today’s standards. He was still able to write this in his autobiography, “Seventy Years of Life and Labor: An Autobiography, 1925.”

“The craftsmanship of the cigarmaker was shown in his ability to utilize wrappers to the best advantage to shave off the unusable to a hairbreadth, to roll so as to cover holes in the leaf and to use both hands

so as to make a perfectly shaped and rolled product. These things a good cigarmaker learned to do more or less mechanically, which left us free to think, talk, listen, or sing. I loved the freedom of that work, for I had earned the mind-freedom that accompanied skill as a craftsman. I was eager to learn from discussion and reading or to pour out my feeling in song. Often we chose someone to read to us who was a particularly good reader, and in payment the rest of us gave him sufficient of our cigars so he was not the loser. The reading was always followed by discussion, so we learned to know each other pretty thoroughly. We learned who could take a joke in good spirit, who could

marshal his thoughts in an orderly way, who could distinguish clever sophistry from sound reasoning. The fellowship that grew between congenial shop-mates was something that lasted a lifetime.”

I have come to appreciate craftsmanship. I dabble in projects around the house and occasionally attempt to craft a lamp or re-finish an old piece of furniture. I usually get it done... eventually. If I had to make a living at it, I would starve. I feel no freedom because I have to think intensely about what I am doing – something a professional does instinctively.

We are in a world of technology that is beyond anything I could imagine when I was a child. I still remember thinking how crazy a man from Taiwan studying at Nottingham sounded when he said he was working on comput-

ers understanding human speech. Still, with all that technology, we need people who know how to work with their hands. We need people who know how to extract the things that we need from the earth to eat and to build.

It makes sense that those who work with their hands, to build what we need, are paid a fair wage. The language in Leviticus 19:13 is not what we would use today, but the principle holds, “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.”

The history of labor in the world is one of people speaking up for fair treatment. It is punctuated by violence. Yet another indication that we do not always treat each other the way we should. I am thankful for those who

are good at what they do. I am thankful for those who extract, build, and repair the things we need for life. Meaningful work is valuable for everyone. It leads us toward freedom and a

better future.  
*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.*



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist  
Guest Columnist

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CITY OF MARION

NOTICE OF TAX-RATE PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

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

[[s]] Cortny Cosby  
Cortny Cosby, City Clerk

WORSHIP  
with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.  
"Come and Worship with Us"  
Pastor, Hank Cayce

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.

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 -











UPCOMING EVENTS  
**Rocket sports schedule**

**THURSDAY**  
Golf at Breckinridge GC  
CCHS Volleyball at Henderson County

**FRIDAY**  
CCHS football hosts Webster County

**SATURDAY**  
Junior Pro football at Trigg County  
Cross Country at McCracken County

**MONDAY**  
Golf at Deer Lakes GC  
Soccer at Union County  
CCHS Volleyball hosts Trigg County

**TUESDAY**  
Soccer at Hopkins Central  
CCHS volleyball hosts Christian Co.  
CCMS Football at James Madison

**CCMS falls to South**

Crittenden County Middle School was on the road Tuesday seeking its first win of the season at South Hopkins. Results of that game were not available at press time. The team lost 42-8 last week at Henderson South. Jacoby Lynch scored the Rockets only touchdown on a 63-yard kickoff return in the third quarter.

GOLF  
**CCVFD hosts fundraiser**

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

DISTANCE RUNNING  
**5K to benefit cemetery**

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

OUTDOORS  
**Area WMA quota hunts**

Kentucky hunters have until Sept. 30 to apply for quota hunts, which include special opportunities at Higginson-Henry and Big Rivers wildlife management areas (WMAs) in western Kentucky. At Higginson-Henry WMA in Union County, two deer quota hunts are scheduled. An archery and crossbow-only season runs Oct. 20-Nov. 30, followed by a gun hunt Nov. 1-2. Department-issued hang tags are required, and hunters must telecheck harvested deer. Big Rivers WMA and State Forest in Crittenden County will also host two deer quota hunts this fall. An archery and crossbow-only season runs Oct. 20-Nov. 30, with a gun hunt Nov. 1-2. Like Higginson-Henry, hunters must use department-issued tags and check in harvested deer. In addition, Big Rivers WMA is offering dove quota hunts Sept. 1 and Sept. 6, from noon to 5 p.m. each day. Twenty-five slots are available per hunt, and hunters may bring one guest. Other WMAs and state parks across Kentucky are also part of the quota hunt system, but Higginson-Henry and Big Rivers highlight local opportunities. Applications can be made at fw.ky.gov/Quota.

**Hunting Seasons**

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

Bullfrog	May 16 - Oct 31
Coyote night, no lights	July 1 - Nov 30
Squirrel	Aug 16 - Nov 7
Dove	Sept 1 - Oct 26
Crow	Sept 1 - Nov 9
Canada goose	Sept 1 - Sept 15
Deer archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Turkey archery	Sept 6 - Jan 19
Deer crossbow	Sept 20 - Jan 19
Early wood duck	Sept 20-24
Teal	Sept 20-24
Turkey crossbow	Oct 1 - Oct 19
Raccoon	Oct 1 - Feb 28
Deer Youth	Oct 11-12
Deer muzzleloader	Oct 18-19
Turkey shotgun	Oct 25-31
Woodcock	Oct 25 - Nov 7

Rockets host winless Trojans Friday

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County will be back at home Friday night, looking for its first win of the season as it hosts Webster County. The Trojans (0-2) have been outscored 104-12 in losses to Calloway County and Muhlenberg County to start the year.

The Rockets, also 0-2, have had much better luck historically in this matchup. Crittenden leads the all-time series 37-14 and has won the last 10 meetings. Kickoff is 7 p.m. at Rocket Stadium.

Last week, the Rockets went deep into the playbook and dusted off the old-fashioned single-wing offense in hopes of slowing down Union County. For a quarter, it worked. The Rockets chewed up clock and grabbed a 7-0 lead, but the Braves answered with 40 straight points on their way to a 40-13 win.

Starting quarterback Quinn Summers and leading receiver Caden Howard both missed the game after injuries suffered in the season-opener at Marshall County. That left senior running back Trae Taylor to shoulder the load. He rushed for a career-high 84 yards on 20 carries and scored both Crittenden touchdowns. His 2-yard plunge late in the first quarter gave the Rockets an early edge, and his 4-yard run in the final minute capped the night’s scoring.

“Obviously the game plan was ball control,” Rocket coach Gaige Courtney said. “You’ve got to be physical, you can’t have penalties, you can’t have negative plays, you can’t have turnovers. You have to play very clean to play that style of football and be good at it. We did a good job for a while, but then we had some of those mistakes.”

Courtney said he was proud of the way his players adjusted.

“They had a lot of new stuff go in in a short period of time,” he said.

Taylor also admitted the offense was unfamiliar, pointing out that the team worked



PHOTO BY ALLISON EVANS

**Rocket sophomore Eli Lovell was one of multiple running backs who saw action carrying the ball in a makeshift offense deployed last Friday against Union County. Lovell was also named defensive player of the game by the coaching staff. He had 6 solo tackles and an interception.**

on it a couple of days prior to the game, but the team had bought into the plan and worked hard to learn it.

“The offense we were running you really have to keep it close,” the coach said.

Crittenden’s defense gave the Rockets a chance early, forcing a turnover on downs, two punts, a fumble recovery by Dokota Sosh, and an interception by Eli Lovell. But Union piled up 411 total yards, including 293 on the ground, as Willem McPeake (140 yards, two TDs) and Max Nobles (88 yards, two TDs) wore down the defense.

Middle linebacker Brayden Poindexter led the defense again last week with a dozen tackles, including one for loss. Sosh had eight total tackles and Davis Perryman had seven solos.

The Rockets finished with 158 total yards – 121 rushing and 37 passing – and were undone by three lost fumbles, an interception and 80 penalty yards.

Crittenden and Webster both enter Friday’s game seeking a breakthrough, and for the Rockets, history suggests this might be their best shot yet.

**SCORE BY QUARTER**

Union County	0	20	6	14
Crittenden Co.	7	0	0	6

**SCORING PLAYS**

C-Trae Taylor 2 run (Mitchell Brown kick) :47, 1st  
U-Willem McPeake 4 run (Jerry Sabino kick) 7:52, 2nd  
U-Landon Fletcher 1 run (Sabino kick) 2:49, 2nd  
U-Abrien Fletcher 11 pass from Landon French (kick failed) :04, 2nd  
U-Max Nobles 4 run (run failed) 5:42, 3rd  
U-McPeake 6 run (Sabino kick) 7:30, 4th  
U-Nobles 7 run (Sabino kick) 4:15, 4th  
C-Taylor 4 run (conversion failed) :25, 4th

**TEAM TOTALS**

First Downs: CCHS 11, UCHS 16  
Penalties: CCHS 10-80, UCHS 8-85  
Rushing: CCHS 38-121, UCHS 38-293  
Passing: CCHS 3-7-1, 37; UCHS 9-15-1, 118

Total Yards: CCHS 158, UCHS 411  
Fumbles/Lost: CCHS 6-3, UCHS 2-1

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**Rushing**  
CCHS: Taylor 20-84, Eli Lovell 13-21, Conner Poindexter 3-20, Dokota Sosh 101, Noah Byford 1-(-5). UCHS: McPeake 18-140, Nobels 8-88, Fletcher 7-40, Brady Steward 3-24.

**Passing**  
CCHS: Poindexter 3-5-1, 37; Lovell 0–2-0. UCHS: Nobels 0-4-1; French 9-11-0, 118.

**Receiving**  
CCHS: Jay Stevenson 1-15, Brayden Poindexter 1-14, Sosh 1-8.

**Defense**  
Brandsasse 4 solos, assist, TFL; Counts assist; Pierson 2 solos, assist; Gary Hall 2 solos, 2 assists; B.Poindexter 9 solos, 3 assists, TFL; D.Sosh 5 solos, 3 assists, fumble recovery; Stevenson solo; Taylor 2 solos, 2 assists; Byford solo, 5 assists; Musser 2 solos, 5 assists; Perryman 7 solos, caused fumble; Curnel 2 solos, 4 assists; Lovell 6 solos, interception. Players of the Game: Offense Trae Taylor, Defense Eli Lovell, Lineman Keegan Pierson, special teams Noah Byford.

**Records:** Crittenden 0-2, Union 1-1

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

**Crittenden County goal keeper Macibelle Hardesty gets lined up to prevent a goal during last week’s soccer match against Trigg.**

LADY ROCKETS SOCCER

In a district matchup last Thursday at Marion, the Lady Rockets fell 8–2 despite striking first. Junior Kylie Bloodworth and sophomore Adri Berry each scored a goal, with assists from sophomore Haley Moore and Bloodworth. Junior goalkeeper Macibelle Hardesty turned away six shots in the loss, which dropped Crittenden to 4–3 on the season and 0–2 in league play.

The soccer girls played Union County on Tuesday, results were not available by press time this week.

LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rocket volleyball team, ranking No. 1 in the preseason poll has posted a 4–6 record so far, but the girls remain in first place in the Fifth District with recent wins over Trigg and Livingston.

In a non–district machup at Heritage Christian last Thursday, Crittenden was blanked in straight sets 25–20, 25–23, 25–21. They will be back in action Thursday for a challenging match at Henderson County.



PHOTO BY GREG PERRYMAN

**Hadley Myers (7) returns a shot for Crittenden County in a volleyball match last week at Heritage Christian.**

CRITTENDEN GOLF

Lyon County topped Crittenden County 164–203 in boys’ golf action last Thursday at The Cullen Golf Course at Mineral Mounds in Eddyville. The Lyons were led by Carson Collins, who shot a match–low 36. Cooper Collins followed with a 38, Cohen Wiggins had 41, Jonah Renfrow 49 and Jimmy Cowan 50. Crittenden was paced by Bentley Rushing with a 47. Cash Singleton shot 50, Jaxton Duncan 52, Levi Quertermous 50 and Hudson Stokes 54. Gunner Topp added a 58. In girls action, Georgia Holman shot a 46 and Abby Korzenborn a 55.

•Crittenden County and Lyon County finished in a tie Tuesday, Aug. 26 at Deer Lakes Golf Course, each posting a team score of 188. Cash Singleton led the Rockets with a 43, which earned him medalist honors. Mitchell Brown shot 47, Jaxton Duncan and Hudson Stokes each carded 49s, and Levi Quertermous added a 62. For Lyon County, Carson Collins fired a 45, Cooper Collins 46, Cohen Wiggins 48, Jonah Renfrow 49 and Jimmy Cowan 52.

**GOOD LUCK  
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Animal Clinic**

Dr. Elizabeth A. Maddux • Dr. Michelle Hughes

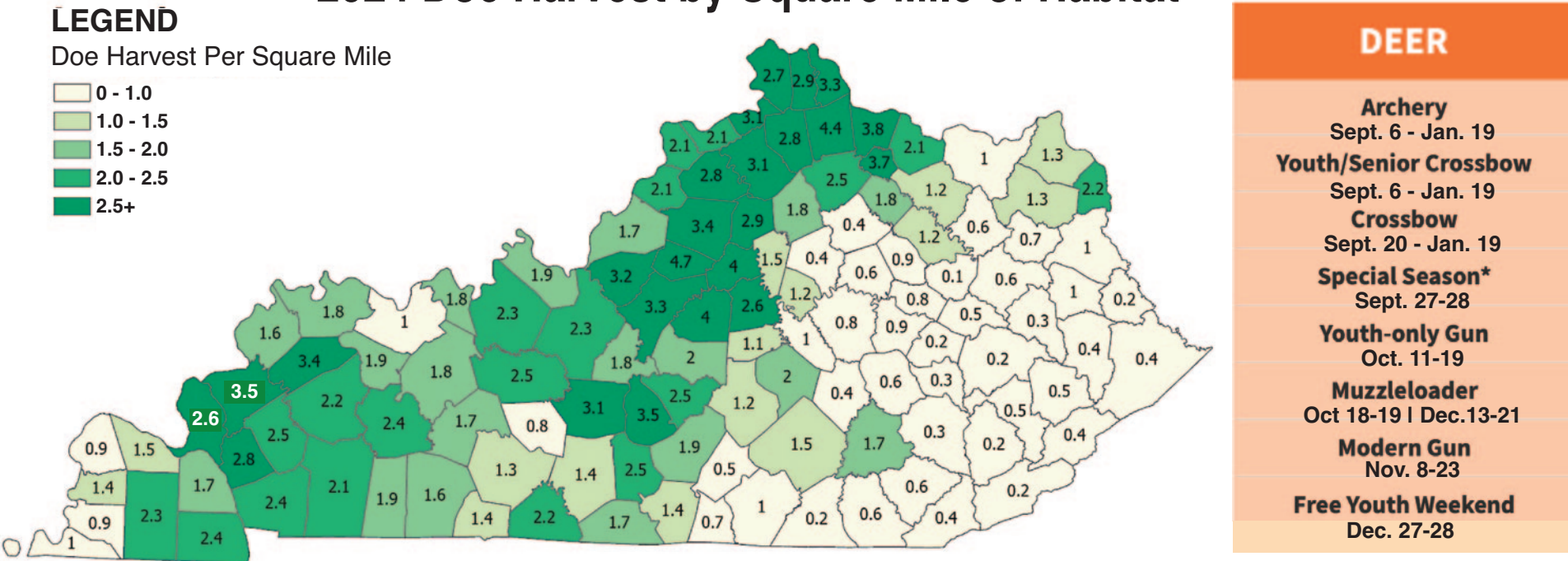
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## 2024 Doe Harvest by Square Mile of Habitat

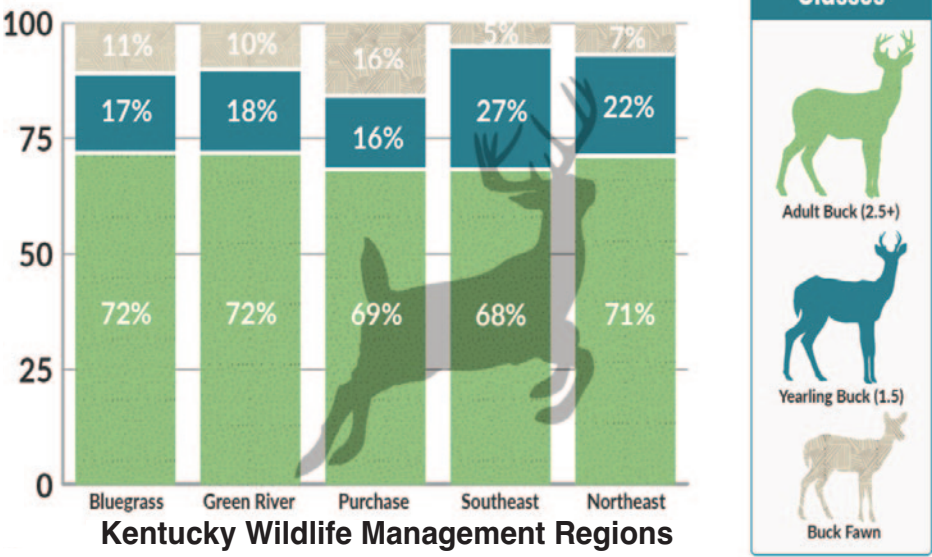


## Crittenden remains among top harvest counties

A map from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (above) shows that Crittenden County had one of the highest doe harvest densities in the state last season, with 3.5 antlerless deer taken per square mile of habitat in 2024. That figure ranks the county among the top producers in Kentucky and the leader in western Kentucky, where most counties ranged between 1.5 and 3 does per square mile. Neighboring Livingston County reported 2.6 per square mile, while Webster was closer to Crittenden at 3.4. Densities in other border counties were 2.5 or less. The Purchase and Green River regions as a whole show stronger harvest densities compared to eastern Kentucky, where many counties reported less than one doe per square mile. Despite the high take locally, biolo-

gists are urging hunters to continue focusing on antlerless harvests to better balance herds and prevent habitat strain. Insurance companies are also pushing for a bigger harvest. Wildlife officials say managing the doe population is key to long-term deer health and maintaining sustainable hunting opportunities. A new chart (at right) from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources shows how buck age classes broke down in the 2024-25 deer harvest across the state's five wildlife management regions. Crittenden is in the Purchase Wildlife Region. In the Purchase Region, 16 percent of the harvest were buck fawns, 16 percent yearlings and 69 percent adults. The data provide insight into herd structure and hunting pressure, offering wildlife officials tools to guide deer management.

## 2024-25 KY Antlered Deer Harvest



## Hunting for deer starts on Saturday

Cool September temperatures have many people thinking about shorter days, crisp, cool mornings and changing leaves – all signs of fall and the hunting opportunities it brings across Kentucky. Before going afield, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources encourages hunters to reference the 2025-2026 Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide, available online and at vendors, to update themselves on new season dates and regulations. New regulations are in effect for deer, bear, dove and waterfowl hunting, in addition to changes on some public lands. Kentucky's archery deer season opens this weekend, Sept. 6, with crossbow season opening two weeks later, on Sept. 20. Both seasons close Jan. 19. New for 2025 is an extended youth-only modern gun season. Expanded to nine days from two, the season runs Oct. 11-19. The most popular fall hunting opportunity is the modern gun season, Nov. 8-23.

"The vast majority of our deer harvest comes from the modern gun season," said Joe McDermott, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's deer program coordinator. "With the additional youth opportunity, we are looking for more antlerless deer to be harvested, especially in Zone 1 counties. We've added a special season for our Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Zone counties as well." The "special season" is Sept. 27-28 for antlerless deer only and is open only in the fourteen counties in the CWD Surveillance Zone. Henderson, Union and Webster counties are new additions to the zone for 2025 to go along with Ballard, Breckinridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hardin, Hickman, Marshall, McCracken and Meade. Modern guns are allowed during the special season, but only antlerless deer may be taken, regardless of equipment used. Unless they are Ken-



Hunters in the CWD Surveillance Zone are advised to review the hunting and trapping guide as well as the Chronic Wasting Disease pages on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website for complete information on restrictions for the CWD zone. Updates on baiting, check stations and CWD Sample Drop-off Sites are included. Kentucky's fall hunting seasons kicked off Aug. 16 with the opening of the fall squirrel season. The season closes briefly on Nov. 8 for the start of modern gun season for deer, then reopens Nov. 10 and runs until Feb. 28. Squirrels present one of the greatest opportunities for hunters due to the high density of the species and relative ease to hunt them. The opening of dove season was Monday and this first segment of the season runs through Oct. 26. A new regulation affects public land hunters in 2025. Dove hunters may not use decoys on department-controlled lands during the month of September. "The goal of our public dove fields is to provide a safe and quality hunting experience to as many people as we can," said John Brunjes, waterfowl and migratory bird program coordinator. "Eliminating decoys on our public fields during their busiest time helps to accomplish that." The Kentucky Hunting Guide for Migratory Birds and Waterfowl is an important resource to view season dates and bag limits. The teal hunting season is reduced to five days this fall and the daily harvest limit for pintail ducks is now three birds. Changes have also been made to the standby hunt procedure at Ballard and Boatright Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

tucky residents hunting on their own property, hunters born after 1974 must be hunter education certified. This applies to all hunting and species. Schedules for hunter safety courses are available on the department's Hunter Education webpage.

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# Chamber seeks nominations for community awards

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for its 2025 awards, which will be presented during the Chamber Gala on Saturday, Oct. 25 at historic Fohs Hall.

Community members are invited to submit nominations in a variety of categories that recognize outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations for their impact in Crittenden County. Chamber President Rebecca Woodall said the awards are designed to highlight people who go “above and beyond” in their work and service.

The event theme is Painting the Town Blue, taken from the high school’s traditional color.

“The gala is one of our most exciting events of the year,” Woodall said. “We’ll be painting the town blue this year, it’s still formal, but we’re encouraging everyone to add a little rocket blue into their attire. I’m already shopping for my blue heels.”

In keeping with the blue theme, there will be a blue-grass tint to the show as local musician and entertainer Cutter Singleton will be master of ceremonies.

Woodall said nominations are due by the end of September.

The Volunteer of the Year award will honor a person, group, business or organization whose selfless service went above and beyond in 2025. While the recipient does not have to live in Crittenden



GO ONLINE TO NOMINATE  
Crittendencountychamber.org

County, their efforts must have directly benefited the community.

“It’s for someone who just really outstandingly does more than the occasional volunteer job,” Woodall explained.

The Young Professional of the Year recognizes a county resident under 30 who is pursuing career success while upholding high standards of professionalism, leadership, teamwork and community involvement. The Young Tradesperson of the Year also goes to someone under 30 who lives or works in the county. This individual must be excelling in their trade, showing professionalism and dedication while strengthening the local network of tradespeople.

The Top Woman in Business award highlights a woman who either resides in or works in Crittenden County and plays a key role in her business operations.

“They don’t have to own the business,” Woodall said. “But they need to be in a key role and be someone who inspires those around them.”

The Crittenden County Schools Person of the Year will be chosen from school system employees who excel in their roles, embody the district’s core values, and make a meas-

urable impact on students and staff.

The Up and Coming Business of the Year recognizes a business that has been established, re-established, expanded or renovated within the last two years. The honoree should demonstrate growth, contribute to the local economy and provide new employment opportunities.

The Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility award will go to a business that leads in ethical practices, environmental responsibility, sustainability and other quality-of-life initiatives.

“This one sometimes gets questions,” Woodall said.

It’s really about businesses that step up for the good of everyone, she explained. For example, Beavers Car Wash shut down during the early days of the water crisis to conserve resources – that’s the kind of thing this award recognizes.

The Crittenden County Business of the Year recognizes a registered local business that has set itself apart in the last year through growth, service, sacrifice, volunteering or accomplishment. The business must be seen as a vital part of the county’s economy.

The Community Spirit Award may be presented to an individual, family, group, business or organization whose enthusiasm and support uplift Crittenden County. The recipient does not have to reside here, but their spirit must positively impact the community.

— PREVIOUS CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS —

- Legacy Award**  
2024: Alan Stout  
2023: Chris Cook
- Volunteer of the Year**  
2024: Leslea Barnes  
2023: Jason Hatfield  
2022: None  
2021: COVID  
2020: Serena Dickerson  
2019: Taner Tabor  
2018: Chris Evans  
2017: Elizabeth Floyd  
2016: Natalie Parish  
2015: Kristi Beavers  
2014: Kim Vince  
2013: Fred Stubblefield  
2012: Bob Briley  
2011: Toyia Redd  
2010: Helen Lewis  
2009: Sarah Ford  
2008: Margaret Gilland  
2007: Ron Padget
- Customer Service**  
2020: Abbie Mills  
2019: H&H Home & Hardware  
2018: Allison Evans  
2017: Phillis Hardin

- 2016: Melanie Lloyd  
2015: Clifton Etheridge  
2014: Pam Enoch  
2013: Ideal Gas  
2012: Terry Ford Insurance  
2011: Farmers Bank tellers  
2010: Donny Herron  
2009: Alma Tabor  
2008: Keith Hart
- Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility**  
2024: Extension Office  
2023: Beavers Car Wash
- Business of the Year**  
2024: H&H Home and Hardware  
2023: Farmers Bank
- Young Professional**  
2024: Maddie Travis  
2023: Adam Beavers
- Young Tradesperson**  
2024: Brennan Cruce  
2023: Layla West
- Top Woman in Business**  
2024: Crystal Capps  
2023: Allison Evans

“It’s those people or groups you see cheering on all aspects of Crittenden County, from sports to the arts,” Woodall said.

Finally, the Legacy Award honors a person whose long-term dedication and commitment to Crittenden County exemplifies values of trust, innovation, teamwork, passion and integrity. Their leadership has left a lasting mark on the community.

It’s the Chamber’s version of a lifetime achievement award, Woodall said.

Nomination forms are available at Crittenden County

Public Library and Extension office. Submissions may also be made online at Crittendencountychamber.org.

“There’s a big blue banner on our website where you can make nominations for one or all of the categories,” Woodall said.

The gala is one of the Chamber’s most formal evenings of the year, drawing members of the business community, civic leaders and residents together to celebrate local achievement.

“It’s a night to dress to the nines, have fun and celebrate each other,” Woodall said.



## Color of Fun

Crittenden County High School senior Gavin Grimes adds a personal touch to her parking spot over Labor Day weekend. Painting parking spaces is a relatively new tradition reserved for seniors, blending creativity with school pride and giving each graduate a lasting mark on the lot.

With gratitude, joy, and a bit of sadness, we are honored to announce the retirement of our friend

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ELECTED COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE | MAGISTRATES

## Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Fiscal Court meets in regular session at the courthouse at 8:30 a.m., on the third Thursday of each month

Judge-executive

Perry  
**Newcom (R)**  
107 S. Main St.  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.965.5251 (o)  
270.704.0457 (c)  
Perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org

District 1 Magistrate

Dave  
**Belt (R)**  
308 Chandler Farm Rd.  
Sturgis, KY 42459  
270.704.0199 (c)  
Dave.Belt@crittendencountyky.org

District 2 Magistrate

Matt  
**Grimes (R)**  
301 State Route 297  
Marion, Ky. 42064  
270.704.9832 (c)  
matt.grimes@crittendencountyky.org

District 3 Magistrate

Robert  
**Kirby (R)**  
1698 Chapel Hill Road  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.889.1504 (c)  
Robert.kirby@crittendencounty.org

District 4 Magistrate

Chad  
**Thomas (D)**  
701 Hebron Church Rd.  
Marion, KY 42064  
270.965.9727 (h)  
270.339.4949 (c)  
Chad.Thomas@crittendencountyky.org

District 5 Magistrate

Travis  
**Perryman (R)**  
1700 Jackson School Road  
Fredonia KY 42411  
270.969.1168 (c)  
Travis.perryman@crittendencountyky.org

District 6 Magistrate

Scott  
**Belt (R)**  
397 Fishtrap Road  
Marion KY 42064  
270.704.0366 (c)  
Scott.belt@crittendencountyky.org