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

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ONE DOLLAR

Free Dump Days

Next week is Crittenden County's annual free dump days. On Thursday through Saturday, May 16-18, county residents can get rid of items or old tires from the home or garage. Residential garbage is not accepted as part of the free dump days. Free dumping is available at the Crittenden County Convenience Center from 8 a.m., to 3:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, May 16-17, and 8 a.m., to noon Saturday, May 18.



Aerie Suggs with a cicada

Counting cicadas yet?

An anticipated cicada invasion is blooming. Thousands of the insects have been spotted in Crittenden County based on a query made on our social media platforms. Others confirmed sightings range throughout west Kentucky and well beyond to other states in the Southeast, Midwest and Upper Midwest. You can track the emergence using the cellphone app Cicada Safari. This year's brood of the 17-year cicada is emerging simultaneously with the 13-year brood. This co-emergence hasn't occurred in 221 years and won't happen again until 2245. The bugs' arrival is typically triggered when soil temperature reaches 64 degrees at a depth of 8 inches. Screeching sounds made by mating males can be very loud. You're probably already hearing their rhythmic hum. The bugs are harmless to humans and pets and wild animals feast on them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Livingston County Board of Education meets at 6 p.m., Monday, May 13.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 16 at Rocket Arena conference room.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, May 20 at city hall.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 21 at Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 21 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., the Thursday, May 23 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, May 20 at Deer Lakes meeting room.



MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12

Unexpected title blesses Marion Mom

BY ALLISON EVANS
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Five years ago, Margie Walker accepted a call to become a mother.

Through unconventional means, Walker took on the role of sole caregiver for three children removed from their home.

It was emotional, a bit overwhelming. But without hesitation she stepped in instantly when asked to provide a safe and loving environment for youngsters that are now 7, 10 and 15 years old.

In honor of Mother's Day Sunday, Walker was chosen as The Crittenden Press' Queen for a Day after being nominated by her sister Elizabeth Floyd. Walker was showered with gifts this week from sponsors Louise's Flowers, Full Body Fitness Studio, Fitness 24/7, Hodge's Sports & Apparel, H&H Home and Hardware and The Crittenden Press.

"At 45, she became an instant mother of three kids but never had her own children," Floyd wrote in her nomination. "She has been down to the lowest of

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lows to the highest of highs with these kids and loves them all with a full, loving heart."

Through Kinship Care, Walker receives less state assistance than families who serve as foster parents. As a result, she used savings from her 401k to purchase furniture, clothing and other necessities for the children when they were placed in her home on a moment's notice in 2019.

With the help from her family, friends, and former co-workers, she took on the role of Mom to three youth whose lives were turned upside down, affected emotionally from an abrupt removal from their parents.

"I knew I didn't want the kids separated," she said. "The oldest had already been living in

my home for two years and I didn't want the youngest two going into foster care.

"I knew I would try to help out any way and be a positive influence for them and break generational cycles," Walker said. "I thought, 'Here are these helpless children who have been in a situation they didn't ask to be in,' so I knew I would try to do anything to help them, there was never any doubt that I would."

Walker was awarded permanent custody in January 2021. Today, the youngsters see their father, who Walker says is working and doing well, as frequently as their schedules allow.

Floyd watched in admiration as her sister began managing her new family's physical and emotional needs while working a full-time job with the State of Kentucky.

"This journey I've been on has been a struggle and overwhelming, but it has been a blessing," Walker said. "They've touched my heart and made it even bigger because of the love I have for them."



Margie Walker

Franchising commercial garbage set for this fall

STAFF REPORT

This fall, Crittenden County will enter into an exclusive franchise agreement with a commercial garbage collection provider.

The move could mean local businesses will need to switch providers as only one will be licensed to operate inside the county.

County officials believe that by franchising commercial garbage collection, it will create a more uniform, better consumer environment with consistent pricing and service for all.

Right now, Crittenden County does not have an exclusive franchise agreement with a commercial operator. Businesses are free to negotiate details of service and pricing with any collection agency that provides services to the area. There are at least three operating in the county right now.

Early last year, the county announced that beginning October 2024, it would enter into an exclusive agreement with one commercial provider. It already provides exclusive franchising for residential garbage pickup. Impact Waste currently has those rights after winning a five-year contract through a competitive bid process last year. Impact's bid was lower than GFL Environmental, which had provided local residential collection for almost 20 years.

Providers are increasingly demanding an opportunity for exclusive agreements, particularly in small, rural counties like Crittenden where transportation and other expenses can create remarkably thin margins.

The commercial franchise will be structured so that it runs contractually concurrent with the county's residential franchise, which began early this year.

Bids will be accepted sometime in June for commercial service, and the new franchise agreement will begin Oct. 1.

County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom says some commercial businesses that generate a low volume of trash and are able to subscribe to residential collection using a 96-gallon

See TRASH/page 2

Cook taking on role as CCHS principal in 24-25

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Assistant Principal Josh Cook is being promoted to principal at Crittenden County High School.

The move will be made when school reopens in August for the 2024-25 academic year.

Cook was chosen for the post following interviews conducted by the school's Site-Based Decision-Making Council and Superintendent Tonya Driver last week.

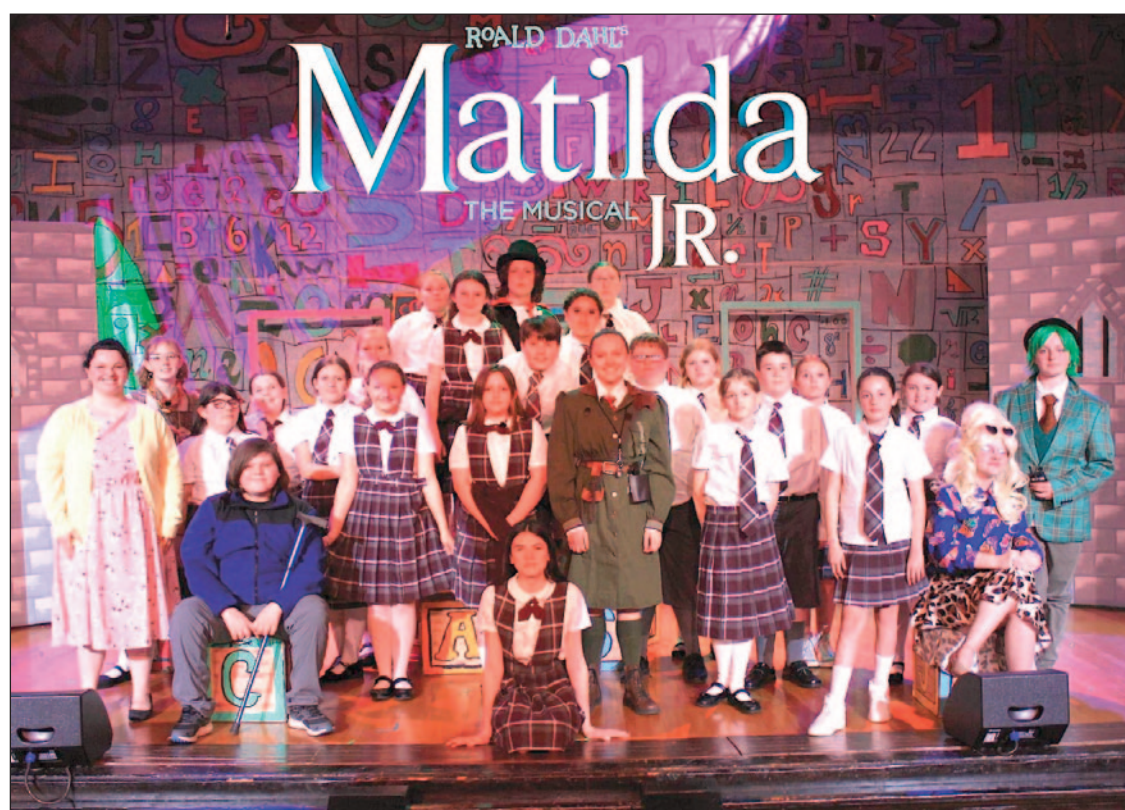
A Caldwell County native and graduate of Murray State University, Cook has experience as a special education teacher and response

to intervention instructor at the elementary, middle and high school levels. He also served at Christian County High School as an intervention coach prior to accepting the position of assistant principal for Crittenden County High School for the 2023-24 school year.

Cook replaces interim principal Rhonda Callaway, who will continue to serve the district as a secondary instructional supervisor in addition to coordinating post-secondary readiness and career and technical education.



Cook



Casting Call

Big crowds turned out for four shows over two weeks as the Community Arts Foundation presented Matilda Jr. The Musical at Fohs Hall. Pictured is the cast (kneeling) Grier Crider, (seated) Aidan Smith and Holley Curnel, (front row from left) Katie Beth James, SkyLynn Brown, Amber Smith, Caroline James, Adilyn Curtis, Emme Lynch, Abigail James, Hannah Peek, Ali Hollis, Zane Smith, Alana West, Lilly Newcom, Holt Crider, Kailynn Curtis, Kinlee Wood, Jacilyn Curtis, Paige McMackin, (back row) Willa-Beth Brown, Dailah McMackin, Zak Smith, Cale Tabor, Daisy Mireles and Nora Hollis. The show was directed by Corey and Michelle Crider.



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