

JAG program marks growth with ribbon-cutting

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Middle School JAG program marked its growth and early success with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony last week at Rocket Arena.

The event recognized the presence of Jobs for America’s Graduates at the middle school level and highlighted the program’s impact on students in just its first two years. Nearly 50 middle school students currently participate in the program.

Middle school JAG coordinator Jared Brown was joined for the ceremony by JAG Program Manager Stephanie Rickman, Superintendent Tonya Driver, Middle School Principal Ashley Frederick, and students enrolled in the program. Also attending were Emma Coleman, JAG coordinator at Crittenden



Students (in front) participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) Abel McKinney, Jase Asbridge, Ella Belt and Axton Rich.

County High School, and several students from the high school program.

The middle school initiative grew out of the success of JAG at the high school, which is

employability skills.

Brown said a central focus of the program is helping students challenge themselves beyond familiar boundaries.

“Learning to be comfortable with being uncomfortable is an integral part of becoming a leader,” Brown said.

He added that preparing students for the transition to high school is a key objective of the middle school program.

“In the end, I want to send honest, empathetic, accountable, resilient, and decisive young men and women to high school where it is my expectation they continue to grow,” Brown said.

JAG is a nationally recognized program designed to support students through career exploration, leadership training and personal develop-

ment, with the goal of improving graduation rates and long-term success. At the middle school level, the program emphasizes building confidence, communication skills and teamwork while introducing students to career pathways and goal setting.

School officials said the ribbon-cutting symbolized more than just a new program location — it represented a commitment to investing in students earlier and providing them with tools to succeed academically and personally.

With strong participation numbers and continued support from district leadership, the middle school JAG program is expected to remain a key part of the district’s efforts to prepare students for high school and beyond.

Belt serving as appointee on 2026 Elections Board

Magistrate Scott Belt will serve as Sheriff Evan Head’s 2026 appointee to Crittenden County Board of Elections. Both are Republicans.

Kentucky sheriffs, statutory members of their respective county’s four-member Board of Elections, must temporarily resign their seat during any year they are seeking office. Since Head is seeking re-election next year, the selection to fill his seat is his own. Belt, who has previously served as former Sheriff Wayne Agent’s appointee to the Board, will not be seeking re-election to his District 6 seat on Crittenden Fiscal Court; therefore, no conflict exists.

Belt’s appointment was acknowledged at Friday’s Board of Elections regular meeting.

In addition to the sheriff, County Boards of Elections are comprised of the county clerk, who serves as chair of the group, and both Republican and Democratic county party committee appointees. County Clerks may, but are not obligated to temporarily resign their seat during a year in which they are seeking election.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor will retain his seat on the Board in



Scott Belt

2026 and will be joined by Belt, Democrat Kathleen Guess and Republican Jared Byford in administering election laws and supervising registration and purgation of voters within the county.

Also at Friday’s meeting, the Board set its 2026 calendar for regular meetings, which are open to the public. Generally, meetings are set for 3:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in which there is no election, save Feb. 3; and all meetings are held at Crittenden County Office Complex. The Board meets in all-day session on May 19 and Nov. 3 for the primary and general elections, respectively. It will also meet at noon on May 21 and Nov. 5 for post-election certification and audits.

The 2026 meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb 3 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14 at 3:30 p.m.
Primary Election Day: All day Tuesday, May 19
Thursday, May 21 at noon for certification, SBE 49, post-election audit
Tuesday, June 9 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 14 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 3:30 p.m.
General Election Day: All day Tuesday, Nov. 3
Thursday, Nov. 5 at noon for certification, SBE 49, post-election audit
Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m.



NOVEMBER 2025

Activity Report

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

	Nov.	2024 Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	9	7.6
Complaints	43	66.8
Papers Served	34	53.0
Unsuccessful Service Attempts	3	5.5
Total Service Attempts	63	104.1
Transports	1	4.3
Special Detail	87	58.7
Training Hours	300.5	41.1
Verbal Warning	19	24.4
Courtesy Notice	1	—
Criminal Citation	22	17.7
Officer Assist	5	5.7
Building Checks	82	50.6
Total Manhours	956	832
Bailiff Court Hours	128	86.7
Cases Opened	2	8.0
Felony Arrests	8	8.8
Followup Investigations	2	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	8	10
Motorist Assists	1	8.3
DUIs	0	2.5
Traffic Citations	4	14.1
General Policing	224	156
Call for Service	31	21

SHERIFF EVAN HEAD

CITY OF MARION NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 25-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-10 THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SETTING COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS FOR THE SAME FISCAL YEAR

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on December 15, 2025, 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 meeting of the City Council held on November 17, 2025, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the Pay Plan to provide a 5.9% increase to the City Treasurer in the amount of \$55,000.00.

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.

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December 15, 2025

Sex crimes among 11 indictments by jurors

STAFF REPORT

A Livingston County grand jury returned a series of indictments this month. A grand jury’s role is limited to determining whether sufficient probable cause exists for charges to proceed in circuit court; it does not determine guilt or innocence.

•Mary Rebecca Penn, 36, of Marion was originally charged with a felony wanton endangerment count, but the case was amended to a misdemeanor. She is now charged with second-degree wanton endangerment and third-degree terroristic threatening, both misdemeanors. Her case was remanded to district court.

•David R. Morris, 55, of Owensboro was indicted for felony first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Morris was arrested Aug. 3 when a search warrant was executed at a residence on Iuka Road near Grand Rivers in connection with an ongoing investigation into illegal drug activity, according to a police citation.

•Donald V. Moore Jr., 63, of Marion was indicted for felony first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), along with charges of speeding, reckless driving, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting arrest and first-offense DUI. Court records

LIVINGSTON COUNTY GRAND JURY

indicate the charges stem from a February 2023 traffic stop after deputies observed a silver Ford Escape swerving across the roadway. Investigators allegedly found a digital scale and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle. Officers also reported discovering bags of suspected meth on the ground and in Moore’s hand. Deputies seized \$2,241 believed to be drug proceeds.

•Corey J. Stokes, also known as Wolf Rezz, 26, of Glen Allen, Va., was indicted on a direct submission for prohibited use of an electronic communication system to procure a minor for sex.

•Lori Kinnes, 57, of Burna was indicted on two counts of indecent exposure, along with charges of public intoxication, second-degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, two counts of third-degree assault and two counts of third-degree terroristic threatening. According to court records, Livingston County sheriff’s deputies responded to Salem on Oct. 2 following reports of a naked woman yelling at passing vehicles. Deputies located Kinnes behind a residence at 101 E. Main St., where she allegedly appeared incoherent and under the influence of an illegal substance. During the arrest, she allegedly resisted, fell to the ground and kicked Deputy Caleb Kindred in the groin.

During transport, she allegedly threatened Kindred and Sheriff Bobby Davidson, according to a citation.

•Karsten Johansen, also known as Glenn Johansen, 67, of Ledbetter was indicted on a direct submission for first-degree sexual abuse.

•Elizabeth Edwards, 38, of Paducah was indicted for first-degree possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), along with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and careless driving.

•James B. Wurth, 47, of Benton was indicted for flagrant nonsupport.

•Jayson P. Workman, 47, of Smithland had a felony assault charge amended to fourth-degree assault and was indicted on remaining charges of second-degree criminal mischief, third-degree terroristic threatening and felony intimidating a participant in the legal process.

•Stephen Wade Norville, 46, of Barnhart, Mo., was indicted for first-degree fleeing or evading police, along with ATV violations and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

•Kevin George, 39, of Smithland was indicted for felony second-degree strangulation, along with misdemeanor charges of fourth-degree assault and operating on a suspended or revoked operator’s license.

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Continued from page 1

county is looking at January or February to begin that process, which would reset the timeline for selecting a long-term provider.

In November, the county had received competing proposals from Com-Care and AmeriPro Health Ambulance outlining a range of coverage levels and

costs, from single-unit 24-hour advanced life support service to expanded multi-unit staffing models. Neither will be accepted at this time based on new developments.

Newcom said the extension gives the fiscal court flexibility to review service models, financing and long-term sustainability before making a final decision on the future of ambulance service in Crittenden County.

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