

## Sen. Howell pushes for titling system updates

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Jason Howell to modernize Kentucky’s electronic vehicle titling system advanced from committee this week with a Senate committee substitute reflecting requests from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and county clerks.

Senate Bill 110 sets timelines and procedures aimed at ensuring the state’s electronic titling and lien processing system is fully operational before a complete transition. The measure requires KYTC to test and confirm the electronic titling and centralized lien system by Jan. 1, 2027. Beginning July 1, 2027, lienholders would be required to use the electronic lien application and registration system, with exemptions for smaller dealers who do not typically finance vehicles.

Under the bill, vehicle titles would no longer be automatically printed starting Jan. 1, 2027. Titles would be available electronically, with vehicle owners able to request a printed copy for a \$6 fee. The legislation also allows registration renewal and state ad valorem tax notices to be delivered by email or text message at the owner’s request and makes similar updates to boat registration notifications.

Other provisions eliminate late filing fees for title lien statements while maintaining the \$12 lien notation fee, establish a process for lien termination statements, allow alternative forms of payment at county clerk offices and remove duplicate receipt requirements to state agencies. The measure also permits joint vehicle owners who are not spouses to designate a transfer of ownership upon death and allows use of a personal identification card to register a vehicle. A provision in the original bill that would have removed the signature requirement for registering farm vehicles was stripped from the committee substitute.

The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

## H&H’s West on cover of trade magazine again

H&H Home & Hardware has again earned national recognition, appearing on the cover of The Hardware Connection, a leading home improvement industry magazine, marking the third time since 2022 the locally owned retailer has been featured on a national publication cover.

The Marion-based business, owned by Shanna West, her husband David West and her mother Stacy Hunt, was highlighted for its growth strategy, community focus and service to rural customers in western Kentucky’s Pennyryle region.

Founded in 2000 as a commercial plumbing and electrical supply company by West’s parents, Alan and Stacy Hunt and Phillis Hardin, the business originally served contractors and industrial clients. Retail expansion came later, and in 2019 West and her husband joined the ownership team, broadening the store’s footprint just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

H&H now occupies its full 40,000-square-foot facility in Marion. After a longtime local lumberyard reduced inventory, the company expanded into lumber and building materials, offering framing and remodeling supplies for homeowners and contractors.

The magazine feature also highlighted the store’s 20-by-20-foot indoor “Community Space,” a faux storefront inside the building available free to local organizations for events and fundraisers, youth sports teams, churches and school groups.

In August, H&H opened a second location in Sturgis. The 13,000-square-foot store is managed by West’s daughter, Layla Watson, and was designed to meet the specific needs of that community. The company employs 26

## Sheriff’s audit released

State Auditor Allison Ball has released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Crittenden County Sheriff’s Office under Sheriff Evan Head.

State law requires the auditor to annually examine the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance, the office issues two reports each year – one covering the sheriff’s tax account and another covering the fee account used to operate the office.

According to the audit, the sheriff’s financial statement did not follow the format required to determine whether it was presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the statement was fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, an acceptable reporting methodology used for all 120 sheriff audits across Kentucky.

Auditors reported no instances of noncompliance. They also found no material weaknesses involving internal control over financial reporting or its operation.

The sheriff’s duties include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement services and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with those responsibilities.

## Boone accepted to UK College of Design

Crittenden County High School senior Lacey Boone has been accepted into one of the University of Kentucky’s most selective academic programs.

Boone was notified last week that she has been admitted into the UK College of Design – commonly referred to as the Gray Design School – in the Product Design program.

Admission to the university does not guarantee entry into the College of Design. After being accepted to UK, Boone completed a separate, competitive application process for the design program that required an additional essay, a photo essay and a formal art portfolio.

The University of Kentucky College of Design is known for its selective studio-based curriculum, small cohort sizes and emphasis on portfolio development, critical thinking and real-world problem solving. Students in the Product Design program study industrial design principles, user-centered research, materials, manufacturing processes and digital modeling while developing prototypes and conceptual designs.

As part of her application, Boone submitted several edited photographs from a school trip to Greece with the Crittenden County Horizons program. In her essay, she reflected on how Greek design was highly functional for its time and how many of those architectural and structural concepts have endured for centuries as a lasting design framework.

## Vehicle renewal notices are delayed from vendor

Renewal notices for March vehicle registrations have been delayed statewide, according to Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor.

Tabor said county clerks were notified that the state’s vendor responsible for printing and mailing the notices encountered processing issues. The vendor estimated the notices would be completed and mailed on Tuesday of this week.

Two factors contributed to the delay. March renewal notices represent the largest monthly mailing of the year, totaling just over 1 million statewide, and require additional time to print and distribute. In addition, the vendor experienced a problem with U.S. Postal Service address up-



dates that required the processing file to be rerun before printing could begin.

Tabor reminded residents that renewal notices are sent as a courtesy. Under Kentucky Revised Statute 134.805(5), failure to receive a renewal notice does not excuse a vehicle owner from renewing registration on time. Vehicle owners may renew online, by mail or in person at the Crittenden County Clerk’s Office.

## Sports card show is Feb. 28 at fairgrounds

A sports card and collectibles show is coming to Marion later this month.

Marion’s Sports Card & Collectibles Show is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Lions Club Building, 242 Club Dr., Marion.

The event will feature baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer cards, along with non-sports cards and Pokémon collectibles.

Dealer tables are available for \$15 per 8-foot table or \$25 for two tables. Tables and chairs will be provided. All proceeds from dealer fees will benefit the Crittenden County Lions Club.

For dealer information, call or text James Duncan at 270-969-8747 or email james.kent.duncan@gmail.com.

## First responders save stranded river boater

Emergency crews from Crittenden and Union counties responded about 5 p.m., Friday to a report of a boater in distress on the Tradewater River near the county line.

Authorities said the vessel had experienced motor failure and a female passenger had fallen into the water. After determining an approximate location, responders launched from the county line boat ramp.

Because the incident occurred along the Crittenden-Union county line, multiple agencies assisted, including Union County Emergency Management, the Crittenden County Rescue Squad, Union County Rescue Squad, Crittenden County EMS and Union County Deaconess EMS.

The boat was located about one mile downstream from the ramp. The vessel and its occupants were brought safely back to shore. The woman who fell into the water was treated at the scene by EMS and released.

## State considers bill for backyard chickens

A bill that would protect Kentuckians’ ability to keep backyard chickens on residential property has cleared the Kentucky House.

House Bill 276, sponsored by Rep. Steven Doan, R-Erlanger, passed the House on Feb. 5 by a 72-22 vote. The measure would prevent cities and certain other local governments from outright banning residents from keeping a small number of chickens for personal egg production or educational purposes.

Under the proposal, individuals could keep up to six hens on residential property. Roosters and commercial farming operations would not be permitted. The bill also creates a statutory definition for “backyard chicken” in Kentucky law.

While limiting the ability of local governments to prohibit backyard chickens entirely, the legislation preserves local authority to regulate sanitation, coop placement, setbacks and pest control.

The bill was received in the Senate on Feb. 6 and assigned to the Senate Committee on Committees for further consideration.



### Throwback Thursday — 50 Years Ago

SWEETHEART AND COURT — Miss Phyllis Linzy (seated front left) was crowned 1976 Valentine Sweetheart prior to a Crittenden County Rockets game against West Hopkins. Members of the court included (back) Brenda Sisco, Denise McDowell, Gayle Parrott and LaJean Patmor; (front) Serita Belt, Sweetheart Phyllis Linzy, Cheryl Croft and Jeffrey Haire. The contest was sponsored by the CCHS junior class.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### February 18, 2016

■ Livingston County High School archery team captured third place in the Second Region Tournament. Cierra Henry finished as the No. 2 high school female in the region, missing first place by one arrow. She earned a spot in the Kentucky State Individual Tournament in Frankfort. ■ Crittenden County High School Students of the Month for December were Margaret Sitar, Sydney Coomes, Emily Tinsley, Justis Duncan, Ce’Zanne Lamprecht, Alexa Kidd, Kaylee Graham, Nadia Hutchings, Aaron Alstadt, David Mannes, Chris Ladd, Destiny Suggs, Braden Locke, Marcus Tinsley, Layken Belt, Rachel Butler and Josh Tabor. ■ The Lady Rockets beat Union County 34-30 for their third straight win. Cassidy Moss led the Lady Rockets with 11 points. Amanda Lynch and Madison Champion had eight points each, Kianna Nesbitt added six, and Francesca Pierce had one.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### February 15, 2001

■ Twenty-two members of the Crittenden County Middle School Speech Team qualified for the state competition. Crittenden scored 103 points, finishing 50 points ahead of the second-place team. Members qualifying for state were Grant Gilkey, Brad Hart, Patrick Mitchell, Jessica Binkley, Katlyn Nasser, Trisha Maclin, Abby Adams, Nikki McDaniel, Jeanne Woodall, Jessica Smith, Madison Hadfield, Cara Koster, Wesley Hughes, Alisa Morrill, Wesley Hunt, Joe Brazell, Katie Keene, John Brantley, Todd Perryman, Maddie Ryan, Chelsea Steele and Abby Wright. ■ The Rocket Cheerleaders competed in the regional KAPOS. Squad members included Rhiannon Jenkins, Jodi Martin, Amy Graham, Leigh Browning, Kari Powell, Tena Rozwalka, Crystal Watson, Katie Stout, Stephanie Tinsley, Ashley Myers, Amy West, Dani Harrison, Lynsey Taylor, Sheena Clark, Jeanne Johnson and Stacy Wagoner. Coaches were Denise Croft and Heather Riley. ■ The Rockets lost to Trigg County in double overtime, falling as the fourth seed in district play. Scoring for the Rockets were Mattingly with 13, Driver with 10, Guess with 10, Cosby with 9, Hart with 8, T. Hill with 5 and A. Hill with 3.

## 50 YEARS AGO

### February 19, 1976

■ Susan McKenney and Pat Taylor had roles in the play “She Stoops to Conquer” with the Crittenden County High School Drama Club. ■ The Crittenden County Rockets lost to the Dawson Springs Panthers 71-42. Top scorers were Jon Kelly with 11 points, Dennis Doods with 8, Mark Wallace with 6, Ricky Lanham with 5, Donnie Mills and Danny Hodges with 4 each, and Bennett Redd with 3. ■ The Crittenden County Lady Rockets defeated Livingston 39-28. Marketa Brown led with 17 points, and Jeanne Hinchee added 14. Other scorers were Estie Thomas with 6 and Cindy Brookshire with 2.

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

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