

Crittenden County's 4-H trap team opened its season recently at a 4-H trap shoot in Hopkinsville. Colt Hayes placed second, and Gunner Smith finished third. Pictured are (front from left) Cooper Rich, Jhett Wright, Miley Hayes, coach A.J. Wessell; (back) Case Cummins, Trapper Haire, Colt Hayes, Braden Patton and volunteer Clint Nalley. Gunner Smith is not pictured.



RESCUE

Continued from page 1 that could go wrong did go wrong. And they never gave up.”

Five fluorspar miners – Randolph Cobb, Roy James, George Castiller, U.B. Wilson and Harry Watson – were trapped about 150 to 160 feet underground after a massive cave-in occurred between 9 and 10 p.m., Aug. 5, 1926, at the Hudson Zinc and Spar Mine southwest of Salem not far off of what is today Cedar Grove Road.

The mine had operated intermittently since the 1890s. Near the working area was an abandoned pit about 90 feet deep that had filled with water, mud, discarded timbers and other refuse. Older miners had warned that if the ground beneath the pit gave way, water and debris would rush into the lower workings.

When timbers began snapping, two miners escaped in a mining tub and climbed out through the main shaft. James ran to warn four men working elsewhere in the mine and became trapped with them.

The five had no food and almost no drinking water. They shared four matches and conserved their carbide lamps by burning only one at a time. In the bitter cold and darkness, they collected condensation in a Prince Albert tobacco can to provide small dabs of water.

Believing they might never return to the surface, the men wrote messages inside their caps. The most famous read, “If we are dead when you find us, we are saved.”

Above ground, mining companies quickly assembled and vowed to spare no expense. Fluorspar mines suspended operations and sent their best workers and equipment. The coal industry also joined the effort.

Heavy machinery had to be hauled over rough roads, and tractors repeatedly broke down. Workers welded through the night to keep the equipment moving. A bearing failed in a new centrifugal pump within about 30 minutes of its arrival. A replacement pump brought from Memphis also experienced a bearing failure.

When a replacement part missed an expedited train, a mining company vice president and his pilot flew it to Salem and landed in a field. The

truck sent to retrieve them then broke down. After the equipment was repaired, the local power plant failed.

Despite every setback, the rescuers continued pumping and digging, Clement said, recounting the rescue's history.

Thousands gathered near the mine, creating such congestion that the National Guard was summoned to control access and oversee food distribution. Community members supplied rescuers with meals and hot coffee as the operation continued around the clock.

The story spread internationally, with accounts of the rescue appearing as far away as England. Clement compares its impact to the 2010 rescue of 33 miners in Chile – another disaster that, coincidentally, began Aug. 5.

During the night before the Hudson miners were reached, a radio operator was flown from Evansville to lower a microphone into the mine. Voices were detected, confirming that the men were still alive, although the discovery was kept relatively quiet to avoid raising false hope.

Rescuers finally broke through on the morning of Aug. 12 after six days and seven nights. All five men were brought out alive. Cobb, the first lifted to the surface, greeted the cheering crowd with the memorable words, “Hello there, boys. I’m not sick.”

Following Moodie’s presentation, the program will feature direct quotations from the miners describing what they endured underground. An open microphone will allow descendants and community members to share family stories.

Guest speakers Jeremy Walker and Josh Orr, who work in mine inspection and both live in Marion, will discuss modern safety practices. The Hudson disaster and the national attention it received helped spur greater oversight and safety inspections within the fluorspar industry, making the rescue an important chapter in the development of modern mine-safety standards.

Music will be provided by Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass. The morning program will also include an introduction to Bluegrass Fluorspar and a drawing for an America 250-themed quilt made by a descendant of a Revolutionary War patriot.

A photo booth created from an image of the actual rescue will be available, along with a miner's lunchbox station offering ham biscuits and coffee. The refreshments are intended as a snack rather than a full meal.

The formal lunch break will run from noon until 1:30 p.m., allowing visitors to eat at local restaurants before returning for afternoon activities.

“Most of the restaurants have connections to either this mine rescue or have been lifelong advocates for this museum,” Clement said.

A tour of the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum will begin at 1:30 p.m. At 2:30, participants will gather beneath the museum pavilion for a hands-on discussion of mining equipment.

Clement said she hopes the celebration encourages families with generational ties to mining to explore the museum and recognize that history as their own.

“There is so much mining heritage here in the community,” she said. “I find it shocking that there are people whose families were in mining for multiple generations and have never set foot in this museum.”

She said those families possess the same determination exhibited during the rescue a century ago.

“This is your heritage. This is what you come from,” Clement said.

“They have grit for a reason. It’s in their DNA.”

Clement, Lola Guess and Cathy Poindexter helped lay the groundwork for the celebration and have spent years collecting and preserving its history. Archives compiled by the late B.J. May and others include a preserved interview with May and his father, who participated in the rescue. Organizers are also working on a book about the event, while Guess has pursued a historical marker.

Anyone with family stories, photographs, newspaper clippings, documents or other materials related to the rescue is encouraged to contact Clement or the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.

The free celebration is co-hosted by the Livingston County Historical Society and the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court will have a public hearing during the Regular Session of Crittenden County Fiscal Court held at the Crittenden County Office Complex on August 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year was 0.114 and produced revenues in the amount of \$ 517,322. This year's compensating rate is 0.111 and will produce revenues in the amount of \$518,644. The Crittenden County Fiscal Court proposes a tax rate of 0.114. which will produce a total of \$532,661 in revenues.

Revenue expected from new property is \$1,322. Revenue expected from personal property is \$105,878. Revenue expected from motor vehicle is \$107,699. And revenue expected from watercraft is \$4,334.

Revenue received in excess of last year's revenue will be used for General government expenditures.

The Kentucky General Assembly requires that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court publish this notice with the above information contained herein.

AUGUST 22, 2026

Kuttawa Days

CARNIVAL & BEACH FESTIVAL
- KUTTAWA, KENTUCKY

IT'S ALL FREE!

- ★ CARNIVAL RIDES
- ★ KAYAK RIDES ON LAKE BARKLEY
- ★ WATER BALL ATTRACTION
- ★ FOAM PARTY
- ★ LIVE MUSIC – HIGH NOON MOON
- ★ DUNK TANK
- ★ WATERMELON EATING CONTEST
- ★ FOOD TRUCKS
- ★ ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS
- ★ FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES & MUCH MORE!

SILVER CLIFF PARK & KUTTAWA BEACH
• KUTTAWA, KENTUCKY •

SUN
SAND
LAKE
FUN!

GOOD TIMES
GREAT MEMORIES!

GOOD FOOD
GOOD VIBES

West Ky Association of GENERAL BAPTISTS

Annual Revival

Aug. 7-9 7 Nightly

Evangelist: Rev. Matt Grimes

Everyone Welcome 134 Ky. 1668, Marion



The former Crittenden Community Hospital annex, was demolished this week after being deemed structurally unsound. Crews with Superior Excavating and Trucking of Marion brought the building down Tuesday and spent the following days loading and hauling away the debris. Once the site is cleared, work will shift to grading the property, followed by seeding and spreading straw. Weather permitting, the cleanup and restoration work is expected to be completed late this week.

ADVERTISEMENT

Crittenden Livingston County Water District

RE: 100,000 Gallon Tank Rehabilitation

The Crittenden Livingston County Water District will receive separate, sealed Proposals for their **Water System Improvements Project** until **2:00 p.m. local time, Monday, August 24, 2026** at the District's Business Office, 620 East Main Street; Salem, KY 42078 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The contract involves surface preparation and painting of a 100,000 gallon steel water storage tank. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: McGhee Engineering, Inc., at P.O. Box 267, 202 South Ewing Street, Guthrie, Kentucky 42234 or by calling (270) 483-9985. Perspective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30-4:30 pm, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Plans must be ordered by visiting www.mcgheengineering.com and clicking "**Bid Opportunities**". Plans will be sold with an option of Digital only **OR** Printed Set w/ Digital copy. Bids will be accepted only from registered contractors holding approved bid forms provided by the Issuing Office. Plan holders may be viewed at www.mcgheengineering.com.

All bidders shall submit with their bid an acceptable bid bond or a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw their bid after the date of the bid opening. The award of this project will be to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The Bidder awarded the contract shall substantially complete this project within **40** calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at **\$500** per calendar day. This project is funded with funds provided by Community Development Block Grant program plus the Kentucky Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) with federal funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. SRF requirements and provisions must be met by the Bidder and all subcontractors. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. This project will be in compliance with Executive Order 11246 (Equal Employment Opportunity) as amended. Contractor/Subcontractor will comply with 41 CFR 60-4, in regard to affirmative action, to insure equal opportunity to females and minorities and will apply the time tables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60-4. Bidder will make positive efforts to use small, minority, women owned and disadvantaged businesses. Procurement will be subject to DOW Procurement Guidance and **CDBG requirements including the Davis-Bacon Act; all as signed by the Crittenden Livingston County Water District, 2026**

Preparation of Bid for CDBG Funded Project:

Each bid must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied by Certification of Bidder Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity, Form 950.1; Certification of Bidder (Contractor) Concerning Labor Standards and Prevailing Wage Requirements, Form 1421; & Certification of Bidder Regarding Section 3 and Segregated Facilities. All blank spaces for bid prices must be filled in, by ink or typewritten, in both words and figures, and the foregoing Certifications must be fully completed and executed when submitted. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and Davis/Bacon Act prevailing minimum wages to be paid under contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109, and E.O 11246 and Title VI. Minority bidders are encouraged to bid. Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Published by the authority of the
Crittenden Livingston County Water District

Dated: August 2026