

Wigginton is advancing on stairs climb

Jim Wigginton, a native of the county's Piney Fork community, has completed his 49th stair climb in the 49th state, putting him one step away from scaling the tallest building in every U.S. state.



Wigginton

Wigginton, a 1966 graduate of Crittenden County High School, is pursuing the feat to raise awareness and support for Folds of Honor, a nonprofit that has provided more than 59,000 scholarships over the past 18 years to families of fallen military and first responders. His effort marks his ninth world record on behalf of the organization.

He also climbs in support of his wife's Punya Thyroid Cancer Foundation. That foundation has helped fund research that has extended the lives of over 5,000 stage 4 thyroid cancer patients by up to fivefold thanks to treatment protocols developed at the University of Michigan over the past 11 years.

Wigginton's final climb, the new 104-story World Trade Center in New York, is set for June 1, capping off an eight-year journey.

County offices will close for Good Friday

In observance of the Good Friday holiday, the offices at Crittenden County Office Complex, including the judge-executive, county clerk, PVA and sheriff's offices and Crittenden County Road Department, Marion Convenience Center and Crittenden County Animal Shelter, will be closed Friday and Saturday, April 18 and April 19.

Guill recognizes Donate for Life

Crittenden County Circuit Court Clerk Melissa Guill is joining others across the state in recognizing National Donate Life Month this April, highlighting the lifesaving power of organ, eye and tissue donation.

In 2023, 320 lives were saved through transplants at the University of Kentucky and UofL Jewish Hospitals, including 192 organs donated by registered



donors, according to Donate Life Kentucky Trust.

"These numbers are extraordinary," Guill said. "That's 192 people who made a selfless decision during their lifetime — one that became a miracle for someone else."

Guill praised the work of Donate Life Kentucky Trust, which has advocated for donation since 1992. She emphasized that registering in advance brings clarity to families and increases the chances of saving lives.

This year marks a step forward in accessibility, as the MyChart Patient Portal now links directly to the National Donate Life Registry, allowing patients to register with a few clicks.

The 2025 Donate Life Month theme is "Let Life Sing!" and features bird-inspired artwork symbolizing hope and renewal.

Events this month include Blue & Green Spirit Week April 5-12, National Donate Life Blue & Green Day on April 11 and National Pediatric Transplant Week April 20-26.

To register as a donor, visit a Kentucky driver's license office, go to RegisterMe.org, or use the iPhone Health app.

Free hearing tests Apr. 22

Crittenden Countians will have an opportunity to receive free hearing tests on Tuesday, April 22 at Marion Baptist Church. The KY HEARS event will run from 9 a.m., to 2 p.m., and offer full diagnostic hearing tests, quick five-minute screenings using hearing test machines, and hearing healthcare navigation services. The service is provided at no cost, thanks to coordination by Crittenden County Circuit Court. For more information, call (800) 958-9610.

Iuka Road is closed for work

Kentucky highway 453 (Iuka Road) in Livingston County is closed at the 11.5 MP due to a collapsed box culvert. This is located southeast of Smithland between KY 937 (Cut-off Road) and Cothron Road. Estimate for completion is around the end of April,

weather permitting.

Cozart brings initiative to west Kentucky

Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF), founded by Marion native David Cozart, is bringing its statewide mission closer to home this month with a new format for its annual event. Instead of hosting a single summit in one location, CCFF is launching a series of regional gatherings, the first will be in Hopkinsville.

The Regional Fatherhood Symposium will be held Thursday, April 25, 2025, at the James E. Bruce Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This one-day event is designed to unite leaders, advocates, service providers and community members around the importance of engaged, responsible fatherhood. Attendees can expect opportunities to build partnerships with local and statewide organizations, explore funding streams and available resources, learn from national experts in the field of fatherhood engagement, hear from a panel of fathers with lived experience and attend breakout sessions focused on protective factors, emerging practices and the intersection of fatherhood and human trafficking prevention.

Cozart, a member of the Campbellsville University Board of Directors and a Crittenden County High School Distinguished Alum-

nus, will be among those leading the seminar. One of his Crittenden County classmates, Sean McKinney of Henderson, is the foundation's regional liason.

Exhibitor space is available but limited, and organizers encourage early sign-up. A special conference rate is available at the on-site hotel.

For the past six years, CCFF has hosted a statewide Fatherhood Summit. This year, the organization is expanding its reach so more families across the Commonwealth can be reached directly.

The Regional Fatherhood Symposium is a collaborative effort supported by Team Kentucky, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Community Collaboration for Children.

To learn more, register or sign up as an exhibitor, visit ccffky.org or find the Regional Fatherhood Symposium event page.

Sprague earns D.C. degree

Emma Sprague of Henshaw, Ky., has graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

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10 YEARS AGO

April 9, 2015

■ Crittenden County High School students Katie Wheeler and Audrey Smith were accepted into the acclaimed Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead University.
■ Crittenden County native Mikka Crabtree helped pave the way to public service for women in our area as the new deputy sheriff of Trigg County.
■ Crittenden County Elementary students Allie Beard and Dawson Jones were recognized for their outstanding creativity as winners of the annual Easter coloring contest put on by WMJL and Food Giant.
■ Adam Driver, a Crittenden County senior, struck out 10 players in one game against Caldwell County, securing a win for the Rockets.
■ Ten-year-old Colton Gilland finished second at the Mid-America Arenacross Series in Sturgis, with a top five win in every race in the series.

25 YEARS AGO

April 13, 2000

■ Crittenden County High School students Jeremy Binkley, Eric Watson, and Scott Taylor, all secured top three placements at the West Kentucky Technology Association Challenge. Binkley came home with a 1st place, Watson with a 3rd, and Taylor at 2nd.
■ Crittenden County Rockets baseball was dominant in the district. Led by starting pitcher Brad Guess and coach Denis Hodge, the Rockets blew Lyon County out of the water with a 9-3 win.
■ Larry and Casey Jones took home 3rd place from the Anglers Choice bass fishing tournament at Rend Lake, winning a \$365 prize.

50 YEARS AGO

April 10, 1975

■ Mrs Cindy Moore was elected to be the Marion Women's Club president, and presided over the acceptance of 17 new members.
■ Heath Watson, Al Simmons and Micheal Coleman were the top three finishers of the Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby at Marion Junior High, and went on to compete at districts that May.
■ Crittenden County FBLA attended the Region 1 competition day, and came back with four top three placements. Cindy McDowell at 1st, went on to compete at state, while other competitors Nadine Johnson, Glenn Conger, and Micheal Tinsley were awarded for their 3rd place finishes.
■ The Kentucky Division of Forestry honored Doyle Sherer with the Kentucky Forest Services Western District award for his continuous work with the trees on his land.
■ Three Crittenden County High School Lady Rockets earned a spot on the Three Rivers Conference All-District team. Markeata Brown, Mary Ann Green, and Jeanne Hinchee were all selected for the 12-person team. Other Lady Rockets Cindy Brookshire, Julie Barnes, and Debbie York were recognized as honorable mentions.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
EPAD Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held during the regular session of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 8:30 am.

This public hearing is to obtain citizen comment regarding the proposed Ordinance related to the establishment of an Energy Project Assessment District (EPAD) Program.

A second reading of the Ordinance will occur following the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance maybe obtained by contacting the Judge Executive Office at (270) 965-5251 or emailing cct@crittendencountyky.org.

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