Crittenden County AGRICULTURAL Hall of Fame

FAIR BREAKFAST FRIDAY

Beverly Herrin will be officially enshrined during a ceremony Friday morning at the annual 4-H Fair Breakfast as part of the Crittenden County Lions Club Fair. It begins at 7 a.m., at the Lions Club Agriculture Building at the fairgrounds. Cost is $10 per person.

Herrin selected for Hall induction

STAFF REPORT

The late Beverly Herrin has been named the 2026 inductee into the Crittenden County Agriculture and Rural Leadership Hall of Fame.

Born in 1927, Herrin began farming at an early age on his family's farm in the Mattoon community. A 1945 graduate of Marion High School, he remained in Mattoon and farmed alongside his wife, Polly, and multiple generations of their family. He continued to be active in farming well into his 90s.

Throughout his career, Herrin worked to produce high-quality beef and pork by continually learning about new production practices, according to information provided by the Crittenden County Extension Service.

He was willing to experiment with different farming methods, including retained ownership of feeder cattle and the use of different feed components. One improvement he particularly enjoyed discussing – and proudly showing to others – was the addition of Romagnola bulls to improve his herd's genetics through increased hybrid vigor.

Herrin was known for helping younger and less-experienced producers, offering both assistance and constructive criticism. He mentored many farmers and helped several build successful operations through his advice and willingness to share what he had learned. His best advice often began with the familiar phrase, "Well, there's a little story behind that."

His community involvement included service with the Masonic Lodge, Young Farmers Association, University of Kentucky Extension Council and Mt. Zion Cemetery Board. At Repton Baptist Church, Herrin served as a deacon, treasurer and Sunday school teacher.

Herrin also served more than 20 years as a supervisor with the Crittenden County Conservation District, including several years as board chairman. He played a major role in the district's successful application for an atrazine remediation grant for Marion's Lake George and Old City Lake watershed area. The district continues to receive and use funding from that grant today.

Described as a hard worker, provider, frugal farmer, good friend and mentor, Herrin was also remembered for his faithfulness to his family and church.

Herrin died in April. His legacy continues through his family and the many farmers he mentored during his lifetime.

Cost-share apps open for farmers

The Livingston County Conservation District is accepting applications for the Kentucky Soil and Water Quality State Cost Share Program through Oct. 1.

The program helps reimburse people conducting agricultural or forestry activities on owned or leased land. Eligible practices fall under four categories: livestock, livestock pastureland, cropland and forestry.

Reimbursements are capped at 75% of the actual cost, up to $20,000, and are based on an approved unit rate. Work started before receiving approval from the Kentucky Division of Conservation is not eligible for reimbursement.

To apply, contact Johnetta Taylor at (270) 988-2231 or visit the Livingston County Conservation District office at 2027 U.S. 60 East, Suite A, in Salem. Appointments may be scheduled to learn more about the program and obtain an application.

Merrill Crittenden County Fair Queen

Crittenden County High School senior Braelyn Merrill was last week crowned Miss Crittenden County Fair Queen at the annual Lions Club Fair pageant at Fohs Hall. Pictured above are winners of the three local pageants. Fair pageants also include open events for those seeking to qualify for statewide fair pageants. The local queens were (from left) Miss Preteen Allie Kirk and Miss Teen Bradie Hackney. The Lions Club Fair continues through this weekend. As part of her responsibilities, Merrill will reign over fair events, including Saturday's demolition derby, which is always a crowd favorite.

In addition to Allie Kirk (left) being crowned Miss Preteen during last week's fair pageant, Hadley Sherer (center) and Audrey Smiley were first and second runnerup, respectively.

Charlotte Vince (left) earned a blue ribbon in Junior Food Demonstration event during a recent state 4-H competition. Russell Vince won first place at the state 4-H Communications Contest in the 12-year-old speech category.

Duncan's Service Center closing doors for good Thursday

Duncan's Service Center, located on the northwest corner of Main and Gum streets in Marion, will permanently close Thursday after six years in business.

The business announced the closure Tuesday in a social media post, thanking customers for their support.

"After six years of serving our community, Duncan's Service Center will be closing its doors July 30. Thank you to our customers for all the dedication and allowing us to serve you and this community. Thank you!"

No reason for the closure was provided in the post.