



# The Crittenden Press

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## SCHOOLS CLOSED!

### Flu, strep prompt officials to call off classes rest of week

Unusually low attendance due to illness prompted the Crittenden School District to cancel class Thursday and Friday. Absences due to flu and strep throat pushed attendance to near 86 percent mid-day Wednesday. Athletic events will continue as scheduled.

### Wet roads cause accidents, including one with injuries

Wet roads were to blame for several accidents over the weekend and early Monday. There were two fairly serious accidents in the county, one on U.S. 60 West and another at the county line on U.S. 641 South. No one was injured in the U.S. 60 crash Monday although a Hampton woman's car snapped a utility pole. Two people were taken to the hospital following the wreck at the county line. A vehicle driven by Mason Perkins, 20, of Fredonia hydroplaned and hit the bridge guardrail. Perkins and a passenger, Jeffrey Gibson, 14, of Eddyville were taken to the hospital by ambulance with non-life-threatening injuries.

### Local rain totals more than 4 inches

Crittenden County received 4.4 inches of rain from Friday through Monday, according to local WPSD-TV Weather Watcher Brenda Underdown. The following is a breakdown of rainfall last weekend and early this week:

Day	Inches
Friday	0.2
Saturday	1.3
Sunday	1.5
Monday	1.4
Total	4.4

### Road closings

Five county roads are closed due to high water. They are Enon Church, Cool Springs, Providence Road, Phin Croft and Elizabethtown Landing roads.

### Frazer named to personnel board

Gov. Ernie Fletcher has appointed Robert "Bart" Frazer, of Marion, to the Kentucky Personnel Board. Frazer, a Marion attorney, began serving immediately and attended his first meeting of the board late last week in Frankfort.



**MOSTLY CLOUDY**  
42/30  
**THURSDAY**

**PARTLY CLOUDY**  
38/22  
**FRIDAY**

### Rain gauge

Last 7 days .....4.31"  
Last 30 days .....9.19"  
Year-to-date .....5.76" (+4.07")  
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

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# Guard ordered to stay longer

## Soldiers from Marion unit will be in Iraq until mid summer

BY ALLISON EVANS  
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

Families of local Kentucky National Guardsmen are disappointed but are trying to remain strong after learning members of Bravo Company of the 123rd Armor Regiment won't be home in March as anticipated.

The news that Marion's National Guard unit would have its tour of duty in Iraq extended for up to four more months came late last week. In all, 81 Kentucky National Guard members will be staying in the Middle East longer than expected. They were deployed in November 2005 and landed in Iraq last April. They'd hoped to be coming home in about 60 days.

Only a handful of the 40 soldiers from Company B, headquartered in Marion, are actually Marion residents. Others are from the surrounding area, including some from Morganfield and Leitchfield. The active duty extension also affects 41 soldiers from Company C based in Benton, said Col. Phil Miller with the Kentucky National Guard. The local guardsmen are currently supporting the Minnesota-based 1st Brigade Combat Team in Iraq. The Minnesota reservists also had their tour of duty



Col. Rondal Turner was in Marion Monday to meet with families of guardsmen who are in Iraq and won't be coming home in March as previously believed. Storm visited with the family members and asked questions at the Carson Davidson National Guard Armory.

extended.

Companies B and C are providing security in Iraq; however, more specific details of their whereabouts and actual job descriptions have not been made public.

An hour-long question and answer session for families of deployed Bravo Company soldiers was conducted by Col. Rondal Turner Monday at Marion's Carson Davidson National Guard Armory. Though the family members of only four soldiers participated, they raised issues and voiced concerns over safety, military bene-

fits and shared personal disappointment.

"When we talk to our son we try to keep him focused but in the same sense when you see congressmen on television arguing President Bush's decision, you feel hopeless," said Pam Chandler of Morganfield whose son, David, is a member of the Marion unit.

Vicki Martin said it is hard to remain upbeat and optimistic about Bush's war strategy when she was so close to seeing her son again.

SSgt. Sarah Holler has a unique

connection to Bravo Company. She is the administrative NCO for Marion's unit, part of the rear detachment which was not deployed. Her boyfriend SSgt. Joey Bayer is serving in Iraq with Bravo Company.

"It affects the family of deployed soldiers, but the soldiers need support," Holler said. She encourages members of the community to bring letters of support to soldiers to the armory, and she will mail them to

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## Movie time

### Group wants to raise \$50,000 for documentary

BY ALLISON EVANS  
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

Community leaders are looking to expose Crittenden County's treasures on The History Channel and through similar outlets, but first they must pony up \$50,000.

Fohs Hall, Inc., is coordinating fundraising efforts that would cover the cost of an hour-long documentary filmed and produced by Princeton native Sam Koltinsky. Koltinsky's film company, Blue Springs Productions, has made similar documentaries featuring Princeton and Madisonville. Princeton's first documentary covers Caldwell County's history from the 1700s to the 1930s. A second documentary is in the works for more contemporary history.

The Crittenden County film would

be part of a made-for-TV series called My Kentucky Home. Filming could begin as early as February if funding sources totaling \$50,000 can be secured. To date, close to \$20,000 has been pledged toward the project. Fohs Hall, Inc., has agreed to serve as the coordinating organization which will collect funds and disburse them in four installments to Blue Springs Productions.

Local officials learned of Koltinsky's work while he was producing a 10-minute promotional video for the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.

Linda Schumann, one of the coordinators of the fundraising plan, said Koltinsky and one assistant will spend a year filming, conducting interviews, collecting pictures and putting together Crittenden's history as told through many interviews with local residents.

While \$50,000 sounds expensive, Schumann said Koltinsky's work is high-quality, and is suitable for marketing to the Outdoor Channel, the History Channel, Travel Channel or other programming on networks such as PBS and KET. It would also be sold to members of the community and could be sent to prospective



SCHUMANN

See **FILM**/page 3A

## 2 automobile thefts reported this week

STAFF REPORT

The theft of two vehicles late Sunday night and early Monday morning in Marion do not appear to be related, police say.

It was coincidental, however, that two were stolen within hours of one another and only about a mile apart.

City Patrolman Chuck Hoover was already behind a suspicious vehicle at 10:15 p.m., Sunday night when he learned that the blue van he was trailing had just been reported stolen.

Hoover had originally noticed the van at City-County Park. Its license plate was not illuminated so Hoover pursued the vehicle out of the park and onto McMican Road where the van accelerated and turned east onto Ky. 120 without signaling. The officer followed the van onto Pleasant Hill Road and turned on his blue lights, stopping the van.

Before the policeman approached the van, he checked its license plate number with the local police dispatcher. He learned that Wilbur Sisco Jr. had just reported the vehicle stolen from New Life Baptist Church on West Bellville Street.

Hoover's report indicates that a 14-year-old boy was driving the vehicle. The boy originally told police that he had found the vehicle on the side of the

road without a battery and took it. Later, the juvenile told police that he was staying with a friend and became angry and started walking down the street. He found the van with the keys in it and took it for a drive. He had only been behind the wheel for a short time when the officer saw him at the park.

The boy's parents were called to the police station and he was taken to McCracken County Juvenile Detention Center to await his court appearance.

About seven hours later, another vehicle was reported stolen from Old Piney Road. Earnest Sharp called 911 and reported that he heard someone crank his S-10 Chevrolet pickup outside of the home. He went outside to find that his truck was missing.

Marion Policeman Billy Woolsey found the vehicle about 20 minutes later at 6:50 a.m., stuck in the mud next to the car wash at the intersection of Old Piney Road and South Main Street.

Who ever had stolen the vehicle had tried to drive through the grass on the south side of the coin operated car wash and became stuck. They locked the doors and took the keys to the vehicle. Police were unable to determine which direction the thieves went. The case remains under investigation.

## Rushing is confidant first, officer second

BY MICHAEL McLENDON  
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Greg Rushing walks the halls of Crittenden County middle and high schools. Students pass by and joke with him. He banters back. It's this rapport with the students that makes him a success, say school officials.

"He builds strong relationships with the kids. Some are even more open to talk with him than they are me. Asst. Principal Steve Head or the classroom teacher," said CCHS Principal Karen Nasser.

"He is enthusiastic and has good rapport with the kids," added Superintendent John Belt.

For Rushing, his new job

allows him the chance to create strong bonds with students, some of whom he said are just like his own kids.

"I am really going to be sad when these seniors graduate," said Rushing. "I know what the teachers feel."

Unlike most adults in an academic setting, Rushing prefers to be called by his first name, rather than mister or officer.

"I told Mrs. Nasser the first day I got here that I wanted students to call me Greg," he said.

Rushing thinks that being on a first-name basis helps cultivate relationships with students.

Although he works mostly on



See **DEPUTY**/page 8A

Deputy Greg Rushing, the school resource officer, oversees ISD physical training.