



© 1997
Printed in Marion, Ky., on
Recycled Paper with Soy Ink

The Crittenden Press

www.The-Press.com



USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

75 CENTS
An Independent Newspaper Since 1879
VOLUME 127, NUMBER 29 - 16 PAGES

WINTER ROADS

State offers toll-free way to find out about highway, traffic issues

Winter weather is upon us and the Kentucky State Police reminds the public to call 511 or visit <http://511.ky.gov> for current road conditions and closures. State police and other agencies report all road conditions through a central system which provides data for the 511 phone number. The system can be used year round for road closures due to accidents, construction and weather-related issues.

Ferry is closed

The Cave In Rock Ferry is closed due to high water. The river is expected to crest later this week.

County approves Simpson, Hunt on hospital board

Crittenden County Fiscal Court approved last week the reappointment of Charlie Hunt and Roger Simpson, both of Marion, to the Crittenden Health Systems Board of Directors.

Whitfield will host Town Hall Meeting

Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-Hopkinsville) will host a Town Hall Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m., Saturday at the Marion Ed-Tech Center on Industrial Drive. The public forum is expected to last about an hour. Citizens will be able to discuss issues and ask the congressman questions.

Fire damages home

Early Friday morning, Marion firefighters responded to a 911 call on Sturgis Road across from Dairy Queen where a small electrical heater had malfunctioned, causing a house fire. No one was living in the house at the time. The previous tenants were in the process of moving the rest of their belongings out, according to Marion Fire Chief Ronald "Red" Howton. Firemen were dispatched shortly after 12:30 a.m. The fire was quickly contained, so some of the house was saved. It did sustain extensive damage to the back side, however. The house is owned by John Hayes of Marion.

LOCAL MEETINGS

MONDAY NIGHT
Fohs Hall Inc., will host its annual meeting at 7 p.m., Monday night at Fohs Hall.



Partly CLOUDY
38/22
THURSDAY

MOSTLY SUNNY
45/32
FRIDAY

Rain gauge
Last 7 days0.67"
Last 30 days8.05"
Year-to-date6.43" (+4.00")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

Call for counseling for drug addiction, depression or other problems. Counselors available at all times.

Visit us on the web at www.the-press.com

For Breaking News
Local news and sports updated when it occurs
E-mail us your news tips the-press@the-press.com



Fire consumes local business

Driver's owner says he plans to rebuild shop

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Local firefighters said Monday evening's blaze that destroyed Driver's Service Center on U.S. 641 just south of Marion was one of the biggest and most dangerous fires in recent history.

Crittenden County Fire Chief Gary Armstrong said units were on the scene until late Monday night but he sent firefighters home until morning. Crews from six fire departments responded to the blaze, four from Crittenden County and two from Caldwell County.

Crittenden County Fire Department had two pumpers and two tankers at the scene. Marion City Fire Department sent a pumper truck, Shady Grove Volunteer Fire Department added a tanker, Mattoon Volunteer Fire Department had two tankers there and Fredonia and Princeton added a couple more tankers and one pumper.

Firemen knocked flames down within about an hour, but they were still on the scene until after 10 p.m.

"We didn't know what was in there and I wasn't going to send our firemen inside the building until daylight," Armstrong said. "A building isn't worth a man's life."

Just before dawn, firemen returned to put out hotspots, mainly tires inside the building that had continued to burn through the night.

The fire started just before 5 p.m., during one of the heaviest traffic periods for the main route south of town. The highway was closed between Marion and Mott City for three hours and traffic was re-routed. Local motorists leaving town after work found their way around the fire by using Coleman or Chapel Hill roads.

Eddie Driver, who has owned and operated the automobile service and repair center for nearly four years, said the shop had closed at 4 p.m., the routine quitting time. He said all of the five employees had gone home for the day when the fire started about 4:45 p.m.

"The neighbors heard a loud explosion," he said. "Then it was fully



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

See **FIRE**/page 5A The large plume jutting up from the extraordinarily hot fire could be seen more than 10 miles away.

Marion on quilter's trail

BY JERRITT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF WRITER

While driving past the entrance to Marion Inn, one might be surprised to see that there is a new addition to the red barn overlooking U.S. 641. On the front is a new, large eight foot by eight foot wooden frame depicting a brightly painted quilt square.

No, it's not the latest thing in decorating. It's actually a regional project sponsored by the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and National Resource Conservation Services to help promote area quilting.

The project is called the Kentucky Quiltline and is represented in nine counties, which are Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg. The RC&D is funding the project.

The idea originated in Adams County, Ohio when Donna Sue Groves painted a quilt square on her barn to honor her mother's passion for quilting. That one square then sparked the Clothesline of Quilts trail which runs through Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, Iowa and Kentucky.

It's something akin to the old See Rock City paintings that were scrawled across old barns throughout the South to promote the mountain attraction near Chattanooga. This new idea targets the quilting fad that's embraced by millions across the globe.

The reason for the project is to help promote tourism and bring more customers to local mom and pop stores. The project is business based, which means that it takes donations from local businesses to help raise money for a quilt square. Marion Inn was one local business that made a financial contribu-



Rosalind Hillis, owner of the Marion Inn, stands near the highway while Kenergy crews hang a quilt square on her red barn.

See **SQUARE**/page 7A

Good policy

Crittenden drug screening eyed by others

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County's student drug-testing policy is being considered as a model for at least two other western Kentucky school districts.

Officials say the policy is apparently a good deterrent for student drug use. One Crittenden student out of 189 tested this school year was positive for illegal drugs. In that one case, the test detected only a very faint trace of marijuana.

"Students participating in extra-curricular activities are not greatly abusing illegal drugs and that is where the policy is very effective," said Crittenden County Superintendent John Belt.

Reporting to the Board of Education last week, Steve Melloy of Paducah Screening, commended the board's policy. He said school officials in Marshall and Graves counties

See **DRUGS**/page 8A