

AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Kentucky grads are staying at home

The vast majority of people who earn degrees at Kentucky's public colleges and universities stay in Kentucky after graduation according to a Council on Postsecondary Education study released this week at a Council meeting in Frankfort. The study shows 95 percent of resident graduates from public colleges and universities stay in Kentucky after completing their degree or credential, a 12 percent increase from a similar study in 2000.

County cleaning up some illegal dumps

Crittenden County is getting help cleaning up old illegal dump sites from the Kentucky Environmental Protection Cabinet. John Rundle of the Waste Management Division in Madisonville was in Crittenden County Monday reviewing sites considered for clean up. He said three old dumps were designated to be eliminated this summer. They are located about three-tenths of a mile off Ky. 70 on Mexico Road, two miles from U.S. 641 on Lloyd Road and on Gregory Road just off Ky. 902. Crittenden Judge-Executive Fred Brown said the county just recently spent \$15,900 cleaning up an ages old dump site on Ky. 365. He said original estimates were that cleanup would cost about \$1,400. Once workers began removing old garbage and debris, they found the dump was deeper than expected. The removal cost alone paid to Waste Management was over \$4,000, Brown said. The county is reimbursed for such cleanup, but it will take several months before the state money comes back to Marion. Brown said residents should take note of the great expense taxpayers shell out for cleaning up illegal dumps. To report illegal dumping, call 965-3500.

Crittenden wants to build covered bridge

Crittenden County is working on a federal grant that could help it build one or more covered bridges. Covered bridges are major tourist attractions in some parts of Kentucky, but there are none in western Kentucky. Marion Tourism Director Michele Edwards said about \$75,000 may be available for building a covered bridge. While a location has not been nailed down, one spot under consideration is on Turkey Knob Road in the Amish community. Judge-Executive Fred Brown said the bridge could also include a pedestrian walkway. The cycle for the grant funding is coming up in the next few months, the judge said, so local officials might know something on the matter by this spring.

Webster broadband project spreading

Crittenden County is among the area communities interested in tapping into Webster County's initiative to provide broadband Internet access throughout the rural countryside. Magistrates in Webster County told the Providence Journal-Enterprise newspaper last week that the project is moving very quickly. The county is signing a construction and service agreement contract with Green River Area Development District (GRADD). Webster County currently has \$396,000 set aside for the broadband project, which may eventually include all seven counties in the GRADD, including Henderson, Union, McLean, Daviess, Ohio and Hancock. Webster Judge-Executive Jim Townsend told the newspaper that officials from Crittenden, Hopkins and Caldwell counties have also expressed interest in joining the project at some point. The initial system would involve the construction of approximately 30 new towers. Plans also include utilization of existing water towers in some areas on which to attach broadband antennas that would shoot their signals throughout the region. The cost of each new tower is about \$80,000, the Providence newspaper reported. Webster County officials say they are moving forward with the plan whether every county in the Green River district joins the venture or not. "We're going to build it anyway. If we go alone, we're probably looking at two additional towers for somewhere around 97 percent coverage for the entire county," Townsend told the newspaper.

Cherry's bill postpones start of school

Kentucky Rep. Mike Cherry (D-Princeton) has filed a bill in the Kentucky General Assembly that recommends a later starting date for school students beginning this fall. House Bill 95, prefilled by Cherry and now under review in the House Education Committee, on which Cherry holds a seat, calls for the first instructional day in a school term to be no earlier than the fourth Monday in August. "I filed the bill on behalf of some constituents, particularly in the tourism industry, to bring the issue to light and have a possible discussion," Cherry told the Princeton Times-Leader newspaper. Cherry, who admits the idea has virtually no support within the educational system, serves the Fourth District, which includes Grand Rivers, one of the area's top tourism draws, in Livingston County, Caldwell and Crittenden counties and a portion of McCracken County are also in his district. "Unless the concept generates support from the education community, I don't see much chance of its passing," Cherry told the Princeton newspaper. Tourism officials in the lakes area would like a later start date for the school year because it would allow students to work seasonally at resorts and boat docks to remain on the job through the entirety of the summer tourism season. School districts currently set their own time frame for the academic calendar. The General Assembly is currently adjourned. It will return to session Tuesday in Frankfort.

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QUICK FACTS

Crittenden County Educational/Marital Data

Some facts about local citizens, according to the U.S. Census.

| Category | Number | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| Population 25 years and over | 6,460 | |
| Less than 9th grade | 1,137 | 17.6 |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 998 | 15.4 |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 2,596 | 40.2 |
| Some college, no degree | 969 | 15.0 |
| Associate degree | 287 | 4.4 |
| Bachelor's degree | 273 | 4.2 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 200 | 3.1 |
| Percent high school graduate or higher | | 67 |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher | | 7.3 |

MARITAL STATUS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|
| Population 15 years and over | 7,610 | |
| Never married | 1,252 | 16.5 |
| Now married, except separated | 4,798 | 63.0 |
| Separated | 143 | 1.9 |
| Widowed | 663 | 8.7 |
| Female | 604 | 7.9 |
| Divorced | 754 | 9.9 |
| Female | 425 | 5.6 |

KSP: Don't be Super Stupid

Road Checks
 Local and state law enforcement say motorists can expect to encounter road checks during the Super Bowl weekend.

The Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth are joining together to remind sports fans to play it safe during this year's Super Bowl weekend of Feb. 3-4.

"The Super Bowl, and all the celebrations surrounding it, has become one of the nation's biggest and most entertaining sporting events," says KSP Commissioner Jack Adams. "Unfortunately, it is also one of the most dangerous times to be on the roadways due to drivers impaired by alcohol."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that, during recent years, almost 50 percent of all traffic fatalities during the Super Bowl weekend were caused by drivers impaired by alcohol. In 2006, there were 51 total crashes that involved the use of alcohol in Kentucky during the Super Bowl weekend. One person was killed and 44 were injured. In 2005, there were

44 alcohol-related crashes in the state during the game weekend resulting in three deaths and 37 people injured.

"If consuming alcohol is part of your Super Bowl game plan, pass your keys to a sober, designated driver before the kickoff," says Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "It's the best way to avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving."

According KSP Capt. Tim Lucas, commander of the

Governor's Highway Safety Program, it's best not to drink any amount of alcohol if you are going to drive a motor vehicle.

"Alcohol affects different people in different ways," Lucas explains. "The less a person weighs, the faster and more intense their reaction. Women have stronger reactions than men and first-time drinkers will have greater reactions. Often, a person can become impaired after just one drink."

"Kentucky has a no tolerance stance regarding impaired driving," he adds. "Impaired driving is against the law, period. There are no warnings or second chances given. Operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 will result in immediate arrest even for a first

offense." Impaired drivers can lose their licenses, time from their jobs and lose money due to fines, car towing and high court costs. They can also face higher insurance rates and possible imprisonment for repeat offenses, assault and vehicular manslaughter.

"Driving impaired or riding with someone impaired by alcohol is just not worth it," says Adams. "The consequences are serious and real including potential death, disfigurement and disability. Be responsible during your Super Bowl activities. Avoid alcohol or handoff your keys to a sober, designated driver. You don't want to face a sudden death situation or be penalized for illegal procedure."

Driver's blaze started at electric surge protector, fire alarm failed

STAFF REPORT

The ruins of Driver's Service Center were still smoldering this week as workers continued to sift through the charred rubble.

The mess is expected to be cleaned up by next week.

Eddie Driver, who operated the automotive repair center, said the state fire marshal had determined that the fire started due to an electrical malfunction. It began at a surge protector, Driver said, but investigators could not determine for certain whether the multi-outlet surge protector itself or an appliance plugged into it had malfunctioned.

"We had about four things plugged into it," Driver said. "Some of the batteries we use for hand-held diagnostic tools and maybe a radio were plugged into the surge protector."

The fire last Tuesday

totally consumed the repair shop. Firemen called it the biggest fire in county history since Crittenden Motor Co., burned in 1980.

Driver said the shop's early-warning system for fire failed to respond. The electronic system is designed to alert an out-of-state call center which then notifies local emergency responders.

"The fire alarm didn't work and neither did the motion detector," Driver said.

Four fire inspectors, including those hired by the insurance company and a state fire marshal, each came to the same conclusion on the fire's origins.

The fire originated in an enclosed office-style cubical inside the shop. A 300-gallon oil tank about three feet from the surge protector apparently caught fire and caused the blaze to spread rapidly.

"The insurance company

has been wonderful," Driver said. "Joe Yarbrough is our local agent and he has been very helpful. Also, I really appreciate the support we've received from the community."

Driver said his employees have applied for unemployment benefits until he determines whether the shop will be rebuilt.

"We should know what we're going to do by early next week," Driver said. "It just depends on the financial situation and what happens with the insurance settlement."

Some of the mechanics employed at the shop lost their own personal tools in the fire. Driver said the insurance settlement would cover their losses first.

Also, he said that private vehicles damaged in the fire would be covered by his shop's liability policy.

CITY

Continued from page 1A communities through a system of risk assessments and recommendations for improved security. By looking at a community as a whole instead of just looking at individual components, local officials are able to allocate resources and funds to the areas where they are most needed.

Winn said that each site identified for inspection will provide a department head or supervisor to escort the inspection team through the facility. Once the inspection is completed, each site will receive a copy of the team's evaluation for that specific location. The police department will receive a copy of the consolidated comprehensive plan covering all of the 16 sites.

"When people think about terrorism they usually think internationally, but the truth is domestic terrorists, whether that be in the form of a local extremist group or someone opening fire in a school or business, could cause just as much devastation to a community. That is really where we are focusing," KCPP team leader Mike Roe said. "We will go wherever mass casualties could happen in a community. Our assessors will make simple and sometimes inexpensive recommendations that could mean the difference between life and death in a hostile situation. By going through this process, a community is helping to prepare itself for any kind of catastrophic event, whether it is an attack or a natural disaster."

The assessment team will conduct a public hearing once the inspection is complete. Its findings will be discussed at an open community forum at 9 a.m., Friday at the Marion Ed-Tech Center.

VOTE

Continued from page 1A also be staffed at a cost to the county.

It's unclear at this point if voting could eventually be consolidated into fewer venues, but the prospect sounds good to most county officials.

Byford said having a voting machine available at the courthouse prior to election would benefit workers who commute from rural areas into the city.

Also, some people may live between their polling precinct and town. That forces them to spend more time and effort to go vote. In other words, Byford said some people, for instance, might live in Sheridan, but they vote in Tolu.

"They have to get up early and drive to Tolu before work then turn around and go back to town," Byford said. "Those kinds of people would prefer to be able to vote in town."

Byford asks that residents complete the accompanying voter survey (on page 1A) and return it to her office. You may also vote online at The Crittenden Press Online. Go to the weekly news page to fill out the one-question survey.

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

CHECK THIS ONE OUT... Investors take a look at this nine-room fixer upper house that was formerly used as a duplex. Features 2 kitchens, 2 baths, laundry room, floored attic and partial basement. Situated on nice lot in Marion and located 2 blocks from Main St.

GROWING PAINS?... This vinyl siding 2 story family home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, foyer w/open stair case, living room, formal dining room enhanced with beautiful fireplace mantle, modern kitchen with major appliances, TV/entertainment room; partial basement, plus more. Located on large deep lot on West Bellville St. Marion

AN OLDER HOME WITH DIGNITY... describes this 12 room, 2 story brick home. Features: covered front porch with beveled glass door entry to living room, fireplace, formal dining room w/built in buffet & beveled mirror, butler's pantry & retro kitchen, master bedroom with dressing room or nursery, 2 bathrooms plus another bedroom. All this is on the first floor. The second floor has 5 rooms, bath and 2 large walk in closets.

GOLFER'S FANTASY... Enter down the private drive to this landscaped estate that joins Marion's County Club Golf Course. This magnificent two story home includes 4 to 6 bedrooms, open grand staircase, 2 master suites, 4 bathrooms, kitchen w/appliances, 2 laundries, study, great room with gas log fireplace, recreation room plus bonus kitchen, enclosed glass solarium & private deck overlooking the beautiful greens. In addition this lovely home has a large walk-out heated basement, an attached oversized double car garage plus many additional amenities. Fulfill your dreams by calling for an appointment today.

533 E. DEPOT ST... commercial building. Was being used as a doctor's office. Features large multi purpose room, offices, 2 baths, and a lot of parking space. Also has apartment with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Many possibilities. **PRICE REDUCED.**

TAKE A LOOK... 3 bedroom, 1 bath, situated on deep lot in Marion.

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY... Investors take a look at this commercial property

IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

CHECK THIS ONE OUT... two bedroom, 1 bath brick, extra large living & dining room, eat-in kitchen with stove & refrigerator, utility room. Located W. Main St., Salem with landscaped front courtyard. \$35,000.

BURNA AREA... 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 24 x 56 2000 Fleetwood double wide. Call today for more details.

VINYL SIDED... frame build home. Features: 2 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, extra den or dining area and vinyl replacement windows. Plus a small storage building and black top drive.

SALEM... this corner lot listing located East Main and College Streets has a three bedroom, 1 bath home with Livingston Co. stone exterior. Convenient location within walking distance to Bank, grocery, churches, beauty shop, etc. Would also make excellent commercial / office property. Call today for details.

COUNTRY LIVING... if you like the country life you will enjoy this home. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen with appliances, dining room, living room, full basement with lots of storage shelves. Laundry area in basement includes the washer & dryer. All this on 3.80 acres.

YOU MUST SEE THIS... 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home situated on large lot.

3 ACRES... 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, eat & air.

WALK TO TOWN... from this large older 7 room, 2 bath home with vinyl siding.

LOTS / SMALL TRACTS / FARMLAND

7 BEAUTIFUL LOTS located in Hickory Hills Subdivision. Call for more information.

1.29 +/- ACRE lot located on Hwy 723, Smithland.

5 +/- ACRES... located in Salem. All city utilities available. Call today for more info.

12.44 ACRES... with approx. 10 acres of lake known as Chipps Lake.

12.9 ACRES... located in Crittenden County on Hwy 120 and Just A Mere Rd. Great building site with county water available. Owner will divide.

55 +/- ACRES... located on Hwy 60 in Crittenden County. All open fields with some fencing available. Also features a 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch style home with a 76 x 45 Morton building. Owner will sell ground away from home. Call today for more details.

61.15 ACRES... located in Crittenden County on Hwy 723 and Lewis Croft Rd. Features a barn, metal building and 2 ponds with gently rolling fields great for building sites. County water available.

225 SECLUDED ACRES... located in Crittenden County with approx. 70 open acres. 56 acres in CRP. Excellent deer & turkey hunting.

262 +/- ACRES... Features: 2 bedroom house, detached garage, 1 barn, 2 grain bins, 2 ponds, 195 open, balance in woods, and a creek that runs thru property. Great location for hunters.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS... from this 30 x 50 garage. Features (3) 10' x 12' overhead doors, office space, propane heat, exterior lighting, concrete floors, city water. Call for more details.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE... formally used as dentist office. Many possibilities!

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