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THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2007

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DEBATES

Paducah forum is open to the public, tickets available

A limited number of free tickets are available for next week's gubernatorial debates at the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center in Paducah. The debates, which begin at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19 are sponsored by the Paducah Sun and WPSD-TV. WPSD will rebroadcast the debates at 7 p.m. April 21. Tickets are available at the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce and the Carson Center.

Temps: From one extreme to the other

From record highs in late March to record lows in April, the weather has created havoc on plants and gardeners. Temperatures were in the 80s in late March, now a new all-time record low has been recorded for the month of April. According to WPSD-TV in Paducah, the low on Easter Sunday was 21 degrees. That's the lowest reading ever recorded during April. The previous low for that particular day was 27 degrees in 1972 and the previous low for the entire month of April was recorded in 1987 at 24 degrees.

Tax filing deadline

There is some confusion over the filing deadline for U.S. income tax returns. The IRS says the deadline is Tuesday, April 17 because the traditional deadline (April 15) falls on a Sunday and the next day is Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia. Although the IRS web site says April 17 is the deadline, local tax preparers are urging their clients to have their returns postmarked Monday.

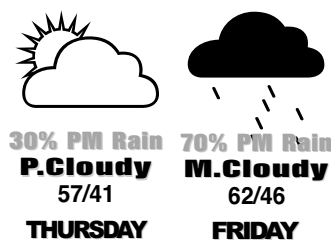
LOCAL MEETINGS

THURSDAY EVENING
Marion City Council meets in special session at 6 p.m., Thursday (today) for a budget work session and to discuss application for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for creating a skate park.

MONDAY EVENING
Marion City Council meets at 6 p.m., Monday at city hall.

TUESDAY MORNING
Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday at the courthouse.

District Court docket online
www.the-press.com



Rain gauge
Last 7 days0.36"
Last 30 days2.97"
Year-to-date12.48" (-1.11")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

THIS WEEK'S Home Mortgage Rates

Type	Rate	Points
30 Yr. Fixed	6.17%	0.4
15 Yr. Fixed	5.87%	0.5

*Rates from FreddieMac.com
Other variables may apply

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Deckhand Brad Prior (left) and ferry pilot Rick Turner were quick to react when they saw a truck plunge into the Ohio River a couple of weeks ago.

Ferry crew saves man from sinking truck in Ohio River

BY BRENDA UNDERDOWN
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Brad Prior made personal safety secondary March 30 when he jumped into the Ohio River to save a man whose vehicle plunged into the murky water at the Cave In Rock Ferry landing.

As a deckhand on the ferry, it's one of Prior's responsibilities to scan the river as the ferry makes its routine trips back and forth between the Kentucky and Illinois shores. But on this day he encountered something he really never expected.

The ferry boat was in the middle of the river and heading north toward the Illinois shore with a load of vehicles at around 10:30 a.m. Prior and pilot Rick Turner were on board the ferry when they saw a truck driven by J.T. Blair of Shawneetown exit the ferry ramp in Cave In Rock and plunge into the swiftly moving Ohio River. The scene set into motion a heroic recovery by the ferry workers.

As the ferry approached the Illinois shore, Prior and Turner saw Blair sitting in the truck with windows rolled down and his safety belt on. They hollered at him to undo his seatbelt so he could get out of the truck window. The pickup, by that time, was floating away from the shoreline, about 40 feet out into the river.

Turner, the pilot, held the ferry boat at an angle to block the truck, while Prior jumped in and swam to the vehi-

cle. The man inside seemed to be in some kind of shock or trauma, doing little to facilitate his own rescue, Prior explained. Unable to unclasp the seat belt, Prior cut it with his knife.

Two Crittenden County men, Burnie Bradford and Darrell Penn, were in traffic behind the truck when the man suddenly drove off the loading ramp into the river. When the ferry got close enough to the ramp the two men jumped onto the deck to help if needed.

While Turner kept the ferry in a position as close to the truck as possible, Bradford threw a rope to Prior, who tied it onto the truck's door frame, before freeing Blair from the vehicle. Prior used the rope to pull himself and the rescued man back to the ferry. He and Blair were assisted onto the deck by Bradford and Penn.

Shirley and Lonnie Lewis, owners of the Cave In Rock Ferry, assisted with the removal of the truck from the river with the use of their backhoe.

These men who operate the ferry are well trained and experienced in their jobs, the Lewises explained.

Prospective pilots must work three years on the deck and undergo pilot training that includes learning to chart a course, draw a map of the river, learn the names and formations of clouds to watch for upcoming weather, have radar training, know how to load vehicles for the safest location, and many other things.

Weathering disaster starts with good preparation

Stay ready for storm season

Emergencies can range from the inconvenient to the devastating, but every Kentuckian can take simple preparedness steps in advance to minimize the impact on our families and communities.

That is why this spring, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is urging the commonwealth's families and businesses to make an emergency plan and to get a



disaster supply kit to be better prepared for the unexpected. Springtime in Kentucky can produce severe storms with damaging winds, tornadoes, hail and flooding, but Kentucky's family emergency preparedness Web site, www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov

ov, provides easy, common sense ideas that can help.

"By taking some simple steps to make an emergency plan and get a disaster supply kit, Kentuckians will be better prepared if an emergency occurs," said retired Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington, director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. "By logging on to www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov, you will have the information you need right at your fingertips," she said.

Every Kentuckian should plan in advance what they will do in an emergency.

Below are a few items that should be included in any plan:

- Designate an out-of-state contact in the case of downed communication lines.
- Know your region's potential disasters and how you will be notified.
- Find out emergency plans at work, daycare and school.
- Create an evacuation plan.

After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene but may not be able to reach everyone

immediately. An emergency supply kit can help your family stay safe and be more comfortable during and after an emergency. Below are a few items that should be included in any kit:

- Three-day water supply.
- Three-day non-perishable food supply.
- First aid kit.
- Non-prescription drugs.
- Tools and supplies.
- Clothing and bedding.
- Hygiene needs.

For more information on specific weather preparedness suggestions, visit www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov.

Johnson's election means seat with WKU's Regents

BY ALLISON EVANS
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

It was through her sister's insistence that Jeanne Johnson became involved in Western Kentucky University's Student Government Association (SGA) as a freshman. Now she's following in her older sister's footsteps, having been elected SGA President last week.

With the presidency comes the prestige of serving as a student representative on the university's Board of Regents. Student regents have equal voting powers on all policies and procedures that come before the body.

Johnson, a studious campus leader who is active in Kappa Delta social sorority, had been filling an unexpired term as SGA president prior to a special election April 3-4. It was then she won the presidency with 62 percent of the campus vote.

Johnson's older sister Patti, who was SGA president in 2004, has been influential and most helpful at times, the younger Johnson says.

"When the past president

resigned, I was thrown into the position, so I spoke with Patti on the phone a lot, and she never hesitated to talk to me about the reality of the job so I haven't walked in completely naive," Johnson said.

The younger Johnson explained the greatest benefit of having a sister as a past president.

"A lot of the issues we face, she faced," Johnson said. "That is ironic because there tends to be in student organizations revolving doors, with so many students coming in and going out that they are unaware what what was told in the past or happened in the past. What is so great is I can say, 'My sister was here and I have the history and I know what we were promised,'" said Johnson, 20. "I basically have four extra years of knowledge."

The biggest issue facing SGA has been the debate over Plus Minus Grading. Western students are nearing the end of four-year trial of Plus Minus Grading which began when Patti Johnson was SGA president. Simply put, Plus Minus Grading makes grades earned more specific - adding a plus or



JOHNSON

See REGENT/page 3A

Go! Bowe

Wallace qualifies for Jr. Olympics

STAFF REPORT

Spending 12 hours a week in the gym paid off for Bowe Wallace, 11.

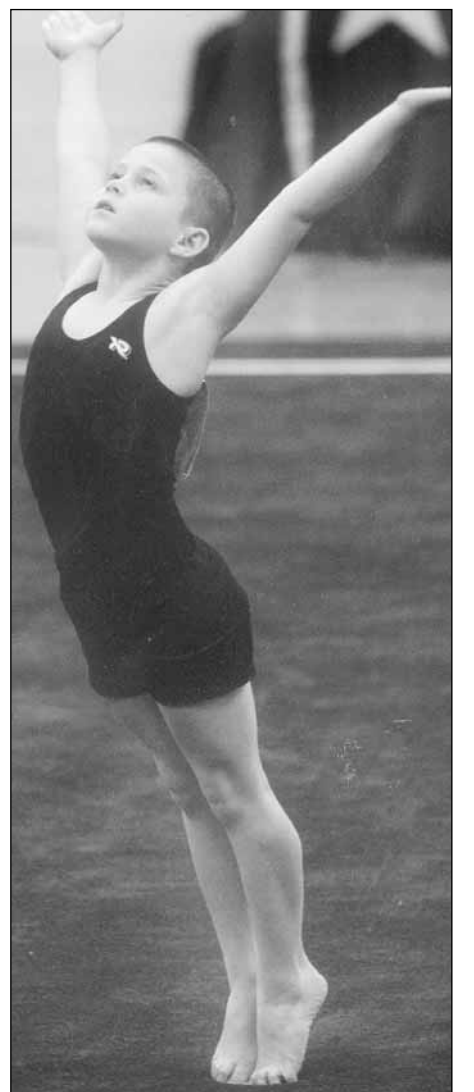
In late March, Wallace earned the title of Missouri State Champion for Level 7 gymnastics. He is a sixth grader at Crittenden County Middle School.

Born with a phenomenal talent to flip and twist and tumble, Wallace amazed his family and their friends as early as age three and four. Since then, he has received formal training in gymnastics and today practices three days a week in St. Louis, Mo.

He will compete at the Junior Olympics Regional competition in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday.

This is his first year training and competing for

See OLYMPICS/page 2A



Crittenden County Middle Schooler Bowe Wallace will compete Saturday in the Junior Olympic Regionals at Kansas City.

Siloam church, school saw their share of tragedies

Let's pay a visit to one of our early schools and churches and learn some history about them.

In Dec. 1879, County School Commissioner Rev. James F. Price paid a visit to the little school of Siloam. It seems through the years the church and school house were used as one. Here is his report.

Dec. 9, 1879

November 18th, I visited Siloam School, Miss Mollie V. Walker teacher. I did not find a very large school but a very interesting one; the average attendance has been 20.

This is Miss Mollie's first school but she displays considerable ability as a teacher. The conduct of the pupils is truly good, whispering is successfully prohibited, quiet prevails in the school room, no unnecessary moving around or disturbance is allowed.

The teacher is very firm in her discipline; she seems to be well pleased with the work of the school room and takes a great interest in her students. The instruction is tolerably thorough.

There are two things retarding the progress of the school; not enough use of the proper text and the irregularity of attendance. They use the old church house for a schoolroom inasmuch as they have no school house in the district.

Fast forward 73 years

Seventy-three years later the Siloam school was still an active school, here is a story of an unusual and tragic event that happened at the Siloam School in the fall of November 1952.

An account of the tragedy is told in The Crittenden Press, Nov. 26, 1952. Constance Lou Hughes, 13, an eighth grade student at Siloam School, was killed instantly and four other chil-

Brenda UNDERDOWN
Area History & Genealogy



Forgotten Passages

dren were injured Tuesday, when lightning struck them.

The five girls were in an outdoor toilet about 100 feet from the school building when the lightning hit.

The injured were Yvonne Rushing, 14, daughter of Coy Rushing; Peggy Fletcher, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Fletcher; Shelby Jean York, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelby York; and Janice McKinney, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville McKinney.

They were taken to the Crittenden County Hospital. The Fletcher girl was released following treatment. The others were reported suffering from severe shock.

The teacher, Mrs. Lorene Cox, learned of the tragedy when the Rushing girl crawled into the school shortly after noon and sobbed weakly that the girls were dead.

The teacher and other pupils ran out to find the other four girls lying on the rain soaked floor of the toilet. Some of the victims were revived before taken to the hospital.

None of the girls could give a coherent account of the tragedy. There was no serious damage done to the building.

Funeral services for Constance Lou Hughes were held at Siloam, with burial at Union Cemetery.

The Siloam school was closed about 1955-56 with the students transported to other schools.



Mrs. Lorene Cox was the teacher at Siloam the day lightning struck and killed one student and injured others.

Siloam Church

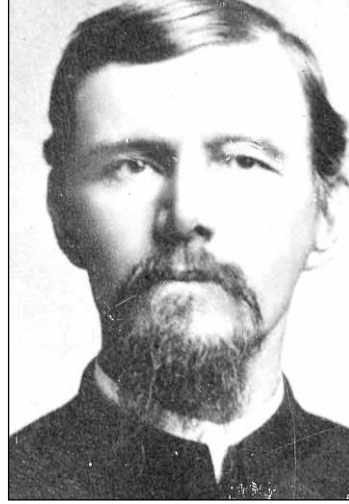
Here is some history about the Siloam Church.

The Siloam United Methodist Church building, located on Ky. 297 was auctioned Saturday, June 12. It had its final services there Sunday, May 23, 1982.

Church trustee Bob Wilson shared the history with The Crittenden Press in June of 1982. The decision to close the church and merge with the Tolu United Methodist Church was a traumatic one for the dwindling congregation. The church had served the community for more than 140 years.

On Feb. 26, 1834, William Hickman deeded a parcel of land to the trustees for a newly organized church. The church was Siloam Methodist Church and the trustees were Littleton Owen, Alexander Coleman, Thomas Yates, John Yates, George Hardin, Daniel Minner and Andrew Love.

A log church was built on this site, which was located about a mile lower on Deer Creek than the present one,



Rev. J.V. Guthrie was the preacher at Siloam in 1894 when he suddenly died after walking into the church to begin the evening service.

which is the third one to house the congregation.

Besides the 1834 deed, Mr. Wilson said church papers included a Bible dedicated to the church Aug. 7, 1856, and records started in the 1850s.

According to those records, at one time more than 200 people attended services there. It was nearly the only church in the area, with churches being widely scattered then. During the early 1900s attendance dropped off as people transferred their memberships to Marion and other closer churches.

The present building, the former Siloam Schoolhouse, was purchased in the late 1950s. It replaced a huge weather boarded structure located a mile down the creek from the present site.

Memories of Siloam's past are good. As late as 1939, Mr. Wilson could remember the old building being filled with people coming from around the area. They would come and park their wagons and buggies outside the building.

Other things remembered



The Siloam School building as it appeared around the middle part of the 20th century.

about the old church were the wood stoves and kerosene lamps. There were two huge wood stoves on either side of the room. The preacher preached with an overcoat on many a time. It wasn't unusual for the kerosene lamps to burn down, and the preacher would continue preaching in the dark.

At one time the church was visited by large crowds for prayer meetings. When you walked or rode your buggy up to the service, you could hear the people singing and praying. I've heard it told that during one dry season, the people gathered to pray for rain. Old Uncle Jimmy Wooten rode up to the church with an umbrella in his hand. When asked what he had it for, he said he aimed to use it. He got to use it before he left too.

Another story was told of how Rev. Johnson called his son down from the pulpit never missing a word in his message. Another pastor Rev. J.V. Guthrie was reappointed to serve Siloam Oct. 1, 1894, and died in the church of a heart attack Nov. 23, 1894.

From Rev. Guthrie's obituary it tells us that never was Marion and Crittenden more shocked than when the

report spread rapidly that Rev. J.V. Guthrie had dropped dead in the church at Siloam, in the midst of the congregation that was gathering to hear him preach.

People at first said surely it could not be true, but it was true. Rev. Guthrie had returned for the evening services and went to the stove to warm, he stooped down to kindle up the fire, and raising partially up he was heard to exclaim "Oh my heart." These were his last words; he immediately sank down and expired. Rev. Guthrie and his wife are buried in the Mapleview Cemetery.

Mr. Wilson said that during his childhood, worship services were held once a month, but Sunday School was held every week. The church was part of a circuit then, preaching was held monthly with the preacher going to either Hebron, Hurricane or Tolu Methodist on the other Sundays. Today only Tolu remains in the Methodist Conference.

Although selling the church building was sad for the nine active members, it would be better than seeing it continually vandalized.

Today the church is a lovely home lived in and cared for by Terry and Brenda Adams.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

From The Crittenden Press Archives

Local news articles from this week in 1957...

*Perry Chips, a Marion High School senior, won a scholarship to Southern Methodist University. The scholarship will pay \$500 a year and will renew itself if Chips keeps a B average.

*Mr. and Mrs. Edd Holliman of Crayne, observed their golden wedding at their home. The couple was married in 1907.

*A truck carrying cases of liquor plunged off U.S. 60 just north of Marion, narrowly missing a housewife working in her garden. The truck was forced off the road by an on-coming car and landed in Mrs. Baker's flower garden.

*Over 200 Boy Scouts of the Boone District were scheduled to descend on Marion April 26, for a two-day spring camporee. The Scouts will come from Crittenden, Union and Webster counties and will pitch camp at Grady Field near Marion.

Local news articles from this week in 1982...

*Mrs. Donna A. Farley of Marion was notified that she was among the finalists in the annual Jefferson Awards sponsored by WPSD-TV Channel 6. Farley was nominated for her public service activities.

*Crittenden County Elementary School cafeteria staff treated the students, faculty and staff with more than 700 chocolate covered eggs during Friday's lunch time. The peanut cream-filled goodies took all week to prepare.

*Good Friday was "Wear A Hat" day at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center. Senior Citizens that were involved are Mrs. Agnes Pugh, Mrs. Mary Meyers and Mrs. Freida Woodward.

Lincoln museum expecting big influx during celebration

Kentucky's official Lincoln Museum, housed in two renovated historic buildings in Hodgenville's downtown district, is looking to refurbish and expand its library of books and other documents in time for the kickoff of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in February 2008.

The museum, which features 12 dioramas with lifelike wax figures depicting key events in Lincoln's life on the first floor, also hopes to install a computer lab in the second-floor library to assist researchers, said museum Director Iris LaRue.

The museum has raised about \$10,000 of the project's estimated cost of \$100,000, but full-scale

fund-raising hasn't yet begun, LaRue said.

Among the artifacts in the library is an original article clipped from the New York Herald newspaper describing Lincoln's assassination in Washington, D.C., in 1865.

The presidential box at Ford's Theater in which Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth is represented by one of the museum's dioramas, which also features a figure of Mary Todd Lincoln, the president's wife who is also from Kentucky. Other dioramas include the Civil War battlefield where Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address, a depiction of Lincoln preparing his second inaugural speech, and a

scene of the 16th president drafting the Emancipation Proclamation freeing enslaved African Americans in the South.

Other lifelike depictions include one of the debates between presidential rivals Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas and a representation of photographer Matthew Brady's studio with Lincoln and his youngest son, Tad, posing for a portrait.

Each of the 21 figures, which are composed of wax faces and hands, human hair, wooden bodies and authentic period clothing, cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. The wax figures were originally housed in a gift shop in Springfield, Ill., but

the daughter of the store's late owner offered them to the LaRue County Chamber of Commerce in 1988. When the chamber succeeded in raising \$25,000 in six weeks, the birth of Hodgenville's Lincoln Museum was ensured, LaRue said.

More than 300 volunteers helped renovate a vacant family-owned department store to house the wax figures.

"We opened the museum in 1989 and expanded to the adjacent building in 2001," LaRue said. "We became Kentucky's official Lincoln museum in 1991."

A federal grant helped cover the renovation costs, including installing an elevator and restrooms for visi-

tors, she said.

About 80 percent of the other items in the collection, which includes a large portrait of Lincoln that originally hung in the state capitol in Frankfort, campaign buttons, clothing, civil war artifacts and other memorabilia, were donated to the museum. On the second floor, visitors can also watch a 21-minute film on Lincoln's life.

The museum averages about 25,000 paid visitors a year, but LaRue anticipates a large increase during the two-year Lincoln Bicentennial in 2008-2009. Currently admission costs \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and military and \$1.50 for children 5-12 years old. Groups are welcome.

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