

The Crittenden Press

WWW.THE-PRESS.COM

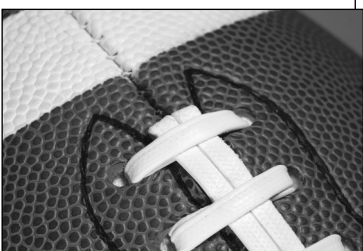
©MMVII
Printed in Marion, Ky., on recycled paper and soy ink
USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2007

75 CENTS
An home-owned newspaper since 1879
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 7 - 16 PAGES

Possum Wranglers start gazebo show

The performers and dates for Music on Main at the gazebo on the courthouse lawn in Marion are now in place. The first performance will be 7 p.m., Aug. 25 with the Possum Wranglers. This is a local group consisting of Thom Hawthorne, Larry Starr, Doug Wooley, Jerry Marshall, Mike Hall and Steve Crider. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair. The performances continue each Saturday through Sept. 22.



Football previews arrive next week

Score your football previews next week for the Crittenden County Rockets and Southeastern Conference in your Crittenden Press. An in depth look at the local high and middle school football teams along with rosters, team photos and schedules will appear in our annual football preview section inside The Press. Also next week, our This Week in the SEC page will premier with a conference preview. Then, each week through the college football season the page will recap and preview UK and other SEC action.

Free food Friday at senior center

Free food will be available for Crittenden County residents only from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Friday at the Pennyrite Allied Community Services Senior Citizens Center on North Walker Street across from Fohs Hall in Marion.

Crittenden bridges appear adequate

Now, two weeks after the Mississippi River bridge collapse in Minneapolis, states across the nation are taking a better look at their bridges. In Crittenden County, most bridges appear to meet federal standards after their most recent inspections. **5A**

Local meetings

UPCOMING
• Livingston Fiscal Court will meet 5:30 p.m., Aug. 16 at the courthouse in Smithland.
• Marion City Council will meet 6 p.m., Aug. 20 in council chambers.
• Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet 9 a.m., Aug. 21 at the courthouse.
• Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet 7 p.m., Aug. 22 at the office in Salem.

Rain gauge

Reported by UK Agriculture Weather Service as of Wednesday at Paducah.

7 days	30 days	2007
0.00"	1.06"	24.94"
below average: 6.74"		

Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

Thursday	Friday
Partly cloudy 99/72	Partly cloudy 92/64

Visit us online 24-7 at WWW.The-Press.com
For breaking news, local news and sports updated as it occurs
E-mail us your news tips pressnews@the-press.com



Board of Ed OKs tax bump

Orr: No more fat to cut; city, county plan to keep same rate

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

By the end of the month, property owners in Crittenden County should have a better idea of how much the taxman will expect when he comes a callin' later this year. Tuesday night, the board of education introduced a plan to breathe new life into an ailing budget by increasing its tax rate on real and personal property by 1.2 cents to 41.4 cents per \$100 of assessed property. The mea-

sure was set into motion with unanimous approval of the plan. There was no public opposition to the proposal during an open comment period prior to the regular board meeting. But board members felt an explanation was needed for their decision. "I don't think there's any place else to cut except into the bone," second-term board member Phyllis Orr said, explaining her vote. "This is the last resort." The new tax rate is anticipated to



Orr

generate an additional \$127,000 for Crittenden County schools, 93 percent of which will be used for instruction. "These are dollars we need to continue the good programs we have in our schools," Superintendent John Belt said. It will be the first tax increase by the school board since 2003 and was spurred by burgeoning expenses that have led to staffing and program cuts. Since the last increase, starting teacher salaries have jumped 25 percent to \$34,267. Also, an estimated

\$100,000 in transportation fuel cost alone is expected this year, double what was spent just four years ago. While the new school district tariff will be higher than in neighboring Livingston, Lyon and Caldwell counties, it is lower than in Webster and Union counties. The rate, too, is more than 10 cents lower than the state average for both real and personal property. The board will keep the 54.1 cent tax on motor vehicles and 3 percent utility tax unchanged. Meantime, officials with city and county governments expect their respective tax rates to remain static

See **TAX**/page 5A

Lane violation: Crackdown coming



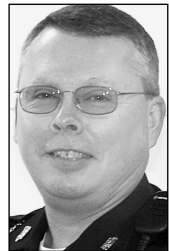
Visitors who park in front of Darben Plaza stores for a quick shopping spree inside may soon emerge to find tickets on their windshields for parking in the fire lane parallel with the store fronts. PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Fines coming for illegal parking at Darben Plaza

STAFF REPORT
Beginning Monday, Marion police officers will begin enforcing the no parking fire lane in front of Food Giant, CVS, Pizza Hut, Family Dollar Store and Movies to Go at Darben Plaza. Police Chief Ray O'Neal said state law and a local ordinance provide for the legal basis, allowing officers to enter onto private property to enforce the no parking zone. Although laws prohibiting vehicles from being in the fire lane have been on the books for ages, police have not regularly enforced them at the shopping plaza. The owner of the shopping mall is preparing to have the fire lane restriped with new

paint and new "no parking" signs will be hung, O'Neal said. "This is just a proactive measure to help provide for greater safety of property and pedestrians," O'Neal said. "We're doing it mainly to curb any potential for future problems." O'Neal said that one person was hit by a vehicle there a few years ago. Vehicles parked in the fire lane make it more difficult for motorists to see customers coming and going from the

stores and restaurant, the chief explained. Kentucky Revised Statute 227.320 and a City of Marion ordinance provide the legal foundation for the enforcement and fines. Any lot with 10 or more parking spaces is subject to police enforcement of local and state laws, according to the statute. Violators will be cited, O'Neal said. They will receive a no parking violation ticket which is payable at city hall. The fine is \$5 if paid within 72 hours. After that, the fine is automatically doubled. Businesses in the plaza have been informed of the plans to begin enforcing the fire lane, the chief said.



O'Neal

Arrest made in stealing of 'liquid assets'

STAFF REPORT
Hidden camera surveillance and late-night police work helped solve a series of break-ins at the Crittenden-Livingston Water District's loading station at Frances.

Deputy Don Perry nabbed a suspect between 2 and 3 a.m., Monday morning after staking out the scene of repeated crimes. The deputy parked across the street from the water loading station where customers pay with coins to fill their water tanks with drinking water. Shortly after 2 a.m., Perry saw a vehicle pass by slowly. It went through Frances and turned around south of town then returned to the loading station.



Perry

The deputy observed as Ernest Martin, 26, of Brown Mine Road cut the lock off the loading station vending machine with a set of bolt cutters. The deputy moved in and arrested Martin on one count of possession of burglary tools and one count of criminal mischief. The sheriff's department report says that other charges are pending. Perry's report included a confession statement signed by the suspect who admitted to breaking into the water vending machine about eight times and getting around \$20 each time. He told the deputy that the machine only had \$4 or \$5 in it Monday morning. The confession statement included his reasoning for the alleged burglaries. Martin wrote that he has been out of work for about 10 months and needed the money. Donnie Beavers, superintendent of the Crittenden-Livingston Water District, said records indicate that \$969 worth of coins have been stolen from the loading station since January of 2006. The station keeps track of the amount of water that has been distributed and Beavers said there have been several times the station has been burglarized. A

See **ARREST**/page 8A



A night-vision camera shows a suspected coin bandid in his car outside of a coin-operated water loading station at Frances. PHOTO PROVIDED

25-year-old battles Hodgkin's, medical bills

By JERRIT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Sitting back in his recliner, escaping the heat of the August sun, Greg Bates makes fun of his cat, a fat tabby who lies lazily in the middle of the floor. Laughing, Bates shoos it out of the way and begins to rock his recliner, noticeably comfortable despite the stifling heat inside a home without air-conditioning on the hottest day of the year. At first glance, Bates doesn't look like he has cancer, but instead like a normal 25-year-old just hanging out at home. Despite the closely-shaven head that most cancer patients sport during their chemotherapy, Bates doesn't look cancer ridden. Nor does he act like it. About two years ago, Bates was



"I've had to let everything go except for my cell phone and car insurance just to keep my head above water."

— Greg Bates on his hospital bills

diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, or more commonly known as Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer that spreads from

one lymph node to another, sometimes causing enlargement of vital organs. Due to the cancer, Bates' weight is gradually disappearing and his stature is shrinking. Walking bent over with his shoulders slumped forward, what used to be a young, vibrant body is now beginning to look much older. "When he first came home, he had lost some weight," Sandy Winters, a close friend to the family, said. "We thought that he met a girl and was starting to look good. But then the weight kept coming off and his posture was getting horrible. His mom decided to make him go see a doctor at that point and have an X-ray done. That was when they found the tumor." On the X-ray, a large tumor was discovered in his chest in front of his heart. Bates' declining stature was

due to his heart being forced to the back of his chest by the tumor. The only comfortable way for Bates to walk was to be hunched so there was no added pressure on his chest. "When the doctor called and told me what he had found, I dropped the phone and screamed," Kim Moody, Bates' mother, said. "I screamed for Sandy to come here and told her to talk to the doctor because I couldn't. "At that point I was crying." After discovering the cancer, Bates endured a round of chemo, radiation and then more chemo. He was then put on a ventilator due to severe pneumonia in both lungs. He spent the entire month of September 2005 at Western Baptist Hospital, breathing

See **BATES**/page 3A

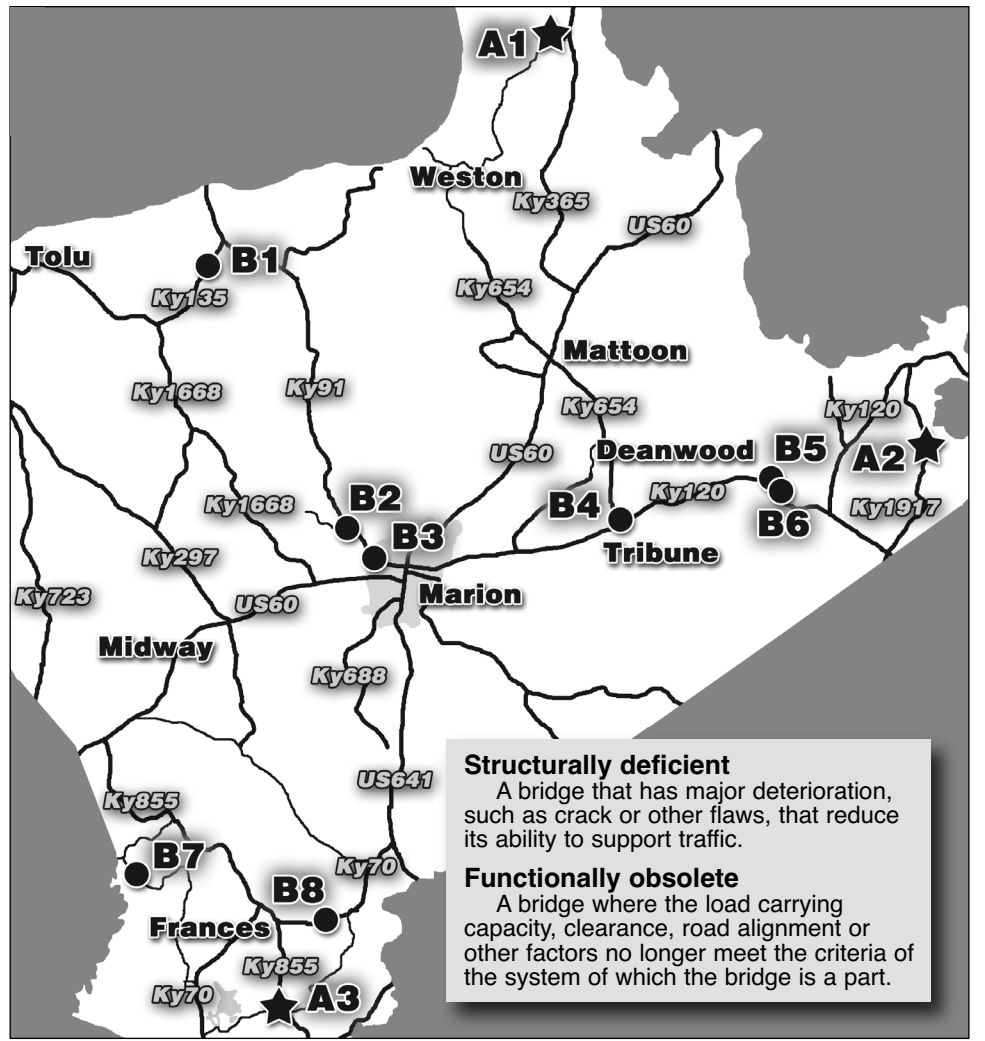
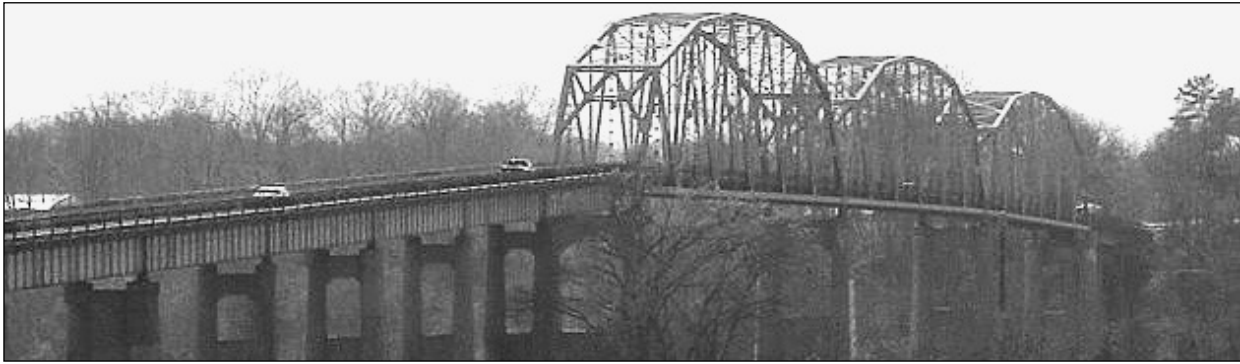
State of Crittenden County bridges

Structurally deficient bridges

ROAD	CROSSES	LOCATION	TRAFFIC COUNT	YEAR BUILT	LAST INSPECTED	REPAIRS
A1	Bells Mine Rd.....	Caney Branch.....	0.5 miles W of Ky. 365.....	40.....	1970.....	May 2006.....County
A2	Ky. 1917.....	Wolf Creek.....	2.1 miles S of Ky. 120.....	81.....	1969.....	May 2004.....State
A3	Main Lake Rd.....	Caldwell Springs Creek.....	50 feet W of Ky. 855.....	150.....	1976.....	April 2005.....County

Functionally obsolete bridges

ROAD	CROSSES	LOCATION	TRAFFIC COUNT	YEAR BUILT	LAST INSPECTED	OWNER
B1	Ky. 135.....	Hurricane Creek.....	0.7 miles SW of Ky. 91.....	229.....	1948.....	June 2004.....State
B2	Ky. 91.....	Crooked Creek.....	1.5 miles NW of US 60.....	911.....	1929.....	June 2004.....State
B3	Ky. 91.....	Crooked Creek.....	0.7 miles NW of US 60.....	911.....	1929.....	June 2004.....State
B4	Ky. 120.....	Unnamed stream.....	0.1 miles E of Ky 654.....	795.....	1931.....	June 2004.....State
B5	Ky. 120.....	Piney Fork Creek.....	1.7 miles W of Ky. 139.....	615.....	1933.....	June 2004.....State
B6	Ky. 120.....	Piney Fork Creek.....	1.5 miles W of Ky. 139.....	615.....	1933.....	June 2004.....State
B7	Claylick Creek Rd...Claylick Creek.....	0.4 miles S of Emmus Church Rd.....	30.....	1992.....	April 2005.....	County
B8	Ky. 70.....	Dry Fork of Livingston Creek.....	2.4 miles SW of US 641.....	700.....	1937.....	June 2004.....State



Structurally deficient
A bridge that has major deterioration, such as crack or other flaws, that reduce its ability to support traffic.

Functionally obsolete
A bridge where the load carrying capacity, clearance, road alignment or other factors no longer meet the criteria of the system of which the bridge is a part.

Crittenden bridges in good shape

Inspections show only three structurally deficient spans

FROM STAFF AND AP REPORTS

As governors around the nation scramble to order engineers to review the safety of thousands of bridges after a span over the Mississippi collapsed in Minneapolis, Crittenden County's catalog of overpasses exceeds state and national rates for safety.

In Kentucky, thorough reviews and additional safety inspections of the state's aging bridges have been ordered by Gov. Ernie Fletcher. Thirty-three bridges in the state are 100 years or older.

However, Marc Williams, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Highways, said there are no bridges in Kentucky of the same type as the one in Minnesota.

Williams said the cabinet will analyze and review the most recent inspection reports for all of Kentucky's long-span bridges that are over 500 feet long and are rated as structurally deficient. The same bridges also will get an additional, unscheduled inspection.

No such bridges exist in Crittenden County, but two Livingston County bridges along U.S. 60 - Lucy Jefferson Lewis Memorial Bridge in Smithland and Clark Memorial Bridge in Ledbetter - should qualify for further review.

"Our inspection methods and standards are already beyond the

general requirements," Williams said. "However, at the direction of the governor, we are proactively increasing the rigor with which we approach these issues."

Both Livingston spans are 66 years old, with the Ledbetter bridge scheduled for replacement within the next three years.

Meantime, the existing Tennessee River crossing into Paducah will get some light maintenance, according to Keith Todd, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet public affairs officer.

As for the Smithland bridge over the Cumberland River (shown above), no replacement is in the works, but Todd said engineers in Frankfort have been working up the scope of a painting and rehab project.

"Tentative plans call for the project to be ready for bidding in the next year or two," he said, adding that the work would be subject to funding availability.

The extent of work needed to rehab the 1,817-foot bridge is being evaluated.

Nationwide, nearly 13 percent of the nation's bridges were classified

as "structurally deficient" in 2004, meaning they are deteriorating, according to a report issued by U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Another 13 percent of bridges were classified as "functionally obsolete," meaning they are structurally sound but no longer meet transportation standards and demands.

According to data from FHWA, three bridges in Crittenden County have been classified as structurally deficient, though that's news to Judge-Executive Fred Brown.

"We just rely on what the state (inspectors) tell us, and they didn't flag anything," Brown said Monday of the state's most recent inspection reports.

Another eight county bridges are rated as functionally obsolete by federal standards, with all but one being state maintained. Todd explained the term functionally obsolete simply means the bridge no longer meets current criteria for load capacity, width or other standards of the road system of which it is a part.

"The doesn't mean it has any structural deficiencies," he said.

The structure classifications are based upon National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) regulations that apply to all publicly owned highway bridges longer than 20 feet. There are 86 such bridges in Crittenden County.

But the three local bridges that failed NBIS guidelines for structural integrity account for less than 4 percent of the county's spans and com-

bined support less than 300 vehicles a day, a far cry from the 140,000 that crossed the collapsed section of Interstate 35 in Minneapolis.

"We don't have any bridges over major arteries," Brown said.

However, the local bridges with an average age of 35 years are deemed to have deterioration such as cracks that may limit ability to support traffic. Those three structurally deficient bridges are:

- In southern Crittenden County, a span over Caldwell Springs Creek on Main Lake Road built in 1976. The overpass on the county-maintained road off Ky. 855 that runs along Maple Sink Lake was last inspected in April 2005 and carries 150 vehicles a day.

- In the northern part of the county on Bells Mine Road, a bridge over Caney Branch constructed in 1970. Another county-maintained structure, this bridge is a half-mile west of Bells Mine Road's junction with Ky. 365. It was last inspected in May 2006 and carries only 40 cars per day.

- In northeast Crittenden County, the oldest of the deteriorating bridges runs across Wolf Creek on Ky. 1917 and is state-maintained. Eighty-one vehicles travel across this 1969-built span that was last inspected in May 2004.

There are no plans from either the state or county to replace these

bridges, just three of 1,362 deemed structurally deficient in the state. Brown said he has no reason to believe there is an urgency to do so.

In fact, Brown is proud of the county's efforts to improve troubled waterway crossings under his leadership. A low-lying ford over Crooked Creek on Bridwell Loop was replaced in his first term with a span no longer affected by heavy creek flows after rains. Next on the list to receive a new bridge is a rocky crossing of a creek on Beachy Road in the Amish community.

Crittenden County Road Department is responsible for 351 miles of road maintenance in the county, or about 64 percent of the public roadways within the borders of Crittenden County. The rest are maintained by the state or City of Marion.

University of Missouri-Columbia civil engineer Glenn Washer said the Aug. 1 catastrophe in Minnesota may change how states such as Kentucky fund bridge inspection and repair.

"There are almost 600,000 bridges in this country, with an average age of 42 years," Washer said. "There is a massive effort by state departments of transportation to inspect, monitor and maintain bridges, but implementing some of the new technology and getting the work done is a significant challenge."

Deficient bridges

	SD	FO	TOTAL
Crittenden	3	8	11
Kentucky	1,362	2,927	4,289
U.S.	73,764	80,226	153,990

SD=Structurally deficient
FO=Functionally obsolete

Crittenden students' ACT scores up

STAFF REPORT

Scores for the standard measuring stick for college admission are up among Crittenden County students, according to 2007 ACT testing results made available Wednesday.

Local students scored a composite 20.6 on the ACT in 2007, up from 20.2 in 2006. The state average this year was 20.7. The national composite average was 21.2.

"That's a good sign," Superintendent John Belt said of the improved local scores.

The ACT rivals the SAT in assessing high school students' educational aptitude for college. The test was first given in 1959 and possible

scores range from 1 to a perfect 36. Four subjects - math, reading, science and English - are tested. An optional writing test may also be given.

Scores for the 42 Crittenden students taking the test were up in all areas of testing, except math, which fell only a 10th of a point to 20.6. Other scores were English, 20.3; reading, 21.4; and science, 20.1. Scores in each area have steadily improved since 2003, when the composite for local students was 19.5.

In 2008, Kentucky will join only Illinois, Colorado and Michigan in administering the ACT to all high school juniors. That test will be free to those students.

Marion nurse first to assist Buzzard Rock fire victim

STAFF REPORT

Longtime nurse Janet Kemper was among the first to provide medical assistance to a 23-year-old Lyon County man severely burned Saturday at Buzzard Rock Marina Kuttawa.

Buzzard Rock employee Travis Leech, 23, was fueling a houseboat owned by a Hopkinsville man, when it caught fire, causing second-degree burns to over 80 percent of his body. He was flown from the scene by PHI Air Ambulance and remained in critical condition at Vanderbilt Hospital's burn unit Wednesday.

Kemper and others had been out on Lake Barkley and had docked a friend's boat about 10 minutes before the explosion at Buzzard Rock's gas dock.

"We heard the explosion and heard people hollering to call 911 and leave their boats. A very large area of water surrounding the houseboat was on fire between the gas dock and the house dock we were on.

Kemper, her daughter Keri, a nursing student, and her nephew's wife who is also in the medical field, ran over to the gas dock to see if they needed to help the injured.

"We didn't know how many people were involved," Kemper said. "There was one person severely burned over most of his body lying on the edge of the dock covered in wet towels."

She said ideally you treat burns with sterile dressings, but in an emergency it's important to find something clean

and cover the burns. This minimizes bacterial contamination, decreases pain by preventing air from coming in contact with the injured tissue and will prevent loss of body heat, preventing shock.

"He was conscious on our arrival," said Kemper, who worked as an ER and trauma nurse in Evansville during a portion of her 30-year nursing career. "I asked him his name and assured him help was on the way. He asked what had happened and wanted to know how badly he was burned."

Kemper said thanks to brave volunteers with fire extinguishers on their boats and those who helped push the houseboat away from the gas dock, others in the area were spared a major disaster.

Daniel Richardson, a conservation officer with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, told The Paducah Sun that Leech was "on the back of the boat, putting gas into it when it hap-

pened. It blew up, and he ran over and got on the dock."

Four people were on the houseboat, but they were not hurt, Richardson said. All were near the front of the boat, and the explosion happened in the rear.

It caused severe damage to the rear and the top deck as well as burning a canvass awning, melting some lawn furniture and breaking a sliding glass door. The fuel island also received minor damage and remained closed for about 24 hours.

People on board the boat put the fire out after being thrown several different fire extinguishers from nearby boats, Richardson said. Deputy Fire Marshal Sheena Richardson was investigating the fire's cause but had not made any determinations.

Daniel Richardson said the boat's engines were running, but so were blowers designed to vent gasoline vapors from the engine compartment.

TAX

Continued from Page 1A

when introduced for approval next week.

Judge-Executive Fred Brown said next Tuesday's fiscal court meeting will take up the property tax matter with his suggestion to keep the real estate rate at 12 cents per \$100 of assessed property and 12.4 cents each for tangible property and motor vehicles. Fees collected from the new 2007 tax rate will go to the county's general fund.

But Brown said he has not seen the proposed tax rates from other taxing jurisdictions within the county, which include health, extension services and library districts. Those rates are decided upon by respective boards and submitted to the fiscal court for inclusion on county tax bills mailed in the fall. The fiscal court maintains little control over those rates, outside of appointing members to each board.

Marion City Administrator Mark Bryant said the tax rate will be studied by council members at Monday's meeting at city hall, and like the county, no change from last year has been proposed. Last year's tax rates for \$100 of assessment were 24.2 cents for real estate, 29.1 cents for tangible assets and 22.9 cents for motor vehicles.

Bryant said a special meeting would likely be called before September to finalize the tax rate with a second reading of the ordinance.

The state earlier this year set its 2007 property tax rate at 12.4 cents, down from 12.8 cents in 2006.

2006 tax rates

Crittenden County rates expressed in cents per \$100 of assessed property. Rates for 2007 will be set later this year.

	REAL PROPERTY	PERSONAL PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLES
COUNTYWIDE			
County general fund	12.00	12.40	12.40
Extension service	3.20	4.69	2.50
Library	5.00	5.00	5.00
Health department	2.00	2.00	2.00
Crittenden schools*	40.20	40.20	54.10

	REAL PROPERTY	PERSONAL PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLES
FOR SPECIFIC AREAS			
City of Marion	24.20	29.10	22.90
Floodplain	30.00	n/a	n/a
Timberland fire	2.00	2.00	per acre

*2007 increase in real and personal property proposed at 41.4 cents.

2006 area school tax rates

Area 2006 school tax rates expressed in cents per \$100 of assessed property. Rates for 2007 will be set later this year.

	REAL PROPERTY	PERSONAL PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLES
State average	50.495	51.331	54.829
Crittenden*	40.200	40.200	54.100
Livingston	37.800	37.800	37.600
Caldwell	34.500	35.600	53.800
Union	55.000	55.000	55.700
Lyon	39.300	40.200	37.500
Webster	46.900	46.900	48.000

*2007 increase in real and personal property proposed at 41.4 cents.

SOURCE: Kentucky Revenue Cabinet

PIZZA ROUNDUP

1628 US Hwy. 60E, Marion, KY • 270-965-2090

Hours: Wed./Thur. 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. • Fri. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. • Sun. 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

SUNDAY BUFFET • AUG. 19 • 12 - 2 P.M.

Pizza • Salad Bar • Bread Sticks • Cheese Bread •
Dessert Pizza • Fettuccine Alfredo w/Shrimp • BBQ •
Smoked Ham • Mashed Potatoes • Baked Beans • Green
Beans • Mac & Cheese • Corn • Slaw • Macaroni Salad

ALL FOR \$6.99

OUTDOORS

Squirrels on Saturday

The Kentucky squirrel season opens Saturday. Hunters may take six squirrels per day. There is a possession limit of 12. Hunters are also encouraged to use some type of insect repellent while afield. The season runs through Nov. 9 then closes for the first four days of rifle deer season. It re-opens Nov. 12 and runs through Feb. 29.

Dove season Sept. 1

Dove season opens Saturday, Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 24. There will be a second segment Nov. 22-27. The limit is 15 doves. Wingshooters must have a hunting license and either a migratory bird permit or a Kentucky waterfowl permit. Hunters 15 and under need only their hunting license.

Early wood ducks

The early wood duck and teal season will be Sept. 19-23. The limit is four ducks, with no more than two woodies.

Bow club shoot

The Marion Big Buck Bowhunters will host a 3-D archery shoot Sunday, Aug. 26. Registration begins at 10 a.m., at the club's range on Arrow Lane.

FOOTBALL

Jr. Pro schedule

Aug. 25 at Sturgis Jamboree
Sept. 8 at Caldwell County
Sept. 22 MORGANFIELD
Sept. 30 at Sturgis
Oct. 4 at Webster County
Oct. 20 CALDWELL COUNTY
Oct. 23 WEBSTER COUNTY

GOLF

Sycamore cancelled

Due to the condition of fairways at Marion Country Club, the annual Sycamore Hills Golf Tournament scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled.

CCHS wins meet

The Rocket golf team won its first match Tuesday, beating Livingston at Marion Country Club. Janson James and Cody McDonald shot 40s to lead the way. Tanner Nix and Alec Pierce came it at 46 and 49, respectively. Chris Martin was Livingston's best scorer at 43. Crittenden won the match 175-184.

All-A tourney at Salem

The 18-hole All-A Regional Girls' Golf Tournament will be hosted by Livingston Central High School at Deer Lakes Golf Course in Salem Wednesday, Aug. 29. Tee time is 10 a.m. Individual golfers may participate if the school does not have enough girls for a team. The two top teams and the two top individuals not participating with a team will qualify for the State All A Tournament at Gibson Bay Golf Course in Richmond in September.

SOCCER

Rocket camp next week

The annual Rocket soccer camp will be from 8 a.m., until noon on Saturday, Aug. 25 at Marion-Crittenden County Park's high school soccer field. The clinic is for boys and girls ages 6 to 16. Cost is \$25 for an individual or \$20 each for two or more children. Players will need to bring shin guards, a water bottle and soccer ball with their name on it. Registration must be completed by Friday. Application forms can be requested by contacting Dawn Hollamon at 965-2746 or LaJean Quisenberry at 965-4186. Camp attendees will also have an opportunity to perform at the Aug. 27 home soccer game between junior varsity and varsity games. Players should be at the field by 6 p.m., for that event.

Youth soccer league

Sign-up for Crittenden County Youth Soccer is underway. The league is for ages 4-14. Pick up application forms at Homestead Realty, The Peoples Bank and The Crittenden Press.

CORRECTION

Tinsley on team

Jessica Tinsley's name was inadvertently omitted from the high school girls' softball banquet information published Aug. 2.



Members of the 2007 Lady Rocket soccer team are (from left) Anna Jimenez, Katie Head, Mikka Crabtree, Elise Hill, Ali Shewcraft, Shea Shewcraft, Mary Hollamon, Nancy Maclin, (middle) Kaila DiMaggio, Hannah Brantley, Misty Wallace, Rachel Cook, Kelly Williams, Leana Riley, Lauren Hunt, Casey Stallon, Kelsey Powell, (back) head coach Michael Gibson, assistant coach Andy Walker, Sammie Jo Quisenberry, Cassie Vinson, Emily Owen, Taylor Cosby, Jordan Millikan, Anna Schnitter, Ellen Merrick and Jenna Odom.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Gibson has high hopes for soccer success in '07

BY CHRIS HARDESTY
PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Entering his second year at the helm, Lady Rocket soccer coach Michael Gibson made no bones about his team's goal for the upcoming season.

Despite recording two straight winning seasons for the first time in school history, the Lady Rockets have been unable to carry that success over into postseason as they have never won a game in the Fourth District playoffs.

"We want to be in the regional tournament," Gibson said, with a strong belief that his club can accomplish the feat this fall.

With 25 players on the roster, the Lady Rocket skipper has been giving his team high praise this summer.

"They have the best attitude of any team I have ever coached," Gibson said.

He was also very impressed with the way his players made a commitment to stay in good shape during the offseason. This year, it's more noticeable.

"We are in better shape than we were last year at this point," he said.

Gibson pointed to disappointing setbacks last fall to Fourth District foes Caldwell, Lyon, Trigg and Dawson Springs as a means for motivating his team.

"If we're going to be better than them, we're going to have to beat them on the field," he said.

As far as the non-district schedule goes, Crittenden has picked up Reidland and Muhlenberg North, who it faces in Saturday's season opener.

Despite losing the talented quartet of Katlyn Nasseri, Leigha Phelps and Melissa and Megan Kirk to graduation, Crittenden has a strong nucleus of eight upperclassmen returning.

Melissa Kirk finished her prep career as the leading scorer in school history. While Gibson knows she will be hard to replace, he believes having

a greater number of offensive weapons will help keep defenses off guard.

"We've got six kids that, at any given time, can score. I'm hoping this year we will be able to spread the wealth more," the second-year coach said.

After beginning last year with a perfect 4-0 record, Ali Shewcraft suffered an injury and Crittenden went 4-6-1 the remainder of the season.

Had it not been for Shewcraft's injury, Crittenden probably would have finished with double-digit victories.

"Losing her changed the whole dynamics. She was kind of the glue that held us together," Gibson said.

Senior Shea Shewcraft will join her cousin as another forward. She possesses a positive attitude and has the ability to make her teammates better.

Mikka Crabtree and Elise Hill round out the senior class and provide a strong tandem as defensive wingbacks. Gibson loves the way the two control the game in backcourt.

Junior midfielder Katie Head is coming off a fantastic season and exhibits tremendous athletic ability along with a great deal of versatility. Classmate Mary Hollamon, one of the smartest players on the team, will also see playing time at a midfielder slot.

Nancy Maclin and Anna Jimenez round out the junior class and should help Crittenden's defense which hopes to be very stingy this fall.

Hannah Brantley, who was very aggressive as a starting freshman goalie, drew lofty remarks from the Lady Rocket skipper.

"She will be one of the best goalies in the region," he said.

Sophomores Rachel Cook and Sammie Jo Quisenberry, who each saw varsity minutes last fall, will be solid defenders for the Lady Rockets.

Classmate Kelly Williams, who had a tremendous work ethic over the off-season, should provide even more

SOCCER ROSTER

No.	Name	Yr.
1	Mikka Crabtree	Sr.
14	Elise Hill	Sr.
10	Ali Shewcraft	Sr.
17	Shea Shewcraft	Sr.
22	Katie Head	Jr.
24	Mary Hollamon	Jr.
8	Anna Jimenez	Jr.
27	Nancy Maclin	Jr.
6	Hannah Brantley	So.
21	Rachel Cook	So.
16	Katie Henager	So.
26	Sammie Jo Quisenberry	So.
4	Leana Riley	So.
6	Misty Wallace	So.
11	Kelly Williams	So.
6	Kaila DiMaggio	Fr.
15	Lauren Hunt	Fr.
19	Kelsey Powell	Fr.
23	Casey Stallon	Fr.
16	Taylor Cosby	8th
10	Jenna Odom	8th
20	Emily Owen	8th
36	Jordan Millikan	8th
22	Ellen Merrick	7th
5	Anna Schnitter	6th

SOCCER SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Aug. 18	Muhlenberg South	A	9:30 a.m.
Aug. 20	Union County	A	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 23	Hopkinsville	A	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 27	Dawson Springs	H	5:45 p.m.
Aug. 28	Webster County	H	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 4	Trigg County	H	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 8	University Heights	H	12:30 p.m.
Sep. 10	Christian County	H	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 13	Lyon County	H	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 15	Tilghman	N	10:00 a.m.
Sep. 15	Madisonville	A	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 17	St. Mary	H	5:45 p.m.
Sep. 20	Caldwell County	A	7:15 p.m.
Sep. 25	Reidland	H	7:00 p.m.
Sep. 29	Fort Campbell	A	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 1	Webster County	A	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 2	Union County	H	7:00 p.m.

*Lady Donley Classic Tournament

depth at the defender slot.

The freshman combination of Kaila DiMaggio and Lauren Hunt will be capable substitute players when Gibson elects for some backup.

"I'd be shocked if we're not better," the Lady Rocket coach said, describing his team's outlook.

He lists confidence, intelligence and being mentally tough as the three keys for a successful season.

"We want to be a smarter team than anyone else we play," said Gibson.

Notes after an 18-minute race

Notes after sweating for an hour after an 18-minute race...

The past two weeks have not been the best for anyone interested in fitness. I was set to discuss specific fitness ideas for fall, but the weather has interceded.

If you've been training for races or competitive events, you've battled heat and dehydration. In all likelihood, you've also reduced your workouts. For those who have continued walking, running, cycling, lifting or doing other workouts, my hat's off to you for getting out there in spite of the heat.

Hopefully, we'll emerge from this heat wave soon. Until we do, be sure to continue drinking plenty of fluids, staying hydrated and eating a lot of carbs (potatoes, pasta and pizza) for convertible energy. If you normally drink a daily half-gallon of water and/or electrolytes (like Gatorade or Powerade), bump it up to a gallon per day combined. Also, if you have the option, work out early in the day. And don't be afraid to reduce the length of your workouts temporarily.

I recommend waking up at 5 a.m.,



or earlier, and trying to complete your entire workout by 8 a.m. You'll find plenty of friendly faces to greet your tired eyes at Marion City Park. More importantly, your body will not be overly taxed by the oppressive heat. Normally, I would suggest working out after work, but when it remains above 90 degrees until late at night, evening workouts can wipe you out as well.

Given the heat and the resumption of school, weekly get-togethers for the Crittenden County Runners and Walkers Group will now take place Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. at Marion City Park. Runners and walkers of all abilities will get together for walks, runs or jogs around the park or track, so be sure to stop by and add to the fitness momentum that is spreading across Crittenden County. We're coming up on the best time of the year for conditioning and training outdoors

– September and October. Look forward to seeing you.

Seven Crittenden County runners competed among nearly 700 entrants in the opening leg of the Evansville YMCA Series, the Fifth-Third Bank 5K. Crittenden County High track coach Angela Starnes ran a personal-best 27:14 to finish in the top third of the field. Other participants included Lee Gardella, who ran 30:13 to finish in the top half of all entrants, plus Katlyn Nessari, Rebecca Woodall, Karen Nessari, Theresa Jenkins and Bob Yehling. Woodall and Jenkins completed their first-ever 5K races, while Yehling finished 16th overall in 18:48.

The next race in the series is the YMCA 10K on Sept. 8. The series concludes Oct. 7 with the Old National Evansville Half-Marathon. For more information, call 812-423-9622.

Two-time Boston Marathoner Bob Yehling, an assistant track coach at Crittenden County High, is a member of the Crittenden County fitness group, which meets Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. at Marion-CC Park.

Volleyball team wins three straight games, now 3-1

STAFF REPORT

The Lady Rocket volleyball team (3-1) won Monday at Madisonville 25-15, 25-19.

First-year coach Larry Duval described the triumph as an entire team effort. He praised the strong senior leadership from the foursome of Breanna Cozart, Chastity Doom, Wynne Wallace and Nicole Bean.

Duval has been happy with his squad's strong defensive effort through the first week

of the season. He also expressed satisfaction in upending a 4A school such as Madisonville.

Crittenden won its home opener last Friday night, upending Fort Campbell 25-15, 22-25, 25-21.

After easily capturing the opening set, Duval was displeased with his team's lack of execution in the second set which allowed the Lady Falcons to even the match.

However, he was proud of the way they came back in the last set.

The Lady Rockets defeated another 4A school, host Graves County, Tuesday night in straight sets 25-22, 25-15.

"We ran away with the second set," Duval said. He pointed to the fact that all 13 players have seen playing time at some point during the first four games of the season.

Better defense?

Starnes says first scrimmage reveals intensity issues

STAFF REPORT

Prior to last week's first scrimmage at Muhlenberg County, Rocket coach Al Starnes thought his defense was ahead of schedule.

Now, he's rethinking that analysis.

"Our defense does not have the attitude it needs," Starnes said, pointing to a lack of intensity and aggressive-

ness.

Otherwise, the coach thought the team's debut was very good.

Crittenden beat Muhlenberg North and South. They host Hopkins Central tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m.

Muhlenberg North 4-1.

"Overall, for the first scrimmage it was probably the best we've ever had," Starnes explained. "We're in shape. We had no cramping or kids asking to come out of the game."

Crittenden running back Rodney Robertson was one of the most impressive in the game. Starnes said Robertson, a junior and two-time Ironman competition winner, is the most improved player on the field to this point.

"I think he ate some gunpowder right before the game," Starnes said with a smile. "He played like he had."

The coach was also impressed with his new quarterback, sophomore J.D. Gray. A wingback and running back last year, Gray is a versatile player and will be triggerman in the spread offense that includes an option for him to keep, give or pass the ball on nearly every play.

A.J. Thompson, Crittenden's center and defensive tackle, looked good. Thompson has verbally committed to play next year at Indiana.

Sophomore Dylan Clark, freshman Brian Berry and sophomore Aaron Berry were also bright spots, Starnes said.

Vince Clark, the defensive coordinator, said he thinks the team's defense will get better with time. He, too, is concerned with the intensity level.

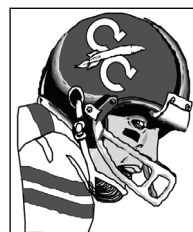
"We're going to be okay on defense," Clark said. "The first 11 guys we put out there are going to be pretty good. After that, our depth is a question mark."

Clark said that a move putting Jeramie Sorina at middle linebacker will pay big dividends once the junior is more comfortable with the decision. Sorina is best known for this running back qualities, and he played safety last season. Clark said his quickness from sideline to sideline will be a great asset to the defense.

"I just don't think we have the confidence in ourselves to hit hard," Starnes said. "Some of the guys I thought would be big hitters were not."

The Rockets will be at home tonight (Thursday) for their final scrimmage. They host Hopkins Central in a scheduled 6 p.m. start. However, Thursday's temperatures are forecast near 100 degrees. If the heat index is 105 or higher, kickoff of the scrimmage will be delayed until the air cools off. There will be no admission fee for the pre-season scrimmage game. The annual team picture day will be held prior to the scrimmage starting at 4 p.m.

The regular season opens next week when Crittenden plays Massac County, Ill., in the first ever Alliance Bowl at Graves County's new stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25.



SCRIMMAGE

The Rockets won their first scrimmage a split-game against Muhlenberg North and South. They host Hopkins Central tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m.