



# The Crittenden Press



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## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Salem hosts Lighted Christmas Parade

The fourth annual Salem Lighted Christmas Parade will be held at 5:30 p.m., Saturday. All bands, businesses, organizations, churches, schools sports groups, cars, tractors, clubs and individuals are invited to participate in the parade. Trophies will be awarded for civic, church, business and grand prize categories. For more information, contact Salem City Hall at 988-2600 between 8 a.m., and 4:30 p.m.

### Carrsville gearing up for community holiday event

Carrsville's seventh annual Community Christmas will be held Dec. 16. Festivities include Santa, live entertainment, food, lights, vendors and lots of fun. Stores will be open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information contact 988-3401.

### Winter still 2 weeks away

Think it's been cold enough lately? Well, winter is still two weeks away. The first official day of winter is Thursday, Dec. 21. That's also the shortest day of the year.

## LOCAL MEETINGS

### THURSDAY NIGHT

Council of Councils, group meeting of all SBDMs from all county schools, 5:30 p.m., Rocket Arena.

### TUESDAY NIGHT

Crittenden County School Board meets at 6 p.m., at the elementary school library.

District Court docket online  
[www.the-press.com](http://www.the-press.com)

## WEATHER FACTS

Official U.S. Weather Service statistics (since 1952 as observed in Paducah, Ky.):

**Average seasonal snowfall:** 10.2 inches

**Snowiest winter:** 35.7 inches (1977-78)

**Snowiest month:** 24.7 inches (Jan., 1978)

**Least snowy winter:** Trace (1991-92, 1956-57, 1952-53)

**Earliest measurable snowfall:** Oct. 29, 1993

**Latest measurable snowfall:** April 18, 1983

**Median date of first measurable snow:** Dec. 22

**Median date of last measurable snow:** Feb. 28



**FLURRIES COLDER**  
30/14

**THURSDAY**



**MOSTLY SUNNY**  
35/22

**FRIDAY**

### Rain gauge

Last 7 days .....2.38"  
Last 30 days .....5.65"  
Year-to-date .....62.45" (+17.07")  
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

## 965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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# Special Tree(tment)

## Croghan gives 'Living' musical an entertaining touch



Mike Croghan leads this year's performances of the Living Christmas Tree. There will be two performances, one Friday night and one Sunday afternoon.

BY MICHAEL McCLENDON  
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Mike Croghan, a former Crittenden County School band director, is taking the podium again, this time directing the Fohs Hall's Living Christmas Tree.

"He makes it so much fun for the singers," said Susan Alexander, event coordinator.

Croghan has directed the Living Christmas Tree program in years past and is always a favorite among audiences and performers.

"Marion seemed to be our home. People are so nice to us here," said Croghan, interviewed following a recent rehearsal.

Croghan began his music education career in Crittenden County. From 1958-1963 he taught junior and high school students.

"I came from a musical family," he said.

Croghan originally planned to pursue athletics, but

See **TREE**/page 3A

## Doug Travis



## now WMA

### Marion native & long-time KDFWR employee honored

Crittenden County native Doug Travis has received an ultimate and perhaps unfading honor from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources — an agency he's served for the last 59 years.

This week, the state wildlife agency put the long-time conservationist's name on the front of a wildlife management area in Hickman and Carlisle counties in far western Kentucky. The bottomland wildlife area along the Mississippi River was officially named the Doug Travis WMA by Gov. Ernie Fletcher during a formal ceremony Tuesday afternoon. A handful of people from Crittenden County made the nearly two-hour drive to Burkley, Ky., for the event.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) recently purchased the 4,118-acre area for a reported \$4.5 million from Escanaba Timberlands, LLC.

The agency decided to name the lowland woods, fields, bogs and sloughs for Travis, now a Paducah resident and the state agency's longest-serving conservation educator. Travis spent many years as director of Camp Curry and still works diligently to promote wildlife stewardship and conservation to youngsters.

The WMA is an important waterfowl and wetland wildlife area along the heart of the Mississippi Flyway. The WMA was originally formed in 1992 by the paper-making Westvaco Corp. Westvaco provided the bottomland acreage for wildlife benefit and public use in a cooperative partnership with the KDFWR, which directly managed the area. Several corporate mergers and sales later, the management area ended up in the hands of Escanaba Timber, LLC, of Dayton, Ohio. Escanaba immediately put the properties up for sale. The KDFWR had negotiated many years ago a deal that gave it the right of first refusal on the property if the owner ever decided to sell. That right was exercised recently and WMA was purchased by the state wildlife agency.

Travis, 87, has been slowed by health problems recently but nevertheless remains active in service with the KDFWR. He began his career in 1947 as a Crittenden County conservation officer, but switched to conservation education the next year and has worked in that capacity since.

The wildlife acreage that bears his name "is a great area," Travis said. "There's been times over the past four years or so that there were more ducks there than in any place in western Kentucky."

Travis was characteristically modest about being the namesake for the management area — appreciative but unconcerned with a higher personal profile.

"They delivered the ultimatum to me that they were going to do this," he said. "If it's good for fish and wildlife, I'm for it. I just don't need another plaque to hang on the wall."

Some information for this article was provided by Steve Vantrees of The Paducah Sun.

# City lot

## Courtyard, parking will cost about \$35K

BY MICHAEL McCLENDON  
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Construction began last week on the courtyard and parking lot at City Hall. Bidding disputes and dissension on the city council initially stalled the project, but it is now back on track.

The lot and courtyard, which will cost about \$35,000, will include sidewalks and an improved drainage system, according to Mayor Mickey Alexander. The project should be completed by spring.

"The new drainage system will help keep people from slipping on the ice," said Alexander. "During winter it's like an ice skating rink."

Despite disputes over the design of the project, it will basically resemble earlier plans with one major exception. The stripes that determine individual parking spaces will be redesigned for angled parking instead of vertical parking.

Several patrons have complained about the current striping pattern, which is at a 90-degree angle to the curb. They say spaces are too difficult for drivers with larger vehicles to maneuver in and out. They also claim visibility is bad on drivers backing out and could cause an accident.

"We'll lose a few spaces, but it's what the people want," the mayor said.

City crews are doing the demolition work on the old parking lot. Industrial Contracting, Inc., will do most of the construction.

Patrons to city hall will have to have some patience during the construction peri-

See **CITY**/page 7A



## Decorative Spirit

Micki Crider puts the finishing touches on a Christmas bow as part of the elaborate decorations at the Marion United Methodist Church. Area churches have spent the past week getting their houses of worship ready for a big birthday party. Christians will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ Dec. 25. With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, Dec. 24, many local congregations are planning special activities well into the night.

# Underdown will publish local history

## Columnist plans spring release for Crittenden book

STAFF REPORT

With four years of newspaper clippings on file, Crittenden Press columnist Brenda Underdown is ready to publish her own book.

Using past articles, personal research, photographs and stories, Underdown is

compiling local history into an hardback anthology.

"I've had several requests about publishing a book with the history articles," Underdown said. "Some people have said they try to save them in a notebook, but it would be easier to keep them

if I could just compile them into a book.

"It also seems there are a lot of people that like the history of our county. I appreciate so much all of the people who have taken the time to talk with me about their memories and knowledge of yesteryear and shared their photos."

Some consider Underdown the "historian laureate" of Crittenden County. She is an active member of the local historical society and county genealogy group. Among

other things that help preserve local heritage, Underdown has been behind a movement to restore old cemeteries in the county.

Back in December of 2002, she became a regular contributor to The Crittenden Press. Underdown gathers much of her historical facts from the Crittenden County Public Library. She spends countless hours pouring over microfilm and old documents in the genealogy section of the library. Some of Underdown's columns are

taken directly from old newspapers or from writings previously published. Others are original writings developed from her personal research.

With volumes of information — including about 200 articles she has written for The Press — Underdown fears her book may take two volumes. Regardless, the book will have vintage and contemporary photographs as well as extra information she found after some of her origi-

See **BOOK**/page 3A



UNDERDOWN