

The Crittenden Press

WWW.THE-PRESS.COM

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007

75 CENTS
A home-owned newspaper since 1879
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 26 - 14 PAGES

Highway fatalities down across Post 2

More than 850 people were killed on Kentucky highways during 2007, with 45 — three fewer than the year before — of those occurring in the seven-county Kentucky State Police Post 2 area, according to Trooper Stu Recke. Five of those fatalities were in Crittenden County.

In responding to accidents last year, Donnie Arflack of Crittenden County Rescue Squad reported 12 responses and three EMS assists (getting patient from remote location) for a total of 172 hours. Also, an additional 173 hours of training for the year were undertaken by rescue squad volunteers.

City Hall fire-ready, courthouse not

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

While one western Kentucky county investigates a blaze that destroyed its 25-year-old courthouse and many of its records, Crittenden County's nearly half-century-old center of government remains without fire protection.

Kentucky State Police have determined arson was the cause of a fire that gutted the Carlisle County courthouse Dec. 26, but no one had been charged

for the crime at press time.

Meantime in Marion, vital county documents and the courthouse itself have little protection from any potential fire. Opened in 1961, the concrete block and brick building has no fire alarm, sprinklers or fire suppression system of any kind, according to Judge-Executive Fred Brown. There is also no fireproof vault for storage of legal or historical documents or other essential items.

"That's what worries me," said

County Clerk Carolyn Byford, whose office maintains the bulk of the county's legal and historic documents.

However, Brown said his office backs up computer files daily on pocket-sized memory sticks that are taken out of the building. Those files include payroll and other electronic documents.

Brown also said case evidence collected by the sheriff's department is typically stored at Marion City Hall, which has alarms and fire-suppression

devices. Those fire-prevention methods are state-of-the-art in the new building, said City Administrator Mark Bryant. Sprinklers and fire alarms were installed during construction, as well as a fireproof vault for records.

"That thing is 100-percent fireproof," Bryant assured.

Byford is in the process of applying for grants to transfer the last of the

See **FIRE**/page 3A

To the Xtreme



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS
Jeremy Breedlove is president and CEO of Xtreme Tracker Inc., a company now operating in the Tyler Manufacturing plant (former Tyco building). Xtreme Tracker and Tyler Manufacturing will ramp up to hire about 40 employees within the next year. Below, Joe McDaniel, president of Par 4 Plastics, and Kris Carlson, chief information officer for Xtreme Tracker, are among several local individuals who have been instrumental in the development of the XT1.

Innovative use of technology launches new Marion company

By CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Right now the possibilities appear endless for Xtreme Tracker.

The maker of a cellular-linked, Web-based GPS tracking device for heavy equipment will begin manufacturing operations in Marion within a few months.

The company, located at the former Tyco building which is now Tyler Manufacturing in the industrial park, will hire several people in the coming year. Its president Jeremy Breedlove, 31, of Eddyville anticipates \$25 million in sales during the first year.

Xtreme Tracker has developed one model to date — the XT1 — which is an electronic device that can be mounted on the dash or other surface of a piece of equipment such as bulldozer, loader, trackhoe or tractor. Xtreme Tracker takes information from the machine and sends it to an Internet-based data center which provides maintenance and security information to the owner of the equipment.

A radio-frequency identification card, which looks much like a hotel key card, will virtually replace the ignition system for such equipment. By using the cards or a 10-digit code, the operator will be able to crank the machine. Data is sent from the XT1 to the company Web site where owners can monitor the usage of their equipment and even track its location via global positioning satellites.

Xtreme Tracker officials hosted a product-launching meeting at the Marion Ed-Tech Center the week before Christmas. Plans regarding production of the device were laid out by Breedlove and many of the company's partners, which include Par 4 Plastics and Tyler Manufacturing — two local manufacturers. Par 4 and Tyler will be in on the plastic molding of the housing and final assembly of the unit. The two Marion companies were also involved in the initial development of the device.

Between new hires at Xtreme



Tracker and Tyler Manufacturing, there will be about 40 jobs created over the next year.

Job applications will be accepted at a later date for various positions. The company will make an announcement in a few weeks regarding how and where application may be made.

Google, Siemens, nPhase/QUALLCOMM, AT&T and Genie Industries are among the other partners on the project. It has been a highly technical process, requiring many of the brightest engineers in the country to develop the XT1.

Prototypes of the device have been tested in the field for the past several months in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, St. Louis and Eddyville. The company is gearing up for a pre-production run of the units which will help it troubleshoot and fine-tune the device before full production begins this spring.

In addition to the manufacturing and final assembly of the XT1, sales and data monitoring services will be handled from the Marion

headquarters. Round-the-clock monitoring will be conducted in Marion for the anticipated thousands of units that will be sold the first year alone.

Breedlove said the device will sell for about \$1,250 per unit and there will be a monthly connection fee, much like the subscription for cell phone service. The XT1 has various applications for the heavy equipment owner or rental company, but among its most redeeming values will be its security features.

If a piece of equipment fitted with an Xtreme Tracker device is stolen, the unit sends out an alert and the equipment can be tracked via GPS. If the XT1 is disabled or tampered with, it stores vital information in its memory board which can be retrieved at a later time. Also, if the XT1 is disabled or tampered with the equipment will not start.

Breedlove said that \$3.2 billion worth of equipment is stolen each year in the United States, making

See **XTREME**/page 3A

TOP 10

stories of 2007

Iraq war homefront top news

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

From the war in Iraq to a deadly disease among the whitetailed deer population, our top 10 news events from 2007 featured heroes and legends, openings and closings and one hot, dry summer.

1 While it marked the country's fourth year of fighting a war in Iraq and an ongoing second deployment for Marion's Kentucky Army National Guard unit, last year brought home the best and worst of battle.

The news of an extended deployment in the Middle East was hard to take for the friends and families of the 44 soldiers who served with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor. It became more difficult when on March 19 two of those soldiers were injured, one critically, by a roadside bomb.

The entire unit was welcomed home in July by more than 500 people gathered at the Carson Davidson National Guard Armory, but they would not forget those injured and a Leitchfield, Ky., native, Sgt. Thomas W. Clemons, who died of a heart attack while in Iraq.

Spec. Chase Matthews of Dycusburg and Sgt. Jonathan McMackin, a Marion native, as well as a Minnesota soldier running convoy protection with the local unit, all suffered wounds from the March attack.

Matthews would lose a portion of both legs and numerous other injuries, including a badly damaged left arm. The soldier underwent many surgeries and continues rehab at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., but returned home for a visit the first time in August to a huge welcome home and 23rd birthday party.

McMackin suffered a broken leg that required a lengthy recovery. But, in November during an official military recognition of the Guard unit's effort in Iraq, McMackin received a Bronze Star for his efforts to save his fellow soldiers while fighting off insurgents in the March 19 attack.

The unit returned to duty after a three-month layoff from training, and continues transformation from a tank unit to a detachment of A Company, 206th Engineer Battalion in Leitchfield.

2 Weather woes came in as the No. 2 entry on the top 10 list.

From a spring freeze to the hottest August ever for Crittenden County, Mother Nature battered farmers and pocket books at the grocery store.

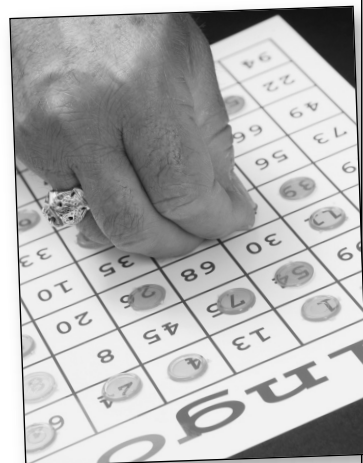
Farmers had to cope with the one-two punch of a spring hay harvest lost to a hard April freeze followed by one of the driest, hottest summers on record. Keeping livestock, which number twice the human population of Crittenden County, fed and watered became an exercise in futility. To survive, farmers sold off record numbers of cattle at local livestock markets.

The pinch was felt at the grocery, too, as crops of seasonal fruits and vegetables withered in the summer heat that gripped much of the Southeast. The effects on meat and produce prices could linger for years, according to some economic forecasts.

Locally, August daily temperatures averaged 83.7 degrees, almost 2 degrees warmer than the next hottest August — 1980.

3 The \$7.7 million construction of a new county jail was the costliest venture to

See **NEWS**/page 8A



Marion's VFW Post begins bingo night

The Marion VFW post on College Street will host bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m., Monday. All money raised will be donated to charitable work of the veterans group.

Smoke-free Illinois begins in new year

The Land of Lincoln has become a little less smoker-friendly in the new year.

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act bans smoking in bars, restaurants and other public workplaces anywhere in the state. The law went into effect at the stroke of midnight Tuesday.

Smokers who break the law could be fined from \$100 to \$250, while businesses that break the law again and again could be fined at least \$2,500.

State legislature under way Tuesday

The 60-day session of the Kentucky General Assembly begins Tuesday, and next week, The Crittenden Press will take a look at some of the issues as related to the county. Sen. Dorsey Ridley and Rep. Mike Cherry share their outlook on the session, which will include tackling a new two-year budget and possible casino gambling amendment. The Press will continue to follow the legislature throughout the session. Meantime, KET will offer full-day live coverage online, selected live coverage via digital broadcast and a nightly highlights program on KET1 each day of the session.

Ledbetter bridge weight limits drop

Weight restrictions on the U.S. 60 Tennessee River bridge in Ledbetter remain lowered to 28 tons, according to Keith Todd, public information officer with the Transportation Cabinet.

Also known as the George Rogers Clark Memorial Bridge, weight limits were lowered from 35 tons late last month while the aging structure was reinforced. While the work is done, it could be the end of the month before inspections allow a return to 35 tons.

Weather

Reported by UK Ag Weather Service as of Wednesday at Princeton, online at www.gwx.ca.uky.edu.

Forecast
THURSDAY Mostly clear, 12°
FRIDAY Mostly clear, 21°
Noon Mostly clear, 28°
Mostly clear, 40°
6 pm Clear, 27°
Cloudy, 41°
9 pm Clear, 24°
Partly cloudy, 39°

Precipitation report
Last 7 days0.42 For 200747.92
Last 30 days10.03 Deviation.....-3.21

Online

Visit the-press.com 24-7 for updates on your local and breaking news, including full-color video and slideshows of various events. Send news tips to pressnews@the-press.com.

Newspaper is a renewable resource. Recycling bins are located at the disposal center on U.S. 60 east of Marion.

Contents ©2008, The Crittenden Press, Inc.



XTREME

Continued from Page 1A

the Xtreme Tracker a real value for the heavy equipment and related industries.

The U.S. government is also interested in the XT1 for its military and military contractor benefits. Henry "Hawk" Ruth, a senior military analyst with the U.S. Army in Fort Campbell, was among those attending the recent meeting in Marion. He said the XT1 has many capabilities when it comes to governmental applications.

In Iraq, for instance, Ruth said the government contractors such as Halliburton are charged with all sorts of construction projects that officials here would like to more closely track.

"That's a great marketing area for Xtreme Tracker," Ruth said.

Additionally, Ruth said the device could be used by the military in vehicles like the Humvee.

"If a pilot of a helicopter looks down and sees that Humvee ... he could find out information such as who is driving the vehicle and where it's going and what radio fre-



Todd Cook, of Precision Product Design of Elizabethtown, Ky., goes over some of the detailed plans of the XT1.

quency it's on so he can communicate with the driver.

"There are lots of capabilities like this," Ruth added.

The XT1 will include a variety of features including remote disabling of a piece of equipment, theft alert, electronic activity logging, mapping, real-time software updates, remote communication, maintenance data retrieval and something called Geo-fence violation.

The Geo-fence feature allows the owner of the equipment to set parameters for where and when the machine can be used. In other words, the owner of a bulldozer could require that it be in a certain one-acre area and operated only during pre-determined hours. If goes outside the designated area or Geo-fence, the XT1 can shut down the machine. Similar features could replace time cards for operators. A trackhoe, for instance, armed with an XT1 would know exactly how long a particular operator was behind the controls.

"It's a remarkable product for a company with two pieces of equipment or one that is responsible for thousands of pieces of heavy equipment," said Todd Cook, of Precision

Product Design of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Cook's company was responsible for the housing design of the XT1.

"It's all Web-based so anyone with a computer and Internet can operate it," Cook added.

Kris Carlson of Marion is chief information officer for Xtreme Tracker. He has been active in the development of the Web-based monitoring system.

"Even if someone tries to steal a piece of equipment, we have sensors that let us know if the XT1 is tampered with and if they try to cut the battery cables, the XT1 has its own 30-day power supply," Carlson said.

While much of the design and development work has been done in Marion by Breedlove, Carlson, Par 4 president Joe McDaniel, and Par 4 and Tyler Manufacturing employees, there have been countless other private contractors and consultants that have worked on the project. Breedlove said Xtreme Tracker currently has two full-time employees, but he's already starting to hire sales associates and other workers.

Court to hear execution case

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday will begin arguments over the death penalty spurred by two Kentucky inmates set to die.

The challenge was brought on behalf of convicted cop killer Ralph Baze and Thomas Clyde Bowling, who was found guilty of killing a couple. The case will present the question of whether the mix of lethal injection drugs and the way they are administered in exe-

cutions in three dozen states violate the Constitution.

This is the first time in more than a century that the high court will address the legality of a method of execution. Thirty-six states use lethal injection, and executions across the U.S. have come to a halt in the meantime. The last time the court considered a challenge to a method of execution was in 1879, when it upheld the use of a firing squad in Utah.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

bulky deed books to microfilm, which will remain onsite and in Frankfort at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. She already has a \$12,000 grant in place to microfilm all but 10 books.

Computer files that include voting records and vehicle registrations are backed up nightly and accessible from a remote site in Frankfort. Deed room records are backed up in Paducah.

Other historic documents, such as old marriage records and court dockets remain unprotected, stored in the basement of the courthouse. Those would probably be lost in a fire, she said, even if sprinklers were installed.

"Sprinklers aren't necessarily a good mix with paper and ink," Byford said.

More recent marriage documents are kept locally and at the Vital Statistic Division in Frankfort.

The Crittenden County Courthouse has a history of being destroyed by fire.

The first Marion courthouse was burned by Confederate Gen. Hylan Lyons on Jan. 25, 1865, during the Civil War. A second courthouse burned in May 1870. It was rebuilt in 1871 and used until the current courthouse opened.

Hughes was helped from the vehicle and initially treated by members of the Fredonia Fire Department.

The accident occurred just before 5 p.m.

Business owner injured in accident

The owner of a Marion welding business is recovering after a wreck last week in rural northern Lyon County.

Brad Long, 37, of Marion was flown from Lourdes Hospital in Paducah to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville for injuries sustained in a one vehicle wreck on Ky. 1943 east of Dycusburg. Long owns and operates Long Welding and Machine on U.S. 60 east of Marion.

The accident occurred around 4:50 a.m., and reported involved alcohol, according to authorities.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Chris Smith said Long was eastbound on Ky. 1943, about one mile east of Ky. 373, when he failed to make a sharp curve, leaving the roadway and striking a tree. The cab of his 1995 Dodge truck was crushed in the collision. Long was charged with DUI by police.

The Press Traffic Accidents

Wednesday crash sends 1 to hospital

A single vehicle crash at the Crittenden-Lyon County line sent the driver of the SUV to the hospital Wednesday.

Evan W. Rhodes, 20, of Eddyville, wrecked Wednesday morning around 10:30 on Ky. 295 about four miles south of Dycusburg. According to state police, Rhodes was headed south when his 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee left the roadway. The SUV overturned several times and came to a rest upside down in a ditch against a tree, temporarily trapping Rhodes inside.

First responders were able to help the man from the vehicle. Rhodes was believed to have at least suffered a broken leg and was taken to Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

Fredonia accident injures Crayne man

A Crayne man was injured in a head-on collision Dec. 19 just outside of Fredonia.

According to The Times Leader newspaper, Franklin M. Jones, 65, of Crayne was headed south in a 1988 Ford pickup on U.S. 641 when he attempted to pass another vehicle and met an oncoming passenger car. The car was driven by Miranda M. Murphy, 28, of Eddyville.

The accident occurred at 10:41 p.m., about a mile from the Lyon County border, according to the newspaper. Both drivers were transported to Crittenden Hospital for treatment of their injuries.

ATV-related deaths continue to rise

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) – More than 260 people in Kentucky were hurt last year while riding an ATV. There were at least 30 ATV-related deaths last year – more than twice as many deaths as occurred five years ago.

There were no ATV deaths in Crittenden County last year.

An analysis by The Courier-Journal says all Kentucky ATV drivers involved in fatal crashes last year ignored at least one safety guideline. The mistakes include riding without a helmet, carrying passengers or driving the vehicle on public roads.

Salem man crashes into propane tank

A Livingston County man was charged with DUI and jailed in McCracken County after an early morning collision with a propane tank.

Jack E. Elder, 56, of Salem was arrested after a wreck on Hook Lane around 4 a.m., Sunday. According to a report from Kentucky State Police Trooper Chris Smith, Elder

was traveling down Hook Lane when he ran off the road and drove through a yard, striking a propane tank. He then attempted to get back onto Hook Lane, but got his vehicle stuck in a ditch.

Crews who first responded to the accident reported Elder was still in his car, revving the motor while attempting to get out of the ditch.

Elder, who was not injured, was charged with first-offense DUI and no seatbelt.

Marion man hurt in Fredonia wreck

A Crittenden County teen was treated and released from Crittenden Hospital for injuries received in a Fredonia wreck Sunday evening.

Wesley Hughes, 19, of Marion was injured in a single-vehicle accident near the Crittenden-Caldwell County line. According to The Times Leader, Hughes was headed into Fredonia on U.S. 641 when he ran off the shoulder of the road, losing control of his 1993 Nissan Altima. After running off the road, the car began to slide sideways and overturned numerous times before coming to rest in a field almost 200 feet from the highway.

Trover Health System offers more than 40 specialties and several locations* to serve your healthcare needs

HOSPITAL
Regional Medical Center: (270) 825-5100 or Toll Free 1-800-998-5100

TROVER CLINIC LOCATIONS Toll Free 1-800-733-2312

- Calhoun: (270) 273-9310
- Clay: (270) 664-2526
- Dawson Springs: (270) 797-3521
- Earlington: (270) 383-2521
- Hopkinsville: (270) 707-3300
- Madisonville: (270) 825-7200
- Princeton: (270) 365-2037
- Providence: (270) 667-7017

CARE CENTER LOCATIONS

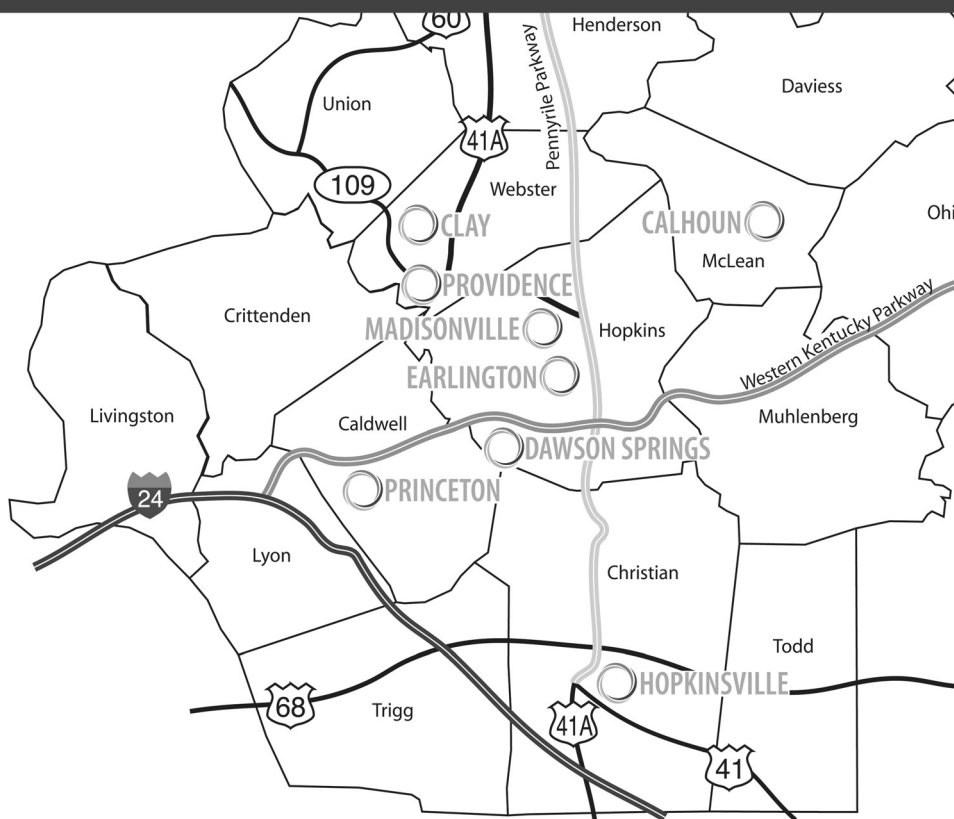
- Trover Clinic Madisonville: (270) 825-7268
- Trover Clinic Hopkinsville: (270) 707-3300

SPORTS MEDICINE LOCATIONS Toll Free 1-888-263-9681

- Madisonville: (270) 824-2000
- Dawson Springs: (270) 797-3226
- Hopkinsville: (270) 887-5400
- Princeton: (270) 365-1585

See full listing of services at www.troverhealth.org

*Not all specialties are available at all locations. Please call location for more information.



TROVER HEALTH SYSTEM

270.825.5100 • 800.998.5100
www.troverhealth.org

OUR MISSION IS EXCELLENT CARE • EVERY TIME

When Its More Than A Ding...

It Has To Be Fixed By The Pros!

Foreign & Domestic Vehicles
Assistance With Insurance Claims

Marion AUTO BODY EST. 1980

710 Moore St., Marion, KY
270-965-5468

DU PONT All Work Guaranteed

Thrifty HOME MEDICAL
established 2004

Your Local Sleep Specialist

We have the latest products available for sleep disorders, so before or after your visit to your local sleep lab give us a call!

We have full-time respiratory therapists on staff with sleep apnea experience

THRIFTY HOME MEDICAL
210 SOUTH MAIN MARION, KY.
Phone 965-0089 -or- tollfree 888-965-0089

Phones answered 24 hours and 7 days a week.
Store hours Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.

