

# The Crittenden Press

WWW.THE-PRESS.COM

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007

75 CENTS  
A home-owned newspaper since 1879  
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 23 - 16 PAGES

## 2 county offices closed Tuesday

Two Crittenden County Courthouse offices will be closed Tuesday, Inauguration Day in Kentucky. Circuit Clerk Madeline Henderson and

Property Valuation Administrator Ronnie Heady will close their offices all day Tuesday as Gov.-elect Steve Beshear takes over the reins of the state

from Gov. Ernie Fletcher. The closing of court offices was authorized by Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Lambert. All other Crittenden County Courthouse offices will remain open.



## Bonus SEC bowl coverage inside

Last week was the last scheduled for our football feature The SEC This Week, but this week, it's back with special bonus coverage of Southeastern Conference teams headed to bowl games this winter, including Kentucky.

## Christmas break nears at schools

Christmas break for Crittenden County students and teachers begins Dec. 17. Classes resume Jan. 2.

## Extension board members named

At Monday's Crittenden Fiscal Court meeting, magistrates approved Van Hunt and Carolyn Belt as new Extension Service board members.

## Local meetings

**UPCOMING**  
• Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m., Dec. 11 at Crittenden County Middle School.  
• Marion City Council will meet at 6 p.m., Dec. 17 at City Hall.  
• Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Dec. 18 at the courthouse.

## Rain gauge

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

7 days 30 days 2007  
0.77" 2.88" 36.80"  
below average: 8.43"

## Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

**Thursday** Partly cloudy 41/34  
**Friday** Showers 49/42

Visit us online 24-7 at [WWW.The-Press.com](http://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](mailto:pressnews@the-press.com)

We accept   
**The Crittenden Press**



## Christmas Weekend: Local activities set



Mary Jane Watson (foreground) and Roseanne Chandler set up decorations last Sunday at Marion United Methodist Church of a nativity scene at the altar. This Sunday, the church will host a mini-concert of holiday piano and organ music followed by a children's Christmas play.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

## Holiday events this weekend

For more holiday events, see our calendar on Page 6A

S A T U R D A Y			S U N D A Y	
Lions Club Lunch with Santa Noon to 2 p.m. Marion Baptist Church Family Life Center	Marion Christmas Parade 3 p.m. Main Street	Salem Lighted Christmas Parade 5:30 p.m. College Street to U.S. 60 at Farmers Bank	A Christmas Celebration Sing a Joyous Song 3 p.m. Fohs Hall, Marion	Christmas concert and Youth program 5:15 p.m., 6 p.m. Marion United Methodist Church

## Unique, musical program to spell Living Tree tradition

STAFF REPORT

For the first time in two decades, Fohs Hall will not host its annual Living Christmas Tree musical.

Scheduling problems didn't allow organizers the opportunity to retain a director this holiday season so the show couldn't go on. The good news is that it will be back next year. During the interim, Fohs Hall is planning a different type of Christmas program.

Susan Alexander, director of the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation, laments the decision to skip a year of the Living Tree, but it was unavoidable, she explains.

"We start practice the week after Labor Day and go through the production in December. We couldn't find

anyone who could devote that much time to it this year," she said.

A director was interested, but a scheduling conflict scrapped the plans this year. "I think she is still interested in doing it next year," Alexander said, without naming the person.

There is no indication that interest was waning in the project, Alexander added, because attendance continued to be strong and about 30 to 55 choir members were easy to find each year.

Instead of what has become a tradi-

tion at Fohs Hall with the Living Tree, CAF members are casting a different type of program that Alexander says is sure to be entertaining. The one-time, one-hour show will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday at Fohs Hall. A reception, just like after Tree programs, will be held following the event.

The musical will include local talent with music teacher Linda Brown on piano and Molly Beavers on violin. Local vocalists will also be participating. Emory DeWitt and Mary Hollamon will narrate with Hollamon portraying Mary the Mother of Christ. The program was written by DeWitt and Bob Yehling. It will include a sing-along at the end featuring several traditional Christmas songs.



Alexander

## Beavers to put away his parts catalogs

A half-century after getting his first taste of automotive industry, retirement looms

STAFF REPORT

In the automotive parts business, when a particular piece or part doesn't sell fast enough, it's discontinued

— taken off the shelf and out of inventory.

Ironically, Creed Beavers isn't looking at his own retirement that way because he's still on the move. At 72, Beavers glides across the concrete floor at Crittenden Auto Parts like a teen looking for his first car stereo. He jokes with customers and thumbs through a stack of old catalogs looking for parts no one else knows how to find.

Most of his inventory is handled through a computer database these days, but Beavers has never tossed out his old parts catalogs from the early 1990s.

"That's where I find a whole lot of things that aren't in the computer," he said. "Around here, there are a lot of vehicles from the 1970s and

before. It might be a grain truck that a farmer uses once a year, but when they need a hose, I know where I can find it."

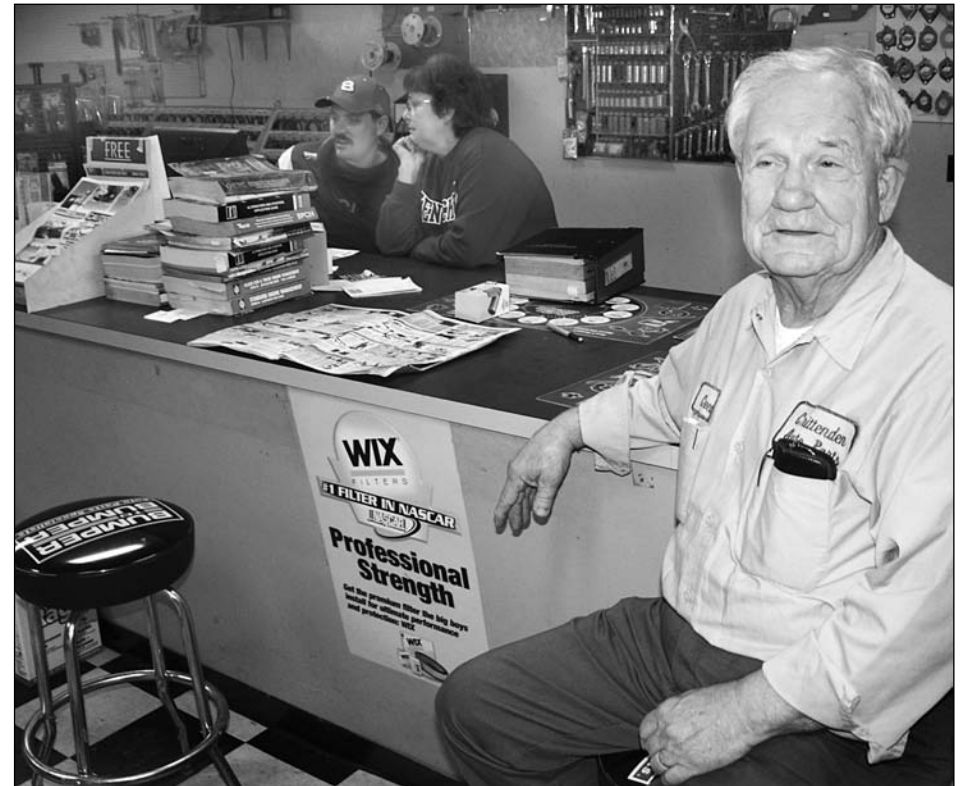
*"I said five years ago that I was going to retire, but this time I think I mean it."*

— Creed Beavers

The computers only go back to 1980. Beavers can go much farther back in time.

He started in the automotive industry in the early '50s when there was something romantic about a vehicle. Pumping gas at Tri-State Ford in Evansville, Beavers got to noticing that the guys in the service department were making more money. It didn't take long for him to realize that he could make a better living keeping folks in plugs and pads.

He spent a few years working at Crittenden Motors then went on a parts hiatus to Alcan in Seebree for just over a decade. Since December 1985, Beavers has been serving



Creed Beavers at his Bumper to Bumper auto parts store in Marion with wife Sue Beavers and new manager Jeff Fugate in the background.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

## Lockup nearly finished

New county jail to house inmates by end of month

By DARYL K. TABOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

By the end of the week, Rick Riley expects the keys to Crittenden County's new detention center to become his, or at least under his control as the county's jailer. Right now, construction workers are putting the final touches on the \$7.7 million building.

Riley told county magistrates Monday that he hopes to transfer inmates from the current county jail to the new facility as early as the end of the month, with county control of the 130-bed center possibly coming this week.

"As fast as I can get the doors open, we'll start housing inmates," Riley told the fiscal court during a special meeting Monday to approve funds for bedding and phones at the detention center.

In fact, at a Wednesday afternoon meeting with construction officials, Riley anticipated having an exact date as to when the county will take control of the building.

Before male and female prisoners are marched the short distance from the old 20-bed jail to the new one just behind it, new phones, furni-

See JAIL/page 3A

## Marion man dies Sunday on Ky. 2132

STAFF REPORT

A Marion man died in a one vehicle accident over the weekend with his son behind the wheel.

Robert K. Eanes Sr., 43, was pronounced dead at the scene of a Sunday morning accident on Ky. 2132 (Sisco Chapel Road). (See obituary on Page 7A.) According to Kentucky State Police, Eanes was a passenger in a 2000 GMC Jimmy driven by his son, Gary D. Eanes, 18, at the time of the wreck.

Eanes is the second fatality on a rural Crittenden County highway in the last month.

A police report indicated the junior Eanes failed to negotiate a curve and overcorrected the vehicle, exiting the roadway on the right shoulder. The sport utility vehicle

See FATALITY/page 3A

See CREED/page 8A



## What would you do if you were president?

From Huckabee to Obama and beyond, this marathon race for the White House is beginning to take its toll on most of America. Infringing upon our nightly news for more than a year now, the real race is just getting ready to start with the Iowa caucus early next month.

Certainly, the next leader of the free world should be scrutinized, analyzed and vetted with a fine tooth comb, but the problem with such an extended process is that their rhetoric all becomes a blur. Some of it flips and flops and provides us with a perfectly cluttered picture of the candidate.

The biggest problem is that most of the presidential hopefuls understand that to be elected requires political correctness - whatever that means. Too seldom do we get to hear the real answer they'd like to give to the countless questions posed along the political trail.

Just for fun, I asked several local individuals what they'd do as President of the United States. Their answers were genuine and straight forward. Most of them make much more sense than the actual candidates for president.

Here are the responses to the question, "What would you do if elected President of the United States?"

**Regina Merrick**, director of the Crittenden County Public Library: If I were elected President of the United States, the first thing I would do is pray. I would seek to have good counsel around me that would help me to make right decisions in a way that would

be pleasing to God and helpful to the people in my care. I would pray for discernment when it comes to people and motives, and for wisdom to withstand criticism when making a stand.

**Greg West**, Crittenden County magistrate and minister at Goshen Independent Baptist Church: Of course, the first matters would be setting up my cabinet. Then I would work with Congress and the American people on a real energy policy that would free this nation of its dependence of foreign oil. I believe this is the one issue that has the potential to cause a hardship upon each citizen of this country. We are at the mercy of those who count us as their enemy. The countries that hate us and our freedoms are the very ones we depend on to give us oil at ridiculous prices.

If we can show the American people that we are serious about this issue, they will come along. They are sick of being used like puppets by those who despise our way of life.

I also believe that through the purchase of oil from these unfriendly countries, we endure a threat to our national security. How do the terrorists get the money to carry out their vicious acts? From oil sales? It's my opinion that

they do.

We need to say no to these countries by drilling here for oil. Or we could invest more in other technologies such as nuclear energy, water to electricity, cleaner ways to use coal, waste products, corn and beans, wind and sun - just to scratch the surface of what is possible. This would free up our military and our national budget to enforce our borders the way they should already be enforced.

**Todd Riley**, owner of Riley Tool & Machine: The first thing I would do is find out what the true story is behind the hike in oil and gas prices, and find who, in our government is getting their pockets full and put a stop to that. There has got to be a way to control that much better than what we are doing now. I would also truly research healthcare and find some means of providing affordable plans for our country.

**Keith Todd**, public information officer for the Kentucky Transportation Department: One, ask the U.S. Congress to adopt the same laws and policies on illegal immigrants as Mexico and apply them with the same zero tolerance policy the Mexican government uses. Ask Congress to increase the penalty for any employer who hires illegal immigrants. Two, cut all foreign aid to any country that is not an active participant in the war against terrorism. The same policy should apply to countries that voice opposition to U.S. foreign policy. Three, ask Congress to abolish the income tax and replace it with a national sales tax. Four, call

my mom and sister to invite them to the White House for lunch. Not necessarily in this order.

**Stan Hoover**, director of the Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation: This is too easy! It is genetically and inherently known that Crittenden County is the center of all known intelligence. I would therefore immediately move all functions of government to Marion. Congress would meet for two days every four years, which would help eliminate redundant, illogical and unneeded legislation.

This would have a concurrent benefit of minimizing gaseous emissions and reducing global warming. We will be environmentally friendly because only horse-drawn vehicles will be allowed to park on the city streets. An Executive Order would be issued declaring and acknowledging the Crittenden Press as the supreme omniscient center of all intellectual endeavor.

Based on my recommendations, I don't suppose there is any point in planning on a reelection campaign.

**Crittenden County School Superintendent John Belt**: The first thing I would do if I were president of this great nation is model our immigration policy after Australia. Instead of open borders, visa options and granting of citizenship for immigrants would be dependent upon job needs or skills

and sponsorships by existing businesses or employers.

**Bonita Hatfield**, retired teacher and Sunday school instructor: To be in charge of the free world is an overwhelming task. I think that in past decades we have not handled that responsibility very well. Compare our status today to periods such as during World War II. Much of the world, including the free world no longer holds much respect for the United States.

My first consideration would be to make all possible efforts to unite the free world. Diversity can be a strength rather than a weakness. We must unite in respect, trust and cooperation. "United we stand, divided we fall."

The dangers and perils of evil forces in the world pose a real threat to our freedom. Without unity in the free world, we will face an unpredictable future. The president must not assume that we will continue to be the major power.



**Chris Evans**  
About Town  
Crittenden Press editor/publisher

need to join the rest of the world to help stop global climate change.

**Rocket football coach Al Starnes**: As President of the United States of America, I proclaim my first act would be to bring our soldiers home to their families. We have lost too many lives for a conflict that continues to heat up in the Middle East.

**Donnie Arflack**, city councilman and rescue squad chief: First, I would enact as law the well known letter Teddy Roosevelt wrote back in 1919 shortly before his death and at the end of World War I on Americanism. No amnesty or "starting now," effective from 1919 to present. If you've been here 20 years there's no reason you shouldn't have become a citizen.

Second, I would enact an income tax system where everyone pays the same rate.

Third, only U.S. citizens would be allowed to draw any benefits.

Fourth, our federal lawmakers' benefits and retirement would be held to just slightly above that of the national average of the upper-middle class citizen.

Fifth, I would fairly tax the oil company's profits they've raped us on for the last few years. They can afford it.

*(Editor's note: More responses will appear at a later date. Chris Evans is the editor and publisher of The Crittenden Press. His column appears periodically.)*

**Regina Merrick**, director of the Crittenden County Public Library: If I were elected President of the United States, the first thing I would do is pray. I would seek to have good counsel around me that would help me to make right decisions in a way that would

be pleasing to God and helpful to the people in my care. I would pray for discernment when it comes to people and motives, and for wisdom to withstand criticism when making a stand.

**Greg West**, Crittenden County magistrate and minister at Goshen Independent Baptist Church: Of course, the first matters would be setting up my cabinet. Then I would work with Congress and the American people on a real energy policy that would free this nation of its dependence of foreign oil. I believe this is the one issue that has the potential to cause a hardship upon each citizen of this country. We are at the mercy of those who count us as their enemy. The countries that hate us and our freedoms are the very ones we depend on to give us oil at ridiculous prices.

If we can show the American people that we are serious about this issue, they will come along. They are sick of being used like puppets by those who despise our way of life.

I also believe that through the purchase of oil from these unfriendly countries, we endure a threat to our national security. How do the terrorists get the money to carry out their vicious acts? From oil sales? It's my opinion that

they do.

We need to say no to these countries by drilling here for oil. Or we could invest more in other technologies such as nuclear energy, water to electricity, cleaner ways to use coal, waste products, corn and beans, wind and sun - just to scratch the surface of what is possible. This would free up our military and our national budget to enforce our borders the way they should already be enforced.

**Todd Riley**, owner of Riley Tool & Machine: The first thing I would do is find out what the true story is behind the hike in oil and gas prices, and find who, in our government is getting their pockets full and put a stop to that. There has got to be a way to control that much better than what we are doing now. I would also truly research healthcare and find some means of providing affordable plans for our country.

**Keith Todd**, public information officer for the Kentucky Transportation Department: One, ask the U.S. Congress to adopt the same laws and policies on illegal immigrants as Mexico and apply them with the same zero tolerance policy the Mexican government uses. Ask Congress to increase the penalty for any employer who hires illegal immigrants. Two, cut all foreign aid to any country that is not an active participant in the war against terrorism. The same policy should apply to countries that voice opposition to U.S. foreign policy. Three, ask Congress to abolish the income tax and replace it with a national sales tax. Four, call

my mom and sister to invite them to the White House for lunch. Not necessarily in this order.

**Stan Hoover**, director of the Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation: This is too easy! It is genetically and inherently known that Crittenden County is the center of all known intelligence. I would therefore immediately move all functions of government to Marion. Congress would meet for two days every four years, which would help eliminate redundant, illogical and unneeded legislation.

This would have a concurrent benefit of minimizing gaseous emissions and reducing global warming. We will be environmentally friendly because only horse-drawn vehicles will be allowed to park on the city streets. An Executive Order would be issued declaring and acknowledging the Crittenden Press as the supreme omniscient center of all intellectual endeavor.

Based on my recommendations, I don't suppose there is any point in planning on a reelection campaign.

**Crittenden County School Superintendent John Belt**: The first thing I would do if I were president of this great nation is model our immigration policy after Australia. Instead of open borders, visa options and granting of citizenship for immigrants would be dependent upon job needs or skills

and sponsorships by existing businesses or employers.

**Bonita Hatfield**, retired teacher and Sunday school instructor: To be in charge of the free world is an overwhelming task. I think that in past decades we have not handled that responsibility very well. Compare our status today to periods such as during World War II. Much of the world, including the free world no longer holds much respect for the United States.

My first consideration would be to make all possible efforts to unite the free world. Diversity can be a strength rather than a weakness. We must unite in respect, trust and cooperation. "United we stand, divided we fall."

The dangers and perils of evil forces in the world pose a real threat to our freedom. Without unity in the free world, we will face an unpredictable future. The president must not assume that we will continue to be the major power.

Dina Hill, an RN and president of the Crittenden County Democratic Women: If I were the newly-elected President of the United States the first thing I would do would be to withdraw the troops from Afghanistan and Iraq. We need to support our troops by bringing them home! The second thing I would do would be to start universal healthcare that would cover the needs of every United States citizen. The third thing I would do would be to sign the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The United States is the only industrialized nation that has not signed this protocol. We

have come to see from all over the world, to now be associated with a homosexual hellhole. This is blasphemy in the rawest!

Is any one so naive as to think this was not in the minds, hearts, and plans of these perverts?

Yet there are those that still want to say homosexuals can be Christians. Not only is their life style repulsive, unnatural, un-Godly, un-Christian, and un-Biblical, but destructive to themselves, those they drag into it, and destructive to those that disagree with it.

No doubt God's judgment will fall but the sad part is, it will not only fall on those that

disobey God's word and flaunt their sins in His face, but it will also fall on all the rest of us.

What has happened in Eureka Springs is planned for every small town in America. May God raise up people in Crittenden County and all over the country and admit to God's truth, that not only is this dirty, evil, dangerous, and sinful, but is in the eye of the storm of God's wrath, and not stand back and let this thing happen in our town, state, and national government.

May God help us all!  
*(Editor's note: Lucy Tedrick is pastor at Marion Church of God. Her column appears weekly in The Press.)*

## Far Left, homosexuals have same agendas

The far left and homosexuals have the same agenda, to radically change America into an atheistic and perverted nation.

The atheists want to strip America of all vestige of Christianity and the homosexuals want to force America to accept their deviate sexual proclivities as normal.

The following story will tell you their likeness to the militant Muslims: "Join us or we'll destroy you."

The following information comes from the American Family Association Journal who made a trip there and has made a documentary of these facts.

"Eureka Springs, Arkansas



**Rev. Lucy Tedrick**  
Religious Views  
Crittenden Press guest columnist

enacted a domestic partner registry.

Approximately 10 percent of this small town's population is either homosexual or 'gay-friendly.' A young bisexual man claims the city is "half gay."

These pro-homosexual activists have effectively taken over the city's government. They obviously did not announce their intentions when they ran for city council or mayor, but almost immediately after taking office they began working to enact partner registry and to promote Eureka Springs as a gay sex tourism destination.

Eureka Springs has long been a tourism draw for

Christians who visited not only the Great Passion Play but other popular places like Christ of the Ozarks, Bible Museum and Thornecrown Chapel.

Now the new image of the town as a gay hot spot is causing Christian support for Eureka Springs to hemorrhage badly.

The canceling of trips and vacations in Eureka Springs is not hurting the homosexual activists, it's hurting the Christian-owned businesses there.

Think of all the millions of dollars, years, and lives that have been spent in building that town up with all the Christian displays that people

have come to see from all over the world, to now be associated with a homosexual hellhole. This is blasphemy in the rawest!

Is any one so naive as to think this was not in the minds, hearts, and plans of these perverts?

Yet there are those that still want to say homosexuals can be Christians. Not only is their life style repulsive, unnatural, un-Godly, un-Christian, and un-Biblical, but destructive to themselves, those they drag into it, and destructive to those that disagree with it.

No doubt God's judgment will fall but the sad part is, it will not only fall on those that

disobey God's word and flaunt their sins in His face, but it will also fall on all the rest of us.

What has happened in Eureka Springs is planned for every small town in America. May God raise up people in Crittenden County and all over the country and admit to God's truth, that not only is this dirty, evil, dangerous, and sinful, but is in the eye of the storm of God's wrath, and not stand back and let this thing happen in our town, state, and national government.

May God help us all!  
*(Editor's note: Lucy Tedrick is pastor at Marion Church of God. Her column appears weekly in The Press.)*

## The Press Letters to the Editor

### Mr. Basketball '58 seeking support

To the editor:  
(Kentucky's) Mr. Basketball award ... is without a doubt the most cherished and prestigious award in high school sports.

Kentucky has 53 players that have been selected Mr. Basketball since 1956. The sad point is that only 14 of them are in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. To further highlight this oversight, I quote the two requirements to be inducted:

■ A player must be out of high school 10 years; and

■ A former high school athlete whose achievements as a high school athlete were so extraordinary and merit

statewide recognition.

We feel this is the definition of Mr. Basketball.

We formed a Mr. Basketball Fraternity on June 9, 2007. I was elected president, and our bylaws and mission statement were adopted. I'm one of the aforementioned 14 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995.

Our fraternity has compiled the necessary information and nominated 19 of the 28 eligible players. We were not able to reach the other nine. We are now in the process of soliciting support for their induction by asking people to write letters to the voting board of control of the KHSAA asking them to induct these 19 players in the next

class, which will be released in May 2008.

I, as the 1958 Mr. Basketball, ask for your support ... and solicit your readers to write the board of control. Their addresses and names can be found at [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org) and clicking on board of control.

I can be reached at 522-0138 for more info if you need to talk to me or by e-mail at [hrtodd@mchsi.com](mailto:hrtodd@mchsi.com).

**Harry Todd**  
Cadiz, Ky.

### Court square, city decorations nice

To the editor:

I would like to thank Fred Brown and all of his "elves"

for the wonderful Christmas light display at the courthouse and up and down Main Street.

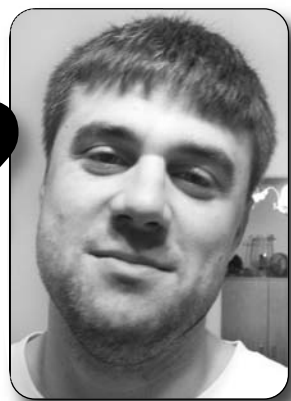
One of my favorite parts of Christmas is driving around and looking at all of the light displays. I love to watch the eyes of our grandchildren and their friends as they see the beautiful lights.

It truly looks like a "winter wonderland." Now, we need to get some carolers to sing one or two nights, and we will truly be blessed to live in a community where the citizens still believe in Christmas and that there is a child-like spirit that lives in all of us...no matter our age.

Thank you very much.  
**Sherry Frazer**  
Marion, Ky.

## What's your opinion?

Will rising gas prices keep you from changing any plans over the coming weeks?



**Chris Nelson**  
"Yeah, I had to limit my driving to a necessity only."



**Dawn Adams**  
"Probably not. That's why I turned in my SUV for a car."



**Jim Russelburg**  
"High gas prices will definitely keep you closer to home."



**Joan Crow**  
"It won't stop me if I want to see my family."



**Roda Tinsley**  
"It's not going to change my plans, we just have to get used to it."

## The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260  
125 E. Bellville St. • P.O. Box 191  
Marion, KY 42064-0191 • 270.965.3191  
Open weekdays from 8 a.m., to 5 p.m.  
[www.The-Press.com](http://www.The-Press.com) • [PressNews@The-Press.com](mailto:PressNews@The-Press.com)

Editor and Publisher **Chris Evans**  
Operations Manager **Gina Brown**  
Managing Editor **Daryl K. Taber**  
Advertising Manager **Marty Kares**  
Pressroom Manager **Ken Sharp**  
Graphic Design **Brian Hunt**  
Sports Writer **Chris Hardesty**  
Receptionist **Lee Ann Miniard**  
Pressroom and Delivery **Faye Conger, Missy Myers and Carolyn Cannon**

Published every Thursday. Periodicals class postage paid in Marion, KY 42064. SUBSCRIPTION rates in Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon, Caldwell, Webster and Union counties are \$30 per year; elsewhere in Kentucky are \$35 (includes \$12.50 postage fee); and out-of-state subscriptions are \$45. Address all mail, including subscription requests, changes of address, Form 3579 and letters, to P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064. The management of this newspaper reserves the right to reject any advertisement at its sole discretion.



# Alleged 'hit list' at CCMS investigated

By DARYL K. TABOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

The rules changed in the late 1990s.

An alleged "hit list" written by a Crittenden County Middle School student was brought to the attention of school administrators last week, creating a stir among parents and faculty and prompting police to open an investigation. No list has been found and no charges filed, but the suggestion by two students that such a list once existed prompted action by the school system.

There may have been a day when such musings were written off as bullying or idle childhood threats from a frustrated student, admits Middle School Principal Diana Dodson, but a string of school

shootings that started a decade ago changed everything.

"We have to take things like this seriously," Dodson told The Press.

The local incident surfaced nearly 10 years to day after 14-year-old Michael Carneal fatally shot three fellow students at Heath High School in West Paducah. On, Dec. 1, 1997, Carneal entered the school and opened fire on a prayer group, killing three teenage girls and wounding five other students.

Dodson said she became aware of what she calls a "hate list" last

Thursday night, after at least one of the students admitted to a coach that he had seen the alleged list about a month earlier. The following morning, police were on hand at the school to question the suspected writer. She said the sheriff's department and Marion police, as well as school officials, have been involved in the matter since last Thursday.

"At this point, no list has been recovered," the principal said. "We are continuing our investigation as student safety is of the utmost priority here."

Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent verified that two male students allege to have witnessed the so-called hit list, but that neither immediately reported the matter. In fact, Dodson said the existence of

the note was first reported by one of the students to a parent last Wednesday. It was not brought to the attention of school officials until the following day when that same student told a school athletic coach about the list. A second student has also come forward, admitting to having seen the list containing the names of several middle school students, many of whom are athletes.

At this time, the sheriff said there was no physical evidence to support the claim that a "hit list" existed. Only the two statements made by two male students indicate that a list once existed. The student in question is also a male in the sixth grade.

The sheriff said Tuesday that there did not appear to be sufficient

evidence to immediately charge the juvenile with any type of criminal offense. However, Sheriff Agent said that all evidence and information from interviews with students would be turned over to Crittenden County Attorney Rebecca Johnson for further review.

Since Feb. 19, 1997, according to The Associated Press, there have been 21 fatal shootings at U.S. elementary or secondary schools, including the Heath incident and massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., on April 20, 1999. In those shootings, 57 students or faculty have been killed, including six shooters themselves. More than 85 have been injured in the shootings, including 23 at Columbine alone on top of the 14 killed there.



Dodson



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

## Santa's little helpers

William Sherer helps his daughter Shantana, 7, pick out gifts Tuesday at Crittenden County Elementary School's Santa's Workshop. The workshop is used by the school's PTO to raise money for various projects throughout the year. PTO member Kathy Maynard said students often purchase trinkets from the array of items for Christmas gifts for family members. She said the annual effort raises anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,200, which can be used for purposes like the recent purchase of earbuds for all elementary school students. The earbuds replaced over-the-ear earphones that may have been contributing to a spread of lice at the school. Each student will keep the earbuds throughout their time at the school and additional ones will be purchased each year as new students enter the school. Each of the earbuds costs about \$1, said Maynard. There are approximately 550 students at the school.

## JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

ture and other fixtures must be installed. Riley also wants to host an open house for the public before prisoners are loaded into the new cells. That, he said, could come next weekend if plans move ahead as expected.

"We'll probably take over in a week or two at most," Judge-executive Fred Brown told magistrates on Monday. "Probably within a week."

To help bring the transition nearer completion, the fiscal court on Monday approved \$8,500 from the county's coal severance money to purchase mattresses, sheets and phones to outfit the new jail. The court also approved the purchase of a new 15-passenger van for the jailer to transport inmates. The vehicle will cost \$28,792, and will be completely outfitted for moving inmates.

The new jail will saddle the county with about a \$500,000 payment each year. The first year's payment in June 2008 will be covered by interest earned on the sale of short-term construction bonds and from a \$300,000 appropriation by the state.

Brown also hopes to retain the same amount in debt reduction from the state for the next payment in 2009. The funding request will be weighed early next year by the General Assembly when the state's new biennial budget is put together. The remainder of the \$500,000 payment in 2009 should be covered by revenues from housing neighboring counties' inmates as well as state and possibly federal prisoners.

After that, Brown said, the jail should be self-sufficient.

The jail, however, will have to be close to capacity before it can be self-sustaining.

But, before the county can begin moving the jail toward capacity by housing state inmates, additional staff must be added. Riley currently employs 15 deputies, with plans to ultimately add 30 more. A 40-hour training session for new hires is set for the second week of January. Such training is required before the jail will qualify to house state prisoners.

"We've had a flood of applications," Riley said.

Once formally certified, the county should begin to make money off of the jail because each state inmate will earn the county \$30.94 per day. Riley is also in negotiations with the U.S. Marshals Service to begin housing federal inmates, which pay upwards of \$60 dollars per day.

Brown said if that happens, the jail would be one of only a handful in Kentucky west of Louisville qualified to house inmates convicted on federal charges.

"We won't be housing any John Gotti's," the judge-executive said of safety concerns related to higher-level violators.

Once inmates are housed in the detention center, only authorized personnel are permitted in the jail. Even county grand jury inspections conducted for years at the old life safety jail will be halted, because the new facility will be a full-service lockup, housing state and federal prisoners in addition to county detainees. Any future inspections will be handled by state corrections officials.

# Grand jury indicts 7; give final jail check

STAFF REPORT

A Crittenden County Grand Jury indicted seven individuals Monday and it also toured and inspected the Crittenden County Jail.

One responsibility of a grand jury is to keep an eye on conditions at the county jail. With the current county lockup soon to be closed and inmates moved into the new Crittenden County Detention Center, this week's grand jury conducted what is likely to be its last inspection of the "old" county jail. The jury found no problems with the facility or its operation.

Three men were indicted on charges of second-degree

burglary by complicity. The alleged burglary took place at a home at 128 Carr Street in Marion on Sept. 21. The occupant was not home at the time. Charged burglary and theft (over \$300) by complicity were Robert Church, 21, of Crittenden Springs Road; Daniel L. Johnson, 25, of Ky. 91 North; and Christopher Adam Simmons, 23, of First Street. Court records indicate that a safe valued at \$100 was taken from the home. It included personal papers belonging to the owner and \$200 in cash.

■ Alfred Hurd, 51, of Tiptonville, Tenn., was

indicted on a charge of flagrant non-support of his minor children. Hurd is being held in Crittenden County Jail on a cash bond of \$95,084.43, which is the amount he allegedly owes in back child support.

■ Julia Shaye Adams, 18, of Paducah was indicted on charges of possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and disregarding a stop sign. Court records indicate that Adams was stopped by Marion police officer George Foster on Oct. 13 after she ran the stop sign at the intersection of Fords Ferry Road and Sturgis Road. The officer's

report said that he smelled marijuana in the car and was given consent to search it. There, he found a bag of marijuana under the seat, two "roaches" and rolling papers.

■ Clarence Lee Corley, 37, of Old Piney Road, was indicted on several charges resulting from an incident at Five Star Convenience Store in Marion on Oct. 17. Court records say that a clerk at the convenience store reported to police that Corley shoplifted a camouflage cell phone case. When officers arrived, they found the suspect walking away from Five Star and toward his home.

Upon questioning, court records say, Corley admitted to taking the cell phone case. Police searched the suspect and found a silver box in his back pocket which contained what the report said was a "joint." They also found pills in a cellophane package. The pills were identified as Valium, Xanax, Soma and Hydrocodone. Corley was charged with theft by unlawful taking (under \$300), public intoxication, possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance not in its original container (second offense) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Crystal Loewen, 26, of

Hickory Hills Ave., was indicted on a charge of failure to report change in order to receive benefits. The charges were originally brought following an investigation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' special investigations unit. Court records allege that Loewen failed to report the employment status of her spouse in order to continue receiving government benefits.

## Holiday mail deadline near

STAFF REPORT

The last couple of weeks have been busy with holiday mail at the Crayne Post Office, said Kim Asbridge.

"It's been pretty crazy," she said. The postal service will deliver 20 billion cards, letters and packages this holiday season. The last day by which to mail domestically and ensure Christmas delivery is Dec. 20. However, using Express Mail by Dec. 22 should ensure delivery before Santa Claus.

Mail destined for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan should have been sent by Tuesday, according to a release on USPS.com. But, utilizing Express Mail International by next Wednesday or Express Mail Military Service by Dec.

18 could get those holiday packages to American soldiers, sailors and airmen.

One local veteran knows how important those Christmas cards means.

"I spent one holiday in Vietnam (1968), and holiday mail means a lot to all military members," said Rudy Fowler, a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. "The fourth grade class from Marion all sent me Christmas cards that their teacher mailed for them."

"My family and I spent seven holidays overseas away from our parents and siblings. It's was always a joy to receive mail during the holidays."

Mail destined for non-combat military installations around the world should be mailed no later than Dec. 18.

## FATALITY

Continued from Page 1A

struck an earthen embankment and became airborne, striking several trees before coming to a final rest on its top in the roadway.

The accident occurred about six miles west of Marion around 9:40 a.m.

Gary Eanes was transported from the scene to Crittenden Hospital where he was treated and released for his injuries. His father's body could not be extricated by emergency workers until the vehicle was turned over onto its wheels.

Both men were wearing seatbelts, according to police.

State police were assisted at the

incident by the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office.

Eanes was the fourth highway fatality in Crittenden County this year and one of 795 in the state to date. Last year through the same period, 851 people had died on Kentucky's roadways.

On Nov. 6, Robert Shawn Tabor, 27, died when his truck left Ky. 70 near the Mexico community, striking a building, two signs and an earthen embankment. Five months prior on June 12, Doris Ann Taylor, 75, died from injuries received in a U.S. 641 wreck near Mott City. The first fatality of 2007 occurred on Jan. 29, when Carson Dale Hackney, 53, was killed on U.S. 60 West in Crittenden County.

**Capitol Cinemas**  
203 W. Main St. • Princeton, KY  
STARTS FRIDAY, DEC. 9

Dustin Hoffman & Natalie Portman Star in  
**MR. MAGORJUN'S WONDER EMPORIUM**  
Fri. 6:30 • Sat. 1:45, 6:30  
Sun. 1:45, 4 • Mon. - Thurs. 5

**AMERICAN GANGSTER**  
Fri. 8:15 • Sat. 3:30, 8:15  
Sun. 6:45 • Mon. - Thurs. 7

Still Box Office #1 Walt Disney's  
**ENCHANTED**  
Fri. 6:45, 9 • Sat. 1:45, 4, 6:45, 9  
Sun. 1:45, 4, 6:45 • Mon. - Thurs. 7, 15

Nation's Surprise Holiday Hit  
A HEART WARMING FAMILY HOMECOMING  
**THIS CHRISTMAS**  
Fri. 6:45, 9 • Sat. 1:45, 4, 6:45, 9  
Sun. 1:45, 4, 6:45 • Mon. - Thurs. 7, 15

**LOWEST PRICES IN FIRST-RUN MOVIES**  
SHOW INFO 365-7900

**Crittenden Fiscal Court** Crittenden Fiscal Court convenes in regular session at the courthouse at 9 a.m., on the third Tuesday of each month

<b>Judge-executive</b> Fred Brown (R) County Courthouse 107 S. Main St. Marion, KY 42064 270.965.5251 critjudg@hotmail.com	<b>District 1 Magistrate</b> Helen McConnell (R) 1827 SR 654 Marion, KY 42064 270.965.4392	<b>District 2 Magistrate</b> Curt Buntin (R) 4736 SR 297 Marion, KY 42064 270.965.2902	<b>District 3 Magistrate</b> Glenn Underdown (R) 139 Oak Hill Dr. Marion, KY 42064 270.965.2082 bunderdown@apex.net	<b>District 4 Magistrate</b> Percy Cook (D) 729 Old Fords Ferry Road Marion, KY 42064 270.965.9417	<b>District 5 Magistrate</b> Greg West (R) 1090 Coleman Road Marion, KY 42064 270.965.5009 greggorytw@bellsouth.net	<b>District 6 Magistrate</b> Dan Wood (D) 602 Providence Road Providence, KY 42450 270.667.5235 dan_wood@bellsouth.net
--	--	--	--	--	--	---

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Is the courthouse open on Saturday? Yes. Most offices are open a half-day Saturday except during holiday weekends. The PVA and judge-executive offices, however, are closed on Saturday.

When is the solid waste convenience center (trash repository) on U.S. 60 East open? Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m., to noon. It is closed Thursday and Sunday.

Do I have to have a dog license? Yes. They are available for \$5 through county Animal Control Officer Ricky Winders (965-3376) at the animal shelter on U.S. 60 East.





### Lacing up for soldiers

Lee Gardella (center) is with Pauline and Tom Guess, the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Order of the Eastern Star, which donated \$100 to Gardella's effort to raise money to send items to U.S. troops in the Middle East. Gardella runs for the troops. This weekend she will be participating in a marathon in Huntsville, Ala. For this race, she has raised \$320 for the troops. She says the thought of them keeps her going. She uses the money to send packages to soldiers who normally wouldn't receive things from home.

## DYCUSBURG NEWS by Tina Cochrum

The annual children's Christmas play at the Baptist church will be at 6 p.m., Dec. 16. Everyone is invited. The children are working hard at their practice and are looking forward to presenting the Christmas story in a play and song.

The Baptist church will host its annual Christmas caroling around town and gift exchange on Dec. 19. There will be a potluck chili and sandwich supper following caroling. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there during the gift exchange. Everyone is invited.

The community fund committee hosted a Christmas bazaar/craft and bake sale on Saturday in Eddyville. Shoppers enjoyed the festive atmosphere, and the music set the mood. Christmas is almost here! Shoppers were delighted with the variety of selections they had, every-

thing from quilts and hand made items to glassware, Christmas ornaments, candles and "snowman poop"! The "sweet" table was fascinating - there were pumpkin roll slices, fudge, cookies - bet I gained five pounds just looking at it! Door prizes drawings were held each hour and raffle drawings at the end of the day. Some prize winners included: Candice Downing, Daniel Joiner, Sue Bailey, Sheila Wadsworth, Wanda Kinnis, Ann Ladd, RoseMary Adams, Laura Wagner, Lisa Aldridge, Belinda Campbell, Cordie Gray and Christopher Joiner. The winners' names were drawn by Ashlyn and Kelsie Webster, Sam Hopkins, Daniel and Christopher Joiner, Aliyah Fruitger and Ian Aldridge. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by and presented each child with a gift as they gave him their Christmas wish list, and Santa promised to do his best for each child's wishes. On behalf of the Dycusburg Community Fund Committee,

thank you to everyone who made the sale a success.

Matthew Patton visited his family over Thanksgiving. Matthew keeps up Dycusburg's web page, be sure to check it out. It has been redesigned and has a lot of interesting information on it.

The Riverside Cafe hosted a Thanksgiving dinner last week and is hosting Bingo on Saturday nights. Call 988-3004 for more details.

Matthew Cochrum and Payton Bailey enjoyed camping out with their Boy Scout troop this past weekend. Both boys are working toward their Eagle Scout badges. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are collecting food and toys for the annual Christmas toy and food drive for underprivileged families. Please call 988-2068 to arrange a pickup if you would like to make a donation.

The Dycusburg Post Office has the newest Christmas stamps for your Christmas cards. Remember to mail early to beat the rush!

## Chorus news

### Concerts continue through Dec. 12

The Crittenden County Middle School and Crittenden County High School Chorus are in the final rehearsals for upcoming Christmas Concert performances in the community. Included in the upcoming performances are the following:

•Dec. 6, Annual Chorus Christmas Concert, CCMS-CCHS Multi-Purpose Room, 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

•Dec. 7, Crittenden County Senior Citizens, Senior Citizens Center, 10 a.m.

•Dec. 11, Crittenden County Elementary, 2 p.m.

•Dec. 12, Crayne Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.

Seven Crittenden County Middle School chorus students traveled to Murray State University to participate in the Annual First District Middle School Honors Choir Event held in historic Lovett Auditorium on campus Nov. 13.

They were among approximately 435 fifth through eighth graders representing the Kentucky Music Educators Association First District.

CCMS performers, in the upper level choir under the direction of MSU Professor Dr. Bradley Almquist, were Cody Adamson, Mallory Eubanks, Kennedy Graham, Hannah Roberts, Anna Schnitker, Leah Scott and Darren Sharp. The students were accompanied on the trip by chorus director Mrs. Linda Brown.



### Distinguished test takers

Crittenden County Middle School students scoring distinguished in all areas of the 2007 CATS test are (front from left) Micah Hollamon, Madison Travis and Dylan Doyle; (standing from left) Taylor Fritts, Elizabeth Brown, Zach Collins, Devin Clark and Tucker Frazer. Current freshmen who took the test as eighth-graders last spring and earned all distinguished scores were Darrell Drennan, LaDonna Herron, Stephanie Hodge and Veronica Suggs.

### Woman's Club dinner tonight

The Woman's Club of Marion will have its Annual Christmas Dinner for members and guests 6:30 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Woman's Club Building.

The club is honored to have Shelia Koster, formerly of Marion, to present a mini-concert. Koster is well known in the area as an

accomplished musician. She directed the Living Christmas Tree in 2003.

In addition, Jackie Cook, a frequent participant in Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation productions, will entertain with a selection for Christmas.

Share your club news with the community. Email [allison@the-press.com](mailto:allison@the-press.com)

**CHRISTMAS TREES**  
**Green's Valley Tree Farm**  
 1961 U.S. Highway 60 E., Salem, KY  
**WHITE PINES**  
 Dug \$10/ft. Cut \$8/ft.  
 Open Weekends Starting Nov. 23  
 270-988-4012

**Stuart C. Peek**  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

Concentrating In:

- Social Security Disability Claims
- SSI Claims

Call for your FREE Consultation  
**270-928-3655**  
 404 Court St. P.O. Box 8 Smithland, KY 42081  
This is an advertisement.

**IF YOU SEE MY DAD ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, WISH HIM A HAPPY 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**  
 Love, Tate

**Cozy Hearth**

**NOW SERVING:**  
 Ham, Beans & Cornbread  
 Assorted Sandwiches: Chicken, Pork Tenderloin, & Ribeye Steak

**Friday & Saturday Nights:**  
 Steak, Pork Chop or Chicken with a Baked Potato & Salad

**Pizza Buffet, Salad & Pasta Bar**  
 Carry-Out Available on Pizza & Salad Bar

Open Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.  
**Lunch & Dinner**  
 230 Sturgis Rd. (Old Druther's)  
**965-0021**

**Thank You**

The family of Bobby Hamby would like to thank so many of you for the acts of kindness and compassion during Bobby's struggle with cancer. This is just a few people who made his and the family's life easier during this time. Dr. Greg Maddux and the staff at Family Practice, Crittenden Health Systems, Dr. Ratley, Kevin Hurley, Maranatha General Baptist Church for hosting a dinner after the funeral, Union Baptist Church for the use of their fellowship hall, Shannon Lain and Marion Body Shop, Rommel Ellington, Leah Bozarth, Steve Hackney for taking care of our yard this summer, Tambo buddies, Tommy Woodward, the ministers; Rev. Leroy Driver, Rev. Danny Shuecraft and Rev. Curtis Franklin, everyone who brought food, flowers, cards and most certainly Myers Funeral Home. If we have omitted anyone, please accept our apology. Words cannot express our appreciation for the love and care shown to Bobby and to our family.

*God bless you all, Wanda, Bradley and Miranda, Brother and Sisters*

Thank you our friends and family for the flowers, food, and most of all your prayers during the loss of our loved one. Thank you also to the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home, Tolu Community Center, Bro. Larry Yates and Bro. Mike Morrow.

*From the family of Laurie Adams*

**Rainbow Flowers & Gifts Galore**  
 144 E. Main St., Salem, KY • 988-2980  
 would like to invite you to our...  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
 December 8, 2007

COME IN AND WARM UP WITH HOMEMADE GOODIES, COFFEE, AND HOT CHOCOLATE DURING THE SALEM CHRISTMAS PARADE.

We would like to take this time to thank you for your patronage and wish you and yours a very safe and Merry Christmas.

*Thank You*  
 Peggy & Sue

**You're Invited To**  
 A Celebration of Music  
**"A JOYFUL NOISE"**  
 Sunday, December 9, 2007  
 3:00 p.m.  
**Fohs Hall**  
 143 North Walker, Marion, Kentucky

A reception will follow the performance

Sponsored by Fohs Hall, Inc., and The Community Arts Foundation



# Fluorspar mining big part of our past

## Trip into mine allows writer to tell big story



**Brenda Underdown**  
**Forgotten Passages**  
Crittenden County Historian

This is the second in a two-part series on the fluorspar mining industry that flourished in the Mexico and Frances communities during the 20th century.

In Part II of *Crystals from Mexico* we will go on a tour of the underground shafts with a local newspaper writer.

To one who has been underground in both coal and iron ore mines, a fluorspar mine is very different. It has a special allure. So the writer answered with an eager "Yes," when mine superintendent K.J. Johnston asked, "How would you like to do down under?"

It was first necessary to put on overalls, high boots, a hard hat and an electric storage battery lamp. Incidentally U.W. Coal and Coke Company was the first fluorspar producer to introduce hard hats and battery cap lamps.

All ready for the descent and accompanied by assistant mine superintendent J.R. Drenan, Mr. Johnston and the writer entered the cage of the elevator or hoist, as it is known at the mine.

Down the shaft we went, and as we descended, the increasing air pressure was noticeable in our ears. When we reached the bottom we had gone down 550 feet, or as deep as the Washington Monument is high.

We were on the lowest of three operating levels in the Tabb No. 1 mine. There are two other operating levels, one at 400 feet below the surface and the other at 250 feet below.

The first thing we saw as we stepped out of the hoist cage was the arrival of a train of loaded mine cars, drawn by an electric locomotive. Each of the cars was emptied through a heavy steel grating into a hopper, from which the ore passed by gravity into a large jaw crusher.

The crusher consists of two jaws of hard, tough manganese steel, and one of the jaws, driven by electric motor, vibrates back and forth, breaking any lumps of ore too large to pass through the maximum opening between the jaws. From the crusher, the ore passes by gravity down a chute to gates, from which it is loaded into a self-dumping skip bucket and hoisted up the shaft. This skip bucket is attached to the cable above the cage in which we descended into the mine.

Near the shaft we saw a large pump room, a duplicate of similar pump rooms on the other two working levels. Pumping is important, since the mine is very wet. At present, 200 to 300 gallons of water per minute are pumped out of the mine.

The mine workings extend about one-half mile on each side of the shaft. There is no gas in the mines, but a ventilating system provides the miners with a continuous supply of fresh air.

We walked down the main tunnel or drift, as the miners call it, to the very end of the mine, where blast holes were being drilled by pneumatic drills preparatory to extending the drift. This section of the mine was beyond the ventilating circuit; so air was carried in a large tube along the side of the drift to the working face.

The surface of the rock in the drift was wet and this film of water made it easier to distinguish the characteristic translucence and transparency of the fluorspar. At one location in the drift the boundary lines of the vein were very sharply defined and so we had a picture taken there with Dixie Martin, the mine foreman, pointing to one of the fault lines.

At this point, the distance between the two lines was about five feet, 10 inches. Ages ago this space was open to the surface and the space in which we were standing was filled with hot gases and liquids boiling up from the earth's innards far below. Now the fault was filled with solid ore, so solid that no timbering is required in the mine except in the main working levels and in vertical manways carrying ladders to upper levels.

Loading of the ore mined in extending the drift is done by a compressed air shovel. This device is almost human, digging into the ore and throwing it in a sweeping arc over its shoulder into the mine cars. Most of the ore, however, is drawn into the cars from overhead chutes, extending from the main mine workings called the stope lying above the track.

When it came time to leave it was decided to ascend rather than descend, since the 400-foot level was closer than the 550-foot level from which we had started. So when we reached the next

level, we had climbed a total of 150 feet, which, of course, is nothing for a miner but quite noticeable to a tender-foot like this writer.

We emerged in a portion of the drift, which is now inactive, and as we walked along the track we encountered long strings of fungus growth hanging from the timbering. This growth is phosphorescent. When we turned off our head lamps and pitch darkness descended upon us, we could see the glow of the pendant strings.

Reaching the shaft station, we bade good-bye to Foreman Martin and entered the cage of the hoist, which quickly raised us to the surface.

The brightness of the broad daylight was blinding for a moment, and it took a moment for our ears to become adjusted to the difference in air pressure.

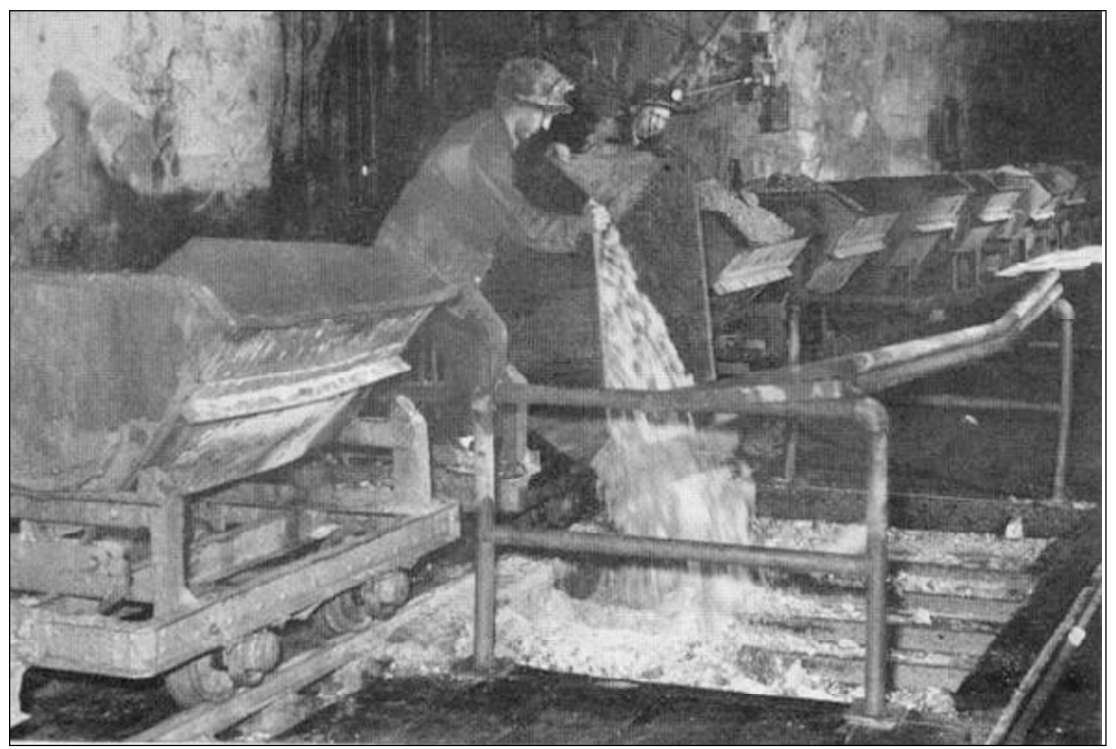
Other facilities of the plant include office quarters, a change house for the miners, a well-equipped maintenance shop, a motor drive for the hoist, two air compressors, and a transformer station at which electric current purchased at 33,000 volts is stepped down to the voltages required at this and the other two mines.

Fluorspar from all three mines is shipped from the Tabb No. 1 plant, where a loading rack and scale for railroad cars and a loading station and scale for trucks have been provided. Railroad cars are shipped over the Illinois Central Railroad, while trucks carry their loads seven miles to Dycusburg on the Cumberland River where they are emptied into barges.

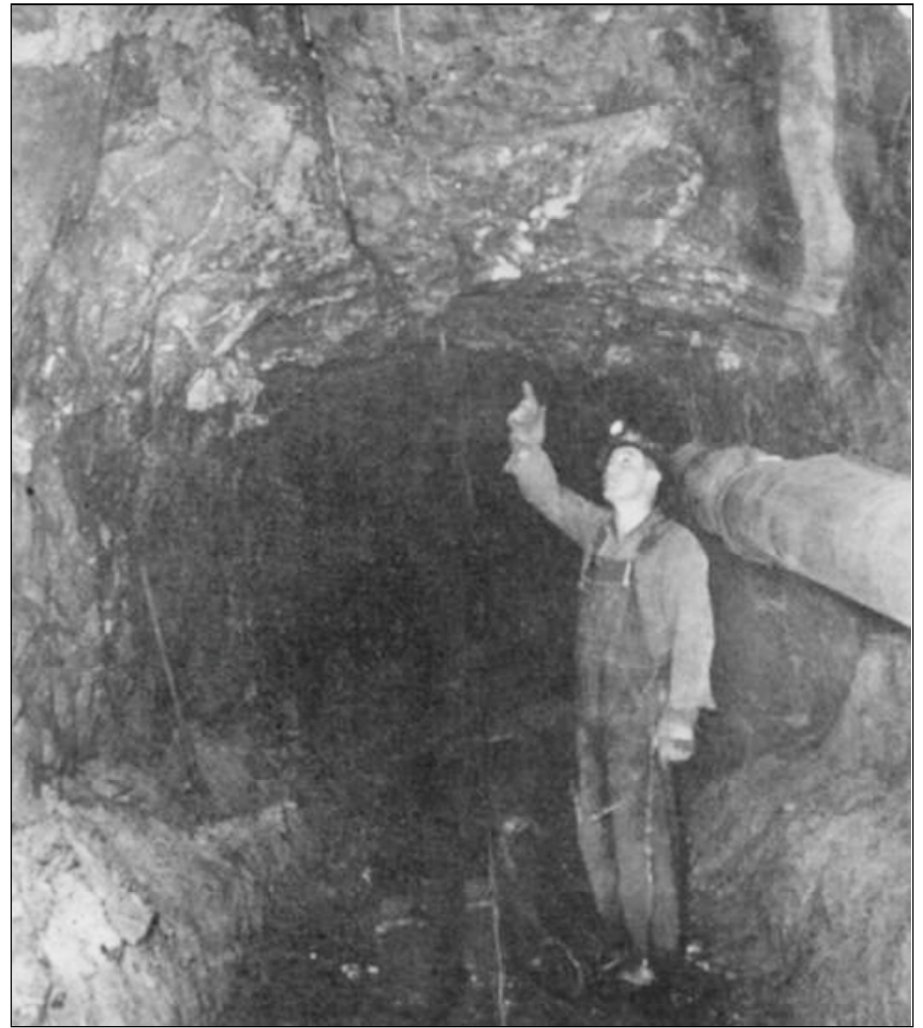
Fluorspar production in 1948 averages about 200 net tons a month, but at times reached 3,000 tons or more. From the time operations were started in 1923 until the end of 1947, shipments of fluorspar have totaled more than 428,000 tons.

The fluorspar division has 240 employees, of which about one-half go underground. Most of them are native Kentuckians, whose pioneer ancestors trekked westward over the mountains from Virginia and the Carolinas.

The distinction of making the first shipment of fluorspar out of Kentucky belongs to the Yandell mine, now operated by the Fluorspar Division of U.S. Coal and Coke Company. The story goes that the fluorspar was packed in oak kegs fashioned at the mine and these were hauled by wagon to Dycusburg and loaded on a packet steamer. The date of the shipment was some time in the 1870s and the destination was Pittsburgh, Pa.



Above, are John Paris and Kelly McCree of the U.W. Coal and Coke Company unloading mine cars at the shaft station of the 550-foot level. At right is Dixie W. Martin, mine foreman, pointing to one of the underground fault lines. The other fault line follows the light band visible above on the right.



Superintendent Johnston, after prior experience with the Oliver Company, joined the operating group at the fluorspar mines in January 1929. In October 1933, he was appointed superintendent, the position he still holds.

If someone in the spirit of fun should ever call him a crystal gazer, he could not deny it. For he is an authority on the "crystals from Mexico" which are so essential to the manufacture of steel in U.S. Steel's open-hearth and electric furnaces.

After part one of this article appeared in last week's Press, I received a call from my dear friend, Rev. James Boone, who is 96 years old and will be 97 on Jan. 6. He doesn't get out much now, but his mind is wonderful

and he knows so much history of Crittenden County and has seen many changes in his life time.

Sometimes after an article will be in *The Press*, he will call and share with me some of the things he remembers about that time.

This week, he shared with me a time in his life when he worked as an electrician for Rorer and Johnson of Marion. He said around 1956-57 when they built the new addition on the U.S. Coal and Coke plant at Mexico that he did the wiring for the new addition. That included all the wiring for the plant above ground and also new wiring to the underground shafts and motors.

The wiring supplied the electricity for the cage that took the men underground and the lift that brought out

the spar or other minerals that they dug from underground. The shaft was 550 feet deep and had three levels for mining. He said the underground operation was something to see and he remembered it well.

There were four large switch boxes, with one of them being 6 x 8 feet in size. He said it was quite an operation and quite a job, but was proud he was able to play a role in part of our history.

And I was proud that he shared some of his memories with us.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

From The Crittenden Press Archives

### News from 1957:

•Kenneth Drennan of Marion was honored with a dinner in Evansville because of his 12-year safety record as a driver for Commercial Carriers of Detroit. His was the longest safety record recognized at the Evansville district office. He had worked for the company 17 years and had driven without a chargeable accident.

•Southern Bell dug a furrow 66,000 feet long along the edge of Ky. 506 and Piney Fork Road, getting ready to install phone service lines. The underground line is easier to maintain than the typical overhead lines.

•Bennett Wright posed with a 200-pound whitetailed buck he shot on the Turner farm in Livingston County.

•FFA member David Newcom, a senior at Crittenden County High, was featured in an article on the front page of *The Press*. His teachers, William M. Todd and Charles F. Talley, believe Newcom will make the organization's State Farmer Degree when the award is given out in

### the spring.

•Arflack Radio & TV was advertising a 21-inch Motorola Table TV for \$249.95, which included a free swivel base that normally sold for \$12.95.

•As part of the Woman's Club of Marion's special Christmas Program, Mrs. Hugh Allen, Mrs. Eldon James and Mrs. Harold Johnson discussed Christmas customs from around the world.

### News from 1982:

•City Council members voted against a proposal by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce to remove all of the parking meters downtown. Council members said free parking in other nearby towns was not producing desired results.

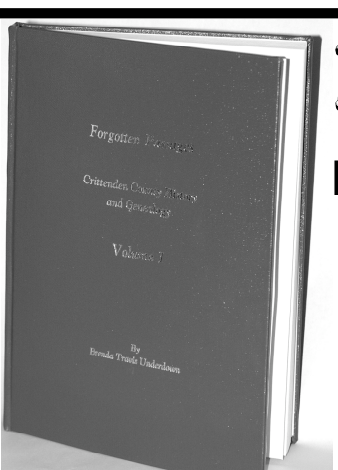
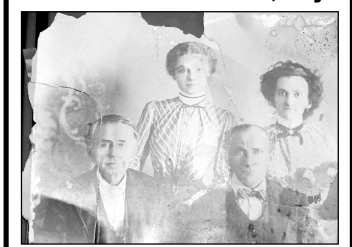
•Major Guess and J.T. May, both of Marion, attended the annual Southern States Cooperative's annual stockholders meeting in Richmond, Va.

•Avon salesperson Geneva Humphrey won a five-day trip to Hawaii from a sales promotion by Avon Products, Inc.

•The Rocket basketball team, under coach Hugh Highfill, was 1-4 in early games. The boys had lost the last two to Livingston and Dawson Springs. The Lady Rockets, under coach Joe McCord, were 7-0 after beating Providence.

## WE RESTORE OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

The Crittenden Press  
965-3191 Marion, Ky.



## FORGOTTEN PASSAGES

BY BRENDA UNDERDOWN  
Crittenden County  
History & Genealogy  
Volume 1 - Hardback

Call to order (270) 965-2082  
email: [bunderdown@apex.net](mailto:bunderdown@apex.net)  
Or send \$30.00 to  
Brenda Underdown  
139 Oak Hill Drive  
Marion, KY 42064

## BELLVILLE MANOR APARTMENTS

819 Terrace Drive • Marion, Kentucky

Accepting applications for one and two bedroom apartments: total electric, newly redecorated, rent based on your income to qualifying person. Apartments immediately available.

**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday & Thursday**

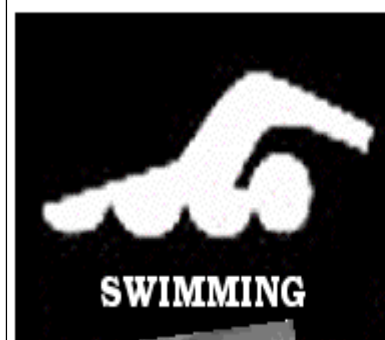
Phone (270) 965-5960  
TDD: 1-800-648-6056

SECTION 8 HOUSING



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## MARION COUNTRY CLUB



SWIMMING



GOLF



DINING



JUST PLAIN FUN!

**LIMITED TIME OFFER - MEMBERSHIPS available with easy payment terms**  
memberships subject to review by membership committee

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE  
CALL 965-9241 or 965-1800 FOR INFORMATION

**THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR A FAMILY**