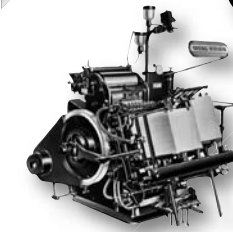


FINAL
ISSUE OF
2007



Merry Christmas from our family to yours...

UNITED WE STAND



The Crittenden Press

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

75 CENTS
A home-owned newspaper since 1879
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 25 - 24 PAGES

Crittenden Press closed next week

The Crittenden Press will be closed Monday through Wednesday of next week so that we may spend time with our families over the Christmas holiday. Therefore, there will be no Crittenden Press published next week. However, you will receive your Early Bird, though one day late due to Tuesday's postal holiday. Our office will be open 8 a.m., to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday of next week.

The Crittenden Press will return Jan. 3, 2008, with our special year-in-review, looking back at the year that was 2007.

Thank you for your patronage this year. We look forward to bringing you more of your local news in 2008.

Letters to Santa found on Page 1B

They're here. Just in time for Christmas, children's letters to Santa fill five pages inside this week's Press. Sweet, sincere and oh so funny, this year's letters come from the youngest of students at Crittenden County Elementary School.

Santa to stop at Dycusburg Friday

On one of his last stops to the area before packing the sleigh for Christmas Eve deliveries, Santa will be coming to Dycusburg Friday. St. Nick will appear at the Dycusburg Grocery at 6 p.m. All children and adults are welcome to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.



County garbage pickup delayed

Freedom Waste, Crittenden County's solid waste disposal company, will not have garbage pick-up on Christmas Day. Collection will be on a one-day delay until later this month, returning to normal schedule the week of Dec. 31.

Circuit Clerk alters schedule

The Crittenden County Circuit Clerk's office will be altering its Saturday office hours beginning next year. According to Madeline Henderson, her office will be open from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturdays, with Jan. 5 being the first day under the new hours.

Rain gauge

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

7 days 30 days 2007
3.03 7.94 42.42
below average: 4.93"

Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

Thursday Friday
PM Showers 53/42 Cloudy 56/47

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County hopes to put hush on drilling

STAFF REPORT

Magistrates approved the first reading of a new county noise ordinance aimed squarely at any future oil and gas operations.

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court has for about three months been examining possible restrictions on drilling, mining or transmission operations that might disrupt the peace and solitude of the county's rural setting.

After discussing the proposed ordinance at a couple of previous gatherings, the fiscal court finally approved the plan during its regular meeting Tuesday morning. Five magistrates were in favor of the plan, but Magistrate Greg West opposed it. Based on its preliminary approval, the

ordinance will become law at the January meeting unless further opposition arises.

The ordinance, drafted by County Attorney Rebecca Johnson, specifically excludes noisy agriculture practices or any other temporary operation that exceeds the restricted sound levels.

West, a former construction contractor, said he was opposed to the idea because it might have some unforeseen consequences on normal practices such as construction work.

"I just don't want to get into a box with this," he said.

Judge-Executive Fred Brown said that the ordinance is by no means aimed at any normal activity and if any problems arise, the ordinance can be



"I don't feel like this is going to be too restrictive. If it is, then we can change it."

— Fred Brown
Judge-Executive on noise ordinance

amended by the fiscal court. He said that any noisy operations that last 30 days or fewer will not be affected.

"You can't foresee and anticipate for everything," the county attorney said.

The ordinance is primarily focused on restricting what some say could be noisy compressor stations or drilling operations associated with gas and oil exploration and mining. Chesapeake Oil and Gas Company and a few others have been exploring and leasing property in Crittenden County for the last couple of years. Right now those operations are centered around possible drill sites near Irma and Tribune. A drill site has also been in operation near Tolu.

The biggest concern, county officials say, is the potential for noisy

See **NOISE**/page 12A

Fire destroys home, everything family owns



A house fire Tuesday afternoon devastated a rural Crittenden County family on Adamson Lane just outside of Marion on U.S. 60 East. The fire completely destroyed the home of David and Melissa Lynch and all of its contents, including Christmas gifts for their children. Above, firefighters with Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department battle the fire.

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Rural house, Dairy Queen blazes keep firefighters busy

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Two separate fires early this week took their toll on a rural Crittenden County family and Marion restaurant owner.

No injuries were reported at either fire, but a home on Adamson Lane was completely destroyed Tuesday, and Dairy Queen will remain closed indefinitely until damage from an early Monday can be repaired.

The cause of Tuesday's fire at the home of David and Melissa Lynch was undetermined at press time Wednesday, but little more than the foundation remained of both the home and an unattached outbuilding and carport. All of the home's contents, including Christmas gifts, were destroyed. A neighbor reported two cats were also in the home at the time of the fire.

The Lynchs, including their 4-

and 12-year-old children, were not home at the time the fire began. However, shortly after the fire was reported by a neighbor at 4 p.m., the family arrived to see thick black smoke and flames already rolling from windows and along the roofline.

"When I got here, the whole house was already filled with smoke," said a neighbor who preferred to remain unidentified.

Not knowing if anyone was inside the house, he and another neighbor tried to enter the home before the Lynchs arrived.

"When I busted in the door it just overwhelmed me," the neighbor said. "I knew I couldn't get inside."

The fire appeared to have begun at the back of the house. The owner, David Lynch, attempted to get close to the home to retrieve items, but the blaze was too hot and ammunition from a gun collection inside the

home continually exploded, sounding like popcorn inside a popper. The flames were so intense, the plastic bumper covers of an SUV parked in the unattached carport began to melt several minutes before the fire reached the vehicle. Even toys left outside the home burst into flames before the fire reached them.

Left with little more than the clothes on their backs, the entire family was left to watch their possessions be destroyed.

Lynch and neighbors were visibly irritated at the length of time it took volunteers to respond and begin dousing the fire with water. However, it was doubtful that much could have been salvaged from the fire even as the first firefighters arrived.

The initial page for Crittenden and Mattoon firefighters was made

See **FIRE**/page 12A

Census of farm data vital to county

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Though still twice as many cows as humans live in Crittenden County, their numbers declined from 1997 to 2002 as the acreage planted in winter wheat rose.



"We use those numbers a lot as far as what we base our programs on."

— Corey Payne

UK Extension Service Agent on the Census of Agriculture

This type of information gathered every five years through the USDA's Census of Agriculture is what helps farm service agencies track such trends to the agricultural landscape. By keeping an eye on changes, agencies like the University of Kentucky Extension Service can determine the types of yearly programs that best fit the needs of growers and ranchers.

Five years have passed since the last nationwide ag census, and next week, a new count will begin when the National Agricultural Statistics Service, or NASS, begins mailing out Census forms to farmers.

"We use those numbers a lot, as far as what we base our programs on," said Corey Payne, UK Extension Agent for Agriculture in Crittenden County. "As far as state agencies go, it's how we gauge what's going on."

Much of the information gathered in the count is not found anywhere else and helps not only local and state agencies with a snapshot of the face of agriculture, but federal organizations as well.

"It's very important," Susan Champion, director of both the Marion and Salem Farm Service Agency Service Centers, said of Census participation by area farmers.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

While some farms not enrolled with farm service agencies, like those in

See **CENSUS**/page 12A

City approves money for ballpark expansion

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Fifteen thousand dollars will buy a lot of peanuts and Cracker Jacks. It's also enough to upgrade a ballpark to make it worthy of hosting organized summer league baseball games.

On Monday, Marion City Council agreed to allocate \$14,700 for improvements to the high school baseball field that would allow Marion-Crittenden County Park to host American Legion or semi-pro games. The request was brought before council members by Paul Belt, chairman of the park board, and Gordon Guess, a baseball enthusiast.

Guess has spearheaded enhancements at the easternmost diamond of

the park, most notably adding a grandstand with more than 200 folding seats for spectators. The contribution from city council will help fund expanding the field of play, pushing back the fences and adjusting the lighting. The county has already contributed dirt and road work to shift Old Morganfield Road, which boundaries the outfield.

"We have to grow the field in order to host these games," Guess said of possible American Legion or Kitty League action.

American Legion baseball is an 80-

year-old summertime youth program to continue the growth of players skills through developing regional competition. The Kitty League is a semi-pro baseball organization with teams as nearby as the Tradewater Pirates in Dawson Springs.

Guess hopes that by pushing the field's power alleys to 365 feet in leftfield and 355 in rightfield, as well as expanding centerfield by 40 feet to 384 feet, both leagues would become interested in bringing games to Marion. The revenue from that, he told council members, would bring outside money into the city.

Specifically, the city's approved allocation over the current and next fiscal year would pay \$9,700 for relocating

light poles and about \$5,000 for moving and adding fencing. Light work will be done by Hendrix Electric in Clay, with fencing done by C & C Fence in Gilbertsville.

Guess' hopeful date for having the project completed is June 30, 2008, but the sooner the better. Both target leagues begin play in late spring.

Further improvements at the field include a new, larger scoreboard donated by Coca-Cola, two expanded in-ground dugouts provided by Guess and the high school's Dugout Club, concrete walkways completed by Thomas Brothers Concrete as soon as weather permits, and an eventual gated perimeter fence, larger concession stand and dressing room.



Guess

2 added to solid waste committee

STAFF REPORT

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court approved the addition of the county attorney and sheriff to the Crittenden County Solid Waste Committee. The committee has been quite active recently, reviewing the county's solid waste franchise agreement with Freedom Waste, the company that recently purchased Waste Management.

Freedom Waste is now the authorized collector of commercial and residential trash in Crittenden County.

The county attorney and sheriff were added to the committee to help provide legal guidance as the group deals with future issues, which could include policing illegal dumps, restricting unauthorized operators and granting franchises and service exemptions.

Judge-Executive Fred Brown asked County Attorney Rebecca Johnson to

research the current agreement with Freedom Waste to determine the amount of time left on the existing contract. Brown suggested that the county might want to re-bid the franchise agreement once the current contract expires.

Two companies now operating here, Waste Path of Calvert City and Madisonville Disposal, have until March 31 to either seek a service waiver or stop picking up trash here. Both would like to continue, Brown said. Madisonville Disposal is interested in increasing its presence here, according to company spokeswoman Rita Chappell.

While the county's contract with Freedom Waste is non-exclusive, it prohibits all

Garbage collection

Freedom Waste, Crittenden County's solid waste disposal company, will not have garbage pick-up on Christmas Day. Collection will be on a one-day delay until next month, returning to normal schedule the week of Dec. 31.

other trash collectors from operating here unless they have a service exemption. Right now, James Dempsey is the only hauler that has a waiver.

Judge Brown and a few magistrates noted that they have received complaints that Freedom raised its fuel surcharge this month after taking over Waste Management.

Other members of the Solid Waste Committee are magistrates Glenn Underdown and Curt Buntin, Solid Waste Director Sue Padgett and Judge Brown.

The fiscal court also approved the re-appointment of Raymond Belt to the Crittenden-Livingston Water District Board of Directors. Belt, member for the last four


years, will serve another full term. Crittenden County has two other members on the two-county board. They are Sid Bean and Phillip Parker.

Judge Brown said the county is seeking a new e-waste collector. The group currently taking the county's old computers, televisions and other such items is beginning to charge. He said an Owensboro company has agreed to come here and pick up those items. If the county enters into a contract with that company, it will schedule a day in January when residents can drop off such items at the convenience center.

County Sheriff Wayne Agent presented his 2007-08 budget to the fiscal court. The spending plan is projected at \$216,027.

Magistrates approved the acceptance of several grants into the county budget, including \$35,000 for a new bookmobile for the public library.

*Warm
Christmas Wishes
With A Hearty
Thank You*



To all of our customers and friends
From all of us at
THE FAMILY BUTCHER SHOP
346 Rooster Lane (off KY 654 near Mattoon)
Closed Dec. 25, Jan. 1 & Jan. 6

Whitfield plans for re-election

STAFF REPORT

Congressman Ed Whitfield announced Monday that he will seek an eighth term in the United States Congress. Whitfield, a Republican, was first elected in 1994 and has won every subsequent election with a significant majority of voters.

"After considering my options for 2008 and what still needs to be accomplished, I have decided ... there is just too much unfinished business not to run again," said Whitfield.

Whitfield is the only Republican to hold the seat since the Civil War.



Whitfield



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FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*


We're grateful for your valued business. It's been a real pleasure serving you.

We look forward to your continued visits in the new year!

David Wigginton, Marlene James,
Charlotte Holloman & April Dunkerson



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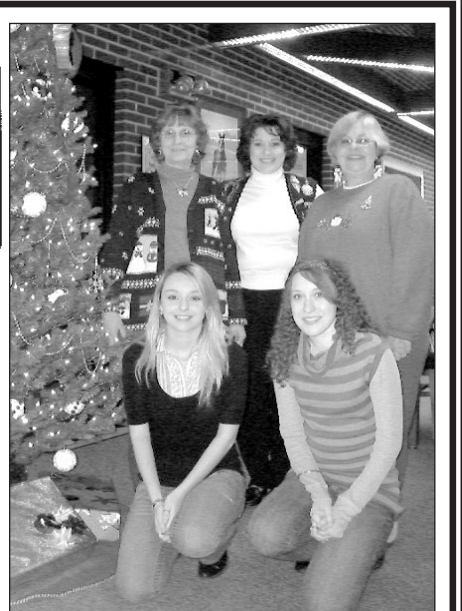


*Happy
Holidays*

May your days be filled with love, family and good friends.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:
Mon., Dec. 24 • Tue., Dec. 25
Mon., Dec. 31 • Tues., Jan. 1

Thanks for visiting us at the
CRITTENDEN COUNTY LIBRARY
204 W. Carlisle St., Marion, KY • 270-965-3354



Standing from left: Barbara Butler, Regina Merrick, Rose Kirk.
Kneeling: Casey Farmer and Tabby Padgett

Season's Greetings

To All Of You From All Of



We're Your Main Office Staff at 201 South Main Street in downtown Marion, Kentucky.

*Your Neighbors and Friends
at*
**farmers Bank
AND TRUST COMPANY**



We're Your Marion Branch Staff at 203 North Main Street in downtown Marion, Kentucky.



We're Your Board of Directors for Farmers Bank and Trust Company.





We're Your Salem Office Staff at 216 West Main Street in downtown Salem, Kentucky.

Primary party swap deadline near

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky voters have only a few days left to decide which side of the political coin they want to influence for next year's Presidential election.

Though the primary election is still five months away, any registered voter wanting to change party affiliation for the May 20 vote must do so by the end of the year. That primary will help choose party nominees for the next Commander-in-Chief to replace President Bush.

Kentucky primaries are closed, meaning voters can only cast a ballot for candidates within their party of registration.

And, only voters registered as Democrat or Republican will be able to vote.



Byford

The deadline for changing party alignment is Dec. 31. Crittenden County Clerk Carolyn Byford's office will be open only five more days this year, including today (Thursday). Her office will also be open Friday and next Wednesday through Friday to take voter registration changes. Though Byford's office will close for

2007 on Dec. 28, requests for a party change can be mailed but must be post-marked by Dec. 31 to be accepted. Registration cards can be picked up in Byford's courthouse office or downloaded at elect.ky.gov/register.htm.

New voters, including 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the general election on Nov. 4, can register to vote in Kentucky's May's primary until April 22.

Besides next year's Presidential Election, Crittenden County voters will help choose a U.S. Senator, congressman and state representative. Potential primaries loom for all partisan races.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

at 4:01 p.m. By 4:35 p.m., little more than a trickle of water had been put on the fire, as the first responders, David Travis and Jody Herrin with Mattoon Volunteer Fire Department had troubles with the water pressure on the department's pumper.

It wasn't until a third truck arrived that water could be pumped on the fire. By that time, the effort was simply to keep a just-filled propane tank only a few feet behind the blazing carport from exploding. Nearby homes were also in danger from embers flying from the intense structure fire.

Firefighters left the scene shortly before 7 p.m., but were called back to the scene about two hours later as the smoldering remains of the home began to blaze again.

Dairy Queen fire

On Monday, one of Marion's two fast food restaurants suffered a destructive fire that punched through the roof and filled the store with smoke.

At press time Wednesday, cleanup at Dairy Queen had begun but manager Pee Wee Phillips said the restaurant would remain closed indefinitely. In fact, as of Tuesday, store owner Barry Nasserri had not been reached while on his family vacation in Jamaica. Phillips said he was expected back Friday.

Employee Theresa Jenkins



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Marion firefighters battled an early-morning blaze and freezing temperatures Monday at Dairy Queen. Above, a firefighter atop the building battles flames that breached the roof while firefighter Barrett Belt retreats for more equipment.

first reported the fire at 5 a.m., Monday as she arrived at work. Marion firefighters quickly responded in the freezing, pre-dawn hours to douse the glow of flames that had already breached a new roof recently put on the store.

The fire began at the back of the building in the ceiling,

Phillips said the source of the fire was electrical in nature.

Two hours after responding, firefighters were still spraying foam in the ceiling to suppress any potential flare-up. The extent of damage is uncertain at this time, but no date for re-opening has been scheduled.

CENSUS

Continued from Page 1A

Crittenden County's Amish community, may not receive the Census questionnaire mailed Dec. 28, their information is just as vital to the future of agri-business, said the director of the NASS Kentucky Field Office in Louisville.

"The Census isn't just for big farms," said Leland Brown. "It's important they all be counted to represent county totals."

Brown said outreach efforts to contact all farmers are made locally, but no one is forced to participate.

"In all reality, it's not like we send out the marshal's to collect information," he joked.

NASS officials urge that all farmers, even those that may not participate in state or federal programs, can benefit from submitting data.

"For instance, ...community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services," said NASS Administrator Ron Bosecker in a July news release found

on the NASS Web site. "Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies."

If a farmer is not contacted, they can submit their data by contacting an Extension Service or FSA office.

Also, for the first time ever, data will be accepted online in 2007. Growers and ranchers

can submit their information by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov.

All Census forms, whether completed online or by mail, are due by Feb. 4, 2008. Tabulated data will not be made available until February 2009.

Further information on the Census of Agriculture can be obtained at both the local FSA and Extension Service offices, at the NASS Web site or by calling 1-888-424-7828.

Special Holiday Delivery

We hope this holiday delivers an abundance of close friends, warm moments and wonderful gifts.

Merry Christmas

Jerry, Kristi & Kurt Beavers

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We appreciate your business.

Correction

Photographs appearing in the Dec. 18th issue of *The Early Bird's Farmers Bank Christmas* greeting were not those of current employees. We apologize for the error.

Jingle All The Way!

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May the old-fashioned delights of Christmas, make yours a wonderful holiday.

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May the true meaning of this Christmas season give you joy and peace, and hope for the coming New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

WALK TO TOWN...from this immaculate brick home featuring 2 bedroom, 2 bath, foyer, formal living room, separate dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen with appliances. This attractive home has attached double car garage and 34' x 36' shop building with loft situated on large deep lot.

LIVING IN THE COUNTY AT ITS BEST...this 3 BR, 2 BA split level has been completely remodeled and maintained top to bottom. Modern kitchen appliances, lovely den with large stone fireplace, master BR has large closets and separate bath, central HVAC, county water and well. Home is on 3 plus acres with small pond and stable overlooking beautiful fields and woods. Walk out your back door and enjoy the water garden or sit on the deck and enjoy the pool. Home is ready for you to move right in. List price \$144,900.

SALE PENDING WANT THE CONVENIENCE...of town living without paying city taxes, this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick home is located less than half mile from city limits on Hwy 120. Home has partial finished basement, detached 2 car garage, very nice 16 x 30 metal shop building, a barn all on approx 2.5 acres. Basement with bath/shower and would be very easy to use one of the rooms downstairs as extra bedroom if needed. Call us to set up a showing, \$105,000.

COUNTRY LIVING...3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home situated on approx. 2 acres in Crittenden County. Also features stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 24' x 30' garage with concrete floor and work benches. Plenty of room to have a garden or let the kids run. Call today for more info.

STARTING OUT OR SLOWING DOWN...this is right for you. Nice 2 bedroom mobile home w/deck, porch and portable 10' x 16' storage building. Must be moved. Reduced \$15,500.

SOLD AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT...location to center of Marion. This home would be a nice starter home or an addition to your rental investments. Features: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Call for appointment. Price Reduced, \$23,900.

FIXER UPPER...investors take a look at this 3 bedroom, 1 bath house located in Marion. Priced at \$14,500.

533 E. DEPOT ST...commercial building. Was being used as a doctor's office. Features large multi purpose room, offices, 2 baths, and a lot of parking space. Also has apartment with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Many possibilities. PRICE REDUCED.

GOLFER'S FANTASY...Enter down the private drive to this landscaped estate that joins Marion's County Club Golf Course. This magnificent two story home includes 4 to 6 bedrooms, open grand staircase, 2 master suites, 4 bathrooms, kitchen w/appliances, 2 laundries, study, great room with gas log fireplace, recreation room plus bonus kitchen, enclosed glass solarium & private deck overlooking the beautiful greens. In addition this lovely home has a large walk-out heated basement, an attached oversized double car garage plus many additional amenities. Fulfill your dreams by calling for an appointment today. Owner says sell. Reduced to \$292,500.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

SALE PENDING ATTRACTIVE BRICK RANCH...with attached garage. Has 3 bedrooms, one and half baths, central heat & air. Kitchen w/appliances including washer & dryer. Located on large corner lot in Salem. Price Reduced to \$74,500.

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION...2 bedroom home located in Lola. Features living room, dining room, kitchen w/ stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, and much more. \$34,500.

RELAX ON LARGE BALCONY...overlooking your own private stocked lake. Attractive brick features: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, kitchen w/built-in appliances; formal Living & dining room with full glass panels overlooking lake. Has 2 car attached garage plus nice double unattached garage/workshop w/heat & air plus other amenities. Located

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YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Every U.S. farmer and rancher has the responsibility to stand up and be counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Your input can help influence decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. No matter how large or small your operation - and no matter what, where or how you farm - your response matters.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008, and please make your response a top priority. Complete and return your form by February 4. This is your chance to help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE