

AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Sheriff locates more stolen property

Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent has recovered some more stolen property taken from a farm on Lone Star Road in December. A 1984 Ford Bronco stolen from the location between Crayne and Piney was recovered on timber company property off Nipper Road West of Crayne a week after the theft was reported. A deer stand taken from the farm, owned by Tom Johnson of Nashville, was recovered last week in Princeton. Sheriff Wayne Agent arrested a man on unrelated charges which led to the recovery of the deer stand. Agent said other stolen items are believed to be hidden elsewhere. He didn't release any names because the investigation is continuing. So far, there have been no arrests in the theft of the vehicle or other items.

KSP arrests 571 drunk drivers in 2006

Kentucky State Police arrested 571 drunk drivers during 2006 in the Post 2 area which includes Crittenden and six other counties. Last year, state policemen issued 18,432 citations, wrote 7,006 speeding tickets, issued 1,516 seatbelt violations, 158 child restraint citations and investigated 1,106 accidents. Officers also assisted 2,039 stranded motorists opened 1,168 criminal cases and made 1,961 criminal arrests. There were 40 fatal crashes that resulted in the loss of 48 lives in the Post 2 District in 2006. In 2005, 48 lives were lost in 45 fatal crashes. The following is a breakdown by county of fatal crashes in the Post 2 District in 2006: Caldwell 4 crashes 4 killed, Christian 14 crashes 16 killed, Crittenden 2 crashes 4 killed, Hopkins 7 crashes 10 killed, Muhlenberg 10 crashes 11 killed, Todd 2 crashes 2 killed and Webster 1 crashes 1 killed. Of the 48 people who were killed in 2006, 28 were not wearing seat belts, nine were wearing seatbelts, six were not wearing a helmet, three were pedestrians and two it is not known if a seatbelt was worn.

Atmos wants to raise natural gas prices

Atmos Energy wants to increase the price it charges for natural gas in Kentucky. If the state Public Service Commission grants the utility's request, base charges on monthly residential bills could increase by more than 73 percent. Non-residential customers would end up paying about 75 percent more. Atmos filed its notice for a rate increase with the PSC on Dec. 28. Atmos serves Crittenden and 37 other counties and approximately 173,000 homes and businesses in Kentucky. The proposed hike would increase Atmos revenues by approximately \$10.4 million or 4.6 percent. According to a news release issued by Atmos, the rate changes would increase a typical monthly gas bill for a residential customer by approximately \$3.90.

Driver turns himself in to face charges

The driver wanted in connection with a high-speed chase occurring Dec. 31 turned himself in to authorities last Wednesday. Ronald G. Ledbetter, Sr., 44, was wanted after leading Marion Police Officer Chuck Hoover and Kentucky State Police Trooper Matt Foster on a high-speed chase through Crittenden and Livingston counties. Crittenden County Deputy Greg Rushing also assisted in the pursuit. Ledbetter turned himself in at the Crittenden County Attorney's Office and was arrested by Marion Assistant Police Chief Ray O'Neal. He was charged with fleeing/evading police, two counts second-degree wanton endangerment and reckless driving.

2006 warmest year ever in Lower 48

Last year was the warmest on record for the contiguous United States. Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said El Nino, a warming in the Pacific Ocean that affects global weather patterns, and greenhouse gases were contributing factors. The past nine years have all been among the 25 warmest years on record in the Lower 48 states, which the federal agency described as unprecedented.

Three re-appointed to city committees

At Monday's Marion City Council meeting, three local individuals were re-appointed to committees within city government. Those re-appointed for new terms were Perry Chips to the Marion Board of Adjustments, Larry Hurst to the Marion Code Enforcement Board and Jerry K. Belt to the Marion Planning Commission.

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CEO

Continued from page 1A
share by four percent in two years, Eisenmann said.

"If there is a time to go, this is the time because the hospital

is doing well," said Eisenmann, who will begin her new position in North Dakota March 1. "I don't worry about turning it over into the hands of someone else because the people here do a good job every day."



EISENMANN

CRITTENDEN: QUICK FACTS

Households and types of occupants

This is U.S. Census information regarding the makeup of households in Crittenden County:

| RELATIONSHIP | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Category | | |
| Total population | 9,384 | 100.0 |
| In households | 9,253 | 98.6 |
| Householder | 3,829 | 40.8 |
| Spouse | 2,251 | 24.0 |
| Child | 2,668 | 28.4 |
| Own child under 18 | 2,009 | 21.4 |
| Other relatives | 310 | 3.3 |
| Under 18 years | 142 | 1.5 |
| Nonrelatives | 195 | 2.1 |
| Unmarried partner | 110 | 1.2 |
| In group quarters | 131 | 1.4 |

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Total households | 3,829 | 100.0 |
| Family households (families) | 2,706 | 70.7 |
| With own children under 18 years | 1,134 | 29.6 |
| Married-couple family | 2,251 | 58.8 |
| With own children under 18 years | 883 | 23.1 |
| Female householder, no husband | 340 | 8.9 |
| With own children under 18 years | 198 | 5.2 |
| Nonfamily households | 1,123 | 29.3 |
| Householder living alone | 1,032 | 27.0 |
| Householder 65 years and over | 527 | 13.8 |
| Households with under 18 year olds | 1,224 | 32.0 |
| Households with 65 years and over | 1,114 | 29.1 |
| Average household size | 2.42 | (X) |
| Average family size | 2.93 | (X) |

Council accepts lot bid

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council met in regular session Monday night, a week earlier than normal due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, Jan. 15.

The council customarily meets the third Monday of each month.

A light agenda was dealt with rather quickly as the council dispensed with routine business then turned its attention to hiring a contractor to complete the parking lot project at city hall. City employees had removed the old pavement before a legal issue regarding the bid process was raised at last month's meeting. After the issue was brought to the attention of the council, it decided to re-bid the project which calls for pouring concrete for walkways, drainage,



District Judge Tommy Simpson (right) administers the oath of office to the recently elected Marion City Council members and Mayor Mickey Alexander. Pictured are (from left) Donnie Arflack, Jim Brown, Alexander, Dwight Sherer and Jason Hatfield. Not pictured, new councilwoman Janet Pierce.

signage and landscaping.

T&T Concrete of Marion was the only company to submit a bid for the project. The base bid was for \$32,880, but the council opted for a \$5,500 add on for Old English cobblestone stenciling on the walking

surface.

It's not clear when the project will be complete. The city is also planning to repaint and stripe the parking area with diagonal parking spaces.

In other business, the city council approved an agree-

ment that calls for the widening of Fords Ferry Road from its intersection with Sturgis Road to Whippoorwill Drive. The project is a joint effort between the city and county and will cost about \$200,000.

School Security

New system requires 'buzz in' at CCHS doors

BY JERRITT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Access into Crittenden County High School is not as easy as it used to be, and school officials hope that translates into a safer facility.

Visitors must now request entrance through an electronic security system that includes video surveillance.

According to a 2005 safety audit, unlocked doors that were not monitored by staff posed a safety concern.

From a bomb threat to gun issues, it was evident that the high school needed to do something to further ensure the safety of the students, officials said.

According to Kentucky Center of School Safety, one of the main problems that the high school had was that the front and back doors - both not visible from the front office - were unlocked for most of the day. The reason being so students could get back and forth from classes that were in Rocket Arena or the school annex.

Most of the visitors coming into the high school knew to check-in at the office, but there had been times, when visitors would bypass the office. To stop any further incidents and nipping something worse in the bud, the school decided to invest in a new security system.

The system has four strategically placed exterior cameras that are monitored in the main office.

One of the new features is a door buzzer. Visitors must use an intercom to call the office in order to gain access to the building. Someone in the office must automatically unlock the door to allow the visitor access to the school building.

"It's a good thing because we know every time when someone is walking in that door from outside," said Principal Karen Nasser. "It is a good safety measure knowing that the front doors are always locked and no one can get in without getting buzzed in first."

The system was put in over Christmas break, but wasn't fully enabled until last week.

"We're still working all the kinks out because not everyone knows to push the buzzer before trying to get in," Nasser said. "We're going to try to have signs engraved and put on the door to let people know how to do it."



The new school push-button security system.

STATE

Continued from page 1A
have 30 days to appeal the commissioner's decision once it is final.

According to court documents, the state is seeking title to four particular tracts from Guess' 60 acre parcel. The state wants a permanent easement on another part of his property and a temporary construction easement on two other pieces, all part of the same parcel.

"They're wanting a third of my property," said Guess, who explained that the state wants to buy or have an easement on 21.5 acres.

Guess says he has not signed a contract to sell his property because the state missed a step in the procurement procedure which called for an independent review or appraisal of his property.

So far, Guess has not received official notice of the legal action on file at the courthouse. However, he had anticipated that it was coming.

"There are some permit-



Staked flags near Weldon Road indicate where the new U.S. 641 right-of-way will be located. The state has moved to condemn or force the sale of some of the property in this photo owned by Brian Guess. Guess' home, which will not be taken for the highway, is off in the distance.

ting issues regarding environmental impact, too," Guess said. "There is a spring on my property that forms a creek that flows into City Lake where Marion gets its drinking water."

Guess said the state has

designated his property as agriculture in nature which lowers its fair market value. Guess thinks it should be valued as residential property which would raise the price, he said.

Happy New Year!
from Belt Auction & Realty
Celebrating our 37th Anniversary!
Say "Good Bye" to the old
and "Good Buy" to one of
the following listings.

Check our website for our Home "Visual" Tours

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

7 BEAUTIFUL LOTS located in Hickory Hills Subdivision. Call for more information.

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.

IDEAL FAMILY HOME...features 3 bedrooms, living room with gas log fireplace, knotty pine walls in kitchen and dining room, appliances, new carpet and newly remodeled bath, beautiful landscaped with mature trees. Shown by appointment. Price reduced to \$62,900. Motivated Sellers. **Reduced to \$59,900.**

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.**

218 OLD SHADY GROVE ROAD...3 bedroom, 2 bath home situated on nice lot in Marion. Call for more details. **PRICE REDUCED.**

TAKE A LOOK...3 bedroom, 1 bath home on deep lot in Marion. **GREAT BUSINESS POTENTIAL**...Investors take a look at this commercial property

IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

CHECK THIS ONE OUT...two bedroom, 1 bath brick, extra large living & dining room, eat-in kitchen with stove & refrigerator, utility room. Located W. Main St., Salem with landscaped front courtyard. \$35,000.

BURNA AREA...4 bedroom, 2 bath, 24 x 56 2000 Fleetwood double wide. Call today for more details.

VINYL SIDED...frame build home. Features: 2 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, extra den or dining area and vinyl replacement windows. Plus a small storage building and black top drive.

SALEM...this corner lot listing located East Main and College Streets has a three bedroom, 1 bath home with Livingston Co. stone exterior. Convenient location within walking distance to Bank, grocery, churches, beauty shop, etc. Would also make excellent com-



Go to our web site today and take a Visual Tour of this lovely home fronting on Marion's beautiful Golf Course.

LOTS / SMALL TRACTS / FARMLAND

1.29 +/- ACRE lot located on College Rd., Smithland.

5 +/- ACRES...located in Salem. All city utilities available. Call today for more info.

12.44 ACRES...with approx. 10 acres of lake known as Chippis Lake.

12.9 ACRES...located in Crittenden County on Hwy 120 and Just A Mere Rd. Great building site with county water available. Owner will divide.

55 +/- ACRES...located on Hwy 60 in Crittenden County. All open fields with some woods. Features a 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch style home with a 76 x 45 Morton building. Owner will sell ground away from home. Call today for more details.

61.15 ACRES...located in Crittenden County on Hwy 723 and Lewis Croft Rd. Features a barn, metal building and 2 ponds with gently rolling fields great for building sites. County water available.

225 SECLUDED ACRES...located in Crittenden County with approx. 70 open acres. 56 acres in CRP. Excellent deer & turkey hunting.

262 +/- ACRES...Features: 2 bedroom house, detached garage, 1 barn, 2 grain bins on pond. Open, balance in woods, and a creek that runs thru property. Great location for hunters.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS...from this 30 x 50 garage. Features (3) 10' x 12' overhead doors, office space, propane heat, exterior lighting, concrete floors, city water. Call for more details.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE...formally used as dentist office. Many possibilities!



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