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JOB RELATED

Tracking invention will mean 40 new jobs for Marion

An Eddyville man has developed a tracking device for heavy equipment and Par 4 Plastics and Tyler Manufacturing, both of Marion, have the contract to build the gizmos. See Region Page, 8B.

MLK Day, schools out, courthouse will be closed

The Crittenden County Courthouse will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The sheriff, county clerk and circuit clerk's offices are closed Saturday and Monday. Local schools will also be out Monday in observance of the national holiday.

Free food, including venison, will be available Friday

Free food will be distributed to Crittenden County residents only between 12:30-2:30 p.m., Friday at the PACS Senior Citizens Center on North Walker Street across from Fohs Hall. Free venison from the Crittenden County Hunters for the Hungry program will also be distributed at that time.

Bring old fridges, and dump them on county for free

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Fred Brown wants to remind local residents that the county is accepting free of charge any old appliances that are ready for the dump. Old washers, dryers, air conditioners or the like may be dropped off at the county convenience center behind the county garage on U.S. 60 East between 8 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., weekdays (except Thursday) and until noon on Saturdays.

LOCAL MEETINGS

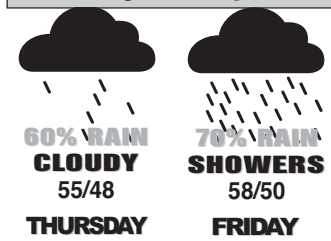
TUESDAY NIGHT

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet in regular session next week, but at a special date and time. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17 at the courthouse.

Flash Flooding Possible by Weekend



Rain gauge

Last 7 days1.45"
Last 30 days5.88"
Year-to-date1.45" (+0.50")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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Best in the Land



Crittenden County Band Director David Moss was picked by a national magazine as the top director in Kentucky.

CCHS band director Moss is tops in state

BY JERRITT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF WRITER

David Moss, Crittenden County High School music teacher and band director, received the surprise of a lifetime recently when he was selected as Kentucky's Most Influential Band Director by School Band and Orchestra Magazine.

The nationally circulated magazine publishes an annual review of the best music instructors in the United States. It includes a selection of 50 band directors, one from each state, that have made an impact on their students' lives.

Being chosen as Kentucky's top band director is a highly gratifying honor. When asked how the magazine had received his name as a possible candidate, he responded that he had no idea.

"Someone contributed my name," Moss said. "I don't know who, but they did."

Candidates undergo a long nomination process, where the editors of

School Band and Orchestra Magazine go over the credentials and evaluate the work that the nominees put in every day with their students.

According to School Band and Orchestra Magazine, to be a top director, a nominee must have experience, the ability to share their love of music with their students and a proven record of helping their students further themselves through music and education.

Moss had been checking his e-mail and almost deleted the message that held the good news that he'd been chosen as the top band director in the state.

"I thought that it was a hoax at first. I didn't really believe it. I tried to keep it quiet for the first couple of days just in case it was a hoax," Moss explained, grinning. Fortunately, it wasn't a joke at all, and Moss was elated with the national recognition.

"Music is Moss' life."
"When words fail, music speaks," Moss said.

When Moss is in front of a classroom full of music students and directing their highs and lows, it's like watching a flower blossom. He enjoys what he does and it shows in his work as he interacts with the students. His excitement and passion for a quality production shows in the way his pep and marching bands are prepared for high school activities such as football and basketball games. Moss always has something innovative for his pep band and that keeps fans on their feet.

Moss, 29, has been teaching at Crittenden County for the past five years. Since he has taken over the band program, he has been extremely proud of his students' accomplishments.

"We have performed for more than 40,000 people at Busch Stadium for the world champion St. Louis Cardinals, and our marching band has qualified for the state quarterfinals for the first time in school history," Moss said in the article published in School Band and Orchestra Magazine.

Moss graduated from Murray State University and gives acknowledgment to the faculty for molding him into the musician and teacher that he has become.

Without them, he said, he may not be where he is today. Right now, he's Kentucky's top band director.

Computer crash prompts old-fashioned style search

STAFF REPORT

Doing things the old-fashioned way isn't nostalgic or fun when you're talking about researching legal documents, but that's what is happening at the Crittenden County Courthouse these days.

The computer system that catalogs deeds, liens, wills and mortgages is on the blink. That means attorneys, bankers and other groups or individuals doing title searches or legal research are having to thumb through hefty, voluminous hard-bound indexes in order to track down documents.

"It's the way they used to have to do it back in the 1980s and earlier,"

said Crittenden County Clerk Carolyn Byford.

The clerk's database is on a computer system installed in 1993. The equipment has been in ill repair for quite some time and finding compatible replacement parts such as monitors or keyboards for the aging system was virtually impossible, Byford said.

The computer system - archaic in technological terms despite being only 13 years old - began moaning and groaning more than a month ago. On Dec. 20, the hardware went down and Byford was unable to get it

See CRASH/page 3A



Legal assistant Lois Ann Tosh looks through a large index book, searching for a deed transaction. Because computers are down at the courthouse, electronic searches through databases are unavailable.

State moves to condemn land

Owner says state missed step in process to buy land for 641 project

STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has moved to condemn the land of one property owner along the route of the proposed new U.S. 641 highway.

Attorney Ann Myre of the District 1 Highways office at Paducah filed the civil lawsuit on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, seeking to force the sale of property owned by Bryan G. Guess of 220 Weldon Road.

The suit says state officials have been unable to negotiate a sales contract for the property which is south of town between Marion and Crayne.

Since early last fall, highway officials have been working to buy several of the larger tracts of land between Marion and Fredonia, where the first phase of the new highway will be built at a cost of \$48 million. In November, Keith Todd, public information officer in the Department of Highways, said

there were 38 landowners that would be affected by the new highway. He said 13 parcels of land had already been purchased, 13 other property owners had been made offers and 10 others had not been contacted to begin negotiations.

So far, Guess is the only landowner facing condemnation proceedings through the state's right of eminent domain. According to the law, three "impartial" people will be designated as court commissioners to appraise the property in question and mediate a fair price. Guess or the state will

See STATE/page 8A

CHS on look for new CEO

BY ALLISON EVANS

PRESS ASST. EDITOR
Crittenden Hospital's management organization, Quorum Health Resources, soon will initiate a search to replace outgoing CEO Claudia Eisenmann, and is expected to name an interim CEO in the coming days.

Eisenmann resigned effective Jan. 25 to take a position as president and chief executive officer for St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center in Dickinson, N.D.

Eisenmann leaves Crittenden Health Systems in much different financial shape than she found it nearly two years ago.

Quorum will assign an interim CEO to Crittenden Health Systems while it and the local hospital board conduct a three- to four-month search for a permanent CEO.

Though not without some degree of contention, Crittenden Health Systems' directors recently renewed its contract with Quorum, the largest provider of contract management services to not-for-profit hospitals in the United States.

The hospital has a two-year contract with Quorum, which is responsible for developing and implementing strategic and operational initiatives that improve quality, profitability and efficiency. The local contract with Quorum has traditionally been on a five-year term. The new one, however, is for two years with the potential for a three-year extension after two. It was also negotiated at a lower fee than previous contracts.

Quorum manages 300 health-care facilities nationwide.

Board members say there were concerns over whether the hospital was getting appropriate services from Quorum during the years CHS was losing money with the operation of the nursing homes, which have now been sold.

"Theoretically, having a management company like Quorum when you lose a CEO limits your down time and you still have them there to support you, because there is a lot they can contribute," said hospital board member Wade Berry.

Crittenden Health Systems' new contract includes a \$220,000 annual fee to Quorum.

Berry said the next CEO will walk into a much better situation than Eisenmann did in 2005, because the hospital is much more solid financially.

Overseeing the turnaround of a struggling healthcare organization that lost \$1.7 million in 2004 was gratifying, Eisenmann told the Crittenden Fiscal Court in December. Successful belt-tightening, she said, would not have been possible without a staff willing to adapt to changes - one of which included a controversial reduction in force in 2006 that will save the organization about \$280,000 annually.

"There is such a success story at this place," Eisenmann said.

Adding services and reducing expenses has translated to a \$1.6 million turnaround for Crittenden Health Systems' bottom line over the last two years.

The greatest cost-savings CHS realized was the sale of its two nursing homes, Salem Springlake and Crittenden County Convalescent Center. While their sale was a sensitive issue in the community, Eisenmann said they were a financial drain on the hospital.

Additionally, CHS has added services, such as the sleep lab, local MRI services and beefed up its speech, occupational and physical therapy services which has increased the hospital's market

See CEO/page 8A