

AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Marion man convicted in federal court

A Marion man was convicted last week in U.S. District Court at Paducah of having a firearm 16 years after he was convicted on felony burglary charges. Richard William Ferris Sr., 42, was convicted of having a .22 caliber rifle despite being a convicted felon. Jurors did not reach verdicts on charges that he also had three 12 gauge shotguns, another .22 caliber rifle, a .30 caliber rifle and a .45 caliber pistol, according to the Paducah Sun. Crittenden County sheriff's deputies seized the first rifle when they responded to a complaint at his house Jan. 22, 2006 according to the U.S. attorney's office. The other firearms were found Feb. 11 by fish and wildlife officers. Ferris' sentencing has not been scheduled.

Farmers Bank receives 5-Star honor

Farmers Bank & Trust Company has been recognized as a 5-Star institution by Bauer Financial, Inc. The rating is the highest attainable and recognizes the strength and stability of the nation's independent banks. Farmers has achieved this rating for seven consecutive quarters. "It is always heartening to see a community bank that practices true relationship banking come out on top," said Karen Dorway, president of the Bauer Financial research firm. "Through unwavering commitments to its customers and personal one-to-one banking, Farmers Bank & Trust Company has distinguished itself from the big banks and has come out ahead of the pack." Farmers Bank has served Marion since 1899. It operates a main office and a branch in Marion as well as a Salem branch. Bauer Financial, Inc., is the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm and has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983.

Counterfeit money showing up in area

The Princeton Police Department is investigating two separate incidents of counterfeit money being passed at businesses in Caldwell County. The Princeton Times-Leader newspaper reported that counterfeit \$20 bills had been passed at the Ideal Market on West Main Street and the Save-A-Lot grocery on U.S. 62 West. The bills in question did not contain any of the standard security features that are normally found on current-issue bills, like watermarks, color-changing ink and security strips, police said. Other counterfeit bills have been reported in Paducah.

Man dies in Caldwell County house fire

Kentucky State Police are investigating the death of a Caldwell County man who died in a fire last Wednesday night (Jan. 10) on Ky. 293 North in the Farmersville area. Freddy W. Cummins, 51, was pronounced dead at the scene of the house fire. A passerby saw flames coming out of the home and called for help. Firefighters arrived and began working to extinguish the blaze. They later discovered Cummins' body inside. An autopsy conducted last week indicated that smoke inhalation was most likely the cause of Cummins' death. No foul play was suspected.

Sturgis facing big decision with water

The City of Sturgis is facing a potential problem with its water system. The city council is trying to decide whether it can afford to install a \$26,000 pump at its raw water intake on the Ohio River. The Sturgis News reported last week that the old pump is in ill repair and the state has said it needs to be replaced or the city could face a stiff fine. If the pump goes out before a new one can be installed, the newspaper reported that residents in Sturgis could face a water shortage. The city would have to restrict water usage, it reported, and might have to buy water from another source such as the county water district.

Crittenden offers free appliance dumping

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.

For Breaking News See The Press Online
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3 teens hurt in Monday wreck

STAFF REPORT

Two accidents inside the Marion City Limits over the past few days sent three people to the local hospital.

Three teenagers were hurt in an early morning wreck about 1 a.m., Monday.

The driver, 18-year-old Kayla Dunn of Arleen Street, was expected to be cited for operating a vehicle on an expired driver's permit.

She, along with two passengers in the 2007 Dodge Coupe, was taken to Crittenden Hospital with multiple injuries.

According to police reports, the vehicle was traveling south on North Weldon Street, ran a stop sign then

crashed.

The vehicle was owned by Robbie Reynolds of Marion.

Another accident Monday afternoon in front of McDonald's on Main Street caused only minor injuries and the drivers of the two vehicles refused treatment.

According to police reports, Ramilaren Patel, 39, of Marion was northbound in a 1995 Lexus. She tried to pass on the right side of a northbound pickup driven by David Stout, 54, of Marion.

Stout was turning right into a private driveway about the time Patel tried to go around his Ford truck and hit the pickup up broadside.

QUICK FACTS

Crittenden County income level information

Median income is relatively low compared to rest of state

When compared to other counties or parishes across the United States, Crittenden County, Kentucky can be considered to have a relatively high rate of poverty among the people, accounting a rate of 19.1 percent of the population with family incomes below the 1999 poverty level.

The Black or African American race/ethnicity demographic category, owns the foremost rate of poverty with 40.7 percent of the people in 2000 living in poverty.

The population that is aged 6

to 11 years have the most percent of people living in poverty in Crittenden County, having 33.3 percent of this age group in the area living in poverty.

Compared to counties across the United States, Crittenden County had a relatively low median income for households of \$34,000 (based on 2005 dollars).

The income level is 15.9 percent lower than the median in State of Kentucky of \$39,396 and the income level is 44.5 percent lower than the median in the US, which is \$49,133.

Several projects move into '07

STAFF REPORT

If someone says there's not a lot going on in Marion, they just haven't looked in the right places.

A week's worth of rain stalled construction at several construction sites around town, but up until last week, there were workers at a almost a half-dozen sites in the county.

Completing construction projects at the Crittenden County Animal Shelter, jail, airport and senior citizens center are among Judge-Executive Fred Brown's goals for 2007.

The new animal shelter located behind the county road department on U.S. 60 East is two-thirds complete. The facility will include 24 kennels and provide both inside and outside runs for 48 dogs. Livingston and Lyon counties are partnering with Crittenden County by contributing a combined \$450 a month for housing strays.

Currently, canines are held in outdoor pens. The county's full-time dog warden, Ricky Winders, picks up strays and works with individuals wishing to adopt a pet.

Just behind the old jail, work continues on a new state-of-the-art detention center.

Brown and others are optimistic that the 129-bed jail will generate income by housing state prisoners and therefore it will slow down



Construction sites are commonplace right now in Marion. Above is the new county animal shelter going up behind the county garage. At right is the PACS Senior Center addition.



current and functional.

the rising costs of incarcerating local inmates.

Jailer Rick Riley reports that the jail construction project is on schedule, and should be complete by early November.

Construction is nearly complete on a combination hangar/administrative building at the Marion-Crittenden Couth airport, and the county's aging population is looking forward to an expansion at the PACS Senior Citizens Center.

Add to these projects the groundbreaking of a \$1 million health department, and it's easy to see that there are a lot of improvements being made to Crittenden County's infrastructure.

"While we work on these projects we also want to complete the first phase of the Dam 50 project so we can apply for more funding for the next step. We want to secure funding for a community center and parking lot at the Blackford Veterans Walk of Honor," Brown said. "At

the same time, we want to promote job and population growth by working with the Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation so we can keep our taxation levels affordable."

Other goals Brown has for this year are:

- Continue to upgrade 351 miles in the county road system by keeping equipment

- Secure funding for upgrading state roads and bridges including a turning lane at high school and a turning lane at the intersection of U.S. 60 and U.S. 641.

- Continue programs for the elderly and needy.

- Find a waste management company who will meet county residents' needs at an affordable price.

DEPUTY

Continued from page 1A school grounds, Rushing is technically a deputy with the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department. He periodically handles routine county patrols outside of the school.

Rushing is a longtime local lawman. He served with the Marion Police Department from 1986 to 2005.

Before joining the police force, he served several years with EMS.

Rushing started working with the schools in early September, shortly after the school year started.

"I love this job," he said, noting that "interacting with the kids" is the best part.

Life in the school system is fairly "peaceful."

"So many people have told me that they can't believe the situation at the school has gotten so bad that we need a resource officer," Rushing said.

He tells them "Things aren't that bad."

Despite what most people think, Rushing does not spend most of his time breaking up altercations between students. He is there mostly as a confidant, not just a hallway patrolman.

"If I could go the entire school year without making a charge, I'd be happy," he said.

Rushing has only had "one to two" serious cases of potential violence thus far.

Rushing's presence, combined with other changes in school policy have helped to deter disruptive behavior in the schools, according to school administrators.

Rushing also leads morning exercises for the In School Detention class (ISD).

Some students have tried to get into ISD which is, at times, something like a study hall.

"Kids wanted to come to ISD because it's quiet and they can finish their work," said Rushing, adding that it is supposed to be a punishment.

Now each morning, Rushing leads an hour of military style workouts, including push ups and jumping jacks. The physical training is intended to deter students from returning to detention. It also provides those in ISD with a good workout, which they probably were not getting previously.

"We've only had two to three, what I call, repeater offenders," he said.

A student passed him in the hall recently. As a joke Rushing asked the young man "if he wanted to go back to ISD."

The student boldly shouted, "No!"

Rushing also anticipates teaching and leading different academic sessions to assist teachers.

For example, a teacher in a health class may have Rushing share with students about the dangers of drugs. A science teacher may need his

help with a unit on forensic investigation.

Earlier this year, Rushing led a session on firearm safety for the Sportsman's Club.

For Rushing, socializing and interacting with students has been a blessing. It has also been beneficial for the students.

"Many now see police not just as officers, but also as human beings," he said.

Some students only have negative interaction with the police, but Rushing hopes his position will help students think of officers as their friends, not the enemy.

Students and faculty have both embraced Rushing, administrators say.

"He is vastly becoming an integral part of the school," said Belt, the superintendent.

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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

AN OLDER HOME WITH DIGNITY......describes this 12 room, 2 story brick home. Features: screened in front porch with beveled glass door entry to living rm/w fireplace, formal dining room w/built in buffet & beveled mirror, parlor, master bedroom with dressing room or nursery, 2 bathrooms plus another bedroom. All this is on the first floor. The second floor has 5 rooms, bath and 2 large walk in closets.

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.

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, 2 bath home on deep lot in Marion.

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY... 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 commercial / office property. Call today for details.

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

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

1.29 +/- ACRE lot located on Smithland Rd., Smithland. **SALE PENDING**

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

1244 ACRES...with approx. 100 acres of lake known as Chippes Lake. **SALE PENDING**

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 timber and a pond. Also features a 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch style home with a 70 x 49 Morton building. Owner will sell ground away from home. Call today for more details. **SALE PENDING**

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 is excellent deer & turkey hunting. **SALE PENDING**

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

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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