



The Crittenden Press

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USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007

75 CENTS
An Independent Newspaper Since 1879
VOLUME 127, NUMBER 39 - 16 PAGES

BLOOD DRIVE

Shortage prompts officials to ask for help on April 16

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m., until 6 p.m., Monday, April 16 at Crittenden Health Systems. Each donor will receive a T-shirt. There is a shortage of blood and anyone who hasn't given in 56 days is asked to donate.

Still time to get a spot in local play

Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation is seeking actors and actresses of all ages to participate in the upcoming production of Murder at the Prom sponsored by Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation. Anyone interested in joining the cast should attend a casting call meeting at 3:30 this afternoon (Thursday) at Fohs Hall. The performance will be at 7 p.m., May 12.

Courthouse closed for Good Friday; some on Saturday

Crittenden County Courthouse will be closed Friday in observance of Good Friday. Many of the offices normally open on Saturday, will also be closed that day.

Marion reunion is set for last of June

Marion High School's all-class reunion will be held at 5 p.m., Saturday, June 30 at Marion Country Club. Make reservations with Stan "Hawk" Oliver, 715 N. Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL 61107; Phone 815-226-2351 or 815-985-3521.

Special court meeting

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet in special session at 9 a.m., Thursday to discuss the need to advertise for bids for a new mower-tractor.

Easter Egg hunts

Crittenden Health Systems and VFW will sponsor a community Easter Egg hunt for ages 2-11, Saturday at Pavilion I at City-County Park. Pictures with the Easter Bunny start at 9:30 a.m., egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. Pictures are \$5.

Sullivan Baptist Church will hold a community Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the lot beside the Sullivan Fire Department. It is open to children up to age 12. Bring a basket.

Crittenden Health & Rehab will hold a community Easter Egg hunt at 10 a.m., Saturday. All children are welcome to attend. Prizes will be given. WKYQ's Rabbit will be a special guest.

See Community Bulletin Board on page 2B for more hunts



COOLER
M. Sunny 56/33
THURSDAY

Freeze Warning
M. Sunny 53/29
FRIDAY

Rain gauge
Last 7 days1.46"
Last 30 days2.61"
Year-to-date12.12" (-0.30")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

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East Bellville awaits facelift

Renaissance grant will make it look much like Main Street

STAFF REPORT

East Bellville Street is getting a facelift.

A new sidewalk spanning the block of Bellville between Main and College streets and decorative lamp posts are part of an \$82,500 Renaissance on Main grant.

The total project, as submitted on the grant application prepared by the Pennyrile Area Development District, is \$93,995. State funding will cover \$82,500. The city will provide approxi-

mately \$11,495 in cash or in-kind services, said PADD's Jason Vincent.

Rose Crider, Main Street Director, said the new sidewalk will mirror those on Main Street that were replaced and edged with brick pavers in 2005.

"We are tremendously excited," Crider said. "This is the second year we tried to participate in the grant, and the first year we didn't get it, so we are especially excited." Marion Mayor Mickey



The south side of East Bellville Street is targeted for renovation through the Renaissance on Main Street Grant Fund. The work will be done this summer or fall.

Alexander commends county officials for promoting the project among legislators.

"Judge Executive Fred Brown and City Attorney Bart Frazer lobbied for it in Frankfort and their efforts went a long way toward us receiving this money," Alexander.

City leaders say the exist-

ing sidewalk is cracked and chipped, with some holes filled with concrete in recent years. For that reason, the sidewalks can be difficult for pedestrians to maneuver.

"The sidewalk is badly needed, particularly the handicap access in front of the historical museum," Crider says.

"We are fortunate to get funding for this project, because it will help accessibility and foot traffic to the historical museum as well as businesses located between the museum and Main Street," Brown said.

Bids will be let at a later date, with construction possible by late summer.



Crittenden Countians Allan and Debra LaPlante train horses and sell them to people all around the world.

Lapco markets horses around the globe

Arabian ranchers

BY JERRITT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF REPORTER

Tucked away in the heart of Crittenden County is a somewhat unknown and unlikely business whose products are sold around the world.

When turning into the driveway off Phin Croft Road in rural northeast Crittenden County, one heads toward Lapco Farms, but it's not your average farm.

The estate is immaculately groomed and its long panel fences conjure up images of Lexington-area horse farms.

A farm is usually thought of as unpleasantly smelling with barnyard animals in stalls and chickens all over the place. However, a mind is changed quickly when viewing the 700-plus acres of rolling hills that have 102 Arabian racing horses milling around. These 102 horses are the pulse of Lapco where they are raised, trained and eventually sold to countries near and far.

In the middle of the beautiful scenery is an elegant two-story house that has a window in almost every nook and cranny, allowing



Wiezela, an Arabian raised and trained in Crittenden County, leads the field in a race back in the late 1990s.

viewing pleasure from every inch of the cozy home — a venue that Allan and Debra LaPlante have worked hard to achieve. While Kentucky is known for thoroughbred racing because of the Kentucky Derby, it's the Arabian breed that makes Lapco a unique international business.

Lapco was established in Crittenden County when the LaPlantes moved here from Texas and bought 1,000-plus acres in 1981. Allan was looking for a nice, peaceful place where he could retire and Crittenden County offered it all. A

scenic setting away from the hustle and bustle of big cities was the perfect place for Allan and his wife Debra to settle. It was then that Allan purchased their first Arabian horse for Debra as a gift.

At that time, the LaPlantes were showing horses and had several partners that really didn't have anywhere to keep their animals. Offering to pasture and stall all of their horses, the LaPlante's idea turned into a big job. From there, the business

See HORSE/page 5A

Litterbugs take notice

Tipline is paying big rewards for people who report trashers

STAFF REPORT

Some local residents are getting fed up with illegal dumping in Crittenden County. One man has taken his anger a step further.

Randall Chandler says trash and garbage left on the roadside is a nuisance and he's challenging citizens to help stop it. Chandler says the Crittenden County Tipline will start paying up to a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone caught dumping illegally or littering the highways.

Chandler said someone recently dumped a pile of asphalt shingles on the roadside near his farm on Love Cemetery Road. For him, that was the last straw.

"It's just stupid," he said describing the act of littering and illegal dumping. "There needs to be something done about it and maybe if there's a reward people will call police when they see it."

Other dumping of household items and trash have been reported at various locations, including Elizabethtown Landing and Cave In Rock Landing.

Maetta Witherspoon has a son who has been working with other skateboarding enthusiasts to clean up roadside trash in return for \$100 a mile. Witherspoon said the group has been concentrating its efforts along Ky. 70 between Mott City and Dycusburg. She said the amount of trash is staggering.

Also, she said some motorists have been driving by the young boys picking up trash and throwing more garbage at their feet.

"They honk and throw it out right in front of them," she said.

Chandler says it's a shame that taxpayer money has been used to clean up roadsides. He said that while it's a great opportunity for groups like the skateboarders to raise funds, it's still a despicable situation and one that puts young people at risk on the side of highways.

"It's dangerous to be out there on the road with cars whizzing by," Chandler said.

Tipline is a 24-hour reporting service that allows citizens to report crimes and be paid if someone is arrested as a result of their information. The caller will remain anonymous and a conviction is not required to earn the cash reward.

The phone number is 965-3000. Criminal littering along highways can lead to stiff penalties, including a \$500 fine. Dumping of potentially hazardous materials or chemicals can produce even greater penalties.

AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Judge revokes probation for 3 felons

Crittenden Circuit Judge Rene Williams has revoked probation for three local men previously convicted of felony offenses. Judge Williams revoked the probation of James Eugene Todd, Mark Dwayne Menser and Stanley Wade Hopkins during the March session of circuit court. Todd was on probation for multiple charges of receiving stolen property in regard to stolen ATVs. Menser was originally charged with fleeing and evading, being a persistent felony offender and wanton endangerment. Hopkins was originally charged with drug offenses in 2003 and 2004. His probation was revoked after he was charged in Crittenden County for wanton endangerment and fleeing and evading officers in a high-speed chase late last year. The fleeing and evading case is scheduled to go before the grand jury next week. Hopkins is also facing charges stemming from a fight with a state trooper when he was arrested in Salem a few weeks ago. The trooper, Donald Crawford, suffered a broken leg while wrestling with Hopkins on the roadside.

City opts for dogwoods at Commons

The City of Marion changed its plans, at the encouragement of its landscaping engineer, and installed dogwoods instead of Lacebark Elm and blue ash trees at Marion Commons. The eight dogwoods were planted late last week. City Administrator Mark Bryant said the change was made because of availability and disease resistance.

Backroads sponsoring photo contest

"The Beauty of the Backroads" is the theme for the Backroads Photo Contest sponsored by the Marion Tourism Commission. Photographs should show the scenic beauty of Crittenden County. All entries must be in JPG format on diskette, CD or by email attachment. Photographs will be printed and displayed at the Marion Welcome Center. There is no limit on number of entries per person. All entries become the property of the Marion Tourism Commission. Entries will be accepted at the Welcome Center through April 13. Professional judging will take place on April 20 prior to the festival. Monetary awards will be given to the first and second places as well as a People's Choice Award. Visit the welcome center from April 16-28 to vote for the People's Choice Award. Winners will be announced during the Backroads Festival. Complete rules and entry forms may be picked up at the welcome center, 213 South Main Street or online at www.MarionKentucky.us. For more information visit www.MarionKentucky.us or contact Tourism Director Michele Edwards at 965-5015.

Fire departments get clean bill of health

A surprise inspection of three local fire departments by the Kentucky State Fire Commission ended with each of the departments getting a clean bill of health. Gary Armstrong, fire chief for the Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department, said the state commission gave departments a one-day notice before the on-site inspections March 29. Audits and inspections were conducted at the Crittenden County, Marion and Tolu departments. State inspections looked at training records, run records, financial statements and equipment. Each department was found in compliance, Armstrong said.

Local museum is open for season

The Crittenden County Historical Museum on East Bellville Street, formerly the Presbyterian church, has reopened for the season. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m., until 3:30 p.m. The museum has a variety of local artifacts, relics and documents regarding local, regional and state history. There is no fee for touring the museum.

Amish businesses are close this Friday

All Amish community shops, stores and business will be closed Good Friday. Businesses in the Amish community are closed during every religious holiday and also every Sunday.

Hospital plans stalled over price of land

A disagreement last week over the price of property at the Caldwell County Industrial Park has temporarily stalled progress on plans to build a new hospital, according to the Princeton Times-Leader newspaper. The Princeton-Caldwell County Industrial Development Authority wants \$30,000 an acre for approximately 18 acres in the industrial park on U.S. 62. The hospital board, planning a new multi-million dollar facility, is willing to give \$20,000, the newspaper reported. The hospital board was supposed to meet this week to discuss the matter.

Union County scraps idea of new jail

Union County, it appears, is getting out of the jail building business. Union, like many counties across Kentucky and other states, is having trouble dealing with the future of housing prisoners. Last week, Union County magistrates voted unanimously to do nothing in regard to expansion of its current jail or construction of a new one. Basically, Union County Judge-Executive Jody Jenkins said the county can't afford to do anything. He was quoted making the remarks in the Union County Advocate newspaper. Now, the county is going to decide whether it can afford to keep its current jail open. Union officials have been conducting talks with Crittenden County officials regarding the possibility of housing Union inmates in Marion when the new detention center opens later this year. Union officials are also negotiating with Henderson County's jail for a possible contract to keep its inmates, the newspaper reported last week.

Restaurant owner killed in auto crash

Jim Emily, owner of the Cumberland House Restaurant in Suwanee, was killed in an automobile accident in Fulton March 23. Emily, 62, lived part-time in Fulton and part-time in Lyon County, according to a report in the Eddyville Herald-Ledger. Emily was well known as the "guy in overalls" who tended to patrons at his restaurant on U.S. 641. Services for Emily were at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Fulton.

Highway deaths up in Post 2 during '07

Kentucky State Police at Post 2 Madisonville have released their activities report for the month of March. Last month, state troopers arrested 55 drunken drivers, issued 1,927 citations, wrote 626 speeding tickets, issued 343 seatbelt citations and 13 child restraint citations. Officers also investigated 103 crashes, inspected 3,084 vehicles, assisted 205 stranded motorists, answered 1,148 criminal complaints and opened 76 criminal cases. They arrested 167 people on criminal charges during March. There were four fatal crashes reported in the Post 2 District last month. Four people were killed as a result of the crashes. Single fatality crashes occurred in Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins and Webster counties. There was a crash that occurred on Feb. 27, in Hopkins County. Through March 31, 11 people have been killed in 11 crashes in the Post 2 District. Five victims were not wearing seatbelts, five victims were wearing seatbelts and one victim was a pedestrian. Through the same period last year, eight people had been killed in eight crashes in the Post 2 District, which includes Crittenden, Hopkins, Caldwell, Christian, Muhlenberg, Todd and Webster counties.

Weather pushes spring up about two full weeks

STAFF REPORT

It might be just another case for the Global Warming pundits, but this year's early summer-type weather has created quite a stir for local businesses.

Greenhouses, garden stores and farm suppliers are being inundated with requests from everything from plants and tomatoes to more fertilizer. The problem is that suppliers hadn't foreseen the early spring and many of the shelves were still empty from the winter season.

Perry Newcom, owner of Crittenden Farm Supply, says farmers have been coming in for weeks wanting items they generally don't need in bulk until about now or a little later.

"It's been some weird weather," Newcom said, pointing to sunny days with temperatures eclipsing 80 degrees.

"Normally, we don't start selling a whole lot of tomatoes until late April," Newcom said. "But people are already wanting them and we didn't have any late last week."

This week's colder temperatures and frost warnings for the weekend are good examples of why folks shouldn't get in too big a hurry planting, Newcom said.

In western Kentucky about 60 percent of the corn crop is already planted. In Crittenden County, Newcom

Weather Watching

March 2007

Average temps for each week:
 Week of 4-10 59 high 34 low
 Week of 11-17 62 high 45 low
 Week of 18-24 69 high 50 low
 week of 25-31 79 high 59 low
 Monthly average 67 high 46 low

March 2006

Monthly daily average 57 high 40 low

March 2005

Monthly daily average 65 high 49 low

(Source: Weather Watcher Brenda Underdown)

said the percentage is not far behind.

"I've never seen farmers take off so fast and get this much corn in the ground," he said.

Getting and keeping fertilizer has been difficult this early, Newcom added. Demands for fertilizer in China are creating problems with stocks in the United States. That, added to the early demand created by dry, warm weather, is making it hard for some farmers to get the supplies they need.

Trees that normally don't leaf out for another two weeks are already in distinct foliage and spring flowers are coming up and blooming ahead of their normal schedule.

Sherer's Nursery owner



Flowers like these tulips were in full bloom about 10-14 days ahead of normal trends.

Jimmy Sherer said customer demand made him open a little earlier this year.

The nice weather has flower seekers in search of early-season favorites, such as ferns and hearty hanging baskets.

Last year, Sherer said he sold the last of several hundred ferns on April 15. He expects it will be earlier this year.

Detweiler's Greenhouse on Ky. 654 in the Amish community reports a large amount of customers at this point in the season, well ahead of normal trends. Still, the Detweilers, like other Amish greenhouse operators, are keeping plants inside until the threat of harsh weather completely passes.

Brenda Underdown keeps weather patterns and reports for WPSD-TV's Weather Watchers segment. She said many people don't remember, but a similar weather pattern appeared 10 years ago and then it turned off cold in April and snowed three inches at places in the area.

"It snowed here all day April 10, but it didn't stick," she said.

"This year, we're two weeks ahead of normal," Underdown said. "The dogwoods don't usually bloom until the third week of April and they're in full bloom right now."

WPSD-TV reported this week that March 2007 was the warmest month of March it had on record.

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LARGE FAMILY HOME...This home speaks children...Features: 5 bedrooms, 2.75 baths, living room, formal dining room, and kitchen with major appliances, large laundry, TV/Rec. room and only 3 years old. Located in Salem on approx. 3 acres.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

2 +/- ACRES...plus 3-4 bedroom house. This one and half story home has been completely remodeled with new kitchen cabinets, large living room, laundry & replacement windows, central heat & air, county water. Located in Crayne and priced at \$54,500.

116 SHADY LANE Features 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, utility room and large out building.

SOLD JUST WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ... A 3 bedroom brick that features: 2 baths, large living room, kitchen with room eat-in family dining area, laundry-mud room, plus patio doors leading to an extra large covered deck. This home has replacement windows, an attached garage with multi storage cabinets, an attached carport and 2 storage buildings. Conveniently located near Crittenden County School.

GROWING PAINS?.....This vinyl siding 2 story family home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, foyer w/open stair case, living room, formal dining room enhanced with beautiful fireplace mantle, modern kitchen with major appliances, TV/entertainment room; partial basement, plus more. Located on large deep lot on West Bellville St. Marion

CHECK THIS ONE OUT... Investors take a look at this nine-room fixer upper house that was formerly used as a duplex. Features 2 kitchens, 2 baths, laundry room, floored attic and partial basement. Situated on nice lot in Marion and located 2 blocks from Main St. REDUCED TO \$27,500. Owner says make an offer.

SOLD 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, butler's pantry & retro kitchen, 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.

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.

IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

SALE PENDING GREAT CORNER LOCATION...describes the setting for this 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath brick with attached double car garage. Home redecorated last year with new carpeting includes nice kitchen w/major appliances; formal dining room, family/Florida room, laundry hookup w/washer/dryer, central heat & air plus private deck. Situated on 2 nice lots in Salem. Call today for details.

COUNTRY LIVING...if you like the country life you will enjoy this home. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen with appliances, dining room, living room, full basement with lots of storage shelves. Laundry area in basement includes the washer & dryer. All this on 3.80 acres.

HORSE LOVERS! This 10 acre tract is just what you've been looking for. Features: a beautiful 1996 doublewide with 3 BR, 2 BA, dining/living room w/gas log fireplace, kitchen including appliances, utility room plus attached double carport. In addition there is a garage plus large 50x70 barn and good fenced pasture. Located approx. 3 miles from Berry's Ferry landing on the Ohio River.

419 E. MAIN ST...3-4 bedroom home. Convenient to grocery, bank, post office. Features: hardwood floors, large living room with fireplace, eat in kitchen, basement, shed on nice lot in Salem.

129 W. MAIN ST...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.

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. REDUCED TO \$38,000.

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.

SOLD THREE BEDROOM TWO BATH SPLIT / PLAN HOME offers large great living/dining room with fireplace, kitchen w/bay window including appliances, master bedroom w/bath & walk-in closet, attached double garage, and large private deck. Other amenities include an above ground 52" X 30' pool, a new underground storm shelter and nice finished storage/craft potting shed. This nice home is situated on 3 nice lots in Glenhart Subdivision, Salem. Call today to see this one!!

LOTS / SMALL TRACTS / FARMLAND

LAKE AREA LOT...located south of Eddy Creek Marina on Hwy 93. Perfect for mobile home or build your dream home. Utilities already on property. Call for more information.

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

SOLD 55 +/- ACRES...located on Hwy 60 in Crittenden County. All open fields with some fencing and a pond. Also 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.

SOLD 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. REDUCED TO \$103,000.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

GREAT LOCATION... in Salem. Commercial building and lot. Many possibilities. Call for more information.

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!

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

SAT. APR. 28, 9:30 AM - Personal property. Location: Hwy 91, Marion. Owner: Wm. Miller.

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S P O R T S

OUTDOORS

Youth turkey weekend

Hunters 15-under will get to hunt wild turkeys Saturday and Sunday in advance of the regular spring gobbler season which opens April 14 and runs through May 6. Youth hunters must have the proper license and no more than two youth hunters may be attended by a single adult. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult while afield. For more information, see the Kentucky Spring Hunting Guide.

SOFTBALL

Sluggers starting

A 12-under traveling girls' softball team has organized in Crittenden County. Players are Ashley Little, Brittany Buell, Callie Doom, Cassidy Moss, Hayli Hill, Kaitlyn Myers, Khyla Moss, Lauren Hasty, Lauren Watson, Randi Williamson, Whitney Kinnis and Whitney Williams.

Team sponsors are Botanicals, Mike's Barber Shop, The Front Porch, H&H Supply, Greenwell & Frazer, Cash Express, Wild Hair Saloon, Convenient Car Care, La Potosina, Par 4 Plastics, Movies to Go, VMPC, Snap-On Tools, Pizza Hut, Little Debbie, Superior Trophies, Ideal, Shear Illusions, Hanor's Muffler and Tire, Stinnett's Used Cars, Sheriff Wayne Agent, Jailer Rick Riley, Hodge's, Farmers Bank, Kentucky National Guard, James Hodge and Tyler Manufacturing.

RUNNING

Yehling gets 14th place

Bob Yehling of Marion finished 14th on Saturday in the 40-49 division of the Papa John's U.S. 10-Mile Championships in Louisville. Yehling ran 1:09:02 in the race, which featured top road racers from throughout the country. He will next compete April 16 in the Boston Marathon.

GOLF

Tour card now available

Golfers can now get the annual American Lung Association Golf Tour Card by going online to www.kylung.org or calling 1-800-586-4872. The card costs \$35, but if you buy three, a fourth card is free. The card offers discounts and free golf at over 390 courses in Kentucky.

Princeton tournament

Princeton Golf and Country Club will host its Two-Man Scramble April 28-29. Tee time is 9 a.m., Saturday and 1 p.m., Sunday. Cost is \$120 per team. Players must be out of high school to participate.

BASKETBALL

Awards banquet Apr. 19

The Lady Rocket basketball team will host its annual awards banquet at 7 p.m., April 19 at the high school multi-purpose room.

SOCCER

Youth soccer sign up

U6 and U8 spring soccer registration forms are available at Homestead Realty, The Crittenden Press, The Coffee Shop and The Front Porch. Cost is \$15 if you played in fall of 2006 and \$30 if you did not. The initial \$15 covers insurance, which is still valid this spring. Forms and fees should be returned to any of these locations no later than Friday, April 6. Team assignments will be made and practices will begin the next week.

CALENDAR

Spring sports

CCHS athletics: Upcoming calendar

THURSDAY - SATURDAY

Rocket baseball at Huntingdon, Tenn.

Tournament Schedule

Thurs., 4:30 p.m., vs. Huntingdon

Friday, 7 p.m., vs. Camden

Sat., 10 a.m., vs. Lexington

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Softball girls at Bell County Tournament

MONDAY

Baseball at Hardin County, Ill., 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Softball hosts Webster County, 5 p.m.

Baseball hosts Central Hopkins, 5 p.m.

Track at home vs. Fulton, Dawson, Reidland



With seven capable starting pitchers, Crittenden's staff is stronger and deeper than any in the last three decades. Pitchers are (from left) Ronnie Howton, J.D. Gray, Cody McDonald, Alex Wood, Joey Pluskota, Alex Porter and Jacob McMican.

Just Perfect!

Woody's flawless 7 innings is prelude to staff's ultimate pitching potential

STAFF REPORT

Alex Wood is just a sophomore.

Alex Wood is just a sophomore.

Alex Wood is just a sophomore.

That sentence must be running through Rocket baseball coach Denis Hodge's mind over and over all night long as he rolls in bed imagining what the future of Rocket baseball might look like. Amazingly, Wood is just one of the wonderful young pitchers among perhaps the best set of arms ever wrapped up in a blue Crittenden County baseball uniform.

Alex Wood, known simply as "Woody" around the ball diamond, is the centerpiece in a man sized serving of starting pitchers that includes all sophomores and freshmen - save staff veteran Jacob McMican, who is a junior and spends most of his time behind the plate.

Last weekend, "Woody" did something none of his teammates had ever seen. He threw a perfect game.

In baseball it's the pinnacle of pitching prowess. It's

like scoring 100 points in a basketball game or comparatively equivalent a hole in one in golf - probably harder.

If it has ever happened before in Crittenden County High baseball history, no one associated with the program today can remember it. It certainly hasn't happened in the past 30 or so years.

To earn the Perfect Game Badge, one must put out every batter he faces throughout an entire game. In seven innings against Gallatin County, Ill., Saturday, Wood struck out 13 batters and retired the other eight he faced. No runs, no walks, no hits, no errors. It was three-up-and-three-down seven straight times.

"He's the best pitcher we've ever had," said coach Hodge, himself a Rocket of the 1980s who went on to play collegiate baseball. "It's hard to throw a perfect game anywhere. It's hard to throw a perfect game in the bullpen."

Wood said he knew perfection was within grasp

after he got into the fifth inning.

"I didn't think about it until then. At that point, I pushed it up into the next gear and threw harder. It just worked for me," he said.

After the game, Wood called his individual pitching coach Kent Wallace of Paducah, himself the owner of a perfect game. He wanted to tell him about his faultless outing. Coincidentally, coach Hodge was on the field the day Wallace threw his perfect game in an American Legion contest in 1986. So was former Rocket assistant Jamie Brown.

"That's the only other perfect game I have ever seen," Hodge said.

Wood gets special instruction from Wallace, a former Triple-A pitcher in the Yankees' organization who runs the Baseball Barn in Paducah.

As for Wood, his potential appears limitless.

"He's throwing 84 to 85 mph right now and is projected to be throwing 90 by the time he's a senior," said Hodge.

spring sports
ROUNDUP

Baseball, Softball, Track & Field

Rockets remain unbeaten after five games; best start in over 30 years

The unbeaten streak continued for the Rocket baseball team (5-0) with an easy doubleheader sweep at Gallatin County, Ill., Saturday afternoon.

The Rockets' four straight shutouts have set a school record as their pitchers have combined for 26 consecutive scoreless innings. Also, Crittenden's 5-0 unbeaten start is the best in more than 30 years and possibly the best ever.

"I'm proud of the way our kids are playing. They have earned a lot of the success they are experiencing," Rocket coach Denis Hodge said.

Rocket hurler Alex Wood kept that scoreless streak going by pitching a perfect game in the opener Saturday as his team recorded a convincing 11-0 win.

While he was mowing down the Gallatin County batters, battery mate Jacob McMican was getting the job done with the bat, going 3-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs.

The victors also had several other players with multiple hits as the trio of Logan Stout, Dylan Clark and Cody McDonald each had two and a combined five RBIs.

Good baserunning was also a positive factor for the visitors as they racked up nine stolen bases in the win.

Victory in the nightcap

McMican kept the dominance going in the nightcap by pitching a one-hitter while also smashing his third homer of the season as Crittenden captured an 8-0 triumph.

Hodge said it marks the first time in his 13-year tenure that he has had a player

hit three home runs this early in the season.

"He is swinging the bat well," said the Rocket skipper.

Crittenden 11, Gallatin County 0

Crittenden 042 2210 - 11 9 0
Gallatin 000 0000 - 0 0 5
Wood and McMican; Millikan and Drane. 2B C-Porter. G-none. 3B none. HR McMican 4th and 1 on. WP Wood. LP Millikan. Records Crittenden 4-0, Gallatin 0-3.

Crittenden 8, Gallatin 0

Crittenden 000 440 0 - 8 6 1
Gallatin 000 000 0 - 0 1 7
McMican and Gray; Vincent and Johnson. 2B C-McMican. G-none. 3B none. HR C-McMican 5th and 2 on. WP McMican. LP Millikan. Records Crittenden 5-0, Gallatin 0-4.

Gray gets win over CFA

Rocket starting hurler J.D. Gray gave his team its third straight complete game in as many outings last Thursday as Crittenden blanked visiting Christian Fellowship 5-0.

Gray also led off the bottom of the first by reaching on an error and later scored the first run. The Rockets sent nine batters to the dish in that first frame thanks to three walks, a pair of hits and an error. Jacob McMican, Cody McDonald and Dylan Clark all came around to score, giving the hosts a 4-0 advantage.

The visiting Eagles settled down and were not without chances to get back into the game as they had baserunners in every inning.

Gray and the Rocket defense helped preserve the shutout, stranding a dozen CFA runners.

McMican went 2-for-4 at the plate while Clark was 2-for-3.

Crittenden 5, Christian Fellowship 0

CFA 000 000 0 - 0 0 3
Crittenden 410 000 x - 5 6 2
Gray and McMican; Hardin and Boemer. 2B Crittenden. CFA- Bryan, Hardin. 3B none. HR none. WP Gray. LP Hardin. Records Crittenden 3-0, Christian Fellowship 0-3.

Track boys win 3-way meet; girls take second

Meet March 29 at Caldwell County

BOYS

Team results Crittenden 72, Caldwell 62, Dawson Springs 34

300 hurdles 3. Armstrong, 5. Owen

100 meters 2. Stone, 3. J.Sorina

100 meters 2. J.Sorina, 6. Robinson

800 meters 1. Jackson (2:24)

Triple jump 2. Baker

1600 meters 1. Jackson, (5:20) 3. Sitar

200 meters 2. Parker, 4. Copeland

High jump 4. Baker

400 meters 2. Robinson

3200 meters 1. Jackson (13:32), 2. Sitar

Shot put 1. Thompson (37'11"), 2.

Z.Sorina

Discus 1. Z.Sorina (100'10")

800 relay 2. Crittenden (Stone, Adams,

Parker, J.Sorina)

400 relay 2. Crittenden (Stone, Adams,

Parker, J.Sorina)

1600 relay 1. Crittenden (4:12), 3.

Crittenden freshmen

3200 relay 1. Crittenden (10:12)

GIRLS

Team results Crittenden 48, Caldwell 29,

Dawson Springs 52

High jump 3. Cozart, 3. Keene

Long jump 3. K.Moss

100 meters 1. Keene (14:08), 6. K.Moss

800 meters 3. Maclin

Triple jump 2. Jimenez

1600 meters 2. Maclin

200 meters 1. Jimenez (29:36), 4. Cozart

Shot put 1. Graves (26'3"), 3. Church

Discus 1. Graves (66'10"), 3. Church

800 relay 1. Crittenden (1:59:56)

400 relay 1. Crittenden (56:03)



Alex Wood, just a sophomore, threw a perfect game Saturday. It could be the only such performance in school history.

Wood has excellent command of three pitches, but the fastball is his bread and butter. He has a sharp slider and a deceptive change up that make him one of the best young pitchers in Kentucky.

"As good as he is, these other guys are right behind him," Hodge said. "This is the best staff we've ever had."

Behind Wood are starters Ronnie Howton, J.D. Gray, Cody McDonald, Joey Pluskota, Alex Porter and Jacob McMican. Howton is the only southpaw in the rotation. So far this year, the Rockets have played five times and each starter has pitched a complete game.

Porter and McDonald, perhaps the staff's No. 2 hurler, haven't even been on the mound yet. McDonald has been getting over a touch of tendinitis in his throwing elbow.

Wood is 2-0 after an opening day three-hit victory over Reidland then perfection against Gallatin County. The

staff as a whole has recorded four straight shutouts which is utterly remarkable as well as a school record.

Off to a 5-0 start with a host of underclassmen playing everyday positions, Hodge knows the gold mine he's watching over.

"We could be pretty good. We could make some noise in the Class A Tournament," he said knowing full well that a small school like Crittenden won't get any regional respect until it beats the likes of Henderson, Christian County and Hopkinsville.

What Hodge certainly knows - even though you'd never get him to admit it - is that Wood's perfect game may only be the beginning. With such a talented young stable of players, a near perfect season might be next.

It could happen this spring, maybe next or even the year after. There's plenty of time.

Woody's just a sophomore. Woody's just a sophomore.

Man charged with killing illegal turkey

STAFF REPORT

Game wardens cited a man Sunday for illegally killing a wild turkey out of season.

Charles Blackmon Jr., 46, who listed an address in Dawson Springs but owns property on Frances Road in Crittenden County, was charged Sunday morning after a tip from a passing motorist.

Crittenden County Conservation Officer Randy Conway said someone reported seeing Blackmon near Frances in a field near Ky. 855 North with a dead turkey.

Conway and another game warden, Daniel Richardson of Lyon County, went to the scene and found blood and feathers in the man's pickup truck.

Upon further questioning, Conway's report says that Blackmon confessed to killing the animal. Season for wild turkeys doesn't open until April 14.

Conway's report indicates that Blackmon used a .22 rifle to shoot the turkey. The animal was confiscated from the suspect's refrigerator and donated to a needy family.

The fine for killing a wild turkey out of season can be up to \$1,000 plus loss of hunting privileges for up to three years and loss of the weapon used in the crime.

The rifle game wardens believe Blackmon used to shoot the turkey was confiscated. The suspect is scheduled to appear in Crittenden District Court.