



The Crittenden Press



Printed in Marion on recycled paper with soy ink.

www.the-press.com • kentucky.com affiliate

USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006

75 CENTS
An Independent Newspaper Since 1879
VOLUME 127, NUMBER 22 - 16 PAGES

SANTA'S SATURDAY

St. Nick will be at Baptist Church for weekend lunch

The Crittenden County Lions Club will host its annual lunch with Santa Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Marion Baptist Church Family Life Center. Bring the kids for a conference with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a hotdog lunch courtesy of the Lions Club.

Christmas parade is 4 p.m. Saturday

The annual Marion Christmas parade will be held beginning at 4 p.m., Saturday on Main Street.

Community contest will judge decorations

The second annual Marion home and business Christmas decorating contest is underway. Call the Tourism Center at 965-5015 to nominate someone or enter your own home or business. Judges make their selection from the names submitted, with announcement of winners made at a ceremony just prior to Christmas.

School chorus groups perform three times

The Crittenden County Middle and High School Chorus will present three Christmas concerts in the coming weeks, including its first public performance at 7 p.m., Dec. 7 in the high school multipurpose room. Additional performances will be at the Crittenden County PACS Senior Citizens Center at 10 a.m., Dec. 8 and at Crittenden County Elementary at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 12.

Flu shots available

Adults age 19-up may get a flu shot at the Crittenden County Health Department on North Walker Street today (Thursday) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are necessary for children age six months to 18 years and require a doctor's order.

LOCAL MEETINGS

THURSDAY NIGHT

Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet in special session at 6 p.m., to install new trustees Angel McDonald and Jeanette Phillips, among other matters of business on the agenda.



Rain gauge

Last 7 days0.00"
Last 30 days3.37"
Year-to-date60.07" (+15.73")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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It's Christmas in Marion

Tibbs, Collins to lead parade



COLLINS



TIBBS

BY MICHAEL McCLENDON
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Anna Collins, 95, and Louella Tibbs, 96, are this year's grand marshals of the Marion Christmas Parade which kicks off at 4 p.m. Saturday on Main Street.

Talking to these spry and energetic ladies, one would not believe they are approaching triple digits.

"My grandchildren and family are so wonderful. They are such a part of my life that they keep me going," said Collins.

According to Terry Ford, event coordinator, the ladies were chosen to lead the parade because of their community spirit, giving attitude and love of humanity.

Both women were teachers at different points in their lives.

"I really enjoy seeing kids'

eyes brighten up when they achieve something," said Collins.

In over 30 years of education, Collins served as an elementary, middle and high school teacher as well as a supervisor.

"Ever since I was in the sixth grade I wanted to be a teacher," said Collins.

Collins started teaching in a one room-school house in

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Judge and volunteer stranded with lights

STAFF REPORT

Hanging Christmas lights can be a bit more time-consuming than we anticipate – just ask Crittenden County Judge-Executive Fred Brown.

The county administrator and another volunteer were stranded for two hours Saturday 40 feet off the ground on a mechanical lift while stringing holiday decorations in trees at the courthouse lawn.

Brown and Alan Rogers were stuck in the

elevated bucket after its diesel engine ran out of fuel. Other volunteers on the ground went for fuel and enlisted the help of excavator Shelby Belt who generally carries diesel for his heavy equipment in a big tank on his pickup truck.

Waiting for help to arrive, Brown said many people passed by and waved, not realizing what was going on. Some stopped and offered

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Members of the Crittenden County High School FFA, Fohs Hall, Inc., and the Community Arts Foundation gathered to construct this year's tree at Fohs Hall. After the wooden structure was built, the greenery was draped on the tree, lights were strung and decorations placed for the performances.

Living Tree gearing up for 20th annual program

Fohs Hall, Inc., and Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation will host their 20th consecutive holiday program this Christmas season. This year's program will be a rejuvenated Living Christmas Tree under the direction of Mike Croghan, a former band director in Crittenden County and 2001 director of the Tree production.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8, and 4 p.m., Dec. 10, at historic Fohs Hall on North Walker Street in Marion. The performances are free of charge to the public and a reception will follow each night.

The Living Christmas Tree began in 1986 in order to unite the churches of Crittenden County in a community Christmas program. The Living Christmas Tree is a spectacle of sight and sound as the over 20-foot tree features near-

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MARION AIRPORT'S TRANSFORMATION



From the air, the Marion Airport's landing strip of just over eight-tenths of a mile, and looks like a race track in front of the hanger and administrative building now under construction.



Hanger upgrade

The old style hangers (at top), where a single-engine Cessna 150 is being stored at the Marion Airport, will still be used in the future, but the new large hanger (below) will be the centerpiece of the facility. The 14,000-square-foot new hanger and administrative building will include an observation area overlooking the runway, weather center, pilot's lounge and a conference room. The new hanger will be able to hold about a dozen aircraft.

Fueling center, hanger are nearing completion

STAFF REPORT

Aircraft traffic at the improved Marion Airport is picking up now that the 4,400-foot strip is gaining greater exposure in pilot publications and by word of mouth.

Jim Johnson, chairman of the local airport board, says an average of about one plane a day is using the paved landing strip, but during deer season there was a spike in incoming aircraft.

"We probably saw four or five planes a day during the deer season. I was surprised by the traffic," Johnson said. "I think Pamida has a corporate jet that will be using the facility soon, too."

Phone calls requesting information about the airport have been quite common since it opened in May.

"I get calls all of the time and pilots are pleased to find out that we are IFR capable," Johnson said.

IFR or Instrument Flight Rules means the local airport has sophisticated electronic capabilities

that allow planes to land during poor weather using instruments only.

Johnson briefed the Crittenden Fiscal Court last week on progress of the Phase 2 construction project at the airport. Phase 1 was completed last summer which included paving and lighting the new runway just north of U.S. 60 West. The strip, which is just over eight-tenths of a mile long, lies between Ky. 91 North and Ky. 1668.

A large hanger and administrative building are now under construction. The project is about half finished, Johnson said.

Phase 2 also includes installation of a self-service fueling facility that will allow planes to refuel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will operate much like modern gas stations that accept credit cards at the pump.

The new and improved facility is a distant cry from the old grass landing strip that Marion called an airport prior to the local volunteer board's

aggressive campaign to attract federal and state grant dollars. When Phase 2 is complete, it will mean that almost \$5 million has been spent to bring the Marion Airport up to a higher standard. Indeed, it's one of the best small town airports in all of Kentucky. The overall pricetag to local taxpayers for the new multi-million-dollar facility will end up being a fraction of its actual cost. The City of Marion and Crittenden County will have paid about \$135,000 once the hanger and fueling system are complete. Much of that payment came as "in-kind" expenses such as rock hauling by the county to build the airstrip's subsurface.

"Besides Paducah, Hopkinsville and Owensboro, this will be the only place in western Kentucky where fuel will be available 24-7," Johnson said. "I wish we could have had this in during deer season because we missed a lot of fuel sales."

Johnson said that once the fueling center is open, it will generate some operating income. Also, hanger space will be rented for about 12.5 cents per square foot, which comes to about \$100 for a single-engine aircraft stored there.

The airport currently derives some income from the federal CRP program for an unused portion of

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