



The Crittenden Press



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RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS

Carrsville hosts Saturday festival

Carrsville's seventh annual Community Christmas will be held Saturday. Festivities include Santa, live entertainment, food, lights, vendors and lots of fun. Stores and shops in the tiny Ohio River town will be open 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Student vacation

Crittenden County students will start their holiday break at the end of class on Friday. Students will report back to school on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Report kindergarten kids to school today

If your child will be starting kindergarten next year (August 2007), please call the Crittenden County Elementary School at 965-2243 and report your child's name, date of birth and your phone number. Thursday (today) is the deadline for providing this information to the school.

Babies of '06

The Crittenden Press will be publishing Babies of 2006 in its Jan. 11 edition. Parents and grandparents of children born in 2006 are invited to submit photos - studio or casual home snapshots. Babies included are not limited to Crittenden County residents. Cost is \$10. Mail photos to P.O. Box 191, email to allison@the-press.com or drop them off at The Press office at 125 E. Bellville St.

PACS closed

The PACS Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1.

No Press week of Christmas

The Crittenden Press will not be published the week of Christmas. There will be an Early Bird/Crittenden Press special combination issue that will be mailed to all normal Early Bird recipients on Dec. 27. Normal Crittenden Press subscribers will not receive a publication the week of Christmas. The Press will be published on a normal schedule the first week of 2007.

LOCAL MEETINGS

MONDAY NIGHT

Marion City Council will meet at 6 p.m., at city hall.

TUESDAY MORNING

Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., at the courthouse.



CLEAR & SUNNY
66/42
THURSDAY



MOSTLY SUNNY
65/45
FRIDAY

Rain gauge

Last 7 days1.00"
Last 30 days5.29"
Year-to-date63.45" (+17.01")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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Students aren't showing up for class

Despite Ed-Tech Center's varied offerings and college credits, few are taking courses

STAFF REPORT

Enrollment in college credit classes offered at the Marion Ed-Tech Center has continued lower than expected since Madisonville Community College started offering them here three years ago.

The trend has local educators baffled because Crittenden County High School is generating a near record number of college-bound students. Over the past two years, 45 percent of 176 local high school graduates have gone on to college.

With a combined total of 79 CCHS graduates seeking higher education in 2004 and 2005, Crittenden County High School guidance counselor Stefanie Hardin says it's a mystery why more are not taking classes right here in Marion.

"I don't know why they are driving to Madisonville or Paducah when they could be taking them right here," said Hardin.

The high school offers several dual credit classes - where students can get high school and college credit from one class - during normal school hours. Those classes are well attended at CCHS, Hardin said.

The Marion Ed-Tech Center offers similar courses and is advertising 11 college credit classes for the upcoming spring semester. All of the Ed-Tech Center classes are at night. Hardin says that might be why enrollment is down, especially for high school students who could be getting a jumpstart on college.

College Bound

In the past two years, 79 out of 176 CCHS graduates have gone on to college; however, few are getting a jump start with local college credit offerings.



DULCIE HARDIN
Ed-Tech Center's education director



STEFANIE HARDIN
CCHS guidance counselor

es and is advertising 11 college credit classes for the upcoming spring semester. All of the Ed-Tech Center classes are at night. Hardin says that might be why enrollment is down, especially for high school students who could be getting a jumpstart on college.

"High school aged kids are overloaded. There is just so much going on and so many demands on their time," said Hardin. "Many of them are involved in clubs and sports which keeps them busy after school."

Hardin says most high school students don't realize the benefits of getting started early on college classes.

"With everything offered locally, a high school senior could graduate with 15 or more college credits," Hardin said.

Spring Class Schedule from MCC

Here are the college credit classes offered for the spring semester at the Marion Ed-Tech Center:

- Developmental Math
- Pre-Algebra
- Basic Algebra with Measurement
- Nursing Assistant Skills
- Real Estate Principles I
- Real Estate Principles II
- Writing II
- Medical Terminology
- Intro to Comparative Religions
- Phlebotomy for Healthcare
- Phlebotomy: Clinical Experience

Call 965-9294 for more information

Getting those hours early can save time and lots of money later on tuition, transportation and college housing costs.

Dulcie Hardin, education director for the Ed-Tech Center, is also surprised that college credit classes offered here are not attracting more students.

"They can get the same courses here that they are driving an hour to get elsewhere," she said.

Dulcie Hardin has worked with local high school teachers and administrators to develop a plan that might attract more students to night classes at the Ed-Tech Center. So far, the strategies have failed.

For instance, a German language class was offered at the Ed-Tech Center. It would have counted as high school or college credit. Only one person

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Red-Blue rivalry bigger than ever

Crittenden faces Croft for first time

STAFF REPORT

It's not too often that a basketball game makes the front page of the newspaper, but Friday's matchup at Smithland isn't just an ordinary ballgame.

Crittenden County's boys' and girls' basketball teams will play a doubleheader at Smithland against arch-rival Livingston Central. The teams meet two or three times a season and always draw big crowds. This time, the annual border war includes more hype than usual as Crittenden County's all-time winningest basketball skipper is now head boys' coach at Livingston.

Friday will be the first time that former Rocket coach Jimmy Croft has squared off against his old team and former assistant coach Rob



CROFT
Livingston



TOWERY
Crittenden

Towery, now head coach at Crittenden.

Buildup to the game is similar to the hype surrounding the 1966 season when Livingston's coach George Whitecotton left the Cardinals and came to Crittenden as basketball coach.

Livingston principal Mike Riley remembers it well, and says there are striking simi-

See RIVALS/page 4B

30 Years

Gilbert's celebrates three decades of service to community

BY ALLISON EVANS
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

To gain a greater appreciation of Gilbert Funeral Home's history in Marion, you must actually look at a family heritage spanning more than 100 years.

This year marks the 30-year anniversary for Gilbert Funeral Home, but it was a seed planted in 1904 that led to Terry Gilbert's purchase of the Hunt Funeral Home in Marion in 1976.

Today, Gilbert and his wife Sandra work alongside their four sons - three of whom are directly involved in Gilbert Funeral Home and another who owns a funeral home in Franklin.

The family of funeral directors doesn't stop there. Not one, but both of Terry Gilbert's grandfathers were funeral directors, as was his father, two brothers and now two nephews.

"I started when I was in seventh grade working with my grandfather



The staff and management of Gilbert's Funeral Home are (front from left) Terry Gilbert, Sandra Gilbert, (back) Brad Gilbert, Don Perry, Keith Gilbert, Clinton York and Britt Gilbert.

who drove the ambulance," Gilbert says. "Back then we still took bodies to families' homes and many funeral homes operated ambulance services."

One grandfather started the first Gilbert Funeral Home in Christopher, Ill., the other's general store in

Mulkeytown, Ill., evolved into a funeral home.

"His general store sold caskets and everything from face powder to dynamite," Gilbert says. "People began to

See GILBERT/page 7A

Songs of the Season

Vocalists participating in the 20th annual production of the Living Christmas Tree provided heralded performances last weekend accompanied by local pianist Regina Merrick. This year's program was under the direction of Mike Croghan, a former Crittenden County band director. The event drew good crowds for both performances and many who attended say this was one of the most memorable in many years. The yearly program is sponsored by Fohs Hall Inc., and Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCLENDON



Courthouse plans holiday schedules

Taxpayers waiting until the last minute to pay their bill will have to do it around the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department's holiday schedule. If you mail your tax bill, be sure it's post-marked by Dec. 31, 2006 to avoid penalty.

The sheriff's department will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 23, 25 and 26 and then again on Dec. 29 and 30 and Jan. 1 and 2 for New Years and the statewide computer maintenance period.

The courthouse will be closed Dec. 25, 26 and 29 and Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays. The county judge-executive's office will also be closed Dec. 27 and Jan. 2.

The Crittenden County Property Valuation Administrator's office will have extended hours on Dec. 28, staying open until 5:30 p.m. The PVA will be closed on the following dates for the holidays: Dec. 25, 26, 29 and Jan. 1.

The county clerk's office will be closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 29 to Jan. 2 for the holidays and its annual computer maintenance period.

The circuit court clerk's office will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 2 for the holidays.