



# The Crittenden Press



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## HONORING VETERANS

### Events will be held in 2 places Saturday

Crittenden County organizations will host two Veterans Day events Saturday. The first will be held at 11 a.m., at Mapleview Cemetery and feature speaker Cpt. Barkley Hughes of the Kentucky National Guard. The second event will begin at 2 p.m., at Blackford Veterans Memorial Trail and Walk of Honor and will feature Rep. Mike Cherry as the keynote speaker.

### Courthouse is closed for Vets

The Crittenden County Courthouse will be closed Friday and Saturday in observance of Veterans Day, which is Saturday.

### Lost & Found list at police dept.

Lost anything lately? Try checking at the Marion Police Department. The police department has several unclaimed items which have been turned over in the past few months, including bikes, keys, tires and purses. Dispatchers have an updated list of unclaimed items. Call 965-3500 to see if anything you have missing is on the list.

### Unite 2 Read

This year's Unite 2 Read kickoff event will be held Nov. 28. Unite 2 Read, a statewide literacy project designed by members of Kentucky's Career and Technical student organizations, was implemented in schools across the state three years ago. The free local event at the public library attempts to bring the school system and community together to promote literacy.

### Deer season opens

Crittenden County generally ranks among the top three counties in Kentucky in regard to total deer harvest. For that reason alone, hundreds of gun-packing outdoorsmen will converge upon this county beginning late this week as they gear up for the opening of the rifle deer season Saturday. Hunters wear bright orange outfits to improve safety afield. See complete coverage of the upcoming season on pages 4B-5B.

### LOCAL MEETINGS

#### MONDAY NIGHT

Crittenden County School Board will meet at 7 p.m., at Crittenden County High School library.



Candidates shared a hug after Frazer conceded.

BY ALLISON EVANS  
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

A campaign strategy to blanket the county and utilize dozens of volunteers paid off for Rebecca Johnson during Tuesday's general election.

Johnson, a Democrat, earned 61 percent of the vote, defeating Assistant County Attorney Bart Frazer by 732 votes in a race where 3,374 votes were cast.

"It shows that people want change," she said. "It shows people think I can help bring about that change and have confidence in me, and I will certainly work to bring about change."

Johnson carried each of Crittenden County's 12 voting precincts as well as absentee balloting. The Marion attorney planned to begin Wednesday making contact with the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the staffing, location and technical issues related to the county's child support office.

# Johnson wins big

## Local attorney says issues, campaign strategy paid off

### Comprehensive Returns

See a list of election returns, candidate-by-candidate and precinct-by-precinct, on page 3A and more election coverage on page 8A.

Frazer said Wednesday morning that he would work with County Attorney Alan Stout in making the transition as smooth as possible.

"I appreciate the support I received," said Frazer. "I don't think national trends had anything to do with our race."

Increasing child support collection and making the child support office more accessible was an issue throughout Johnson's campaign.

"I think it is important that the office be accessible to everybody - to obligators and people receiving child support," Johnson said.

"I've always said it should be accessible, and if



JOHNSON  
2,053 votes 61%



FRAZER  
1,321 votes 39%

that means being open on Saturday or one night a week that's what we'll do."

The campaign strategy Johnson formulated back in July involved one-on-one contact with voters - some of whom she met with two or three

See **JOHNSON**/page 7A



PHOTO BY MICHAEL McLENDON

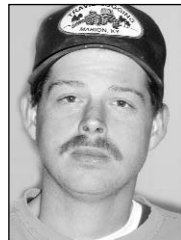
County Clerk Carolyn Byford painstakingly double checks numbers as ballots were coming in Tuesday night from the county's 12 precincts. In the background doing their own number crunching are election commissioners H.F. Simpson and Hugh Highfill, who represent their respective parties and work closely with the clerk during vote tabulation.

### Crittenden County Magistrate Balloting

#### DISTRICT 1



McCONNELL  
66%



KURTZ  
34%

#### DISTRICT 5



WEST  
58%



CRUCE  
42%

#### DISTRICT 6



WOOD  
73%



EDWARDS  
27%

# Entire county court returns; challengers find little support

STAFF REPORT

All three Crittenden County incumbent magistrates who were opposed in Tuesday's general election came out ahead.

Republican Magistrate Greg West, a local contractor, won a second term on the fiscal court in the closest of the three magisterial races. West fended off Democrat Richard Cruce, a local developer, in District 5.

"Our race was close because Richard got out and worked really hard and I respect him a great deal for that," said West, who won both the Marion and Frances districts in the race.

"I think it speaks well of the fiscal court that the voters kept it in tact. It says the county approves of the direction we're going in," added West.

West said he knew his race

### Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in Crittenden County was 56 percent. Of the county's 6,250 registered voters, 3,507 went to the polls.

Wood received nearly 3 out of 4 votes cast in District 6.

Wood is a retired school teacher and president of the Shady Grove Fire Department.

In District 1, Helen McConnell defeated her step-grandson James Kurtz by getting 317 of the 477 votes cast in that race. McConnell, 67, is the widow of former Magistrate Hayden McConnell and a Republican. It was 27-year-old Kurtz's first political race. McConnell carried both voting precincts in the district which includes the Mattoon area.

Magistrates Curt Buntin, Glenn Underdown and Percy Cook were unopposed this election. Judge-Executive Fred Brown said maintaining continuity on the fiscal court is will help the county move forward.

# Mayor keeps his post again

## Councilman Byford was within 62 votes

BY MICHAEL McLENDON  
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Sixty-two votes were the deciding factor in the closest mayoral race since incumbent Mickey Alexander took office in the late 1980s.

Alexander defeated challenger and current Marion City Councilman Michael Byford during Tuesday's non-partisan balloting.

"I feel good now that it's over," said Alexander.

Alexander has had scarcely little competition during his tenure as mayor. His last major race was in 1993 when Alexander beat then Councilwoman Vonelle Sturgeon, defeating her by 127 votes.

"The one thing I'm proudest of is that this was a good clean race," said Alexander, a 20-year veteran of city hall.

Both candidates worked hard and kept the campaign about issues, the mayor said.

"Mike (Byford) has always been an excellent councilman," added Alexander. "My only regret is that he won't be on the council next term."

Byford, who has served on the council the last 16 years, will finish out his term in December.

"Maybe in a couple of years, I'll run for council again," Byford said.

Alexander plans to continue working on projects started by himself and the present city council. The mayor will have a couple of new council members to work with (see city council article on page 3A).

Improving the water and sewer situation and building a new fire station were the mayor's two primary campaign issues. He said those will get top priority in the coming term.

The mayoral term is four years while city council members have to run every two years.

Alexander is an investment representative with Edward Jones and has an office downtown.

A new fire station and an improved water and sewer systems were also issues pressed by the challenger.

"We need to be diligently working towards a new fire house," the mayor reiterated.

Alexander said he is confident in the newly elected city council and believes little or no ground will be lost as new members join the board.

The mayor hopes both new and current members will attend elected officials workshops produced by the Kentucky League of Cities to help them better serve the needs of the community.



Partly CLOUDY  
52/72  
THURSDAY



P. Cloudy 40% rain  
55/72  
FRIDAY

### Rain gauge

Last 7 days .....0.73"  
Last 30 days .....5.92"  
Year-to-date .....57.43" (+16.26")  
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

### 965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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