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Halloween frights set to open doors



It's October, and the ghouls and goblins at area haunted houses are sharpening their fangs and perfecting their fright skills for visitors.

In Smithland, the House of Horror haunted house opens this weekend. Located at 914 Heater Store Road, it will be open Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19, 20, 26, 27 and 31 from dusk to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5 per victim... err., visitor.

Tolu Haunted House will be open 7 to 10 p.m., Oct. 25-27 and 29-30. New this year will be a Scooby Doo Fun House for children 10 and under.

The spook house is located in the Tolu Community Center, which used to be the school. Admission to the haunted house will be \$5 for anyone over 11 and \$3 for all others. Admission to the fun house will be \$5. Concessions will be available in the cafeteria.

Meantime, a free Hallelujah for Christ Party will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Oct. 31 at Marion Baptist Church. This is a safe alternative to Halloween. There will be games, food, candy and prizes.

No drivers' tests given this Friday

According to Madeline Henderson, Crittenden Circuit Clerk, there will be no written or road drivers' tests given this Friday in Crittenden County.

City, county tax bills mailed out

County tax bills for 2007 should be in mailboxes next week, according to Sheriff Wayne Agent. They will be payable beginning Monday. Meantime, the City of Marion has already mailed its tax notices.

8A

Cats set to take on No. 1 Tigers

After a tough first loss of the season, the Kentucky Wildcats have a giant task ahead. The Cats face No. 1 LSU this Saturday in Lexington. Next week, the Gators come calling.

6B

Local meetings

UPCOMING

- Marion City Council will meet 6 p.m., Oct. 15 at City Hall.
- Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet 9 a.m., Oct. 16 at the courthouse.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet 5:30 a.m., Oct. 18 at the courthouse.

Rain gauge
Reported by UK Agriculture Weather Service as of Tuesday at Paducah.
7 days 30 days 2007
0° 1° 84° 28° 11°
below average: **9.97"**

Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

Thursday	Friday
Partly cloudy 64/43	Sunny 65/41

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The Crittenden Press



Outdoor burning banned statewide

All fires, even campfires, prohibited indefinitely

FROM STAFF AND AP REPORTS

Dan Wood credits government-enacted bans on outdoor burning for keeping local firefighters out of a job during an ongoing drought. He also credits a bit of common sense and good fortune.

"We've been lucky so far, but that can change quickly," the vice president of Shady Grove Volunteer Fire Department said Tuesday.

To keep luck on the side of firefighters across the state, Gov. Ernie Fletcher has made outdoor burning of any type illegal in Kentucky until further notice. The emergency

act was declared last Thursday, due to an extreme drought situation that has enhanced the already dangerous fall forest fire season.

"These conditions place our citizens and the firefighters battling these blazes in great danger," he said.

Fletcher's declaration supercedes any local mandates. Just last month, Judge-Executive Fred Brown lifted a county-wide burn ban after heavy rainfall. But short-term forecasts for the state show little relief in sight.

Across the state, 1,500 wildfires have burned over

41,000 acres, according to the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Firefighters in Crittenden County truly have been lucky, battling only a few relatively minor wildfires this summer and fall.

"Over the years, we've had more brush fires in the fall. (So far) we haven't had to respond to any," said Wood, who also serves as a magistrate on Crittenden Fiscal Court, of the Shady Grove firehouse.

Typical dry autumn conditions in the fall and harvest seasons have worsened this year, with much of the state in severe drought.

Wood said he's never seen it this dry since joining the Shady Grove Fire Department in the early 1990s. Spotty

rainfall also has been a mystery to him.

"We had one Sunday down here where I got an inch and a half and Bobby Travis, just a mile down the road, didn't get a drop," Wood recalled.

Kentucky's forest fire season usually limits burning to between 6 p.m., and 6 a.m. That began Oct. 1, but just three days later, Fletcher made any type of outdoor burning illegal.

That means fires to burn trash, leaves, brush and even campfires, which could affect hunters across the state as

autumn hunting season approaches, are prohibited.

"Lightning starts five or six fires each year, and the other 99 percent of them are caused by people," said Dexter Conley, a district forester for the Eastern District for Kentucky.

The governor's order encourages local and state law enforcement to back the emergency ban with fines and jail time. This week, too, is Fire Prevention Week in the state.

"It is impossible to overstate how important it is that all citizens exercise caution outdoors to prevent fires that can quickly get out of control."

The ban will remain in effect until further notice.

Concert to aid injured guardsmen

By DARYL K. TABOR

MANAGING EDITOR

Sitting in a room with his father at Walter Reed hospital in Baltimore, Chase Matthews knows he'll be missing out on some fun Saturday night. But, he takes it all in stride, choosing to focus on his duck-hunting trip next month.

While Matthews continues to recover from another surgery to further repair his left arm and left leg crippled in Iraq, another of his fellow soldiers will be home to enjoy a benefit concert planned for this Saturday.

"I wish I could be there, but I've got to stay," Matthews said from Baltimore as his father, Rudy, stood by.

Benefit Bravo, set for 7:30 p.m., at Fohs Hall, will bring together four classic rock and country music acts to raise money for Spec. Matthews and Sgt. Jonathan McMackin. The two local men were injured by a roadside bomb this spring while on patrol in Iraq with their Kentucky Army National Guard unit, Bravo Company based in Marion. Matthews eventually lost both legs and damaged his left arm. McMackin suffered a broken leg, and still walks with a bit of a limp.

"We don't know either one of them," said concert organizer Tracy Jent, who since planning the event has spoken with the soldiers. "I've talked to both, and Jonathan plans to be there."

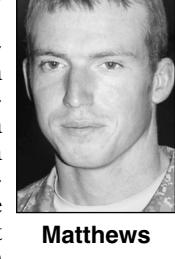
Jent, of Eddyville, is manager of Bobby Clark and Witch Doctor's Hooch, one of the bands performing Saturday. He said the idea for the benefit came when he saw a plastic jug in an area store seeking donations for one of the soldier's recovery.

"I don't care if you support the president. I don't care if you support the

See BRAVO / page 5A



Helen Springs of Marion turns 90 next month, and her birthday plans are already set. On Nov. 10, she'll be in Fohs Hall, watching one of her second-grade students perform his ventriloquist act. After that, Springs will have more chapters to add to her autobiography, "Helen's First 90 Years."



Parker sworn in as city's newest cop

STAFF REPORT

After an early military career, Marion native Jerry Parker has now turned his attention to law enforcement.

Parker, 41, is the newest member of the Marion Police Department. He was sworn to office Monday by City Clerk Pam Enoch as Police Chief Ray O'Neal stood near.

A 1983 graduate of Crittenden County High School, Parker enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after graduation and spent the next 23 years in service to his country. He retired from the military in January of 2006 as a sergeant first class.

After starting out as a tanker in the Army, Parker was soon transferred to a recruiting post and there worked for 17 years in Tennessee,

Alabama and Kentucky.

For the last several months, Parker has been employed as a deputy jailer at the Crittenden County Jail.

"Jerry will be a great asset to our police force," O'Neal said, pointing to his extensive military experience.

Parker will begin an 18-week training at the police academy in Richmond, Ky., later this month.

O'Neal said the hiring of Parker brings the police department closer to full strength. Right now, the force includes six full-time officers. The chief said that after the first of the year, the city will begin taking applications for a seventh policeman, which will bring the department back to full strength following retirements and resignations.



Jerry Parker (right) is sworn in as Marion's newest police officer Monday by City Clerk Pam Enoch as Chief Ray O'Neal looks on. Parker is Marion's sixth officer.

Writing under the pen name Trish Mills, Marion native Trish Milburn recently sold her first two young adult novels to a publishing house and has quit her job as editor of a magazine to pursue her writing full-time. One of her novels is in the running for an American Title award, which will be voted upon by Internet voters.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Native lands publishing deal

STAFF REPORT

Growing up in Crittenden County, Trish Milburn was Patricia Cash, a bright student-turned journalist following her college days at Murray State University.

Today, Milburn is writing young adult novels under the pen name Trish Mills, and recently got the news she had been waiting for — she has sold her first two young adult novels to the publishing company Razorbill, a division of Penguin Putnam.

The accomplishment was years in the making. While working as a journalist, Milburn began writing young adult novels. In January 2005, she took a leap of faith by quitting her job as managing editor of Tennessee

Magazine to begin writing full time.

"After writing 18 full manuscripts, my first sale came on July 24," Milburn says. "The first, 'Heartbreak River,' will be out sometime in 2009. The second book on contract is to be determined."

Milburn has a second wave of excitement as one of her novels is among 10 finalists for the fourth annual American Title contest, a writing competition co-sponsored by Dorchester Publishing and Romantic Times Magazine.

The contest is fashioned after American Idol or Survivor, with five rounds of competition. After each round, the two contestants with the lowest number of

online votes are removed from consideration or "kicked off the island."

The eventual winner will be revealed at a convention next April.

Milburn's family and friends can play a role in the contest by voting for her when online voting begins Monday. Votes are registered at the Romantic Times Web site at www.romantic-times.com.

In her years away from Marion, Milburn has worked feverishly to make a name for herself — and in the writing circle, she has. As an eight-time finalist in the Golden Heart competition — the top national award for unpublished romance manuscripts — she holds the record for the most Golden Heart finals. She won the Romantic Suspense category in 2004 and the Young Adult category in July.

Drought hurting pot-growers

FROM AP AND STAFF REPORTS

Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent and his deputies have spent less time this summer trekking through remote fields with machetes.

A severe drought that parched corn and soybean fields across the Southeast has also scorched marijuana crops, leaving plants that should be 10 feet tall so puny that law enforcement across the region can pull them up.

"We've had only one plot this summer," Agent said of local eradication efforts, despite the usual helicopter flyovers from state police spotters.

Kentucky, one of the United States' top producers of marijuana, has seen a sharp decrease in production of the illegal crop this year. The weather here and in neighboring states is cutting into the supply, and street prices for the drug could rise, authorities say.

"In our area, it doesn't seem like we've come across

as much as in years past," said Trooper Stu Recke, public affairs officer at Kentucky State Police Post 2 in Madisonville, which covers Crittenden and six other counties.

Kentucky state police confiscated nearly 190,000 fewer plants between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 than they did in the same period last year, and the ones they have collected yielded only about half the usual amount of the buds that growers sell as intoxicants. In Crittenden County, Sheriff Agent said he's removed only 30 or so plants.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration ranked Kentucky second last year behind California in the number of plants eradicated. Kentucky state police reported 488,502 plants, nearly \$1 billion worth, confiscated between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 last year. Over the same period this year, troopers have found and cut 299,220 plants.

"I've walked into quite a

few plots where the plants are just shriveled up and dead," said state police Lt. Ed Shemelya, head of Kentucky's marijuana-eradication program.

The summer's dry weather forced many growers to haul water to their marijuana plots, putting themselves at greater risk of being caught, Shemelya said. So far, he said, more than 100 growers have been arrested this year. "The weather has been our friend and the growers' worst nightmare this year," Shemelya said.

DEA agent Tony King, who heads the Louisville field office, said the weather has sharply cut into the region's street-level marijuana supplies.

The information received from our confidential sources

is that it's scarce," King said. "They're looking for quality marijuana, and there's none to be found right now."

Marijuana sells for \$100 to \$500 an ounce on the streets, but King said he expects the price to increase.

"It's the old supply and demand rule," King said. "If there's no supply and the demand stays strong, the price is going to go up."

But the growing season is not over and recent rains could turn things around for illegal growers, warns Recke.

"Wait until the end of October," he said.

Recke

Shemelya

King

What would Mom say?



by Allison Mick-Evans

Crittenden Press columnist

allison@the-press.com

Wishing doesn't make it so

New kicks help kid pick up speed

How nice would it be if what we thought became reality, what we desired became ours and what we believed became the gospel.

It happens to three-year-olds, so why not adults?

With the assumption that winter was eventually coming on, it was necessary that we purchase some closed-toed shoes for our three-year-old. Flip-flops since May have been more handy than one might realize. No bending floorward for the mom with the big belly, no tying, no shoe spoons necessary. Just a repeated request that he slip on a pair of flip-flops that matched his outfit and we were out the door.

Little did I know that he would undergo a transformation as a result of a new pair of kicks.

Blame it on nothing more than the imagination of a three-year-old boy.

Sure I hate to think our flip-flop days are over, because they're just too convenient. But I also didn't realize the rise in energy he'd experience when he wedged his little fat feet into a pair of tennis shoes.

Watch out, because when he steps into those little black shoes, he turns into a little, light-skinned Carl Lewis. It's his belief that his new shoes make him run fast. He thinks so, therefore he is.

I guess the same could be said of a three-year-old girl who slips on her plastic Barbie slippers and her cheap silk and lace princess dress — instantly she's transformed into a well-behaved, queen-like state, gentle and softspoken.

It's just a shame that some of us adults lack the imagination that make us who we want ourselves to be. Too bad that as much as I would like to think myself skinny, it's not a case of "I think therefore I am," because realistically I will be packing quite a few baby pounds for weeks after delivery. Unfortunately our will to solve a family crisis, a community problem or a broken relationship will not come true simply because we wish it would or because of a pair of magic tennis shoes.

.....

The Salem Garden Club held its organizational meeting Sept. 24 at the Christian Life Center in Salem.

Twenty-four ladies from Salem, Lola, Burna and Carrsville attended. There is interest in possibly starting a chapter in each of their communities. Anyone may join.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 29 at the Christian Life Center in Salem. A speaker will give the history of Salem. Present will be Shannon Riley, master gardener, to answer more questions on gardening. Officers will also be elected and a motto for the club will be established.

The Carrsville Community Center has invited the club to its shrimp boil at 5 p.m., Oct. 27.

The club will also sponsor a Christmas Home Tour Dec. 1. Watch for details and make plans to enjoy the inside of homes festively decorated for Christmas.

We're online at
www.the-press.com

Teens age 15-17 cost \$16,970 a year

Have your parents ever said "You are eating them out of house and home?" Apparently your family was not alone in feeling the financial pinch of raising children. As cited in a recent *MSN Money* article, "Raising Your \$290,000 Baby," the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducted a survey of 5,000 households, four times a year, finding that, from birth to age 17, many families will spend \$289,380 per child. This number varies based on total family income and number of children in a household, but lower-income households also spend a great deal on children.

Teens are costing parents the most they ever have, including when children were in diapers and eating baby food. It is estimated that, from ages 15 to 17, the cost of a child is \$16,970 a year. So, where does the money go? Once again, it depends on total family income, but the figures are staggering regardless of income. For families making more than \$74,900 per year, \$5,540 is allocated to housing, \$2,850 to food, \$2,730 to

nancy HUNT

UK Cooperative Extension Service Agent

Homenotes

transportation, \$940 to clothes, \$1,080 to healthcare, \$2,010 to school-related expenses, and \$1,820 to miscellaneous. Some of you may find these costs high, but, for others, \$940 a year would not begin to pay for their clothes. That is an average clothing budget of \$78 per month. How much did you spend on clothes during your last shopping trip?

Of course parents love their teenagers and it is part of their job as parents to get their children through financially until age 18, but there are some things teens can do to help. Let's look at each category individually for ways to cut expenses.

Housing — Many teens like to redecorate their rooms for a more "adult" feel. If you want a new look for a room, shop local consignment and vintage furniture shops; and don't forget garage and estate sales. They provide an opportunity to get something unique at great savings. And, if teens save their parents' money, they may be more likely to let the teen express themselves.

Food — No doubt, teens can eat a lot. Remember that eating out adds up, even with fast food. A McDonald's value meal for lunch five days a week would cost you nearly \$30. Pack your lunch or eat at home during the week and reserve eating out for the weekend, as social outings.

Transportation — Be realistic, find a reliable used car that will meet your teens needs, or, even better, have them ride with siblings or friends to school and social events. Teens can also help their parents with insurance by making good grades and taking a driver's education course.

Clothes — Most teens con-

sider their wardrobe important, but you can save money and still get nice clothes. Try shopping for name brands at consignment stores and look also for savings online. And, once you are tired of your gently used clothes, you can resell them at the same consignment shop, giving you a little money for more clothes. Consider this part of your effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Health Care — Unfortunately, teens cannot do much to reduce health care costs. Families typically pay most of their health care costs in premiums for health insurance. Still, making an effort to stay healthy — eating right, exercising, and getting enough sleep — helps reduce what your parents have to pay for doctor co-pays and prescriptions.

School — This is another category for which you will not be able to cut much of the cost. Out-of-district fees and classroom supplies all cost money, whatever you do. You can do without name brands for supplies, but don't miss out on extracurricular oppor-

tunities just because they cost money. Try to cut costs elsewhere.

Miscellaneous — This includes entertainment, personal-care items, books, magazines, etc. This is where a teenager's allowance or part-time job should come into play. Budget your own money so that it will go further and don't ask parents for spending money every time a new movie or video game comes out.

Remember that the idea of budgeting is to know where you are spending your money and to make every dollar count. Becoming budget conscious will help put more cash in the teen's wallet, as well as their parents'. Teens might even strike a deal with their parents; every dollar the teen consciously saves them now, they could put into the teen's college fund. Teens will definitely need the money then.

Reference: "Raising Your \$290,000 Baby," *MSN Money*, August 10, 2007.

BIRTHS

Hunt

Megan and Cody Hunt of Marion announce the birth of daughter, Chloe Elizabeth Hunt, Sept. 12, 2007 at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

Chloe weighed six pounds, one ounce and was 18 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Terry and Lisa Guess of Marion and Angie Wilburn of Springfield, Mo.

Paternal grandparents are Van and Nina Hunt and Jacqui Hunt, all of Marion.

Maternal great-grandparents are Martha Stone, Phillip Stone and Sonia and Keith Guess, all of Marion.

Paternal great-grandparents are Gus and Marvin Hunt of Marion and Linda and Wayne Allen Prowell of Fredonia.



Mosser-Orr

Larry and Danette Mosser of Louisville announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin O'Neal Mosser, to Ryan Lynn Orr, son of Ronald and Donna Orr of Marion.

Mosser is the granddaughter of the late Donald Gibson and Nancy Gibson, the late Roy Mosser and the late Robert and Joy Whitehead, all of Louisville. She is a 2001 graduate of Louisville Male High School and a 2005 graduate of Murray State University with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. She is pursuing a graduate degree at MSU and is employed by the Department of Juve-

nile Justice.

Orr is the grandson of Pete and Betty Berry of Morganfield and the late Clem "Red" and Hazel Orr of Marion. He is a 1998 graduate of Crittenden County High School and a 2002 graduate of Murray State University with a bachelor of science in criminal justice. He is pursuing a graduate degree at Murray State and is employed by the campus police department.

The wedding will take place at 3:30 p.m., Nov. 3 at First Christian Church in Murray with a reception to follow at Kenlake Resort in Aurora.

Engagements & Wedding Announcements are printed at a cost of \$5.



Musical tribute

About 100 people attended the piano recital featuring students of Patty Lancaster. Eleven students presented music Aug. 25 which featured a tribute to area firemen, veterans, EMTs and nurses. Students pictured in the back of the photo with Lancaster (holding microphone) are Dee Wright, Jennifer Brown, Jessie McDowell, Julianna Brown, Donetta Haney, Keilah Sanders, David Doyle, Casey Knox, Amanda Lynch, Jennifer Head and Jessica Brown.

Singing rewards Students attend choral festival

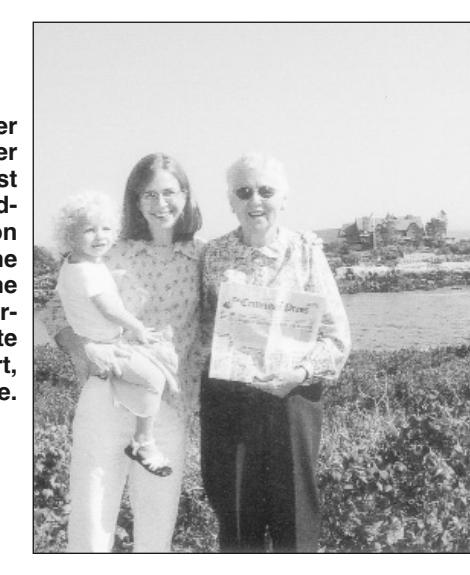
Six Crittenden County choral students participated in the 36th Annual First District Choral Festival held in Lovett Auditorium at Murray State University Oct. 2.

The students were among approximately 150 students from nine area schools rehearsing and performing under the direction of MSU Professor Bradley Almquist, Director of Choral Activities.

Representing CCHS were: LaDonna Herron, Melanie Hodge, Cassie Hughes, Stephen James, Justin Kinnis, and Tyler Starrett. The students were accompanied on the trip by chorus director, Linda Brown.



Hazel Talley, her granddaughter Tassie Earnest and great-granddaughter London Rose, stand in the foreground of the George and Barbara Bush estate at Kennebunkport, Maine.



Livingston school gets new reading area

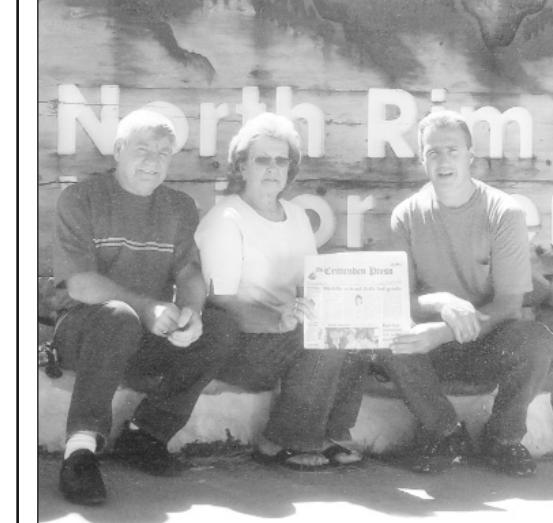


South Livingston Elementary students Dallas Martin and Jaden Hopkins enjoy reading in the new sitting area, constructed in memory of Jane Nolles, a long time employee of the Livingston County Schools who died last spring.

reading material in the home and from improvements to the school."

Sidewalks and a basketball platform were constructed on

the other side of the building with material donated by Federal Materials and Vulcan Materials. The PTO also helped fund that project.



Bob, Hazel and Larry Brown visit the Grand Canyon while on their way to California to move family back to Kentucky.

Scenes from September



We don't always have room for all the things happening around the area, but occasionally, we'd like to share scenes from some of those events you might have missed on our pages

Photos by Allison Evans, Daryl K. Tabor and Kim Hunt



During homecoming week prior to the Sept. 28 football game against Webster County, the school district showed its spirit in a variety of ways. On Thursday prior to kickoff, elementary school teachers hit the make-shift gridiron for a grudge match, with bragging rights at stake.

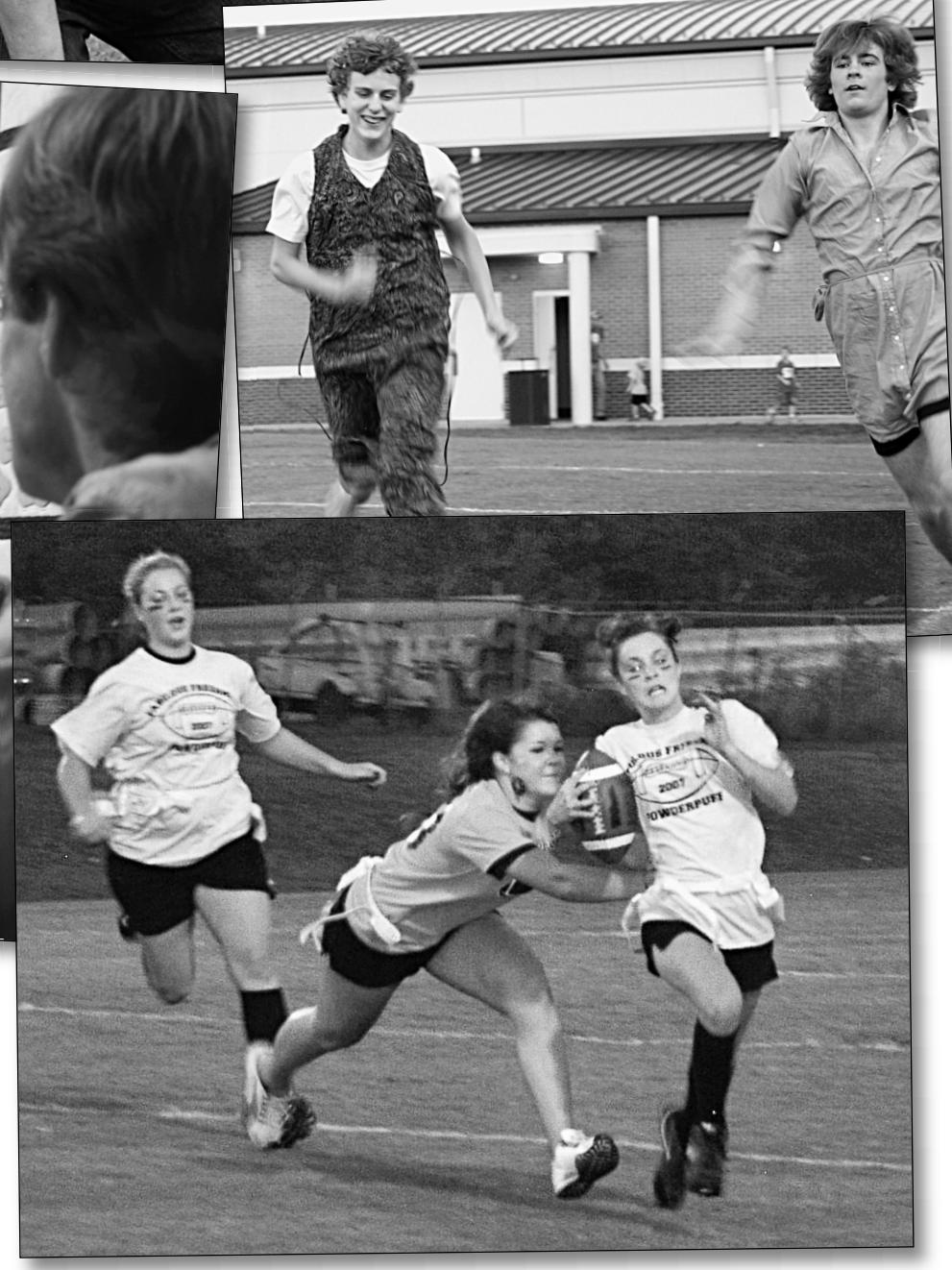
Clockwise from top right, Laura Brantley takes a hand-off and uses her blockers for a big gain. Mollie McGowan (75), who organized the contest, makes a pass attempt as Carol Harrison and Mandy Gardner (7) to her left prepare to block oncoming rushers.

But all the fun prior to homecoming was not had at CCES. That same evening, three dress-wearing high-school boys made a dash around Rocket Stadium in the Blue

Dress Run. Junior Joey Bornia (left) and freshman Adam Bornia challenge one another for the lead in the STLP-sponsored event. The girls got in on the action, too, following the gender-bending contest. Early on in the Senior vs. Freshman game of the annual powderpuff tournament, freshman Jessi Hodge attempts to avoid senior Lacey Etheridge during a run as her teammate Summer Courtney follows. Freshmen beat the seniors in this game and then went on to defeat the juniors 8-7 for the title.

Meet the Authors Night Sept. 27 at the public library brought together several published, local authors for an evening of sharing ideas and experiences with the public. Jennifer Harwood, director of Another Way and author of "When There Are No Answers," explains her book as author Bob Yehling and Rose Kirk of the library look on.

Two days later, tellers of tall tales gathered at Fohs Hall for the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation's 11th annual storytelling and chuckwagon dinner. Emory DeWitt, the master of ceremonies, told several tales, but members of the audience took their turn in the spotlight, sharing mostly true stories and a few imagined ones. Darren Paris, son of Matt and Karen Paris, told a story of hiking and exploring caves with his family. Finally, DeWitt, in character as Rufus Roostertale, roped everyone in with one of his famous stories about picking "sasaberry" with his young neighbor Elmer Elaine while encountering thorny bushes and snarlygasters.



The Final Christmas Club Payment for 2007 is Oct. 16 At 2:00 p.m. Checks will be mailed the last week of October.

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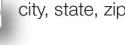
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