



The Crittenden Press

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City curfew set for Halloween

A curfew inside the City of Marion has been set for juveniles next Wednesday. While things have been quiet on Halloween over the last few years, according to Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal, anyone under 18 not accompanied by an adult should not be out past 6 p.m. The only exceptions are for those en route to or from a school function or work, though the reason must be verified. "We've really been lucky here the last few years," the chief said of Halloween pranks. "We've had only an egging here or there and a few pumpkins smashed." Outside the city, things have also been low key the last several All Hallows Eves, reports the sheriffs office.



Reunion crafter Oliver, 81, passes

Stanley "Hawk" Oliver, a graduate of Marion High School and longtime organizer of the annual July 4 school reunion here, died last week. Oliver, a popular character who lived in Rockford, Ill., died Friday at the age of 81. For more, see his obituary.

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Outdoor burn ban lifted last week

Gov. Ernie Fletcher has lifted an emergency ban that prohibited outdoor burning, despite this May through September having been the third driest on record for western Kentucky. Last Thursday's storms and statewide rains have eased some of the dangers of possible wildfires, according to a state press release. A drought in Kentucky prompted Fletcher to declare a state emergency and on Oct. 4 impose a statewide ban on all outdoor burning. Other outdoor burning regulations remain in place, and the fall fire hazard season runs through Dec. 15. It is illegal to burn within 150 feet of a woodland or brush between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. during fire hazard seasons. Leah McSwords, KDF division director, said the dry conditions can return quickly after a few days without rain. "We are just getting started with what is shaping up to be one of the most serious fire seasons ever," McSwords said.

Local meetings

UPCOMING
 • Marion Tourism Commission will meet 6 p.m., Oct. 25 at the Marion Welcome Center.


Rain gauge

Reported by UK Agriculture Weather Service as of Tuesday at Paducah.

7 days 30 days 2007

3.11" 4.61" 31.34"

below average: **8.10"**



Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

Thursday

40%

Showers

63/49

Friday

40%

Showers

63/45

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The Crittenden Press



CFO: 4-day school not practical

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
 MANAGING EDITOR

A mid-term progress report on the feasibility of a four-day school calendar in Crittenden County returned few clear benefits and one early, bottom-line determination: The money saved would not justify such a change. "It's not worth disrupting the lives of the people in Crittenden County... strictly through our dollars-and-cents goggles," reported finance committee chair Brent Highfill, echoing the group's collective opinion. Highfill, who serves as the school district's chief financial officer, said the committee's "black-and-white vision" saw an estimated total savings of \$10,000 to \$16,000 annually, though that was based on "lots of assumptions." The finance committee was the only of the four to pass judgment on the pro-

posal before the board of education and a crowd gathered for the reports at Rocket Arena. The others, whose chairmen issued findings on communications, academics and childcare issues, showed little clear evidence to counter the number-crunchers' determination. However, Superintendent John Belt reiterated after the meeting that Tuesday's reports were merely fodder for the board to consider midway through the decision process, not statements of support or opposition. "We will evaluate the information provided," he said. "After evaluation, we will make a decision." Belt, speaking on behalf of all five board members, claimed the findings had not swayed the board's viewpoint, as an opinion had yet to be formed. The four-day school calendar will be on the agenda for discussion, he said, at the next board meeting, slated for Nov. 13.

The four-day proposal was revived this summer, after first being discussed by a previous board and then-superintendent Fredericka Hargis. Though some of the same board members remain, the short calendar is being eyed again as way to save money in the district's ailing budget. The determined cost-savings would amount to about \$12 per student per year, based on a best-case scenario presented by Highfill. Not enough to counter ongoing concerns over childcare and upheaval to parents of the district's 1,300 students, claimed some at the meeting. "I haven't heard a great deal of discussion about how it's going to affect the students," said Dr. Dennis Lacy, former superintendent. "Academics is what we're here for." Lucy Tedrick, who headed Marion Church of God's former Christian

school for 25 years, said children need the structure of a five-day school week. City Councilman Darrin Tabor, a father of two, agreed. "These kids being there is their chance to succeed," he said of the current five-day week. Adamantly opposed to the calendar change, Chris Evans, with one child currently in the system and two more on the way, said he felt moving forward with the study was pointless. "Sounds to me like a moot point," he said of further examination. No comments in support of the proposal were made by those in attendance. Some board members jotted notes throughout the forum. Belt said a final decision on implementation of a four-day calendar would come no later than February. "This board will make the decision based on what is best for the children of Crittenden schools," he assured.

story by **linda c. defew**

illustration by **daryl k. tabor**

Chills from Halloween past



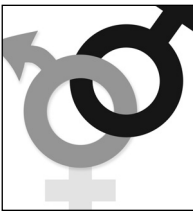
A visit to a local antique mall brought back some creepy memories. On the wall in one of the booths hung a giant thermometer — Johnson Bros. Funeral Directors, Boaz, Kentucky...Phone 45. Cold chills ran up my spine. I looked at my husband in what must have been a look of desperation. "I have to have it," I said in a calm collected voice. "That's the old coffin shop." His eyebrows went up. "Yeah, I know, but did you see the price?" We had collected advertising thermometers for a long time, and he knew what they were worth. His tone of voice said it was overpriced, but he never kept me from buying something I really wanted. "Buy it if you want it," he said. "It might not be here next time." We walked around the mall a second time, contemplating how we could justify the cost. My heart pounded as I walked back in the direction where the treasure hung. I just knew someone was going to see it and buy it while I was two aisles down. Fortunately, we found ourselves, once again, staring atthe black and white

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Womanless union play next week

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
 MANAGING EDITOR

Just one day after the Halloween costumes are put away for another year, a collection of peculiarities hits the Fohs Hall stage — perhaps an amalgamation of characters that would make even Dr. Frankenstein shutter. Another hilarious, local production of "The Womanless Wedding" will take nuptials to another low next Thursday, filling out dresses and blouses with some of the hairiest, most unattractive busts imaginable. The performance begins at 7 p.m., at Fohs Hall, with proceeds from the \$10 tickets to help fund replacement of the building's auditorium roof. "This is one of our biggest fund-raisers," said Alan Stout, president of Fohs Hall Inc., the organization charged with upkeep of the 81-year-old building. The local cast is hand-selected by Stout and directors Judy Winn and Ethel Tucker. Joe Myers. Wayne Agent. Frank Pierce. Jeff Winn. And Richard Cruce. Nice guys all, but pretty women they surely will not make. Even Stout will resurrect a yellow dress he has worn in productions past. "Because I get so many compliments on it," he told the cast gathered Tuesday night



Wedding plans

The Womanless Wedding will play at Fohs Hall at 7 p.m., Nov. 1. Tickets are \$10, with proceeds going to fund repairs to Fohs Hall's roof.

See **HEALTH**/page 2A

Study: Crittenden health poor

Lack of physical activity, poor oral health, lung cancer drag down county's ranking

By **MATTHEW T. PATTON**
 PRESS CONTRIBUTOR

Crittenden County just got a health checkup. The prognosis? Not so good. Out of Kentucky's 120 counties, Crittenden County ranked 87th in the Kentucky Institute of Medicine's recently published report, "The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment." In simple terms, 72.5 percent, or nearly three-quarters of Kentucky counties are healthier than Crittenden. The statewide assessment found Crittenden County registers the state's lowest rate of breast cancer deaths and its second-lowest rate of low birthweights. Other strengths include a low prevalence of diabetes as well as a low rate of infant mortality. Despite those strong points, the assessment also found many residents lack physical activity and oral health, facing high rates of

lung/bronchus and colorectal cancer. Couple this with a low graduation rate, and the county's rank dropped quickly. In spite of the obvious problems with tobacco use



"Most people need a wake-up call before they change their health habits."

— **Nancy Hunt**
 Crittenden Extension Agent

like lung cancer and emphysema, many Crittenden County residents still use tobacco products on a daily basis. Nancy Hunt, Crittenden County Extension Agent, said the high incidence of tobacco use is often a habit passed

down through the generations. "Most people need a wake-up call before they change their health habits," Hunt explained. "It can be something that happens to themselves or a parent or grandparent. If someone's grandfather passed away from lung cancer and they are a witness to the struggle he went through with his illness, someone is more likely to want to change so their children don't have to see them suffer," she said. Hunt was surprised to see Crittenden County ranked as high as it did. "In my opinion, we were actually higher than I thought we would be," she said, though she is optimistic many initiatives will help the county move to better health for the next assessment. "You only have to look around and you can see what is causing our problems, but I see more and more people changing to healthier

County's health synopsis

Crittenden County registers the state's lowest rate of breast cancer deaths and its second-lowest rate of low birthweights. Other strengths include a low prevalence of diabetes, as well as a low rate of infant mortality. To further improve the county's overall health status, community leaders can focus efforts on changing high-risk personal behaviors and social conditions. ■ Oral health can be improved by promoting awareness of the importance of routine dental care, including cleanings, brushing and flossing. ■ Similarly, increased awareness of the physical and financial benefits of regular activity, such as walking, will help lower obesity rates and may lead to fewer cardiovascular deaths. ■ Routine screenings can decrease the number of deaths caused by colorectal cancer by increasing early detection and treatment. ■ Lung cancer rates can be alleviated through campaigns that discourage youth from starting to smoke and encourage current smokers to cut back with the goal of quitting. ■ Any measures that increase the county's overall education level will make improvements in health status more feasible by elevating the capacity for change.



More on health

Exercise and eating right are only part of staying healthy. This week, columnist Bob Yehling offers tips on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



2A

Source: "The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment"

lifestyles. What concerns me most is the high occurrence of heart disease in the county, which is a result of the issues addressed in the assessment," Hunt said. "Even

though the assessment said the county has a low prevalence of diabetes, our office has observed an increase in

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 <div>Bruce Hendrickson D www.hendricksonforsecofstate.com</div>	SECRETARY OF STATE www.votekentucky.us	 <div>Trey Grayson R www.treygrayson.com</div>
"Citizens have become pathetically apathetic to voting. I believe this has evolved because of the abuse of our election rights. People have lost faith in the system. We can make people care again by preventing vote fraud and guarantee them their vote counts and cannot be changed."	As Secretary of State, what will you do to increase voter turnout in Kentucky's elections?	"I will continue to promote and create innovative turnout initiatives such as 'Vote in Honor of a Veteran' and the Voter Information Center. An increased focus on civic education and civic engagement will also boost turnout over time."
"Extra voting time should not be so long! No person should be harrassed to vote one way or another. Only election officials should aid voters at polling place. Absentee ballots should not be so easily obtained, except for military and students who cannot come home to vote."	Do you have specific ideas related to election reform that you intend to pursue?	"I will continue to support and lobby for major election reforms such as voter-verified paper records for voting systems, early voting for all voters, and extensive campaign finance reform legislation to increase transparency in election donations."
"Yes!!"	To increase accountability of legislators, would you lobby to change the filing date for challengers to be after the end of the General Assembly session?	"I would only support legislation to change the filing date for legislative candidates if we were to move our primary to a later date, preferably August. This would allow legislators to focus on the legislative session without distractions from primary campaigns."
"1. Put teeth into the present election laws, including a paper trail on votes. 2. Put teams together and visit schools to offer seminars on the importance of voting and guarantee the voters the freedom to choose. 3. Change early voting to Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday."	What would your top three priorities be if elected as Secretary of State?	"1. Push election reforms to create a corruption-free and accessible election process in Kentucky. 2. Enhance business and other opportunities through increased online applications. 3. Increase civic engagement and education in Kentucky's classrooms."
"1. Lobby the General Assembly to pass a law to allow the man with the majority vote to be declared the winner of a primary, thus eliminating any cost and county headaches of a runoff election. 2. Use of fuel-saving, smaller cars for government employees."	What are your recommendations for trimming the budget and cutting government waste?	"By increasing online applications, our office has reduced staffing requirements; thus allowing our office to operate more efficiently. We will continue these efforts to further savings for taxpayers while making the office website a 24-hour-a-day service center."
"To visit every precinct (voter) in the state and create a greater cohesiveness between the county clerks and the Secretary of State's Office."	If elected, what do you see as the most important issue you will face in the next four years?	"The most important issue will be upgrading our voting systems to include a voter-verified paper record of each vote cast. In my current term, we were one of the first states to comply with the Help America Vote Act."
"An overall respect and good feeling in all the people regarding voting and its importance. A massive voter education drive to initiate the above-mentioned goal."	After four years, what will your office have accomplished to improve life in Kentucky?	"Elections in Kentucky will feature more access and less corruption. Citizens will have greater access to online services so they do not need to come to Frankfort to do business. Kentucky students will be more engaged in their communities."
"I have proof of my ability, as a leader, to put a team of capable, well-trained people together to provide the best possible service for the overall good of the people."	What strengths do you possess that make you the best candidate for this office?	"During my tenure, I have been praised for my ability to work with all Kentuckians regardless of political affiliation. This demonstrated independence and ability to reach across the aisle makes me uniquely qualified to oversee Kentucky elections."
"I have 30 years of people experience – school & college – and 24 years of business experience (leases,deeds, evaluations & appraisals of properties). More than these, I gained experience by being a government leader, which required putting the right teams together."	Why would you be more effective in this office than your opponent?	"I am the only candidate with elections experience. With so many important changes afoot, now is not the time for on-the-job training. I am also a business attorney who knows how to improve business services for Kentucky citizens."
"The equal rights of all people, worldwide, to have opportunities to live in peace and happiness. To afford the grace of life to all humans, worldwide. To never infringe upon the other person in any way whatsoever!"	To know you more personally, what issue(s), unrelated to the office you seek, are you passionate about?	"I have a deep passion for improving education in Kentucky as evidenced by my civics initiative. With a more educated workforce, our Commonwealth can attract jobs that will keep more of our best and brightest at home in Kentucky."

Bio Info

C.M. Trey Grayson
AGE: 35
HOME: Walton, Ky.
FAMILY: Married to wife, Nancy, and has two daughters.
OCCUPATION: Kentucky Secretary of State since 2004.
PARTY: Republican
EXPERIENCE: In his first term as secretary of state.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in government from Harvard College in 1994; law degree and master's of business administration from University of Kentucky in 1998.

S. Bruce Hendrickson

AGE: 56
HOME: Pineville, Ky.
FAMILY: Married to wife, Jan, one daughter, one son and one deceased son.
OCCUPATION: High school teacher
PARTY: Democrat
EXPERIENCE: Former mayor of Pineville.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from Lincoln Memorial University; master's degree in education from Union College.

By The Associated Press

(Editor's note: To help prepare you for the election, The Crittenden Press has begun publishing candidate surveys for the statewide offices up for grabs Nov. 6. The Kentucky Candidate Information Surveys are made possible by Vote Kentucky.)

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

the number of requests for diabetic recipes."

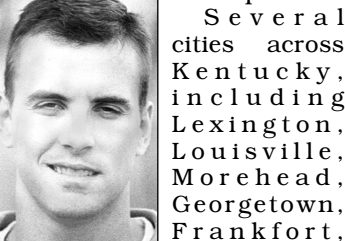
Moving ahead

To raise awareness of healthcare issues in the county, Hunt said itneeds more educational initiatives.

"We need more and more education, whether it's through the media, workplace or schools," she said. Hunt noted the county offers many free materials and classes through such venues as Crittenden Health Systems, the U.K. Extension Service, health department, senior citizen center and local churches.

Additionally, Hunt noted the county, city and school systems have paid better attention recently to fitness, building new walking trails at the city-county park and Rocket Arena.

"The school system has increased physical activity in several areas. It is great going to a ballgame in Rocket Arena and watch the young kids on the climbing wall instead of filling up at the concession stand. Healthier food choices are available in the community and I think this will continue to improve. We are seeing more smoke-free restaurants so the message is getting across but a little slower than some of the larger counties," she explained.



Hodge

have adopted policies prohibiting smoking inside buildings, public facilities and, in some instances, on the outside campuses of facilities and public sidewalks. A smoke-free vote has never appeared on the ballot for Crittenden County nor the city of Marion.

According to the Kentucky Department for Public Health, tobacco use accounts for nearly 7,700 deaths a year in Kentucky and 400,000 deaths nationwide. Kentucky has the highest smoking rate in the country and the second highest prevalence of pregnant women who smoke.

Denis Hodge, a physical education teacher at Crittenden County, has coached Rocket football and basketball and is currently head baseball coach. He attributed the county's lack of physical activity to many factors, including Kentucky's geographic location.

"Outdoor activities in Kentucky are not the same as you find in say, Colorado, where lots of people hike and ski," Hodge said. Also, he explained people who live closer to beaches tend to wear swimsuits more often, meaning people are more aware of their weight.

Hodge also said work hours and responsibilities

lead to unhealthy habits. For example, he noted longer work hours means opting for fast food versus home-cooked meals. Add that to many unhealthy cooking habits (for example, more fried foods) of the state, and the "more is better" attitude, and Hodge said healthier habits go by the wayside.

Hodge suggested finding a workout partner to begin an exercise regimen. "You must find something you enjoy and find a friend to work out with," Hodge said, adding the change must be a lifestyle change instead of a New Year's resolution.

A study released earlier this year by the New England Journal of Medicine suggested people were most likely to become obese when a friend became obese. In fact, the correlation was evident. Having an obese friend increased one's chances of becoming obese by 57 percent.

Hodge agreed. "If you have friends who are fit, you are more likely to be fitness conscious. That is why I love being around kids. I have about 75 kids in my advanced fitness class at school and they love to work out hard," he said.

In the end, Hunt said parents are ultimately charged with teaching their children better health habits.

"Parents have to take responsibility for their children. Buying junk food, letting them sit in front of a TV or computer all the time, and letting them go unsupervised so they have the opportunity to try risky behaviors is only shortening their lives," she said. "It will be hard but parents need to come up with a daily schedule with their family to include healthy

lifestyles. We are all busy, but families need to sit down and decide what is really important and strive to obtain it."

Behind the assessment

The statewide assessment, assembled by more than 30 medical professionals from across the state, ranked each county from one to 120, or from healthiest to least healthy.

To rank the counties, the task force reviewed health literature and deliberations from the Kentucky Institute of Medicine to pinpoint 25 measures to make each county profile. From those measures, the group identified the impact of personal behaviors, social conditions, demographic characteristics and access to health care.

Once comparisons were made, the task force created numeric values for each of the measures to calculate rankings. Each county was ranked one to 120 for each measure with the highest rates for some measures, such as education and prenatal care, and the lowest rates for others, such as infant mortality and diabetes. The rankings were compiled for each county, and each was given a full assessment.

The study also measured each county for lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer to supplement the county profiles, but those values were not included in the final county scores or rankings.

To figure out how strengths and weaknesses were determined, the Kentucky Institute of Medicine task force used a scale from one to 120 to apply to the rankings for each measure. Favorable values within

35 percent of the median were classified as strengths and unfavorable values were classified as challenges.

The full report is available at www.kyiom.org/healthy2007a.pdf.

(Editor's note: Matthew T. Patton is a healthcare editor, freelance writer and frequent contributor to The Crittenden Press. He is a native of Dycusburg.)

Attention Rogue

Pendants On This Hill
Is Not Worth
Losing Your Life For.

-Bart Johnson

PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED,"
THE FOLLOWING RACES WILL APPEAR
ON ALL THE VOTING MACHINES IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY
FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 2007.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR CRITTENDEN COUNTY
GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

TWO STEPS TO VOTE


1. VOTE YOUR CHOICES:


Press square to the right of candidate name or question/answer of your choice for each office or question. A red light will appear next to the square.

If you wish to change your selection, press the same square again; red light will go out. You then may press the square to the right of your new choice.

2. RECORD YOUR VOTES:

AFTER you have made all your selections for all offices and questions, press green "VOTE" button at bottom right corner of machine to record all your votes.

 **REPUBLICAN PARTY**
Straight Ticket

 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
Straight Ticket

COMMISSIONER of AGRICULTURE
(Vote for One)

Richie FARMER
REPUBLICAN PARTY

David Lynn WILLIAMS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

GOVERNOR and LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for One)

Ernie FLETCHER
Robbie RUDOLPH
REPUBLICAN PARTY

Steven L. BESHEAR
Daniel MONGIARDO
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

SECRETARY OF STATE
(Vote for One)

C.M. "Trey" GRAYSON
REPUBLICAN PARTY

S. Bruce HENDRICKSON
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

ATTORNEY GENERAL
(Vote for One)

Stan LEE
REPUBLICAN PARTY

Jack CONWAY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

AUDITOR of PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(Vote for One)

Linda GREENWELL
REPUBLICAN PARTY

Crit LUAllen
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

STATE TREASURER
(Vote for One)

Melinda L. WHEELER
REPUBLICAN PARTY

L.J. "Todd" HOLLENBACH
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Write In

Precinct Locations

Marion #1 C101
Courthouse Basement (chairlift available)

Marion #2 A101
National Guard Armory (Rochester Ave)

Marion #3 F101
Marion Baptist Church (Depot St)

Marion #4 D101
Crittenden Co. Elementary School

Marion #5 C102
Crittenden Gun Club (HWY 91 N)

Marion #6 E102
Sealing Solutions (HWY 641, South Main St)

Frances #7 E101
Frances Masonic Lodge (Frances)

Frances #8 D102
Frances Baptist Church (Frances)

Sheridan #9 B101
Deer Creek Baptist Church (HWY 297)

Tolu #10 B102
Tolu Community Center (Tolu)

Rosebud #11 A102
Mattoon Fire Dept. Bldg. (HWY 365)

Shady Grove #12 F102
Shady Gr. Fire Dept. Bldg. (Shady Grove)

Voting questions please call 965-3403.

Suspect to talk in transformer case

STAFF REPORT

One of the two defendants in a stolen transformer case back in August has agreed to testify against the other in return for leniency.

According to Crittenden Circuit Court documents, James E. Millikan, 31, of 1808 Ky. 70 has agreed to "truthfully testify" against co-defendant Nathan Adams, 40, of Nipper Road in Marion.

The two were indicted recently on charges of receiving stolen property (over

\$300) by complicity; first-degree wanton endangerment by complicity; and two counts of first-degree criminal mischief by complicity. Adams also faces a charge of being a persistent felony offender.

Court records allege that Adams and Millikan were in possession of more than 5,000 feet of copper and aluminum wire and electrical transformer materials taken from the east and west sides of Ky. 70 in Frances. The

wanton endangerment charge stems from the potentially hazardous materials from the transformers being left in a yard near a home where a minor child had access to the items. Police said the child was playing nearby when they went to the home investigating the case.

The two criminal mischief charges are due to the environmental hazards created when the transformers were taken down on both sides of the highway and dismantled.

Cleanup cost more than \$1,000 at each site, court records said.

In exchange for his testimony, Millikan pleaded guilty and was sentenced on Oct. 11 by Circuit Judge Rene Williams to two-year sentences on each charge. The sentences are to run concurrently and he is to receive credit for 106 days served. Based on the 20-percent rule, Millikan was immediately eligible for parole.

SCARE

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memorabilia, a morbid, yet exciting testimony of an era long passed. I had only seen one other like it in my life and had passed it up due to its poor condition. This one was near mint, probably kept indoors for the past 75 years. Passing on this one would be a major mistake.

I'm not an impulse buyer, so my conservative nature took over. "Let me think about it," I said, reluctantly, as we left the mall.

I had to admit, the price was excessive, but, to me, this well-kept piece of local history was priceless. Especially, since as a teenager, I had seen the place with my own eyes.

The chilling tale

We talked about the thermometer all the way home. Over the years, I had told my husband segments of the coffin shop story, but, now, in my excitement, I retold it – start to finish.

In 1970, my Halloween date told me we were going to the scariest place in western Kentucky. That was right down my alley. Like most teenagers, I loved an adventure, and this was one I knew nothing about. We asked another couple to go with us and, on the 20 mile trip to Boaz, my date told us the story his grandmother had told to him. Of course, the old folklore was never authenticated. And, as with most urban legends, the story had changed as it was passed down from one generation to another. True or false, it was real to me. I was only 17.

According to the legend, the Johnson Brother's Coffin Shop was built back at the turn of the century, in the Graves County community of Boaz, Ky. It was owned by two brothers who built coffins for a living. An 85-year-old man, involved in the funeral home business himself, recalled information that added even more flavor to the story. When someone died, the relatives could either bring the body into the coffin shop for embalming and pick out a coffin or have them bring one out to their home and do the embalming there. Two suitcases containing embalming fluid and two blood bottles were carried to the home along with a cooling board to lay the body on. Upon return to the coffin shop, a hole was dug and the blood was poured into the ground.

As the story goes, one blustery fall night, a local man laid a corpse at Johnson's. Many of his friends and relatives had come to show their respect. In those days, embalming had not yet been perfected and bodies often jerked as a result of muscle contractions. This particular night, the parlor was packed and a thunder storm erupted. The wind got up and whistled through the cracks and from the tall pane windows. Lightening could be seen dancing across the sky. The hour was growing late and the people started getting restless.

About that time, in the center of the room, the dead man sat straight up. A panic broke out and the people, screaming in fright, ran for the front door. In all of the commotion, one of the coal oil lamps turned over near the coffin and flames filled the building. Everyone got out okay, but the charred man in the coffin remained behind never to be removed from the building.

Now that I had heard this young man's version of the story, I wasn't so sure I really wanted to see this Johnson's

Halloween happenings

■ Trick-or-Treaters can get an early start on their candy collections by participating in Trick-or-Treat on Main Street from 10 a.m., to noon Saturday. Children under the age of 12 may visit more than 15 participating businesses for free safety-tip treat bags and candy. In addition, Crittenden Health Systems will sponsor a children's costume contest at 12:30 p.m., following the Trick-or-Treat on Main Street. The contest will take place near the front entrance (lobby area) of the hospital.

■ The Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center will have trick-or-treating for children from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Halloween.

Haunted houses

■ The Tolu Haunted House debuts tonight (Thursday) and will remain open Friday and Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. It will be open each day from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$3 up to 11 years, \$5 over 11. There will be a new Scooby Doo fun house for kids up to age 10, with a \$5 admission fee. Concessions will be served. ■ In Smithland, the House of Horror haunted house, located at 914 Heater Store Road, will continue this Friday and Saturday and on Halloween from dusk to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5 per visitor.



Coffin Shop, but it was too late. We turned off of the main highway onto the narrow gravel road with only our headlights to light the way.

My date had been there before, so he turned his car toward the decrepit old building. Looming white pillars seemed to go forever into the night sky. Above the door, the words, "Johnson Bros. Coffin Shop," were engraved in a granite slab. Weeds and hanging vines had attached themselves to the walls and posts like fingers of lingering spirits. The concrete front and back walls still stood firm and solid, but the center of the building had caved in allowing the lightening to illuminate the interior. I expected to see the corpse of the man in the coffin anytime.

"Get me out of here," I said. Even for an adventurer, this was too much.

Revisiting the haunt

Years went by and I found myself in charge of a group of young people from our church looking for a scary place to visit on Halloween.

"I've got the perfect place," I said and told them the story.

They couldn't wait. So, this time, several carloads went to see the sight. As with most Halloween nights, a cold misting rain hung in the air. But, that didn't stop this bunch. As soon as our car pulled up, they got out with flashlights, determined to prove their bravery. Within minutes of entering the building, screams rang out and they all ran back to the cars.

"Let's go!" a boys shouted. "There's a ghost in there!"

Within seconds, the cars were loaded and ready to go, but something was wrong. Like an unknown power holding us back, our car refused to start.

"Just like in the movies," I thought, but I was smack dab in the middle of this one and it

wasn't any fun.

"Keep trying!" I said. "It's flooded," the driver said. "We'll have to wait a few minutes."

A light from a house across the road came on and a face could be seen peering out the window in our direction. We were obviously in a place we weren't wanted. Everybody held their breath as the key was turned again.

Finally, on the fourth try, the engine started, and we backed out onto the muddy road. The wipers swiped the windshield with the beat of my heart as the rain poured harder. Suddenly, the car slid on the loose gravel and lost traction. We were off in a ditch.

"Okay, guys! Get out and push!" the driver said to the boys in the backseat.

With a couple of pushes, we were off and running. At that point, I never wanted to see the old funeral home again. That is – until the day I saw the old thermometer.

The constant reminder

My excitement must have been contagious because, on the 45-mile trip back home, we had come to a unanimous decision — we had to have it.

I spent a restless night waiting for morning to come so I could call the antique mall and make an offer. The clerk gladly agreed to call the owner of the booth and call me back if she accepted. "Sold!" was her answer five minutes later. The next day, it was hanging on our wall, the perfect testimony of a youthful Halloween night forever locked in my mind.

Now, with the mystery brought back to life, my husband was involved.

"Let's go see it," he said, and our search for the funeral home began.

Boaz wasn't very big, and I knew just where the old building was located – or thought I did. An hour later, we were in the general vicinity, but, to my dismay, nothing looked the same. The road was there, but the property had been cleared for planting crops. My husband got out to take a look. He walked around the field for a few minutes kicking at dirt clods, then stopped and stooped down.

"Here's where it was," he said, sounding as disappointed as I was.

All that remained of the historical establishment were remnants of concrete, bricks

and mortar.

Today, the thermometer still hangs on our wall and does its job – giving the temperature. If only it could tell us more. I made an attempt with some of the local residents to verify the legend. They were all very nice and helpful, but, after 100 years, most of the old stories were gone, buried along with the building.

I'm doing my part to keep the art of storytelling alive. Every Halloween, we gather around the fire as I retell the story of the scariest place in western Kentucky. My wide-eyed grandchildren listen in awe as the man in the coffin sits up once again.

(Editor's note: Linda C. Defew is a resident of Salem and can be reached by e-mail at oldwest@tds.net.)

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NICE SINGLE WIDE - 2 br bath, laundry, big eat-in kitchen & living 3 car garage w/att. Sited on 1 +/- acre lot. County water, Hwy. 60 E. rp

NEW - PERFECT LOCATION - Spacious 3 br, 2 bath home, kitchen w/pantry, a dining rm, living rm, sun rm & part. w/2nd floor out bldg, fenced tree shaded lot. Need to see to appreciate. rp

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION - On this 3 bedroom home with bath, living room, kitchen, 2 car garage, paved drive and 3+/- acres. Owner wants offer. lc

NEW - PRICED RIGHT - Ranch style 3 br w/large family rm, eat-in kitchen, w/elec cabinets & lots of storage. Nicely landscaped trees, nice back deck. Close to town. tv

OLD SALEM ROAD - 2 or 3 br w/2nd story & basement. Metal garage, older barn, 4.5 acres. Won't last long! Price \$59,000.00. tv

AFFORDABLE - Triple brick home, 3 br, 2 bath, dining rm, corner lot, detached & detached garages. Price \$59,900.00. tv

NEW - GREAT PRICE - 3 br, 1 bath, edge of town. \$22,000.00. S. w

COUNTRY COMFORT IN TOWN - 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home kitchen w/app, laundry rm w/d, a barn w/ elec., storage bldg. Price reduced to \$51,000.00 mc

SECLUDED - 3br, 2 bath w/roof deck, oversized storage bldg., fruit trees. Dead end rd. 10+/- acres. \$90,000.00. Owner wants offer. fj

COTTAGE - 4 years old, move in ready, super nice inside, beautiful Oak cabinets, hardwood floors, 24x26 carport, 12x16 storage bldg, w/loft, paneled & insulated. Price reduced to \$46,000.00. lg

MOBILE HOME ON CORNER LOT - Pierce St. \$8,500.00. rd

EAST MOUND ST. - (Old Eagles Club Building), older mobile home w/ 5 additional lots. \$45,000.00. tv

LOOKING FOR PEACE AND QUIET? - Sheridan is where you'll find this 1 br home w/laundry, living rm, dining area, 1 1/2 bath. Deck, front porch, 24x30 metal garage on 3+/- acres. Reduced to \$45,000.00. nd

EXTRA NICE - A Brick 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home with living room, complete with appliances, dining room, 1 1/2 garage, nice deck, paved drive. This home is move in ready. \$79,000.00. dh

SALEM, KY - 3 br, 2 bath brick home. Living rm w. gas log fireplace, kitchen dining combo & has a 1/2 basement. 1 1/2 car garage & lots of shade trees. Owner wants offer. \$72,500.00. lb

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY - N. Grant St., Sturgis, 2 br, bath home w/1 car detached garage. Conveniently located. Excellent for rental or first time buyer! Reduced to \$25,000.00. lb

LOTS & ACREAGE

42.5 ACRES - On Hwy. 60. b

7 BUILDING LOTS - Coleman Rd. with underground electric, rg

LOTS - GRANDVIEW ESTATES IN MARION - Lot 19 \$24,900.00, 3.23 AC, Lot 11 \$10,000.00, 1.02 AC, Lot 6 \$11,500.00, 1.208 AC, Lot 5 \$10,500.00, 1.068 AC. Lot 4 \$11,500.00 1.509 AC, County Water, Underground utilities. jn

APPROX. 1 ACRE - Hwy. 506. \$5,900.00. dh

GOOD LOCATION - Lot across from Crittenden Farm Supply on Gum St. \$8,000.00. rd

NICE BUILDING SITE - 3.75 acres, great for home or double wide, 3.75 acres w/20 X 40 carport, 20 X 20 bldg, new roof, new concrete floor, dead end rd., Elec & water av... fj

NEW - 3 NICE BUILDING LOTS - On Campbell Lane & Hwy 641. County water & elec. Lots range from 1 acre to 2 to 1 1/2 acres. Mobile homes o.k. Broker/Owner. jc

VERY NICE BUILDING LOT - In Penn Estates, Lot size 150x200, close to town. Price reduced to \$8,000.00. lg

30 ACRES - On good road frontage. \$37,750. rc

NEW - DRIFTWOOD ESTATES - Building lot, lake view at Barkley Lake, Edinville. \$30,000.00. gd

NICE CORNER LOT - This nice 1 +/- acre lot is located on the corner of Chapel Hill Rd and Oak Hill Dr. It adjoins the golf course property, has city water & sewer and is nicely shaded with lots of mature trees. \$27,500.00. jn

3 BEAUTIFUL LOTS - On Hillside Rd. off of Christopher Rd. in Fredonia, KY. Lots of big oak & hickory trees on these lots. Priced to sell at \$12,500.00.

BUILDING LOT - with underground city electric, phone and county water. \$5,300.00. kd

6 BEAUTIFUL BUILDING LOTS - County water. \$8,700 to \$12,500. jn

COMMERCIAL

LOCATION - LOCATION - 1 block from The Court Square on Main Street, cen h/a, security system, motivated seller. jn

NEW - READY FOR A BUSINESS - Check out this bldg. It's a 30 X 80, has central H/A. Good location. Call us. Sturgis \$35,000.00. cm

NEW - HARD TO FIND - Excellent double lot at corner of US 60W & Vandell St. 80'x229'. Could be divided. Zoned light commercial. Good location. priced to sell. \$30,000.00. tg

COMMERCIAL - 10,400 s.f. metal bldg w/show room, 2 office areas & 2 restrooms. Parts rm., storage bldg w/concrete floor. Fenced area, security system in & out. Pond on 5+/- acres. Hwy. 641 Marion, jc

NEW - MAIN STREET GOOD INCOME PRODUCING COMMERCIAL - Bldg, has approx. 1,200 sq. ft. & is expandable. Low utilities, new roof, 3 phase electric, located on a double lot. jw

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The Press **Community Calendar**

Today

■ Homes are needed for Crittenden County children. Plan to attend an on-going informational meeting today (Thursday) from 11 a.m., to 1 p.m. at the Crittenden County library or call the Pennyroyal Center at 365-2007 or 1-877-473-7766. If interested, training can be provided in Crittenden County.

■ The Tolu Haunted House debuts tonight (Thursday) and will remain open Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. It will be open each day from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$3 up to 11 years, \$5 over 11. There will be a new Scooby Doo fun house for kids up to age 10, with a \$5 admission fee. Concessions will be served in the cafeteria.

■ "Fall Into Reading – Family Fun Night" will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., tonight (Thursday) at Crittenden County Elementary. There will be centers for the children, reading strategies for parents and a free meal served to those in attendance.

■ Marion's VFW will have a yard sale beginning at 8 a.m., today (Thursday) and Friday at 412 N. College St., in the basement of VFW building. All proceeds go to help veterans.

■ Gear Up and Soar will be having an informational meeting explaining its program and its benefits to parents of students in middle and high school. The meeting will be at the Even Start Center, across from CCES from 10 a.m., to 2 p.m. today (Thursday). This will be a drop-in session where you will learn how to access information about your child's school progress on the Gear Up and Soar Web site. For more information, call the center at 965-9760. This session is open to the public.

Friday

■ The Senior Citizens Center in Marion will host Bingo this Friday. The center is located at 210 N. Walker St., and is open for lunch weekdays at 11:30 a.m. The meals are \$2 for anyone over 60 and \$4 for others. For more, call 965-5229.

■ In Smithland, the House of Horror haunted house, located at 914 Heater Store Road, will continue frightening visitors this Friday and Saturday and on Halloween from dusk to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5 per visitor.

■ Community Christmas sign-up days have been announced. Crittenden Countians who need help providing food or toys for their family during Christmas may register for assistance from noon to 6 p.m., Friday at The Learning Center on the campus of Crittenden County Elementary. There will be no late sign-up day. Individuals should bring proof of income for the household, a Social Security number for the head of the household, children's clothing sizes and children's gift wish lists (items must be valued at \$50 or less).

Saturday

■ All available Woodmen of the World members are invited to meet at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Woodman office on South Main Street for "Helping Hands



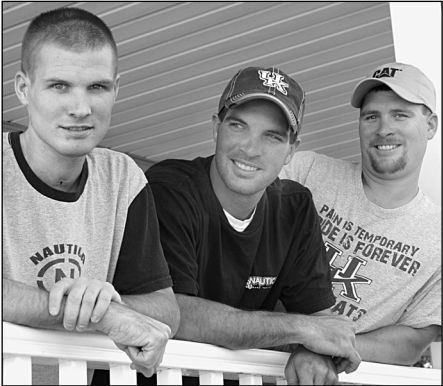
PHOTO BY LEE ANN MINIARD

Marion hosts fellow Women's Clubs

The Woman's Club of Marion last Wednesday sponsored a lunch and backroads tour for club women in the First District Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs. Above, Judy Winn and Ethel Tucker (both left), welcome visitors to their club on East Carlisle Street. The visiting members were served an Amish meal after which they traveled to the local Amish community. Also, a brief history and Amish way of life were discussed. Winn, a member of the Marion club, said many of the women from across western Kentucky had never visited the Amish in Crittenden County, but a few have returned since last week's introduction.

Day." Bring rakes, leaf bags, ladders, etc. to rake leaves, clean gutters, etc., for senior citizens.

■ The Fredonia Holiness Church is sponsoring a benefit country gospel/bluegrass singing for Josh Champion, featuring Touching Heaven and the Possum Wranglers. The singing will begin at 6 p.m., Saturday at Fohs Hall.



Josh Champion (left) stands with his brothers Jared (center) and Jason. Josh survived a jolt of 7,200 volts of electricity and is still recovering today.

Sunday

■ The Livingston County Board of Education will host a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday at Livingston Central High School for retirees Songa Jennings, Dorothy Jones, Faye Parrish, Eddie Ramage and Faye Roberts.

Monday

■ The next meeting of the National and Retired Federal Employee's Association's District 1, Chapter 1373 is Fall Roundup on Monday. The meeting will be at Miss Scarlett's in Grand Rivers with registration at 9:30 a.m. Anyone needing a ride, call 965-2621. Fall Roundup is when the Blue Cross Blue Shield representative is avail-

able for comments at the meeting.

Tuesday

■ Conrad's Grocers Against Cancer Day will be from 10 a.m., to 6 p.m., Tuesday. A percentage of sales will go to the American Cancer Society. Crittenden County ACS board members will have cancer information and a donation jar. Come out and see who the "Celebrity Bagger" is to bag and carry your groceries to your car.

■ Crittenden County Farm Bureau is taking orders for its 2007 citrus fruit. Any Farm Bureau member who would like to place an order should stop by the office or call 965-4624 by Tuesday.

■ The Democratic Women of Crittenden County will meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday at Thom's Sweet Shoppe. Officers will be elected at this meeting. All Democratic Women are invited to attend.

■ Even Start will be sponsoring a session on Communication Skills presented by Jim Littlejohn from West Kentucky Educational Cooperative. The session will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday at the Even Start building across the parking lot in front of CCES. This session is open to the public. For more, call Even Start at 965-9760.

Wednesday

■ On Halloween, a party and chair volleyball will take place at the senior citizens center on North Walker Street. The center opens at 8:30 a.m.

■ The Crittenden Press will be taking photos of ghouls and goblins Halloween from 3 to 6 p.m. Bring your child in costume to have his or her photo in the Nov. 8 issue of The Crittenden Press. Photos are \$10 each. You can also e-mail your own photo to information @the-press.com

Next Thursday

■ The ever-popular Womanless Wedding will once again hit the stage at Fohs Hall. The joining of Tiny Oats to J. Fliverton Barley will be 7:30 p.m., next Thursday. Proceeds from this much-anticipated event will help fund repairs to the roof of historic Fohs Hall.

■ The Braxton McDonald Foundation is accepting applications for grants. Applications and criteria may be picked up at Farmers Bank and the Historical Museum. Send completed application by next Thursday to

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Upcoming flu shot clinics

Pennyryle District Health Department flu clinics include:

■ Crittenden County, \$20*, next Thursday from 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., at the Crittenden County Ed-Tech Center, 200 Industrial Drive in Marion.

■ Livingston County, \$20*, Tuesday from 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., at the Senior Citizens Center, 508 Rudd St., in Smithland.

■ Caldwell County, \$20*, Monday from 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., at the Caldwell County Senior Citizens Center, 200 Eagle St., in Princeton.

■ Lyon County, \$20*, next Wednesday from 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., Eddyville First Baptist Church, on the corner of Church Place and Jenkins streets.

All Pennyryle District flu shot clinics are only for those 19 years of age and older. For those 18 years of age and younger, parents should



call their local health department to schedule an appointment.

*A patient's Medicaid and Medicare Part B can be billed.

■ CVS Pharmacy in Marion will also host a flu vaccination clinic Nov. 2 from 10 a.m., to 2 p.m. Shots are \$30, with a \$3 discount with a CVS ExtraCare card.

Brenda Underdown, 139 Oak Hill Drive, Marion, KY 42064.

Upcoming

■ The Sons of the American Legion, Post 217 in Burna will have a membership drive at 5 p.m., Nov. 2. There will be a chili and hot dog supper for \$5 per person. This includes a drink and dessert. Tickets for a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun are available.

■ Salem Masonic Lodge No. 81 will be selling a Deer Hunter's Lunch from noon to 6 p.m., Nov. 10. Hamburgers and chili will be served, and anyone is welcome.



Springs

■ Hunters are welcome at the Poor Man's Supper 4:30 to 7 p.m., Nov. 9 at the Carrsville Community Center. All you can eat. Adult \$5, children \$3.50 (12 and under). The supper will benefit the Lola-Joy homemakers.

■ Ventriloquist Dale Brown of Wisconsin will appear at Fohs Hall Nov. 10, commemorating the 90th birthday of his second-grade teacher, Helen Springs of Marion.

The event starts at 7 p.m., and reserve tickets are \$15. Tickets at the door will be \$10.

Words cannot express our sincere gratitude to our friends and family during the long illness and the passing of our beloved husband and father, Rev. Loyd Harris. Thank you for the visits, calls, cards, flowers, food, gifts and the online condolences. A special thank you to Dr. Bharme and the staffs of Crittenden Health Systems and Marion Home Health. Thank you to Revs Jim Ashford, Tom Easley and Robert Patton for your comforting words. Thank you also to Rev. Charles Brantley, Becky Cook and Mary Helen Hodges for the beautiful music. Most of all, we appreciate your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us. May God bless each of you.

Wife, Melva
Children: Keith, Gary, Barbara & families



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snaps Heritage Day

Christmas in Marion



An estimated 1,173 people from at least 15 states attended the 20th annual Christmas in Marion at Fohs Hall last weekend, according to Crittenden County Extension Homemakers Nancy Hunt. "One group from Oklahoma said they search for information on the Web and came to the area to visit the craft show and the Amish community, Hunt said. "A group from Florida was passing through town and saw the signs and decided to visit the show." This was the last year the Homemakers will sponsor the show. The 2008 show will be coordinated by the Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation. CAF representatives Kim Hunt, Nancy's daughter, and Kathleen Guess visited with each of the crafters on Sunday to discuss plans for the 2008 show. "Christmas in Marion will be reduced to a one day show next year, but otherwise it will continue virtually unchanged," Kim said, adding that the show will maintain its usual date and time on the third Saturday in October at Fohs Hall. "Both vendors and the over 1000 patrons can expect to see the same quality show that they have experienced for the last 20 years."



Above, Kathleen Guess recovers after a plate of Cool Whip was tossed in her face at the pie-throwing booth set up on the courthouse lawn Saturday. Below, Gavin Davidson's pumpkin, clad in a backward baseball cap, won the pumpkin decorating contest from the Marion Tourism Commission. Meantime, the Fall Yard winner is Marion Feed Mill and the Halloween Yard winner is Rebecca Johnson. The Cash Express Cookie Staking contests were won by Ryan Turner (5 and under), Mitchell Joyce (6-9), Kaitlyn Myers (10-13) and Cindy Mason (14 and up).



Percy Cook (left) maintained a mini-petting zoo Saturday at the Crittenden County Historical Museum's log cabin on North College Street. Cook brought two of his miniature horses for children – and a few adults – to enjoy. Above, 15-month-old Hayden Sykes takes pause for his mom, Gala Sykes, to pet a brown mare while his aunt, D'Arcy Belt, contemplates a pat to the head.



Twenty-two youngsters hooked up for the 12th annual FFA Pedal Tractor Pull at the Heritage Day festival last Saturday. The kids go by age classes – which are 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 – to see who can pedal the tractor further with the sled behind them. If they get full pulls then there is another round until not more than one puller has a full pull. There were three plaques given out in each of the three categories. In the 3- to 4-year-old category, third place was Holden Cooksey, second was Xander Tabor and first was Jimmy Newland. In the 5- to 6-year-old category, third place was Hannah Cooksey, second was Brandy Book and first place was Kyonna Ross. In the 7- to 8-year-old category third place was Destiny Todd (left), second place was Devin Ramage (right) and first place was Alexis Tabor (center).

The headline event at the Heritage Day stage was the annual Little Mr. and Miss Heritage Day Contest for youth. The Beta Sigma Phi Zeta Alpha event drew 35 contestants, with winners in several different age categories. Taking home top glory for the guys was Bryan Chaney, pictured with his grandfather, Roger Croft. For the girls, Taylor Guess, was rated tops by the judges.



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