

The Crittenden Press

Crittenden County Elementary
School honor roll | Page 9

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Free dumping offered by county

Just in time for spring cleanup, Crittenden County will offer free dumping next week at its convenience center off U.S. 60 East. The program will see the disposal center open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17 and 18, according to Solid Waste Coordinator Sue Padgett. Large items, including furniture and appliances, will be accepted, but tires will not be taken. Disposal of household garbage will still require a fee.

MPD has opening for new patrolman

Marion Police Department has an opening for a patrolman following the resignation last Wednesday of police veteran Jerry Parker. Police Chief Ray O'Neal said Parker resigned in good standing after seven years with the department. MPD currently has five officers — Bobby West, Heath Martin, George Foster, Robert Harris and Chief O'Neal.

Paul tosses hat in presidential ring

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is now ready to test how much change voters want, both for their government and for the GOP. The tea party favorite and frequent antagonist of leaders of his Republican Party began his White House campaign Tuesday, kicking off the run with a rally in downtown Louisville. He was then left for early nominating states with a pitch aimed at the libertarian corners of the GOP. Paul, whose father Ron has run unsuccessfully for president three times, begins the 2016 race as the second fully declared candidate, behind Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. But he could face as many as 20 rivals for the nomination before the lead-off Iowa caucuses early next year.

— The Associated Press

Meetings

- Crittenden County Election Board will meet at 9 a.m. Friday in the county clerk's office.
- Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. Monday for its regular monthly meeting in the North Livingston County Elementary School library in Burma.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday for its monthly working session in the Rocket Arena conference room.
- Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m. next Thursday in the judge-executive's courthouse office. First reading of the 2015-16 Crittenden Fiscal Court budget will be given.
- Livingston Fiscal Court will meet at 5:30 p.m. next Thursday at the judicial center in Smithland.



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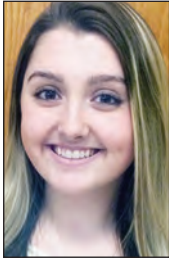


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CCHS teens accepted to new math, science academy

By JASON TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Two Crittenden County High School students have been selected to join the inaugural class of the prestigious Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. Kaitlyn Gayle Wheeler, the daughter of Bill and Kory Wheeler of Marion, and Audrey Lee Smith, the daughter of Chris and Stephanie Smith of Fredonia, are two of 60 students representing 36 counties in Kentucky selected to be part of the Craft Academy's Class of 2017. The academy will open in August on the campus of Morehead State University in Morehead, Ky. The Craft Academy was created during the 2015 General Assembly as a line item to allow exceptional high



Wheeler



Smith

school juniors and seniors across the Commonwealth to attend a boarding school-type academy on the Morehead campus. House Bill 232 authorizes the Craft Academy to issue state scholarships and high school diplomas. It will provide college-level curriculum that al-

lows students to finish high school while also completing up to two years of university coursework. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in their local high school graduation as well as the Academy graduation.

In his remarks last month during the signing ceremony to finalize legislation that created the academy, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said much like the Gatton Academy, which is located on the Western Kentucky University campus, the Craft Academy provides another tool for the state in preparing its future leaders. On March 30, both Wheeler and Smith received their class schedules for the fall semester during the academy's orientation day. For Wheeler, attending the Craft Academy means gaining additional rigor in her educational experience. Her first semester will focus on mathematics and psychology. However, she wants to explore all the various educa-

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Power of pink



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS, THE PRESS

Crittenden Health Systems Auxiliary at any given time has hundreds of donated books for sale to patrons of the hospital for only a quarter each. Not only do the books help those in waiting rooms and patients convalescing pass time, they generate money that goes into improvements at the hospital. Pictured above (from left), Barbara Riley, Muriel Hughes and Melva Harris display their carts filled with dozens of books of just about every genre.

Auxiliary books fund CHS projects

STAFF REPORT

It's not the library, but the hospital is a place where time can be passed more gently with lines of a book. Whether it is in the waiting room or convalescing in a bed, local hospital patrons are fortunate to have a seemingly endless supply of reading material available in the lobby. Crittenden Health Systems'

Auxiliary sells books for a mere quarter each. "Twenty-five cents isn't too much for anyone," said Muriel Hughes, one of the ladies in pink who manages the hospital foyer and gift shop. Donors give the books to the auxiliary, which turns the profit into bedding, mattresses, chairs for the waiting room and even some remodeling projects at the

health care facility. "It's the best money maker we've ever had," said auxiliary member Melva Harris. The ladies accept used books from anyone, and they're not particular about the genre. However, Harris said love-inspired books seem to move the quickest. "When people get through

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CCES enacts nut-restricted food policy

By DARYL K. TABOR
PRESS EDITOR

It's a lunch-time staple for many American families with children, but a peanut butter and jelly sandwich can be a serious health risk to a growing number of people, particularly the youngest segment of the nation's population. That's why the local school district has enacted a peanut/nut-restricted policy at Crittenden County Elementary School. The restrictions are campus-wide and started



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Crider showcases vocal gift at Carson Center on April 18

By JASON TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Corey Crider doesn't perform close to home very often. Usually he's performing in faraway cities like Chicago. Currently, he is in Texas rehearsing for Amarillo Opera's upcoming production of "Les Miserables." But this month, for one night only, Crider will perform at Paducah's Carson Center, where he'll have the opportunity to showcase his vocal talent fewer than 50 miles from his hometown. The Marion native will be a guest soloist April 18 as the Paducah Symphony Orchestra

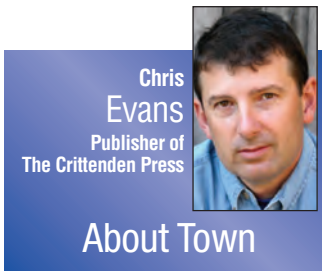


Crider

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Rural hospitals' future appears bleak without community support

Lindell and Pauline Dolan owned and operated a small country grocery store until the late 1970s in rural western Tennessee where I grew up. It was a thriving business for many years, serving customers from a fairly broad area. However, when Walmart opened 8 miles up the road in the county seat, their business was inevitably crippled. Dolan's Grocery pumped gas, sold feed, milk, bread, cold drinks, canned goods and a variety of in-season fresh vegetables. There was a wood-burning stove and a church pew in the back of the store where men from around the community would huddle to play checkers and smoke cigars. In many ways, that little country store was the center of the community. I will never forget the day



About Town

the auction company showed up to sell everything. It was my grandparents' store. My disheartenment was real even for a young boy. There to help pack boxes and load cars as the auction ended, I recall the sadness that filled those who came to buy and simply observe the final chapter of a community icon. It was a depressing day, yet fond memories remain of the times when I thought the entire candy section belonged to me. Change can be wonderful,

inevitable and, yet, equally painful. As I watch our state and country's health care system move into the dawn of a new era under the Affordable Care Act, I wonder just how affordable — and how accessible — treatment will be in the coming years, especially for rural folks. I have a feeling that this change will be of the painful variety. Rural hospitals like the one in Marion serve almost half of Kentucky's entire population. Like the hospital here, most of them in small communities serve a large number of uninsured, poor and aged citizens. When we lost little country grocery stores, it was not because they failed as viable businesses; it was because the folks in the neighborhood started driving past them en route to the large discount

department stores that popped up in town. When people forsook Dolan's Grocery in order to save less than two bits on a gallon of milk, they lost more than they ever bargained for. And we lost part of Americana. We've seen the same right here. When I first came to Crittenden County, there were country groceries in Dy-cusburg, Mattoon, Tolu and Sheridan. They are all gone, and that bit of our culture will never be recaptured. Our rural hospitals are headed down the same path of extinction unless we recognize and reverse the trend. "We were all surprised when the little country stores closed, but it was our fault," said Charlie Hunt, who is chairman of the volunteer board of directors that oversees management of Crittenden Health Systems, our

local hospital and affiliated services. "The only way for rural hospitals to survive is through community support," Hunt says with the luxury of hindsight and a distinct understanding of what's in store for the future. I have talked with Hunt, hospital CEO Greg McNeil and other administrators and health care workers in the last few weeks since the facility held its annual business meeting and unveiled its somewhat optimistic, yet very tenuous financial condition. Last week's report from State Auditor Adam Edelen backs up the discussions we've been having here — and in every small hamlet between Fulton and the Cumberland Gap. Our rural health care is

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Community leaders at Tuesday signing of a document proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Crittenden County are (from left) Robin Curnel, Staci Blackburn, Julie Brooks, Community Educator Holly White, Crittenden County Schools Superintendent Vince Clark, Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers and Newcom (seated).

Officials team together to raise child abuse awareness

STAFF REPORT

Raising awareness on a sensitive but important issue, that's the goal of local leaders who joined Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom Tuesday afternoon during a signing ceremony proclaiming April Child Abuse Prevention Month in Crittenden County.

Officials are bringing awareness to the matter by hosting a variety of events this month, including Wear Blue Day on April 24. In addition, pinwheels, which symbolize child abuse prevention awareness, will be placed along school grounds and other locations within the community.

In the proclamation, Newcom urges all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community.

Child abuse is considered to be one of the nation's most serious public health problems. Scientific studies link the abuse and neglect of children with a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavior disorders.

Officials want to demonstrate the importance of families and communities working together to stop child abuse.

NEWS BRIEFS

Juvenile suspected in county shooting

A Crittenden County juvenile has been charged with felony wanton endangerment for allegedly firing multiple rounds from a handgun in the vicinity of another person driving an ATV.

Crittenden County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident which is believed to have occurred on March 29 on Blackford Church Road in rural Crittenden County.

Although no names have been released because the case involves a juvenile suspect, local authorities say the court is considering certifying the 17-year-old male as an adult due to the seriousness of the alleged crime.

No one was injured, according to the sheriff's office.

The suspect was apparently in the driver's side of a moving vehicle and there was an ATV with one person on board following behind the vehicle. Shots were allegedly fired from the passenger side of the vehicle.

No other information was available from public records, because of the juvenile's involvement. At this time, there have been no charges filed against the unnamed driver of the vehicle.

Local law enforcement has arrested a man who was identified through DNA left behind at a crime scene.

Crittenden County Sheriff's Deputy Don Perry arrested

Louisville resident Brandon Jagers, 33, after officials say he stole property from a Jefferson County residence, including firearms. He was an inmate at Crittenden County Detention Center when Perry issued the arrest warrant.

Brandon Jagers, 33, is accused of stealing the property from the home on May 15, 2013, according to an official police warrant.

Official records say Jagers dropped a cigarette while he was inside the residence. Investigators collected the cigarette and had it sent to a Kentucky State Police lab for analysis. Authorities say Jagers was "positively identified through DNA profile."

Police have charged Jagers with one count of burglary. He remains lodged in Crittenden County

— The Associated Press

have called the center in a very emotional state, scared they were in trouble.

"I've had elderly people calling in tears," she said.

Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway said someone claiming to be a representative from the IRS who is threatening to take legal action is a strong indicator that it's not really the IRS. Additionally, when the IRS first contacts a taxpayer, they do so via mail, not by phone.

Callers may also demand payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer; however, the IRS doesn't ask for either of these payment methods, nor will they ask for credit card numbers.

Don't provide any account or other personal information, Conway warns. Simply hang up the phone.

IRS scam making rounds again locally

Area residents are warned to protect themselves from fraud and be vigilant of phone scams claiming to be associated with the IRS.

Recently, several people have reported they have been contacted by scammers identifying themselves as IRS representatives. The scammers are telling victims they owe money to the IRS. These scammers have also left voice messages stating that the victim must take care of a "time-sensitive matter" and return the call, or the IRS will take legal action against the victim.

Local 911 dispatcher Tina Newcom said some residents

Minor quake felt felt last Wednesday

There was a rumbling both above and below the ground in the area last week.

As thunderstorms rolled across the tri-state region after dark last Wednesday, a 3.6 magnitude earthquake struck the New Madrid Fault Zone. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the tremor occurred at 10:51 p.m. in the bootheel of Missouri near Steele. The USGS originally labeled the shaking a 4.0 magnitude, but downgraded the measurement.

People from western Kentucky, southern Illinois and northwest Tennessee felt the tremor. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

NUTS

Continued from Page 1

Monday with school officials monitoring students' lunches for peanut- or nut-containing products. Parents were notified of the new policy in a letter sent home with students on March 27, before spring break.

The need for a restricted policy was first explored after parents of multiple students

with allergies to peanuts and tree nuts expressed their concerns before the school-based decision making (SBDM) council about the elementary school's doctrine toward the growing and dangerous food allergen. That was almost two years ago, according to CCES Principal Melissa Tabor.

"We have been researching this for a year and a half," she said of implementing the peanut/nut-restricted policy.

"We had a wellness committee overseeing this, researching about 20 other school districts that have done this."

The decision was made at the SBDM-level to establish the new policy. The council includes Tabor and teacher and parent representatives.

Tabor said there are at least five students at the school with proven nut allergies, which can bring on severe rashes, swelling and life-threatening

breathing difficulties. Even small amounts of allergens can create serious problems, and nuts do not have to be ingested to do so. Skin contact, even inhalation of allergen molecules can cue a reaction.

Because of the possibility of cross-contamination, a campus-wide, comprehensive avoidance of foods containing nuts was deemed to be the best solution to reduce the health risks to students with aller-

gens, Tabor indicated.

Crittenden County School District Superintendent Vince Clark said he supports the action taken at the elementary school, despite the argument that the policy can be a burden on parents when it comes to packing lunches for finicky eaters who may rely on PB&J sandwiches and snack crackers containing peanut butter to get them through the day.

"There are valid points on

each side of the issue," he said. "Ultimately, we have to support efforts to offer a safer learning environment for the children."

Tabor emphasized that students who bring peanut or nut products to school will not be punished or isolated. She said two cafeteria tables are available for each class, with one designated as nut-free.

Peanut and tree nut allergies plague an estimated 19 million Americans.

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