

School system checking out its finances

Energy costs taking a bite out of budget

BY ALLISON EVANS
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

The Crittenden County School District is in sound financial shape, according to Dennis Driver. As the certified public accountant who performs the school district's annual financial audit, Driver said the district's financial condition is as good as other districts he works with in Kentucky.

"It's operating well," he said.

"There are some procedural things, but I congratulate you on having good personnel and a good system."

Driver reported findings from the June 2006 audit to the board of education Nov. 14. His report notes no weaknesses in the financial reporting and operation but did mention one minor error with regard to four invoices predating purchase order dates. He said the error percentage is tolerable.

A couple of highlights of the 2006 audit findings include the following:

•The district experienced an \$84,000 increase in fuel and utility costs as energy prices spiked during the past year.

•Just over \$160,000 of the district's reserves were used to make up for a difference between \$10.7 mil-

lion in expenses and \$10.5 in revenue in fiscal year 2006 ending June 30.

•Substitute teaching expenses dropped 26 percent in 2006, resulting in a savings of \$44,000. Part of that is attributed to an attendance incentive program offered to teachers.

In other financial business, the board received information on transportation costs as part of an ongoing internal review initiated by the board in September.

Board members are taking a thorough department-by-department look at finances over the next few months at the recommendation of Superintendent John Belt.

The board was poised to raise taxes during the summer; however, it

voted to conduct an internal financial audit before revisiting the issue in 2007.

The transportation report prepared by school system finance officer Brent Highfill shows diesel costs have more than doubled since 2000, consistently rising each year despite a reduction in the number of miles traveled by buses since 1997.

The transportation budget, excluding salaries, is \$249,444 in fiscal year 2007 with 28 percent of that spent at the end of October.

Information provided by transportation manager Sharon Murray shows an average of 1,470 miles driven each school day by Crittenden County buses.

Diesel costs

The Crittenden School District's expenditures for diesel fuel during the past 11 years show a marked increase during the past few years as energy prices have skyrocketed.

1996	.....	\$27,880.00
1997	.....	\$30,774.69
1998	.....	\$20,858.59
1999	.....	\$21,991.76
2000	.....	\$33,653.22
2001	.....	\$40,143.05
2002	.....	\$32,018.19
2003	.....	\$38,241.64
2004	.....	\$51,122.02
2005	.....	\$50,676.39
2006	.....	\$87,928.40



Local students (bottom left) examine a mural painted by Crittenden County students several years ago which has just now been displayed publicly. Crews hung the tiled mural outside Larry Orr's CPA office on Main Street. The 30x8 painting, depicts county life, including the Amish community, fluorspar mining and Marion's gazebo.

MARSHALS

Continued from page 1A
Copperas Springs. She also worked at Bells Mines, Mattoon and Marion.

In the early 60s she and her husband, Torian, moved to Missouri. She continued to teach, educating fifth and sixth graders in reading and social studies.

"There is no better profession," said Collins.

They returned to Marion in the late 1970s and worked with 4-H students.

"My 4-H kids are so loyal...they still come to see me," said Collins.

Tibbs also worked as a school teacher for a short time, but her true passion was accounting and book keeping.

"I enjoyed book keeping," she said. "I like working with numbers."

Tibbs' teaching experience was not limited to the school house. She is currently a Sunday school teacher at Marion Baptist Church.

"I teach how (the Bible)

applies to our lives," said Tibbs.

Tibbs became a Christian in 1922 at a revival service.

Tibbs also enjoys teaching children and usually focuses her lessons on Jesus.

Anna Collins is also a member of the church and is one of Tibbs' students.

Both women have lived in Crittenden County for many years and say it is a wonderful place.

"I like the people, they're very friendly," said Tibbs, who moved to Marion Dec. 7, 1941, the day the Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor.

The early part of Tibbs' life was spent in Murray, where she was born.

She married her husband John in 1946. The couple have a step-son, Mike.

Collins was born in Crittenden County.

"It's home and that is where the heart is," said Collins, who has four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Tibbs and Collins say they

are excited about the upcoming parade.

"I hope I'm up to the honor," says Collins.

"I think it will be a lot of fun," says Tibbs.

TREE

Continued from page 1A
ly 40 singers amid literally thousands of lights.

This year's presentation includes 10 upbeat holiday musical selections. The music spans from traditional carol favorites to contemporary festive holiday songs. Live piano accompaniment for the tree will be provided by Regina Merrick. Choir members have been rehearsing since October.

A vast array of volunteers help to plan, construct, decorate and perform in the tree. It is truly a community-wide project, uniting all ages and backgrounds in a very special experience of holiday celebration.

LIGHTS

Continued from page 1A
to help, the judge said.

Later, once the lift's diesel tank was full, it failed to restart.

"They had to go find Ray Mast and have him come work on the engine while we were stuck up there," Brown said, chucking about the incident a few days later.

Eventually, the rig was repaired and Brown and Rogers were safely brought back to earth.

Despite the temporary setback in decorating the courthouse lawn, Brown said the holiday spirit was salvaged and work resumed on hanging 100,000 lights around the courthouse.

"This is going to be the best year yet," Brown said of the decorations.

Under the direction of Ron Padgett, a volunteer whose wife works at the courthouse, this is the third season for sprucing up the square for the holidays.

"I can't say enough about Ron Padgett," Brown said. "The people who enjoy these lights owe him a great deal of gratitude. This just wouldn't happen without him."

Brown said others are donating time and money to help decorate the courthouse. To date, close to \$2,000 has been collected to help buy the lights and other decorations. Donations are still being accepted.

"We plan to have every-

thing ready for the Christmas parade Saturday," Brown said. The parade starts at 4 p.m.

"We think decorating downtown shows community pride," Brown said. "The flag pole is lit with red, white and blue LED lights and it's magnificent looking."

"Ron put green lights on the pruned tree beside of the courthouse and it looks like a cactus and he's made the tractor and sled out back look like the wheels are moving. It's going to be quite a show."

Seasonal music is being broadcast from the courthouse. Music is being played during the daylight hours only.

ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION

Saturday December 2, 2006 10:00 AM

BETWEEN:
SMITHLAND, KY & MARION, KY

Farm Location: LEMAN LANDING ROAD, BURNA, KENTUCKY

From Smithland, KY Take 60 East 8.5 Miles To Burna, KY At Hwy. 1433 Proceed South 3 Miles To Lemman Landing Road Signs Posted!. From Marion, KY Take Hwy. 60 West 16.5 Miles To Hwy. 1433, Proceed South 3 Miles To Lemman Landing Road. **Signs Posted!** Auction Held At Deb's Restaurant In Burna (Former IGA Building On Hwy. 60 East)

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COUNTRY HOME - Beautiful 2 story home. Main level has 2 story foyer w/woven staircase, living rm w/gas fireplace, dining rm w/French doors, large kitchen w/eat-in area, laundry rm & a 1/2 bath. Upstairs has 3 bedrms, 2 baths, & office. 2 car attached garage, wrap around porch that covers 3 sides, 1st above ground pool all on 4.26 acres. **IF FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD** - Nestled at the end of the street and shaded by mature trees is this 3 bedroom home with kitchen, living room, family room and utility room. It has a new central H/A system, thermal tilt windows, a new roof and a 2 car garage. Priced at \$59,000.00. **IC OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS** - Car & Truck Service Center, 5130 sq.ft. metal building with office & waiting room, 2 restrooms & all the equipment for most any car or truck repair. Tire service for most any car or truck & lots of tools. Fork lift along with all other equipment, parts & tire inventory sell with the real estate as a package. Also a service wrecker & 2 service trucks. A great going business. \$350,000.00. **ED BETTER THAN NEW REMODELED** - 3 br, 1 bath home w/living rm, big eat-in kitchen w/ap. Plenty of cabinets, big attached garage. Outside bldg. 2 car metal carport, nice landscaping. 2 1/2 +/- acres. \$64,900.00. **TD RUN DON'T WALK** - to this home. Features 2 bedrms, bath, dining room, kitchen with appliances, & living room. Ferri in back yard, Paved drive, 1 car garage. Home is in Great condition. Price \$44,900.00. **ME LOTS OF ROOM** - It's close to town and there's lots of room in this 4 bedroom, (could be 5) home. It has 2 baths, a family room, kitchen & dining room. There's a large fenced yard. This could be a 2 family home. Price \$39,000.00. **MR READY TO MOVE IN** - Come look at this brick ranch shaded by mature trees. It's a 3 br, 1 ba home with living room, kitchen, complete with appliances and dining area. A 1 car attached garage, window air, a large storage building located on a 1 +/- acre corner lot. Reduced from \$76,500.00 to \$67,500.00. **RB YOUR CHOICE** - **MAKE IT BUSINESS OR MAKE IT A HOME** - This versatile 3 br ranch is currently used for business but could easily become your home. Central h/a, paved drive, deep lot. Owner motivated to sell, price reduced from \$65,000.00 to \$55,000.00. **DB JUST RIGHT FOR YOU** - This is a 3 br, 1 bath with living rm, kitchen w/ap, & a 1 +/- acre lot. Priced to own at \$53,000.00. **JS SALEM, KY** - 3 br, 2 bath brick home. Living rm w. gas log fireplace, kitchen dining combo & has a 1/2 bathroom, a carport, 3 car garage & lots of shade trees. Priced to sell. **LS COLEMAN ROAD** - 3 br, brick ranch, 2 baths, fam rm w/built in work space, eat-in kitchen w/dish-washer, laundry rm, central h/a, nice screened back porch, carport, 2 bldgs, nice neighborhood, less than 1 mile from town. **RV VERY PRIVATE** - 3 br, 2 bath double wide w/eat-in kitchen, nice Berber carpet, laundry rm, deck in back, central H/A, 22+/- acres, barn, pond, fenced, storm shelter, good hunting area. \$69,500.00 This Won't Last Long. **DD PRETTY AS A PICTURE** - 3br, 2 bath home, kitchen w/dishwasher, refrigerator neg., laundry rm, central h/a, heat pump, nice work-shop on back of garage w/concrete floor. Storm cellar. Home is only 7 years old. **DK NEW LISTING - MOBILE HOME HWY 60** - 1995 model, 16x80 mobile home, 3 br, 2 bath, w/ front porch. Can be moved or remain on rental lot. \$20,000.00. **EC NEW LISTING - PEACEFUL** - 2 br, home w/living rm big eat-in kitchen, laundry rm, & basement. Located on 5 +/- acres \$54,500.00. **EN NEW LISTING - LEVIAS ROAD** - 2 br, 2 bath ranch home w/family rm, kitchen w/ile counter top, wet sink complete w/ap., dining rm, laundry rm, walk out basement w/room for 2 additional cars, a bath & family rm, has county water. 2+/- acres. **tg**

ON THE LOLA ROAD - 3 br, 2 bath, living rm w/fireplace w/gas logs, den, laundry rm w/storage, double carport w/storage, 10x12 bldg, back porch & fenced back yard. 1/2 +/- acre corner lot, Salem. **hw**

NEW LISTING - HWY 60 BURNA - Nestled among trees you'll find this 2 br, living rm, eat-in kitchen, lg. laundry rm, bath. All has been remodeled. Nice 14x16 storage bldg with elec. of

NEW LISTING - RELAXED COUNTRY SETTING - Enjoy this setting from either front or back covered porches of this 16 x 80 Dutchman. 2 br, 2 baths, fireplace w/ logs, lots of nice kitchen cabinets. 24 x 32 metal garage w/12 x 16 addition & elec. 20 x 16 storage bldg. w/elec. In-ground storm shelter. 1 +/- acres. **wh**

NEW LISTING - MINUTES FROM TOWN - 2 br, 2 bath mobile home w/ front & back porches, central h/a, detached garage, stocked pond, some 5+/- acre. \$45,900.00. **am**

NEW LISTING - WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE - 3 br, 2 bath brick ranch, living rm, kitchen w/ap., family rm and laundry rm, big eat-in kitchen w/ap. deck w/ hot tub and beautiful landscaping. 3 car metal garage w/little space, 2 more storage bldgs. All this on 1.45+/- acres. **ph**

WAITING FOR A FAMILY - 2 or 3 br, 2 bath, dining rm, basement, w/ w/ concrete floor & electricity, central h/a \$39,500.00. **np**

NEW LISTING - BACK TO NATURE - 2 br w/garage, 11+/- acres w/8 +/- acres wooded, lots of game, a creek, 1/2 mile from town, some fencing. Approx. 1/2 miles from town. \$49,000.00. **jc**

NEW LISTING - GREAT POSSIBILITIES - This is a 14 rm house. Contains apartments w/separate entrances or one big family house. There's a 2 car garage & a beautiful level lot. Call today. Price reduced to \$55,000.00. **dw**

NEW LISTING - A HUNTER'S PARADISE - 380 +/- ACRES - Lots of hardwood trees, some tillable acres, several ponds, electric & county water, lots of deer & turkey, some older bldgs. also. This won't last. **rw**

NEW LISTING - MATTOON AREA - 3 br, 2 bath, kitchen/dining combo, 40x50 barn, 30x40 shed and an additional older home on property. All on 5+/- acres w/pond. Reduced to \$39,500.00. **dm**

NEW LISTING - CONVENIENT LOCATION - This is a 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with dining room, hardwood floors in the living room & dining room. It has carpeted bedrooms, an unfinished basement with shower, a carport, detached garage/workshop & paved drive. There are new windows, wiring & electrical box, plumbing, sewer line & roof. It has a nice backyard and is conveniently located at 412 E. Bellville St., Marion. Priced at \$58,500.00. **rs**

COMPLETELY REDECORATED - Extra nice 3 br, 1 1/2 bath, dining room, kitchen, hardwood floors & carpeting, 2 car garage, 12x12 back porch, lots of extras. **ju**

NEW LISTING - CALVERT CITY - 3 br, living rm, kitchen, dining rm, double carport used previously as a business, 3 cut bldgs, fenced yard. **td**

NEW LISTING - PRICED RIGHT - No need to rent when you can buy this home. It's a 3 or 4 br, 1 bath, living rm, w/lc, eat-in kitchen, dining rm, dining rm, foyer and laundry rm. Shaded deep lot, garage and central air. Located 212 W. Depot St. **mc**

NEW LISTING - LARGE HOME IN TOWN - Brick 3 br, 1 1/2 bath, eat-in kitchen w/pantry, living/dining combo., a carport, detached garage/workshop & carpeting. Call for details. **ss**

NEW LISTING - WON'T LAST - 3 br, bath, laundry rm, fam rm, kitchen, living rm, and 1 1/2 +/- acre. Call for details. **ss**

REMODELED - 2 br, 1 bath, basement, new carpet, new kitchen cabinets, nice lot. Owner wants offer now! Was 47,000.00 Now 37,500.00 Owner Wants Offer. **jn**

BEAUTIFUL 2 STORY HOME - 4 br, 2 1/2 bath, formal din. rm, eat-in kit., fam. rm, foyer, beautiful white columns on front porch, lg. screened in back porch, w/ basement, 2 car garage, central H/A, dw **MAKE OFFER-OWNER READY TO SELL!** Immaculate, move right in, 3 br, 2 bath, eat-in kitchen, nice cabinets, appliances stay, formal dining rm, fam. rm, private patio, laundry rm, 2 car carport w/storage rm, 20x16 bldg. w/ concrete floor, yard fenced & corner lot. Was 119,000.00 Now 99,000.00. **dh**

READY TO MOVE IN? - Come look at this brick ranch shaded by mature trees, 3 br, w/living rm, kitchen, w/appliances & dining area. Attached 1 car garage, window air & large storage bldg. Located on 1+/- acre corner lot. **rb**

NEW LISTING - YOUR CHOICE - Business or home in high traffic area. 7 rooms, 1 bath, paved driveway, located on a deep lot. \$65,000.00. **db**

COUNTRY LISTING AT ITS BEST - Beautiful brick home on 24.39 acres. 2 or 3 br, family rm, liv. rm w/fireplace, kitchen, dining room, cherry front cabinets, din. rm & 2 baths, 12x16 storage bldg, beautiful landscaping. Just 5 minutes from town. This won't last long. Call for appointment. **bb**

NEW LISTING - EXCELLENT LOCATION - A 3 br, 2 bath ranch style home. It has a family rm, an eat-in-kitchen w/central laundry rm, central h/a, detached 2 car garage, storage bldg, & paved drive. \$65,400.00. **md**

NEW LISTING - IN THE SULLIVAN AREA - 2 br home, 1 1/2 bath kitchen, living room, Reduced to \$25,000.00. **ec**

LOTS & ACREAGE

29 +/- ACRES - Wooded on Irma White Road. Secluded, lots of wildlife. **eb**

NEW LISTING - 1 +/- acre lot on Levias Road, has septic system, could be used for anything. **tg**

30 ACRES - Located on Levias Road, frontage. \$37,750. **ec**

NEW LISTING - DRIFTWOOD ESTATES - Building lot w/larger mobile home, lake view at Barkley Lake, Eddyville, \$35,000.00. **gd**

BUILDING LOT - North Weldon. **ck**

NEW LISTING - .85 ACRE LOT - A nice lot, located on Hwy. 141 in Union County. Water and electric available. \$3,500.00. **ju**

NEW LISTING - LYON CO. - A SUPER NICE 135.8 ACRE HUNTING FARM - With some tillable acres, electric & county water, small creek. An improved asphalt road splits this farm. Will divide. Won't last long. **ph**

NEW LISTING - 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**

NEW LISTING - 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. **ss**

NEW LISTING - 2 lots in Greenwood Heights, partially wooded, on Circle Dr., \$8,500 and each. **hd**

121 +/- ACRES - 121 +/- acres, good hunting land. **ss**

70.1 +/- ACRES - 70.1 +/- acres, has a creek and a bluff. **ss**

LOT - in town with city utilities. N. Weldon St. \$5,200.00. **ss**

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

BUILDING LOT - Grandview Estates \$8,500. **jn**

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

COMMERCIAL

NEW LISTING-COMMERCIAL BLDG - With approx. 1,200 sq. ft. Located on Main St. on double lot. **ju**

AUCTIONS

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