

# The Crittenden Press

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## Board of Ed asking for input on issues

Crittenden County Board of Education is inviting the community to share with it suggestions that may be used to better assist the economic and educational well-being of the community. In a letter to local leaders, Superintendent John Belt invited the community to one of two meetings at the Ed Tech Center Feb. 12. A noon and 6 p.m., meeting will be held to accommodate all schedules. If you plan to attend, RSVP is requested by Feb. 8 by calling the board office at 965-3525.

## Fohs Hall Ball set for next month

The annual Fohs Hall Ball will be held next month at the historic building in Marion. The romantic, semi-formal affair that includes a meal and live orchestra dance music from The Temple Airs is the main fundraising event for Fohs Hall Inc., each year.

The event started as a part of the building's 75th anniversary celebration. Tickets for the dinner and dance are only \$60 each. Reservations are required. (See ad on page 5A.) Dance-only tickets are \$25. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. For more information or to make reservation for the gala affair, call 965-4055, 965-4999 or 965-4135.

## Bridges to speak at Woman's Club

The February meeting of the Woman's Club of Marion will feature Paula Bridges, nightly news anchor at WPSD NewsChannel 6 in Paducah, as speaker. A Louisville native, Bridges joined WPSD two years ago after stints in Chattanooga, Tenn.; Detroit and Lansing, Mich.; and Toledo, Ohio.

The Midwinter Brunch begins at 10 a.m., Saturday. Make reservations for the brunch through the telephone committee or Helen Lewis at 965-4751.

## 4-H can drive held Feb. 16 in Marion

This year's Crittenden County 4-H aluminum can drive will be held Feb. 16 from 10 a.m., to 1 p.m., at the Lions Club building at the fairgrounds in Marion. Anyone who would like to donate cans may drop them off during that time.

Contributors can let attendants know to which 4-H club the donations should be attributed or the cans may be made as a general donation to the 4-H council. For more information, call the Crittenden County Extension Office at 965-5236.

## Lewzader wins \$471,000 on 'Deal'

Britney Lewzader, the 22-year-old granddaughter-in-law of Rip and Barbara Wheeler of Marion, won big last week on NBC's primetime gameshow "Deal or No Deal." In an episode aired last Wednesday, Lewzader accepted the mysterious banker's deal of \$471,000 to walk away from the show with \$1 million still on the board. Lewzader and her husband Jonathan live in Gilbertsville and plan to use the money to start a family.



## Weather

Reported by UK Ag Weather Service as of Wednesday at Princeton, online at www.gwv.ca.uky.edu.

**Forecast**  
THURSDAY: 6 am Cloudy, 28°; Noon Cloudy, 35°; 6 pm Cloudy, 36°; 9 pm Cloudy, 38°  
FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy, 32°; Mostly cloudy, 33°; Partly cloudy, 32°; Partly cloudy, 30°

**Precipitation report**  
Last 7 days.....0.52 For 2008.....2.08  
Last 30 days.....2.08 Deviation.....-1.47

## Online

Visit the-press.com 24-7 for updates on your local and breaking news, including full-color video and slideshows of events. Send news tips to pressnews@the-press.com.

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## Lady Rockets out of All 'A'

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County's fourth trip to the Kentucky All "A" Classic State Tournament ended in the same fashion as the three previous. This one, however, was much closer.

The Lady Rockets (9-9) lost 46-35 to Louisville Holy Cross (11-5) Wednesday in the opening round of the small-school tournament at Richmond's McBrayer Arena. The girls have lost in each of their four appearances in the state tournament. They also played in the final 16 during 1998, 1999 and 2001.

Crittenden fell behind 12-5 in the first period, but rebounded to lead twice in the first half by one point. Center Jessica Cozart and forward Breanna Cozart battled foul trouble, but were still the top scorers for Crittenden. The Lady Rockets tied the game at 21-apiece with 5:45 to go in the third on a Breanna Cozart basket. However, Holy Cross then took command with a 9-0 run. Breanna Cozart scored 10 points, Jessica Cozart 9, Nancy Maclin 4, Jessi Hodge 4, Ali Shuecraft 2, Summer Courtney 2, Whitney Johnson 2 and Hannah Brantley 2.



Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic

## Shedding myths, pounds

### CCHS teens battle bulge in PE course

**By CHRIS EVANS**  
PRESS EDITOR  
Getting fit has never been more popular at Crittenden County High School.

National trends and some public scrutiny suggest that secondary students are overweight, overly coddled and borderline lethargic, but there's a group of about 80 young men and women in Marion that defies those stereotypes.

Until last year, the high school offered a single one-hour course in advanced physical education. However, the class had become so popular that demand prompted school officials to add two more. Now, with three full classes, the testimonials from students are never ending.

Sophomore Torey Baker is among the dozens who are finding rewards that transcend normal education.

"I have already lost 15 pounds. I've gained muscle and it makes me feel really good about myself," said Baker, who explains that her blood pressure had been too high before she started getting into better physical condition in the physical education class.

"Now my blood pressure is a whole lot better," she said.

Denis Hodge teaches the three classes and students must understand his expectations before they sign up for the class.

"He works the fire out of them and they just keep coming back for more," said CCHS Principal Karen Nasser. "He's developed a very good relationship with all of the students in his class."

Everyone at the school understands Hodge's demand for devotion and full-throttle intensity. It's no secret. A former U.S. Army Ranger, Hodge brings a drill

sergeant's approach to the classroom. From calisthenics and agility drills to the study of proper diet and pumping iron in the weight room, Hodge has created a regimen that demands discipline of mind, body and spirit.

"We've borrowed ideas from all over the place," Hodge said, explaining that the workouts take a little from athletic programs at Murray State and Western Kentucky University and from other programs aimed at health and fitness.

"We encourage proper nutrition to go along with the workouts," he said. A poster on the wall shows students what's good and what's not when it comes to diet.

While some in the class are

See PE/page 2A



Fernandez

## Bingo!



Deavon Davidson (left) and Dot Meredith, both of Marion, enjoy a game of bingo Monday night at the VFW post on North College Street in Marion. The veterans group plays host to bingo every Monday night.

## Marion VFW entertaining dozens Mondays at hall

**By DARYL K. TABOR**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
Somewhere between a B-13 and N-36, Rhonda Skinner decided that Monday night bingo could be a regular occurrence.

"It's our first time, but it won't be our last time," she said, gathered Monday with two friends inside a former hardware store.

With fat ink markers in hand, Skinner and her friends joined dozens of others hunched over a large sheet of nine printed bingo faces while numbers were

announced from the call stand. As the balls magically float around inside a chamber, another ping pong ball with a letter and number pops into the caller's hand.

"I-21," he calls out, as the corresponding spot lights up on a huge board in the corner of the room. Suddenly, a distant "Bingo!" is yelled from another room.

This is bingo night at the Marion VFW. Held every Monday at the former Clark's Building Supply property, it has been drawing about 40 people each week,

said Joe Lanham, one of 77 members of the veterans organization. Cars lined North College Street as the action resumed this night.

"We've got lots of regulars," Lanham said.

"I've been here every week, and all I've won is \$9," joked regular Deavon Davidson, as she turned to her left. "This is my bingo partner."

"And I haven't won a thing," Dot Meredith said with a hearty laugh

See BINGO/page 2A

## Restaurant owner fined in case of service dog

**By DARYL K. TABOR**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
*Komm entlang.*  
That's how Sammy heard the instruction to come along after a district court jury last week upheld a Maryland couple's accusation that a local restaurant owner denied them their right to remain in the establishment with a service dog.

Sammy, a German shepherd service dog who receives his commands in the German language, lingered patiently in a Crittenden County courtroom all day and into the night last Wednesday awaiting the outcome of a district court trial that accused The Front Porch restaurant owner Bill Wheeler of denying accommodations to Dorothea Evans and the dog, Sammy, an 85-pound hearing

assistance dog, lay at Evans' feet when the six-person jury's verdict of guilty was announced after 45 minutes of deliberation and five hours of testimony. The verdict didn't come until 9 p.m., after District Judge Tommy Simpson sent jurors back into deliberation after emerging deadlocked 5-1.

The all-Crittenden County jury eventually found Wheeler in violation of a Kentucky statute that requires persons with an assistance dog be accommodated at a public facility and gave him the minimum fine of \$250.

The Evanses were pleased with the verdict, but disappointed with the penalty.

"We would have preferred a steeper fine."

See TRIAL/page 2A



Dorothea Evans of Maryland gives her service dog Sammy a drink of water last Wednesday in Crittenden District Court.

PHOTOS BY DARYL K. TABOR

## Candidate treatment of military despicable

The New York Times, a very left leaning newspaper, ran an ad - at a discount - for the ungodly blog, MoveOn.org, calling one of our most distinguished and honorable military men Gen. David H. Petraeus, "General Betray Us."

This is expected from this corner of 'hate America first' newspapers, but it should never be tolerated by our elected officials. A resolution in the Senate to disavow the MoveOn.org ad was opposed by all the leading Democratic presidential candidates.

The treatment the Senate gave Gen. Peter Pace, a decorated Marine officer and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs,



Rev. Lucy Tedrick  
**Religious Views**  
Crittenden Press guest columnist

was despicable. Majority leader Reid, who ran an elevator in the capitol during the Vietnam War, accused Pace of being incompetent. Senate leaders attacked Pace because he had the audacity to express his view that both adultery and homosexual behavior are morally wrong, which information he derived

from the Bible that both Reid and Pelosi claim to honor.

The mainstream press also continues to harm our service members. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said in a Wall Street Journal op-ed piece "What is clear to me is that you (referring to the media) are perpetrating the corrosive partisan politics that is destroying our country and killing our service members who are at war." He also lashed out at Congress for rank partisanship, undermining the confidence of the troops.

Too many in our nation have forgotten, if they ever knew, that the willingness to sacrifice on behalf of others is why serving in the military

is considered such high calling and part of what makes just wars.

Thomas Aquinas, one of the early church writers, puts his discussion of just war in the chapter of charity (love) - the love of God and neighbor.

Reformer John Calvin called the soldier an "agent of God's love" because "restraining evil out of love for neighbor is an imitation of God's restraining evil out of love for His creatures."

We as a nation are blessed to have so many precious men and women willing to stand in harm's way on our behalf. But are we, in turn, willing to respect and honor

those sacrificing for us? And as Chuck Colson once said, "If not, can we blame them if one day they decide to lay down their arms?"

"What kind of a world would this be if that happened? We would have a world where evil reigned unchecked by justice, and where the strong would be free to prey on the weak."

"The problem is not with our service members who are serving us nobly and ably in Iraq; it is the political and cultural leaders who are dishonoring them. If most Americans share their attitude, then I say bring the troops home. Why should they risk their lives for an

ungrateful nation."

I say a loud Amen to that, and if the majority of Americans elect either Hillary or Obama as president of this nation, both against the military, both for homosexual extra privileges, both for murdering unborn humans, both for socialization of this nation, we will have proof the majority of this nation is not worth fighting and dying for anymore. If so, I hope they bring all of them home from around the whole world and let us all fight for ourselves or die in the process.

*(Editor's note: Lucy Tedrick is pastor at Marion Church of God. Her column appears weekly in The Press.)*



About 80 Crittenden County High School students have enrolled in Denis Hodge's advanced physical education course. Perhaps there is no better example of the transformation it has started in many students than Marcus George, shown below.

### PE

Continued from Page 1A

looking to drop a few pounds, others desire to add a little body mass.

Sophomore Layton Maxfield said she'd grown tired of classmates making fun of her for being "too skinny."

"I've gone from 107 to 114 pounds and it's all muscle," she said. "I love this class. I am really happy about the results."

While males outnumber females taking the course, it is becoming ever more popular among girls. Hodge says it's not just athletes who are registering for advanced P.E. Students include a cross section of the school and for some it's a way to improve behavior.

Chris Fernandez, a junior, admits that he was a disciplinary problem before he started coming to the class this year. He now goes to the gym second period and that helps him vent all of his pent up energy early in the day so he can be more focused in other classes.

"You can ask all of my teachers, it's helped my behavior," he said. "It keeps me out of trouble. My attitude is quite a bit better and my grades are improving because of that."

Nasseri said school officials are acutely aware of all the benefits students receive from taking the class; improved behavior and attentiveness are two of them.

The personal benefits of feeling healthier and looking

### BEFORE



### AFTER

Crittenden County High School senior Marcus George in eighth grade at left, and now.

better are hard to measure in academic terms, Hodge said. But he sees it on the students' faces. When their improved fitness starts adding up to better grades, well, that's just wonderful, he added. The principal thinks so, too.

"It's a wonderful program that gets results," she said.

Marcus George, a senior, is the designated posterboy for the advanced physical education premise. As an eighth grader, he was overweight and suffered from low self esteem.

A few short years later, which included intense training and improved lifestyle, George has gone from a 215-pound chunky adolescent to a buff 165 pounds that even the most passive couch potato couldn't help but notice. For George, the math was simple. More physical activity minus soft drinks and poor dietary habits equaled a firmer, harder body.

"There are social pressures," George says with a smile, suggesting that being fit

is much better for a teenager's psyche and it helps keep his social calendar full.

"You look better, feel better and being fit helps you socially. Your mental outlook is better and my grades have improved," he said.

### BINGO

Continued from Page 1A

as she was introduced.

But it's not the payouts that the bingo players come for. Many in attendance Monday night said it was for the comradery and entertainment. Three separate rooms connected through a closed-circuit audio and video of the call table allow smokers to enjoy a cigarette, snackers to enjoy the burgers, cakes or hot dogs on hand and casual players to gaze out the front window as the numbers are called.

A \$10 packet gets a player 10 games, with nine bingo

faces on each oversized sheet. A variety of games like traditional bingo, picnic table, kite and picture frame keep the action fresh. Raffles and door prizes add to the allure.

No one expects to get rich from the payouts, but players can easily go home with more money than they had to start. What doesn't go to the players is retained by the VFW to fund a variety of charitable projects aimed at military veterans and the community.

After only four sessions, Lanham is hoping to draw more participants, increasing payouts and contributions.

Bingo runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m., every Monday.

**Attention Lawn Car Services**

**Union Cemetery**

is now taking bids for cemetery grounds. Bids, along with two references, need to be received by **March 1, 2008.**

Please send to:  
Union Cemetery  
c/o Rita Hall  
447 SR 1668  
Marion, KY 42064

**Capitol Cinemas**  
203 W. Main St. • Princeton, KY  
Starts Friday, February 1

**MICHAEL CLAYTON**  
Best Picture Oscar Nomination Starring George Clooney  
Fri. 6:45, 9 • Sat. 1:45, 4, 6:45, 9  
Sun. 1:45, 4, 7 • Mon. - Thur. 5, 7:05

**PIRATES WHO DO NOTHING**  
A VeggieTale Movie  
Fri. 6:45 • Sat. 1:45, 6:45  
Sun. 1:45, 5:15 • Mon. - Thur. 5

**CLOVERFIELD**  
Nation's #1 Box Office Hit  
Fri. 8:30 • Sat. 3:45, 8:30  
Sun. 3:30, 7 • Mon. - Thur. 7

**JUNO**  
Best Picture Oscar Nomination Starring Jennifer Garner and Ellen Page  
Fri. 7, 9 • Sat. 1:45, 3:45, 7, 9  
Sun. 1:45, 3:45, 7 • Mon. - Thur. 5, 7

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## Local man hurt in Illinois wreck

STAFF REPORT

A Marion man was seriously injured in an accident in southern Illinois about 8:41 a.m., Saturday.

Stephon J. Cozart, 38, was traveling on Job Corps Road in Hardin County, Ill., when his vehicle left the roadway and hit a tree. Cozart was extricated from the vehicle by the Rosiclaire Fire Department and taken to Hardin County Hospital. He was later flown to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Friends and family say Cozart, a 1988 graduate of Crittenden County High School, suffered back and spinal injuries. He underwent surgery Tuesday, but it was

not clear whether he would suffer any long-term paralysis due to his injuries.

Meantime in Kentucky, hazardous road conditions led to multiple vehicle collisions in Lyon County, including one that sent Elizabeth Williams of Marion to Caldwell County Hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Apparently, early morning ice was to blame for Williams' wreck on Ky. 295 near Eddyville. Kentucky State Police reported her vehicle struck a legally parked vehicle owned by Frank Williams of Eddyville. The woman's vehicle came to final rest after striking a tree located along the side of the roadway.

### TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

said Joseph Evans, husband of complainant Dorothea Evans.

Neither Wheeler nor his attorney, Alan Stout of Marion, made public comments following verdict.

Joseph said the couple was uncertain if they would seek damages in a civil suit.

"We haven't decided that yet," he said this week after returning to their home in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Special prosecutor Bruce Moore of Morganfield called the trial a win-lose situation.

"You're never pleased when you prosecute people, but I'm proud of a jury when it finds one of their own guilty for not following the law," she said.

Moore prosecuted the case because Crittenden County's prosecutor, Rebecca Johnson, was in the restaurant at the time of the incident and was recused from the case.

Dorothea Evans, who has "appreciable hearing loss" and wears hearing aids in both ears, claims that while visiting Marion on Aug. 27, 2007, she and her family were asked to leave The Front Porch by Wheeler because of Sammy. Wheeler, said Evans in her testimony, told the party of six they must leave the dog outside or vacate the eatery.

"He came in the restaurant like gangbusters," she testified. "He just wanted us out of there."

The state's witnesses against Wheeler told the jury he did not seem to care when Evans explained that Sammy was a certified service dog.

"The treatment we received was abominable," said Joseph Evans, who trained Sammy.

"We've traveled all over the country and we've never been treated so rudely."

The defense claimed the dog had a bad odor on a summer day when the temperature reached 94 degrees and was disturbing other patrons because of the smell. Despite prosecution testimony from other patrons to the contrary, restaurant workers called as witnesses said Sammy smelled horrible, was not harnessed and had no indication of being a service dog. The tag, harness and medallion identifying the dog as a service animal in the courtroom last Wednesday were not there on that August day, they testified.

On the stand, Wheeler admitted he has learned a lot since August about hearing assistance dogs.

Robin Dixon with Dogs for the Deaf in Oregon, told The Press such animals help the deaf with a variety of sounds. Many of the organization's animals have been placed in Kentucky, helping them identify noises like doorbells, a phone, an oven timer, smoke alarm or even when someone is approaching from behind.

"They can also let people know when someone is calling out their name," she said.

But recognizing a legitimate service dog can be difficult for business owners, Dixon said. Laws do not mandate identification be on the dog and there are limited approaches owners can take to determine if an animal is providing assistance.

"There are two things you can ask," she said. "Is that dog a pet?" and "What does it do?"

"It puts business owners in a bad position."

Wheeler could have been fined up to \$1,000 and/or faced 10 to 30 days in jail.

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## The Press Community Calendar

### Today

■ The Republican Party of Crittenden County will meet at 6 p.m., today (Thursday) in the little courtroom at the Crittenden County Courthouse.

■ CCHS is hosting an Information Session from 6 to 7 p.m., today (Thursday) for all sophomore parents to review their students PLAN (pre-ACT) test results and learn how their student can perform well on the ACT.

### Monday

■ American Legion Post 111 and Auxiliary will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the Legion Room at Fohs Hall.

■ The annual meeting of Fohs Hall Inc., will be 7 p.m., Monday. An update on the county documentary by Sam Koltinsky will be given. New board members and officers will be installed.

■ Teen Court will meet every first Monday of the month, beginning next week and ending in June.

### Coalition meets to battle drugs

The Crittenden County Coalition For A Drug-Free Community has approved its meeting schedule for 2008, with all meetings taking place in the Another Way, Inc., building located at 308 S. Main St., in Marion. All meetings are the second Monday of every other month.

For members of the Coalition and others interested in participating, mark your calendars with the following meeting dates:

- March 10, 6:30 p.m.;
- May 12, 6:30 p.m.;
- July 14, 6:30 p.m.;
- Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.; and
- Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.;

For further information about the local Coalition, visit <http://marion.ky.biz/drugfree>.

### Saturday

■ The February meeting of the Woman's Club of Marion will feature Paula Bridges, nightly news anchor at WPSD NewsChannel 6 in Paducah, as speaker. The Midwinter Brunch begins at 10 a.m., Saturday. Make reservations for the brunch through the telephone committee or Helen Lewis at 965-4751.

### Tuesday

■ Bigham Lodge No. 256 F&M will hold stated communication at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday night. All master masons are invited.

### Next Thursday

■ The CCMS Site-Based Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m., next Thursday in the library.

### Upcoming

■ There will be a National Weather Service Weather Spotters Class (Basic and Advanced combined) from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Feb. 11 at the Ed-Tech Center. There is no cost to attend and training credit will be given. The class is sponsored by the Crittenden County Rescue Squad.

■ The annual Fohs Hall Ball will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 9. The semi-formal affair that includes a meal and live orchestra dance music by The Temple Airs is the main fundraising event for Fohs Hall Inc., each year. For information, call 965-4055, 965-4999 or 965-4135.

■ Paducah Area Amputees in Action will meet at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 21 in the Borders Community Room at Lourdes Hospital Nemer Pavilion in Paducah. Brandon Imhoff will speak on the chal-

lenges of life and deer hunting experiences as a paraplegic. All amputees, friends and family members are welcome. For more information, contact 488-3020 or [tross@brtc.net](mailto:tross@brtc.net).

■ A Heritage Day planning meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 12 at the Marion Tourism Office. The meeting is open to the public for suggestions and volunteers. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 965-5015, 704-2712 or 704-1958 for more information.

### Ongoing

■ The Senior Citizens Center in Marion, located at 210 N. Walker St., is open for lunch weekdays at 11:30 a.m. The meals are \$2 for anyone over 60 and \$4 for others.

(Editor's note: Community Calendar items should be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday for publication in that week's issue. Find the calendar online at [www.the-press.com](http://www.the-press.com).)

## Week in Review 2008 Kentucky General Assembly

## General Assembly watch '08

### Governor's budget keeps SEEK funds

Fearing the worst, school districts across the state let out a collective sigh of relief when Gov. Steve Beshear in his budget address Tuesday night presented an \$18.5 billion two-year spending plan that proposes no cuts in the SEEK formula for state aid to public elementary and high schools. It also keeps per-pupil spending intact.

"It's a very positive thing in this difficult time," said Sen. Dorsey Ridley.

Crittenden County schools faced a possible loss of \$426,000 next year alone if an earlier-proposed seven-percent cut in SEEK funding occurred.

Otherwise, Beshear on Tuesday proposed deep cuts to state government from universities to state parks.

Ridley said the budget plan retains \$240,000 in coal severance money expected by Crittenden County's fiscal court in both 2009 and 2010.

"It's now the responsibility of the General Assembly to improve upon this," Ridley said of the budget plan.

### New laws yet to pass legislature

Three weeks into the 2008 session of the General Assembly, Kentucky legislators have yet to pass one bill through both chambers. Perhaps waiting for the primary election filing deadline to pass as well as Gov. Steve Beshear's proposed budget, both of which occurred Tuesday, lawmakers have been in a holding pattern on finalizing laws.

### Blood bill passes state House 87-0

A measure that would increase needed donations of blood to the American Red Cross and other blood banks such as the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center based in Owensboro, passed the House 87-0 this week. House Bill 139, sponsored by Rep. Mike Cherry, would lower the minimum age for blood donations to 16 with parental consent. Currently, the state limits blood donations to healthy people over the age of 17, with anyone under 18 requiring parental consent.

### Bullying bill sails through House

For the fourth consecutive legislative session, the so-called "Golden Rule Act" passed the House with overwhelming support. Rep. Mike Cherry's House Bill 91 passed 96-0 and moves on to the senate, where it has stalled three previous times.

The legislation would prohibit bullying and harassment among students in Kentucky's public schools and require school districts to put procedures in place to handle reports of such behavior. An amendment before passage Tuesday would require school districts to provide information and assistance to students who are victims of bullying about how to respond to such behavior.

"We're not telling them how to do it," Cherry said during debate. "We're telling them they have to do it."

Cherry said 30 states have such a law with Kentucky standing out in the Southeast as one without anti-bullying measures. All states bordering the Commonwealth have such laws.

# Survey: Tax smokes, keep death penalty

Tuesday night, Gov. Steve Beshear returned to the House of Representatives to address both chambers on the state's budget outlook. He had already called the picture "grim," and according to preliminary analysis by our financial experts, the governor's description is accurate. Next week's article will have details on the governor's speech.

Kentucky's financial woes can be attributed to many causes on both the state and national levels. A national downturn in the economy, high oil prices, increasing health care costs, and a deteriorating stock market are significantly impacting every state budget in the country.

When you add in growing numbers of Kentuckians on Medicaid, state employee pension concerns, necessary university and infrastructure construction projects, depleted revenue surpluses and weak revenue projections, you see that a bleak fiscal stage has been set for us to craft a budget upon, beginning next week.

Meanwhile, the passage of legislation that would benefit Kentucky veterans and active duty military marked legislative action last week, our third of the 2008 session, as the House gave both bills its unanimous support on Wednesday.

This was not the first time these proposals had passed the House, but to give the bills another chance to become law, they were resurrected this session as House Bill 57 (which I sponsor),



which would increase veterans' chances of being hired by the state, and HB 168, which would help active duty military who have returned from duty by giving them up to 90 days to renew an expired driver's license. Both bills passed the House by a vote of 97-0 and were sent to the Senate for its consideration.

As of late in the week, they were among seven pieces of legislation that passed the House this week and nine bills that have passed the chamber so far during the 2008 Regular Session. All of these bills have been sent to the Senate, which could consider any or all of the measures in its committees and send them to the Senate floor in coming days and weeks.

Many of you have asked me about the results of my on-going survey. I say on-going because responses are still trickling in and are still being tabulated, though I do expect the large majority have now come in. Before reading the results, it should be understood that this isn't a so-called scientific poll. It was sent to some 500 addresses in my district from a list that I've been adding to over my last nine years in office. It's

primarily composed of elected office holders, civic and business organization leaders, past campaign supporters, folks I've had substantive communications with and so on. Also, I've previously, through this and other local media, invited everyone interested to participate and will do so again at the end of this article.

The number of responses has been remarkable for this sort of survey—one where the sender is responsible for return postage. Some 60 percent of you have sent the survey back. For such surveys often sent out by legislators, around a 20 percent return is the norm. Perhaps the fact that I don't routinely do this is somewhat responsible for the high return rate.

It needs to be said that I don't consider these results to be binding on my legislative vote or stance. Instructive and helpful, yes, but the issues are too complicated and the survey overly subject to inaccuracies for me to hang my legislative hat on.

As I said earlier, surveys are still coming in, and if you'd like to participate you can simply request a survey form by e-mailing me at [mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov) or by calling toll-free at 1-800-372-7181. We'll quickly send you a form and I, as always, will welcome your input.

(Editor's note: Rep. Cherry represents Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and a portion of McCracken County. His column will appear throughout the 2008 regular session.)

## In Week 3, Senate puts focus on education

The third week of the 2008 legislative session focused on such pressing issues as education and DUI laws.

Senate Bill 2, which passed the full Senate, is a multi-faceted attempt to offer math and science courses to both challenge and prepare students for the new job market. Under the bill, the state would pay for year-end exams for students who take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses — not just in math and science, but in all classes. These courses prepare students for college-level coursework, and high scores on the final exams earn students college credit. Taking several AP courses can result in students graduating college early, saving their families a great deal of money. Between the exam fees and college costs, we estimate the program could save Kentucky families nearly \$6 million annually.

One concern with students taking such rigorous classes is that their grades could suffer, resulting in less KEES money for college. To



offset that possibility, SB 2 would also grant extra KEES money to low-income students who achieve high scores — and the accompanying college credit — on their AP exams.

Without the necessary preparation, students cannot take a tough high school curriculum. SB 2 addresses that issue with grants to middle- and elementary schools to help them lay the groundwork for success in top-level courses. The bill also instructs the state Department of Education to develop an energy-technology engineering program to prepare Kentucky students for careers in the energy field.

Of course, we need highly skilled teachers to make these ideas succeed, but

sadly, we do not have enough math and science teachers coming along to replace those retiring or leaving for higher-paying jobs. Senate Bill 64, which we also passed this week, authorizes a more flexible teacher-certification process for college graduates who majored in math or science. The bill creates an incentive fund so universities, school districts, and others can provide the training non-education majors need to work in the classroom. These non-traditional teachers would be able to train during the summer and get additional assistance their first school year. A loan-forgiveness program would be created so we can entice more people with a math and science background into the classroom.

One of our overriding goals has been to increase the number of Kentucky high school students going on to college and succeeding there. SB 44 is another step in that direction. The bill would allow high achieving juniors and seniors to apply their KEES money toward dual-

## And the survey says...

- Should the state raise the cigarette tax? It is currently 30 cents a pack.
  - Yes 72%
  - No 22%
  - Undecided 6%
- Should the state raise teacher salaries to the average of surrounding states?
  - Yes 72%
  - No 16%
  - Undecided 12%
- Is Kentucky doing enough to combat identity theft?
  - Yes 11%
  - No 45%
  - Undecided 44%
- Should there be a cap on the amount of non-economic damages a jury could award an individual or their family if injured due to doctor/nurse negligence, thereby possibly reducing malpractice insurance costs for doctors?
  - Yes 65%
  - No 24%
  - Undecided 11%
- Should Kentucky place a ban on the death penalty?
  - Yes 12%
  - No 80%
  - Undecided 8%
- Should Kentucky eliminate the requirement for a gubernatorial runoff when no candidate receives at least 40 percent of the vote?
  - Yes 42%
  - No 39%
  - Undecided 19%
- Should the General Assembly put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to allow citizens to vote on the issue of limited expanded gaming?
  - Yes 68%
  - No 30%
  - Undecided 2%
- Should children of illegal immigrants be banned from qualifying for in-state tuition at public higher education institutes?
  - Yes 76%
  - No 16%
  - Undecided 8%
- Should Kentucky work harder to crack down on businesses that hire illegal immigrants?
  - Yes 88%
  - No 4%
  - Undecided 8%
- Should the state ban or restrict to "hands-free" cell phone use while driving?
  - Yes 72%
  - No 21%
  - Undecided 7%
- Should the state ban public universities' current right to provide health care benefits to unmarried cohabitants if approved by their respective governing boards?
  - Yes 63%
  - No 25%
  - Undecided 12%
- Should Kentucky eliminate the state income tax for active-duty military personnel? (Estimated cost to General Fund of \$15 to \$20 million per year.)
  - Yes 49%
  - No 40%
  - Undecided 11%
- Do you support stem cell research (embryonic or otherwise) which could lead to cures for things like heart disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, or spinal cord injuries?
  - Yes 63%
  - No 25%
  - Undecided 12%
- Do you support automatic restoration of voting rights upon completion of sentences for convicted non-violent felons?
  - Yes 62%
  - No 31%
  - Undecided 7%
- Should girls in the sixth grade be required (except where a parent/guardian specifically requests an exemption) to be immunized with a vaccine that prevents cervical cancer caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?
  - Yes 36%
  - No 41%
  - Undecided 23%
- Would you favor a constitutional amendment to limit the Governor's power to pardon officials who might be convicted of wrongdoing as former Governor Fletcher did last year?
  - Yes 73%
  - No 23%
  - Undecided 4%

## Lawmaker contacts

Kentucky General Assembly is in session Jan. 8 through April 1, 2008 • The 110th Congress is currently in session

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[mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov)

**STATE SENATE** [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov)

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[dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov)

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1.800.328.5629, Hopkinsville  
[whitfield.house.gov](mailto:whitfield.house.gov)

**U.S. SENATE** [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

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[mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:mcconnell.senate.gov)

## Youth dwell in cellar

By ALLISON EVAN  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hanging out in the basement has new meaning at Marion Baptist Church.

The Basement, as it's called, is now open to the entire community as a young hangout and worship center.

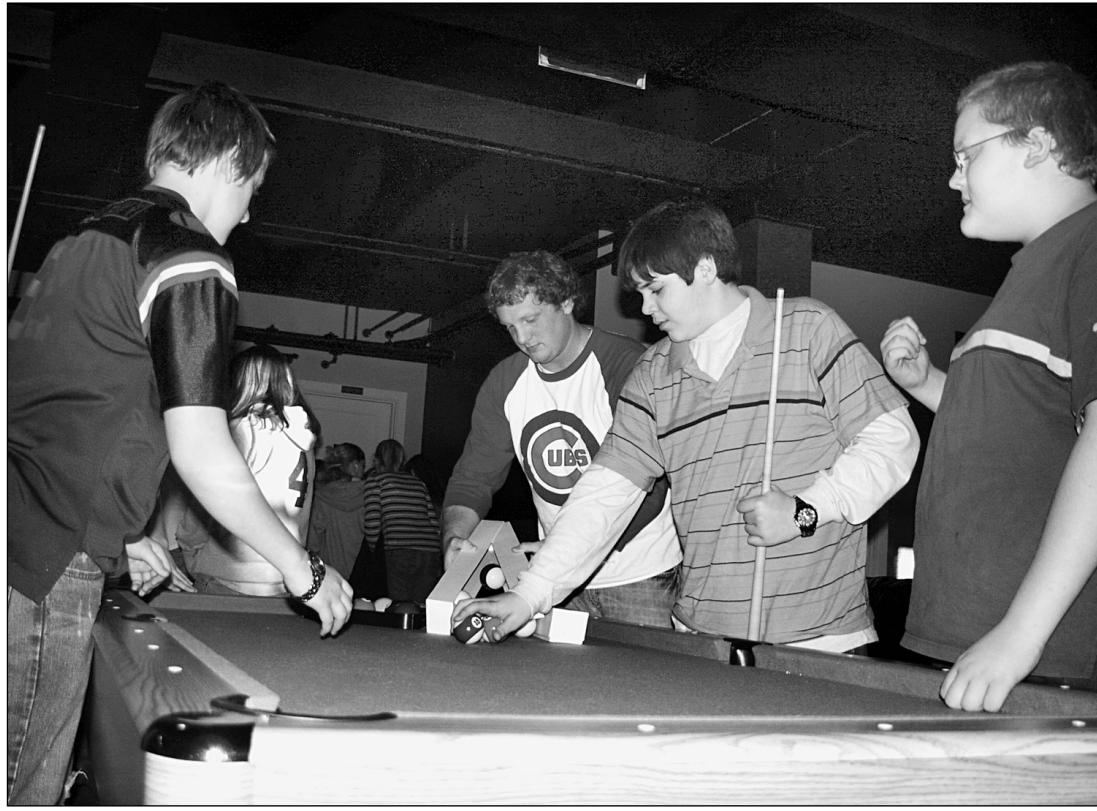
The church put a modern, teen-friendly touch on its basement with popular paint colors, new leather couches, a pool table, small performance stage, air hockey and foosball to entertain pre-teens and teens grades six through 12 every other Friday night.

Jason Dunbar, youth and worship pastor at Marion Baptist, said the church responded to the need for a safe place for youth to gather in Marion.

"There is simply no place for students to hang out and get together in town without getting into things they shouldn't, and we wanted to provide a safe, fun place for them to get together and have fun and learn about God in the process," he said.

In the original kitchen area of the basement, modern tables and chairs have replaced metal tables and folding chairs, where youth can have beverages and snacks between 7-11 p.m., every other Friday beginning Feb. 8.

"All the games are available, as well as a different emphasis each week such as karaoke, Wii tournaments, etc. It will be a fun place to hang out and to come to after the basketball games. It will



Jason Dunbar, music and youth minister at Marion Baptist Church, readies a billiards rack last Wednesday evening in the Basement of the church while Robbie McClure (left), Austin Dunkerson and Hunter Griffin (right) gather to play.

PHOTO BY ANNA JIMINEZ

hopefully be expanded. We encourage and invite support from other churches as we are simply trying to reach these students for Christ, which I know is the heart's cry of all the churches in this community.

"Our dream is to have this space filled so much that we have to find a bigger place for our youth to hang out. Youth centers have been done a few times before in town in a couple different locations

and were successes both times. However, the downfall for both seemed to be the burn-out of the volunteers. This is why we want to include as many churches as we possibly can from the community. We can't do it

alone, and we don't want to. We want everyone to be involved."

To donate your time or assistance toward the project, contact Dunbar at jdunbar@marionbaptistchurch.com or at 965-5232.

## Churchnotes

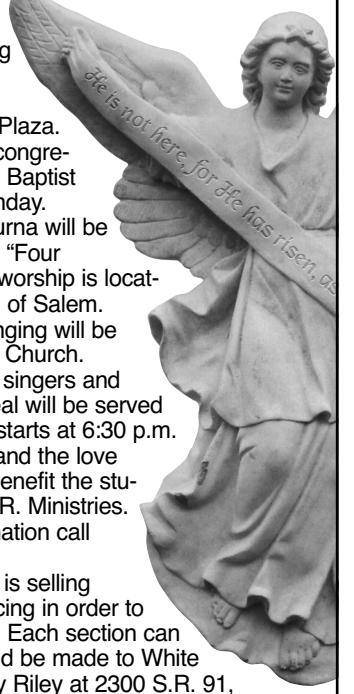
■ Goshen Independent General Baptist Church has a dinner following morning service the third Sunday of each month. The church is located behind Marion Pizza Hut at Darben Plaza.

■ Bro. Herbert Alexander, Jr. and congregation from Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church invite you to services on Sunday. American Legion Post No. 217 of Burna will be performing a patriotic program titled, "Four Chaplains" at 11 a.m. The house of worship is located on Ky. 723, about 4.5 miles north of Salem.

■ A fellowship meal and gospel singing will be held Feb. 9 at Eddyville First Baptist Church. Featured will be a joint choir of area singers and various soloists and groups. The meal will be served from 5 to 6:15 p.m. and the singing starts at 6:30 p.m. The \$6 donation ticket for the meal and the love offering received in the singing will benefit the student summer mission program of H.R. Ministries. Everyone is invited. For more information call 545-7729 or 388-4583.

■ White Chapel Church Cemetery is selling eight-foot sections of white vinyl fencing in order to replace the existing chain link fence. Each section can be purchased for \$65. Checks should be made to White Chapel Church and mailed to Rickey Riley at 2300 S.R. 91, Marion KY 42064, or given to any trustee of the church or cemetery. Please provide a name of the donor and the name of the person in whose memory the segment is dedicated. A brass plate will be installed on each segment signifying such.

■ Beginning Sunday, Western Baptist Hospital will offer weekly worship services for patients, visitors and staff from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. in the Baptist Heart Center Auditorium. The non-denominational services will include scripture reading, prayer, praise and music. Chaplain James Wright, director of Pastoral Care at Western Baptist, will join other hospital chaplains in leading the services. For more information about the weekly worship services, phone 575-2961.



### "SOUPER" EVENT

**Sunday, February 3**

**Marion Baptist Church**  
Family Life Center  
131 E. Depot Street, Marion, Kentucky

**Event Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**Come & Watch The Game,  
A Movie or Play A Board Game**

**We Have Something For  
EVERYONE!**

**Bring Snack Food**

**Bring A Can of Soup For Our Food Pantry**

**SATURDAY and MONDAY  
DRY CLEANING  
SPECIALS**

**SHORT GARMENTS:** Shorts, Blouses, Sport Coats, Blazers, Slacks. **50¢ OFF**

**LONG GARMENTS:** Dresses, Coats, Ladies/Mens Suits, Zip Jackets. **\$1.00 OFF**

\*Professional Dry Cleaners and Alterations

**MARION DRY CLEANERS**

OPEN: Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 • Saturday 7:00-3:00  
125 East Carlisle Street, Marion, Kentucky  
(270) 965-4744

**Health For Life Program**

Six Week Healthy Lifestyle Program & Weight Loss Contest

**FEBRUARY 4 - MARCH 13**

Program Cost: \$40

Includes:

- Weekly 30 minute nutrition classes offered. May choose 12:15 lunch time class on Tuesdays or 5:30 p.m. class on Wednesdays. First class begins Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at Health Quest.
- Weigh-ins offered weekly. Will record beginning and ending weights for contest.
- Measurements at beginning and end of program

*Weekly class topics will center around nutrition and other health related themes. Nutrition classes will be taught by a registered dietician.*

**Grand Prize - One Year Membership To Health Quest Fitness Center**

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**  
Sign Up NOW Through January 31, 2008 at

**HEALTH QUEST WELLNESS CENTER, PSC**

Dr. John J. Newcom, D.C. • Tracye R. Newcom, R.D., L.D.

913 S. Main Street  
Marion, Kentucky  
270-965-2600

**SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Located between Dycusburg & Frances on Hwy. 70  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday 6 p.m.  
Lonnie Knight - Pastor  
- Fundamental, Pre-Millennial, Independent -

**FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
224 W. Bellville • Marion, Ky.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Night Worship 7 p.m.  
Mickey Alexander, Choir Director

**Deer Creek Baptist Church**  
Five miles on Ky. 297 from U.S. 60 just past Sheridan  
Come make a splash at "The Creek"  
**Sunday Bible study:** 10 a.m., 5 p.m.  
**Sunday worship:** 11 a.m., 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday services:** for all ages 7 p.m.  
E-mail us at: dcbc@bellsouth.net

**Mexico Baptist Church**  
175 Mexico Road, (270) 965-4059  
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.  
Sunday Discipleship Training 6 p.m. • Sunday Evening Service 7 p.m. • Wednesday Service 7 p.m.  
Pastor Tim Burdon  
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree  
Visit us at www.mexicobaptist.org

**Second Baptist Church**  
730 E. Depot St., Marion  
Sunday Bible study and coffee 10 a.m.  
Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. • Sunday night study 6 p.m.  
G-Force children fellowship Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible study and prayer 7 p.m.  
Bro. Danny Starrick, Pastor • Bro. Chris O'Leary, worship leader

**Marion Baptist Church**  
College and Depot, Marion • 965-5232  
• Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.  
• Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.  
• Mission Possible (Grades 1-12):  
Wednesdays 3:10 p.m.  
Pastor Mike Jones

**Marion General Baptist Church**  
WEST BELLVILLE STREET • MARION, KY  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. • Tony Perryman, Pastor

**Barnett Chapel General Baptist Church**  
Barnett Chapel Road  
Crittenden County, Ky.  
• Sunday school: 9:45 a.m.  
• Sunday worship: 11 a.m.  
• Sunday evening: 6 p.m.  
• Wednesday night Bible study: 6 p.m.  
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

# Worship with us

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

— Matthew 18:20

**St. William Catholic Church**  
860 S. Main St.  
Marion, Ky.  
965-2477  
Father Larry McBride

**HURRICANE CHURCH**  
HURRICANE CHURCH ROAD OFF HWY. 135 W.  
BRO. WAYNE WINTERS, PASTOR  
Sunday school, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sunday and Wednesday evening services, 6:30 p.m.

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
Bro. Rob Ison, Pastor  
Captured by a vision...  
108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion, Ky. • 965-4623  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Evening 6 p.m.  
Wednesday 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study - Children and Youth Activities

**Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church**  
State Route 506 - Marion, Kentucky  
Sunday School 10 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.  
Pastor Cortis Hill  
Come Join Our Youth Activities!

**Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church**  
585 Sugar Grove Church Road • Marion, Ky.  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
Gary Carlton, Pastor • www.sugargrovecp.org

**MAIN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
720 S. Main St. • Marion | Bro. Gary Murray, pastor  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
— Philippians 4:13  
WEDNESDAY: Bible Study 5:45 p.m. • Prayer Service 7 p.m.  
SUNDAY: Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Evening 7 p.m.

**Tolu United Methodist Church**  
Bro. Steve Tinsley, Pastor  
We invite you to be our guest  
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The People of The United Methodist Church  
Sunday School 10 am • Service 11 am • Bible Study 6 pm

**Marion United Methodist Church**  
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The People of The United Methodist Church  
College Street • Marion, Kentucky  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6 p.m.  
www.the-press.com/MARIONunitedmethodist.html  
Pastor Wayne Garvey

**Marion Church of God**  
334 Fords Ferry Road • Marion, Kentucky  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.  
"Where salvation makes you a member."  
Lucy Tedrick, pastor

**Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church**  
State Route 723, 4 miles north of Salem  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
Herbert Alexander, Pastor

**Unity General Baptist Church**  
4691 U.S. 641 Crayne, Kentucky  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m.  
Pastor, Buddy Hix • 365-5836  
Buddy Hix

**Goshen Independent General Baptist**  
Located behind Pizza Hut in Marion  
Need a ride to church? Call 965-5009  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.  
Casual apparel | Greg West, pastor

**MARION CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
546 WEST ELM STREET • MARION, KY  
965-9450  
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
— The End Of Your Search For A Friendly Church —  
Minister Andy Walker

**LIFE IN CHRIST CHURCH**  
A New Testament Church  
Contemporary in Worship  
2925 U.S. 641, Marion • Harold Patrick, Pastor  
Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Harold Patrick