

# The Crittenden Press

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## Patriotic service set for July 2 at arena

Crittenden County Minesteral Association will host a public patriotic service Wednesday, July 2 at Rocket Arena.

The keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Scott Campbell, a native of Crittenden County and currently the commander of the 149th Maneuver

Enhancement Brigade of the Kentucky Army National Guard in Louisville. Campbell has been deployed to both Bosnia and Iraq.

Many churches in the area will move their worship service to Rocket Arena for the annual service, which is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

"We encourage all veterans to attend, and they will be recognized," said Barry Gilbert, a retired National Guard colonel.



## Offices closing for Independence Day

The United States will celebrate its 232nd birthday next week and with observation of Independence Day, many local offices and businesses will be closed. The following government offices and other facilities will be altering their schedule for the holiday:

■ All state and federal offices will be closed July 4. The mail will not run July 4, but will be delivered as usual the following day.

■ All Crittenden County Courthouse offices will be closed July 4. Offices normally open on Saturday will also be closed.

■ Marion City Hall will be closed July 4.

■ Crittenden County Public Library will be closed July 4 and 5.

■ The Crittenden County History Museum will be closed July 4, but will be open as usual on Saturday.

## Marion Bobcats return home today

The Marion Bobcats, who have not played at home since last Thursday, will return to Gordon B. Guess Field today (Thursday). The Bobcats will face Owensboro for a three-game series before Tradewater comes to town for the first time on Monday.

Safetran night is Friday, with numerous drawings and give-aways for baseball fans. Admission to the park is also only \$3 for women.

## Relay for Life will retry event July 11

Crittenden County Relay for Life will give it another try next month.

The annual American Cancer Society fund-raising event to battle cancer was postponed earlier this month due to inclement weather, but will take place July 11 at Marion-Crittenden County Park. It will run from 6 to 11 p.m.

According to Stephanie Elder, chairman of the Relay for Life, the goal for money to be raised this year will be \$30,000; \$10,000 below the original goal set for the June 13-14 event. The event last year raised \$22,566.

## Local meetings

■ Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Friday for a special meeting.

## By the numbers

**Fixed-rate mortgages (fees)**  
30-year (southeast) ..... 6.37 (0.9)  
15-year (southeast) ..... 5.99 (0.8)  
Source: FreddieMac.com as of June 19

## Precipitation report

Last 7 days ..... 0.49  
Last 30 days ..... 2.09  
Since Jan. 1, 2008 ..... 30.39  
Deviation from average ..... +4.38  
Source: UK Ag Weather Service at Princeton as of June 24

## 2008 highway fatalities

Crittenden County ..... 1  
Kentucky (as of June 23) ..... 353  
Same period in 2007 ..... 409  
Source: Kentucky State Police

## American war dead

Afghanistan (as of June 21) ..... 527  
Iraq (as of June 25) ..... 4,105  
Source: Department of Defense

## Online

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## City considers legalizing new mode of travel



Golfers at Marion Country Club relax alongside their carts after a round of the game Tuesday afternoon. An ordinance introduced Monday by Marion City Council could soon allow golf carts on city streets. Pictured above (from left) are Doug Phelps, Philis Hardin, Faye Phelps, "Buzz" Phelps and Kenneth Sutton.

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

## Council explores letting golf carts on city streets

By DARYL K. TABOR

MANAGING EDITOR

Emily Shelby has been driving her golf cart for years on city streets, using it to get to and from the golf course and run quick errands. In fact, just last week, she pattered around town on the cart carrying out chores.

"I use it to play golf mainly," Shelby said. But last Wednesday, "I had to make 15 stops, so I used it to save gas."

And fuel conservation is one of the reasons the City of Marion is considering enacting an ordinance that would allow use of golf carts for travel along city streets. The measure was introduced Monday by Councilman Jason Hatfield at a special council meeting, but Shelby said the idea is nothing new to her.

"I've used it all along," she said. "I called the Department of Transportation 10 years ago, and they said it was okay anywhere in the city as long as it wasn't on main streets."

But the measure entertained by the city this week would adopt new rules outlined in legislation passed this winter by the Kentucky General Assembly. Those laws would require Shelby to be licensed, carry insurance just as for a vehicle, have a \$5 inspection by the sheriff's department and pay a \$50 permit fee to the city. It would also specify where Shelby and others like her could operate the golf cart within the city.

"I stick to back streets, and Main Street is used only to be crossed," Shelby said of her travel with the cart. "There's too much traffic (on Main Street) to think the other person is going to watch

out, because they don't."

Main Street, or at least a portion, is one of the streets City Administrator Mark Bryant has proposed as off limits for golf carts. Most of Bellville, East Depot and West Gum streets, as well as Country Club Drive, Fords Ferry Road, Sturgis Road and Old Salem Road would have prohibited travel for carts. In fact, state law would prohibit use on any road with a speed limit above 35 mph.

Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal has not had time to digest the impact of allowing golf carts on streets, but initially, he has few problems with the notion.

"But there's always that concern," O'Neal said.

The police chief said he occasionally sees someone using a golf cart on city streets, but the department has never issued a citation. Like with ATVs, mowers and other small motorized machines, he usually just asks them to get off the road.

"We've never had a problem," he added.

Councilman Darrin Tabor is afraid city-approved use of golf carts as a mode of travel could set a bad precedent for ATV, mower and other riders.

"This could open Pandora's box," he warned.

O'Neal's concerns are of a safety nature. He worries about some of the areas proposed for golf cart crossings. On Main Street, for instance, he suggests having only one area allowed to cross from

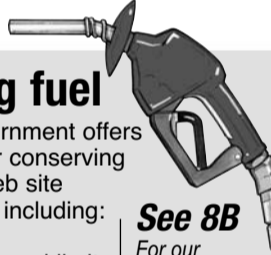
## Conserving fuel

The federal government offers a variety of tips for conserving fuel through its Web site FuelEconomy.org, including:

- Drive sensibly
- Observe the speed limit
- Remove excess weight
- Avoid excessive idling
- Use cruise control
- Use overdrive gears
- Keep engine tuned
- Check, replace air filters regularly
- Keep tires properly inflated
- Use the recommended motor oil grade
- Plan, combine trips

See 8B

For our special on the impact of rising fuel costs in the county



## Fitting tribute



FILE PHOTO

Jake Hodge tips his hat to teammates during 12-under baseball game at Paducah just a week before his death. In the last week, the community has mourned the loss of Hodge, 12, who died Saturday.

## Scholarship established to honor Hodge; death mourned

STAFF REPORT

Family and friends say there is no more fitting way to remember Jake Hodge than through a memorial scholarship fund and an inspirational book because he always lifted up his peers and helped them become better at whatever they were doing.

Hodge, the 12-year-old son of Denis and Shannon Hodge of Marion, died in his sleep early Saturday morning. An autopsy found no medical issues to explain his death, according to Crittenden County Coroner Joe Myers. The autopsy was performed by Dr. Deirdre A. Schluckebier of the Western Kentucky State Medical Examiner's office in Madisonville. Tissue and fluid samples have been sent off for further analysis, the results of which will not be available for six to eight weeks. Myers said every attempt is being taken to expedite the process.

In excellent physical condition, Jake was among the top 15 percentile of students in the county who participated each year in the school-sponsored Presidential Fitness Program.

About 2,500 attended visitation at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion between 3 p.m., and mid-

"Jake always brought out the best in everybody around him."

- Tony James

See HODGE/page 8A

## Habitat folds; new non-profit to replace efforts

By EMORY WILLIAMSON

STAFF WRITER

Marion resident Dot Meredith faced a difficult decision on June 5.

Meredith, along with five other board members of the local Crittenden County Habitat for Humanity, decided to dissolve the local affiliate after 10 years of serving the community.

"We were relieved that the decision was made," said Meredith, a curator at the



Meredith

Crittenden County Historical Museum and last charter member of the HFH affiliate. "We had been thinking about this for a long time and we felt like we were going in the right direction."

Habitat for Humanity International, a worldwide non-profit Christian-based agency that builds homes for underprivileged families, had altered several of its requirements, which caused the small budgeted Crittenden County affiliate to reevaluate its operations.

"[HFHI] wants different chapters to build more than one house a year, but in this small of a community we wouldn't be able to raise



"With (Habitat for Humanity)... if we didn't build the house we couldn't do anything, where with (Crittenden County Cares) we can do anything."

- Ron Padget

former president of the local Habitat chapter

enough money," said Ron Padget, president of the local HFH affiliate. "We can't even raise enough money to build another house."

According to Padget, the local HFH affiliate has man-

aged to build only one house since its inception in March of 1998. The two-bedroom house, located at 230 N. Weldon St., is home to Brenda Jones.

Jones, who followed Marcia

Thompson as the second owner of the home since it was constructed by HFH, was unavailable for comment.

Both Padget and Meredith said they tried to find help from the community in regards to funding and volunteer work, but that their efforts were often unsuccessful.

A six-inch advertisement informing Crittenden County citizens of the pending changes to the local HFH affiliate was placed in the February 14 issue of The Crittenden Press in hopes of increasing interest and involvement. The advertise-

See HABITAT/page 5A

# Heaven a better place with Jake Hodge

It is with a heavy, hurting heart that I pick up my pen this week to write about something that no parent, grandparent, friend or community should have to endure — the untimely death of a young, vibrant boy.

Twelve-year-old Jake Hodge, the son of Denis and Shannon Hodge and beloved by the entire community and beyond, died in his sleep early Saturday morning at his home, from causes which have yet to be determined.

It is among the most tragic and difficult things we face as humans, to bury a loved one. When it's a young child, the task is seemingly insurmountable.

When one of our best and brightest is snatched away far sooner than we, armed only with our earthly minds,



can find the logic from which to prescribe an understanding, it is unbearably painful. As a father of a nine-year-old daughter, I know the challenges many of you are dealing with in trying to comfort your own children at this time. My children, although truly too young to understand the magnitude of this matter, are nonetheless saddened. With that sadness comes a heightened sense of mortality and questions

regarding heaven and death. Such trials in life shake our spirituality just as it does the faith and beliefs just now blooming in our children.

"Can you hug people in heaven?" asked my daughter.

All we know about heaven is that it's waiting for believers who have been granted a pass through the grace of God. From that point on, there is no user's manual that explains what the after-life holds.

What I know is that Jake Hodge embodied goodness and wholesomeness, and he possessed a competitive spirit that provided him with an intestinal fortitude so very uncommon in pre-teens.

Over the past few days, I have heard countless stories regarding Jake's short time

on this earth. While many are chiseled into my mind forever, one stands above the others because it speaks precisely to whom Jake Hodge had become in his young life.

The person telling this was not the original eye-witness, but told it second hand. It seems as though Jake, a stellar athlete, was playing a pickup basketball game recently with some other young boys and some young adults. One of the older fellows was cursing and ranting about issues that arose during the game. Jake took the ball, held it under his arm and told the foul-mouthed opponent this: "It doesn't take much of a man to use those types of words, but it takes a very big man not to."

Yes, Jake Hodge excelled in athletics. He was a national qualifier in youth rodeo, he was well known for his play on the baseball diamond, the basketball court and running with a football. But more importantly, Jake excelled in life. He was an excellent student, community volunteer and highly respected among his fellow middle schoolers.

Our task is not to ask why he was taken so soon, but to learn from his life and to live ours the way that he had begun to live his. For such a young lad, he cast a very long shadow.

We must not dwell on finding a reason for this tragedy. We must have faith that somehow there is indeed a design to it all. In life, we are not guaranteed

fairness. Just like when we hear that called third strike and step out of the batter's box. We go back to the dugout and have faith that it will be made right at some point later in the game.

In sports, Jake Hodge made his teams better. His drive and passion lifted teammates and caused them to elevate their own play. He made his school better by showing that a young boy with seemingly everything going for him could also be courteous, obedient and studious. He made his community better because he embodied the very genius, faith and talent that makes us all proud.

Death will not stop a spirit like Jake Hodge. Heaven is undeniably a better place now that he is there.

# Column criticisms spur writer's response

Ordinarily, my policy is to give no credence to anonymous letters. I sign my name to my writings, as I want people to know what I believe for two reasons: they are Biblically based and I want everyone to believe the Bible so they can go to Heaven.

Makes one wonder why someone would write a long list of their criticisms of another's convictions and not sign their name. Must not be too convinced they are correct, or are not proud of their convictions on subjects, or don't want people to know what they stand for, and they certainly don't want a response, but this one will be answered.

The subject was my column of June 5, for which many good comments have been made. This unidentified person was condemning Republicans for saying they are against abortion but



while in power did not reverse Roe vs. Wade. It wasn't mentioned that both houses voted to ban the horrible and cruel brain suctioning of partial-birth abortions during Clinton's years and he vetoed it. Both houses during Bush's years voted to ban it, Bush signed it and the Supreme Court upheld it. Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois voted against the ban, and now some Democrats are trying to pass a law that would overrule the Supreme Court's decision.

Both houses just recently voted to keep a baby alive that somehow survives the murderous claws of the abortionist, but Obama and others voted against that bill, too. They said it had to be killed in order to keep abortion valid, because if it lived, it would prove abortion was the killing of a child which is against the law. Go figure that reasoning.

Anonymous' next point was that it was a good thing to put casino gambling on the ballot so Christians could go from door to door to witness. Since when did Christians need the devil's propositions to get them to witness for Jesus? Interesting that I'm criticized for witnessing because of the unchristian stand some, including a presidential nominee, take on issues!

Then the anonymous letter mentioned how alcohol

tried the ballot and failed in Crittenden County. But there was no mention of how hard some of us worked to defeat it and were severely criticized.

Next, one of the columnists I mentioned who is against Obama, was singled out as afflicted with sour grapes, because he was a Republican who ran for governor of Ohio and was defeated. But no explanation why the other two, myself, and millions of others are also against Obama's policies and beliefs.

Next I was directed to go to Snoops.com to verify stories on Sen. Obama. For your information, I have been doing and continue to do reliable research on all my ideals and writings, Biblically or politically.

Their age-old and worn out refrain: "My Bible tells me to not judge people," was also mentioned. My Bible

tells me "not to judge unless you want to be judged by the same measure." I want to be judged by the Bible.

Also the Bible says "You shall know a tree by its fruit." It also says, "When you see a person sin, you better tell them or you will have their blood on your hands." Then it says, "Cry aloud and spare not. Warn my people of their sins."

I get so sick of hearing liberals say abortion and homosexual sins are just two issues and not as important as helping the poor. It is a proven fact the Christians and conservatives do more for the poor than the ones always demanding our tax dollars to make political slaves out of them just to get their votes.

Morality and obeying God's word are the most important subjects of all time and eternity. When we do not stand for morals,

people become addicted to drugs, sex, alcohol, murder, rape, gambling, and lose their health and jobs. They become poor, and a burden on taxpayers, their own families and the general productivity of this country.

Remember, Anonymous, God is still the owner of this world, and He tells us when speaking of the embodiment of His word — His Church, which are the true followers of His word. "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yes, those nations shall be utterly wasted." Isaiah 60:12.

History and today's news prove God keeps His word.

The God of nature and nature's God is talking very loudly all over this nation, but too many are deaf to His judgments. More later on these leftist arguments to all the Anonymous people out there.

# Blackford church getting facelift for next life as trailhead facility

By **DARYL K. TABOR**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Brenton Witherspoon never expected the right men for the job would not even include a man. But work on converting the former Blackford Church of God into a community visitor's center grows closer to an end this week despite his early trepidations.

Today the one-room building hardly resembles the century-old house of worship that once held tent revivals on the grounds a stone's throw from the Tradewater River. The structure, too, bears no resemblance to the dilapidated church that just a few months ago was little more than a crumbling shell among knee-high weeds.

"Some of the best meals I ever had came from that dining hall," Witherspoon said of the crumbling building near the sanctuary being given a rebirth.

With only a few of the original pews remaining inside, the building is undergoing a transformation to a trail head facility and visitor's center for the Blackford Walking Trail and Walk of Honor that lie in the shadow of the church.

The project, headed by Witherspoon as an ongoing labor of love for his native community, began last year with a \$40,000 grant that is being matched with labor and other donations.

"We hope to turn it into a museum of sorts," said Witherspoon, detailing plans for a history of the walking trail, church and congregation, the former railroad outside the door and perhaps an ode to veterans.

On Tuesday, Witherspoon took a break in the early afternoon heat to talk about his plans and share a cigarette or two with his work crew, who just happen to be four women on work release from



Toni Johnson (foreground) and Juanita Riley prime the trim around windows Tuesday afternoon at the former Blackford Church of God at the head of the Blackford Walking Trail and Walk of Honor. The church is being converted to a visitor's center.

Monday morning, he went to pick up four inmates from the jail he thought would be burly men; men big enough to easily handle the pews that needed to be removed for painting and sanding. Unsure of how much help the women would be, he was pleasantly surprised at their work ethic.

"The didn't have any trouble at all. They've puttied, painted, removed the pews and fine-sanded the floor."

By week's end, Toni Johnson, Juanita Riley, Mary Hamilton and Shawnetta Lewis should pretty much have the refurbishing in hand.

"Never underestimate the power of a woman," joked

Riley and Lewis.

The women, all transfers to Marion from Pewee Valley, eagerly stepped back inside the church from their smoke break to continue work. For Lewis, as well as the other women, the labor is a welcome break from the monotony of 23-hour lock-down at the detention center.

"I'm glad to be able to help," said Johnson, who continued work with a smile on her face. "And he's treated us so well."

Witherspoon, who has poured his own time and money into the grounds, coaxes top-notch work out of the women by supplying coffee, smokes and even homemade cake from his mother. The five carry on like longtime friends as the work resumes.

"I've had people tell me it looks better today than it did when it was built,"

Witherspoon said of the renovation.

New windows, vinyl siding, roof and doors already adorn the outside. But when work is finished on the inside, Witherspoon hopes for the building to be a comfortable, useful rest stop for users of the trail and visitors to the Walk of Honor.

Bottled water, restrooms, brochures and a curator are all part of the aim to tend to visitors once opened, hopefully by this fall. Witherspoon is also looking for a storage building to help complete the project.

Plans are also in the works to expand the Veterans Walk of Honor.

Witherspoon said the number of bricks engraved with the names of veterans has grown so large the more space is needed to accommodate future requests.

## Press Letters

### Bobcats could use community boost

To the editor:

Today (Thursday) marks the midway point in the season for the Marion Bobcats with 25 games behind us and 25 ahead. That means the town has as many games left to boost community support for the team as it has had to show a strong, loyal fan base.

A recent meeting with investors showed the team is fiscally sound, with expenses kept in check and earnings on pace to pay the team's way for another season of KIT League ball.

But things could be better. Bobcat backers have been steadfast and hard-working in their support for the team. Many faces we see in the stands every night, some we have been pleasantly surprised to see, but many more faces we have yet to see.

From the very beginning of putting the club together over the winter, we, the investors, saw the offer to join the league as an opportunity to support the community, giving its residents a source of pride and a summertime venture to rally around. We never expected to get rich, only to make the club competitive and sound enough to sustain our heads above water in the league.

For the most part, response has been overwhelming. Volunteer and financial support we have received has been nothing short of phenomenal. The

well-wishes and curiosity have encouraged all who touched the team in any way. Together, it has certainly made the investors, management, fans and players from all corners of the country, proud to call Marion their home for the summer.

But like an infielder's glove on a bad hop, something's missing — a community-wide spirit for the home team.

If each person in Crittenden County attended only one game, spread over the course of the 25-game home schedule, the young men on the field could expect to see the grandstands overflowing with more than 350 fans each night. Instead, on many nights, there are fewer than 50 enjoying the game so many have worked hard to provide.

There is no other game in town, no more inexpensive entertainment for residents and no better way to enjoy an evening with friends. That has been our aim from Day 1.

The Bobcats have provided a non-exclusive, far-reaching identity for Marion, one that allows anyone to become a part with as little effort as filling a seat with a cheering voice on a summer night.

The spirit and pride in that identity is alive at the ballpark this weekend. Despite your level of interest in sports, we are counting on our interest in community as enough to join us in a chorus of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Gordon Guess  
Marion, Ky.

### Blackford on the 'Net'

More on the Blackford Bridge Project that led to the walking trail and Veterans Walk of Honor can be found online at [www.blackfordky.com](http://www.blackfordky.com).

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# Local & Regional Briefs

## Salem house fire devastates family

A house fire in Salem Monday morning completely destroyed the home and belongings of the Greg and Kim Ringstaff family. The couple has two young children, but no one was home when the blaze broke out shortly after 8 a.m.

Donnie Wilbanks, chief of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department, said most of the family was next door at Kim's mother's home when the fire started. He said no cause has been determined, but it appears that the fire may have started in the kitchen area of the single-story structure. Sixteen firefighters from three agencies - Salem, Crittenden County and Burna - were dispatched to the scene, but the home was fully engulfed when the first firemen arrived.

Wilbanks said the American Red Cross was called in to assist the family and that other assistance programs be started in Salem to help the family start to recover from its loss.

## Kentucky jobless rate up last month

Kentucky's jobless rate rose to 6.2 percent in May, up from 5.6 percent the month before, according to the Office of Employment and Training (OET).

"The increase in the civilian labor force reflects the influx of students searching for summer employment as well as individuals compelled to seek work to compensate for rising prices," said Justine Detzel, OET chief labor market analyst for the Kentucky Education Cabinet agency. "This surge of entrants and reentrants into the labor force, coupled with the weak economy, is causing individuals to have an extremely difficult time finding a job that matches their skills. The net effect is a significant rise in the unemployment rate."

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate increased from 5 percent in April 2008 to 5.5 percent in May 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

May 2007's jobless rate in Kentucky was 5.6 percent.

## Legislators talk on impact of I-69

The West Kentucky Caucus of state legislators met Tuesday to discuss projects that pertain specifically to western Kentucky, including the Interstate 69 corridor.

The I-69 project is a common thread for these 35 lawmakers west of Interstate 65, who, on Tuesday, focused on funding for the new corridor and the bridges bringing the interstate into Kentucky.

"The bridges are important to the success of this project because we have to provide a way for commerce to cross the Ohio River," said caucus chairman Sen. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson). "We do not want travelers looking for alternative routes, which could in turn cause them to bypass the I-69 region in Western Kentucky."

Legislation signed by the president on June 6 designates portions of the Pennyriple and Western Kentucky parkways as part of the Canada-to-

Mexico interstate, which completes the road through the state to create an important access route from Indiana to Tennessee. The newly designated parkway will run from Henderson to Madisonville on the Pennyriple and from Madisonville to Eddyville on the Western Kentucky Parkway.

The corridor passes through 10 Kentucky counties, including Henderson, Webster, Hopkins, Caldwell, Lyon, Livingston, Marshall, Graves, Hickman and Fulton.

## Kentucky fuel tax upped 1.5 cents

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Beginning Tuesday, Kentucky will collect another 1.5 cents tax on each gallon of fuel.

State finance officials say the tax, which goes toward the state road fund, will increase to 21.1 cents, and the diesel tax will rise to 18.1 cents.

The legislature designed the fuel tax to reset at least once a year based on the state's average wholesale price of gas. It could go down if prices fall, but the tax has increased, on average, by a little more than a penny every year since 2004, when it was 16 cents.

## City purchasing new police cruiser

The City of Marion will soon have a new addition to its police force.

On Monday, the city council approved the purchase of a new police cruiser from a Texas company. Marion Police Department currently has two cruisers - a five-year-old Ford Crown Victoria with 103,000 miles and a two-year-old Crown Victoria with 28,000 miles.

The new cruiser will also be a Crown Victoria. It will be out-fitted and delivered by the company for around \$25,000, said Police Chief Ray O'Neal.

Neither of the current cruisers will be retired, but a planned addition of another new cruiser during the coming year could see the oldest cruiser retired.

"It seems that 100,000 is the dividing line for when maintenance begins to mount," City Administrator Mark Bryant said of police cruisers.

When looking at the miles on a police cruiser, O'Neal said, an additional 50 percent of what is shown on the odometer can be added for wear and tear due to regular idling. New cruisers, he said, are outfitted with hour meters to better determine use.

Once the new cruiser arrives, only radios and graphics will need to be added.

## City, county work toward FEMA aid

The City of Marion is anticipating at least \$267,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements for damage incurred by April flooding.

City Administrator Mark Bryant told council members Monday that the city and FEMA had agreed on the number with the understanding that the costs could go higher as work related to the spring deluge continues.

Crittenden Fiscal Court on Friday will hold a special meeting to discuss FEMA reim-

bursements for flood-related repairs to roads and municipal facilities outside the city. Judge-Executive Fred Brown said an estimate for reimbursements is nowhere near complete.

"The devastation was so widespread," he said.

It could be more than a month before the fiscal court will have a complete damage and reimbursement figure, Brown added.

Most of the city's damage occurred on South Yandell Street, where a portion of the roadway was swallowed by an adjacent creek. Initial estimates for repairs to the street were as high as \$290,000, but that figure has dropped some, Bryant said.

About \$6,000 of the city's FEMA aid will be for resurfacing a portion of North Yandell Street washed out in the flooding. Another \$20,000 will be for storm debris removal.

## Summer road jobs lead to closures

Summer construction will see closure of traffic restrictions on several area roads in the coming days.

Already under way is work on a bridge deck on Ky. 838 in Crittenden County. The repairs to the Coefield Creek Bridge began Wednesday and will keep the road closed for several days at mile point 1.974, about halfway between the Crittenden-Livingston county line and Ky. 723.

"Work at the site is expected to be complete by about July 2, weather permitting," said Keith Todd, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet spokesperson.

Work Monday to install a new guardrail on Crooked Creek Bridge will restrict traffic to one lane on Ky. 91 North at the Marion city limit. A mile west of the work, guardrail on a second Crooked Creek Bridge will be installed near Freedom Church Road.

Ohio River Ferry users, in particular, should take note, Todd said.

About 1,000 vehicles travel Ky. 91 North each day.

Meantime, inside the city, the widening of Fords Ferry Road continues, restricting traffic to residents in the construction zone only. The road remains closed indefinitely to through traffic, said Brian Thomas, utilities director for the City of Marion.

In Henderson, U.S. 60 will be closed Saturday through Monday from the U.S. 41-A intersection to the U.S. 425 bypass. The closure at mile point 9.53 is to allow CSX Railroad to make adjustments to a rail crossing at the site and prepare to add crossing gates

as part of ongoing highway improvements through the area, according to Todd.

U.S. 60 is expected to reopen to traffic sometime Monday afternoon. Traffic will be detoured via Ky 425 and U.S. 41-A.

Todd said about 75 commuters from Crittenden County travel to or through Henderson each day for work.

## Approval given to build bank branch

A changing in Marion's zoning ordinance was finalized Monday, clearing the way for The Peoples Bank to build a new branch drive-thru on North Main Street.

Council members unanimously approved the revision to the zoning map that changes 326 N. Main St., from residential to general business. The change needed council approval before the bank could develop the property for its expansion.

A home currently sits on the lot, located next to Fifth Third Bank. The house would have to be razed before bank construction begins.

Terry Bunnell, president of The Peoples Bank, said plans for the design of the branch are in the works, but he could not project a date as to when work would begin.

The Peoples Bank currently maintains a drive-thru branch at Marion Commons, adjacent to Marion City Hall.

## Gunman kills self, 5 others at plant

HENDERSON, Ky. (AP) - An employee got into an argument with a supervisor at a Henderson plastics plant early Wednesday, then shot and killed five people before killing himself, police and a company official said.

The shooting happened around midnight at Atlantis Plastics.

The employee began fighting with a supervisor and was escorted from the building, company CEO Bud Philbrook said. As he was leaving, he took out a gun, shot and killed his 30-year-old supervisor, then charged back into a break



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

## Teen hurt in bike wreck

A Marion teenager was injured last Thursday afternoon when the bicycle he was riding collided with a car on South College Street near the Marion Post Office. Marion Police reports indicate that Ryan D. Guess, 16, of East Gum Street was traveling east on East Carlisle Street in front of the post office when the accident occurred. He apparently did not see a vehicle driven by Iva Dodson, 64, of Marion traveling north on College Street and went through the intersection, running into the side of the vehicle driven by Dodson. Guess (pictured above, flanked by emergency personnel) was taken by ambulance to Crittenden Hospital with head and leg injuries. The mishap occurred at about 2:30 p.m.

room and shot several employees. Then, he returned to the floor and shot another employee before killing himself, Philbrook said.

"It's just total shock. It's something you read about in the paper what happened at one of our facilities," Philbrook said.

It wasn't clear if the 25-year-old employee was carrying the gun, or if he retrieved it after the argument.

"We don't know if the gun was in the car or if he went somewhere to get it," Henderson police Lt. David Piller said.

At least one other person was injured, police said. The wounded victim, a woman, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in Evansville, spokeswoman Cheryl Dauble said. That person was undergoing treatment, she said, but declined to release further information.

The names of the shooter and the victims, who ranged in age from 22 to 28, were not released.

The Atlanta-based company has 1,300 employees worldwide, and about 150 in Henderson, where workers make parts for refrigerators and plastic siding for homes.

Hours after the shooting, police had set up a roadblock on the street leading to the plant, which is in an industrial area on the southern side of Henderson.

Other employees at the plant were sent home. About 34 were inside at the time of the shooting, Philbrook said.

### Capitol Cinemas

203 W. Main St. • Princeton, KY

**Starts Friday, June 27**

Walt Disney's  
**WALL-E**  
Fri, 7, 9:15 • Sat/Sun, 1:45, 4, 7, 9:15  
Mon-Thur, 5, 7:15

Nation's Box Office #1  
**GET SMART**  
Fri, 7, 9:15 • Sat/Sun, 1:45, 4, 7, 9:15  
Mon-Thur, 5, 7:15

**INCREDIBLE HULK**  
Fri, 7, 9:15 • Sat/Sun, 1:45, 4, 7, 9:15  
Mon-Thur, 5, 7:15 • Ends Tuesday

Will Smith & Charlize Theron Star In  
**HANGOCK**  
Starts Wednesday, July 7  
Wed/Thur, 5, 7

**FREE SATURDAY MOVIE**  
**BEE MOVIE**  
Doors Open 10 a.m. • Movie Starts 10:30 a.m.

**LOWEST PRICES IN FIRST-RUN MOVIES**  
**SHOW INFO 365-7900**

**COMMUNITY PATRIOTIC SERVICE**

**Wednesday, July 2 • 7 p.m. • Rocket Arena**

# The Peoples Bank Night

AT THE MARION BOBCATS GAME

**MON., JULY 14 AT 7:05 P.M.**



**Come Out And Enjoy The Game And Giveaways!**



L to R: Terry L. Bunnell, President and CEO, The Peoples Bank and Gordon Guess, Past President and CEO

The Peoples Bank will also recognize Gordon Guess for all of his hard work and dedication in organizing the Marion Bobcats.



The Peoples Bank  
*working for You!*

• 965-3188 •  
116 South Main, Marion, KY  
**Branch Bank Drive-In**  
Marion Commons, Marion, KY

Member  
**FDIC**

## Crittenden Jail report

Crittenden County Detention Center provides The Crittenden Press with a weekly report of its inmate count and work release program. Inmates are supervised and carry out a variety of labor regularly undertaken by local municipal departments.

### Work-release for the week of June 16-22:

1. Six men at 40 hours each mowing crew
  - a. Marion-Crittenden County Park
  - b. Crittenden County Courthouse
  - c. Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum and Cabin
  - d. Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center
  - e. Crittenden County Ed-Tech Center
  - f. Crittenden County Health Department
  - g. Dam 50 recreational area
  - h. Crittenden County fire and rescue department
2. Three women at 16 hours each mowing at Crittenden County Detention Center
3. Three men at 48 hours each to county road department
4. One man for 40 hours to Crittenden County Animal Shelter
5. Four men covering 224 miles and collecting 97 bags of trash on county roads in Crittenden County
6. Two men at 40 hours each to City of Marion
7. Two men at eight hours each mowing at old county jail
8. One man at eight hours to Marion Police Department for janitorial work.
9. One female at 32 hours to Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center.

Shea Holliman, CC/CD Coordinator

### Inmate count as of June 22 (female count):

Total: 90 (20)	Federal: 1 (0)	Crittenden County: 3 (2)
	State: 79 (17)	Other counties: 5 (1)



## Faith gives hope for county's future

Thank you to all of those Crittenden Countians who recognize the needs of our children. Thank you to the school teachers who take children's problems home with you and work out their solution into the wee hours of the morning. Thank you to the little league coaches, the day-care center workers, and the bus drivers who provide much needed services for our children. Thank you to the parents whose homes are crowded with children after school is over because for some reason all of the neighborhood kids end up coming to your house for dinner. Thank you to all of the grandmothers who are now raising a second generation of children, not so that you get credit for their success but because they need you.

In the past several weeks I have had numerous conversations with Crittenden Countians who have a dream for local children. Some dream of day-care projects, some dream of new and/or better schools, some are working on after school programs that will help our children to develop, some are dreaming of athletic programs that can provide fitness and joyful activity to an idle generation. If you have a heart for Crittenden County's children let me give you one line of encouragement: Don't be afraid to dream!

God has gifted His creation with a mind to not only imagine the impossible, but He has also blessed us with the resources to bring our dreams, when they are in line with His will, to pass. If you will only look up you will see



the need our local children have. And many of you not only see it, but you have compassion to change it. So dream the dream. Believe God for the impossible. Ask God to reveal to you what He has invested in you for the purpose of helping others. As Paul challenged Timothy, "Stir up the gift that is in you." Then let your faith and courage bring your dream to life.

**“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”**

**- Proverbs 13:12**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. If there is something that God has given you a heart to do, maybe the time is now. When our dreams are delayed, we are miserable. Have faith! Have courage! Stir up your gifts and get started. If you fulfill the mission God created you to fulfill, not only will you experience new hope, but those who are blessed by your mission will benefit from the life that springs up as the Holy Spirit blesses your work. There will be those who are selfish and stand against your cause, but when you are armed with new hope, there is little they can do to stop you.

Prayer warriors, be praying for those who are attempting to make our county a better place. Our enemy has much at stake and your prayers are the key.

## Churchnotes

■ Enon General Baptist Church will have fifth Sunday singing at 7 p.m., Sunday. Special singing will be by 2-4 Jesus (Susie Phillips and Jerry Lawless). There will be a meal at 6 p.m., with the singing to follow. For more information, call 667-2361.

■ Marion Baptist Church is now signing up youth for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading Camp. The camp is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., July 28-31. The deadline for signing up is July 11. Registration will be held at the church on the corner of Depot and College streets.

■ Rosebud United Methodist Church is sponsoring Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes on financial and debt relief. Two preview classes will start Friday at 6:30 p.m., at the church. For more information, call Donna Byrer at 965-5860 or Virginia McDowell at 965-4707. Nursery services will be available.

■ The 23rd Annual Faith and Freedom Fellowship will be held at Faith Church located at 1849 U.S. 60 East in Salem on July 25. The program will begin at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks. Bring your lawnchairs and park on the hill. For information, contact fptministries@tds.net.

■ Fredonia Holiness Church will hold revival services beginning at 7 p.m. June 25. Rev. Henry Travis and son Heath will be preaching. Pastor Clarence Cooper and members invite everyone.

■ Freedom General Baptist Church will have a cemetery meeting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Everyone is urged to attend and donations are appreciated. For more information 965-4249.

■ Due to the ice storm this past winter, the Babb Cemetery

## THE BASEMENT

*The Hottest New Hangout For Teens!*



**Marion Baptist Church Basement**  
For Teens Grade 6 - 12

**Every Other Friday**  
**June 27 • 7 - 11 p.m.**

(Unless Otherwise Advertised)

**No Cover Charge / Free Entry**

**Come & Hang Out, Play Games, Have Some Snacks & Just Chill**

**POOL • AIR HOCKEY • FOOSBALL • KAROKE • PS2 • Wii**

**Food & Drinks Available For Purchase**

*(To Help Offset Expenses)*

## The Cozy Hearth RESTAURANT

Come & Get Cozy At Our **COUNTRY FIXIN'S BUFFET**  
**Friday & Saturday Nights Only**  
**4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cabbage, Cornbread, Desserts & Much, Much More**

**Don't Forget Those Mouth Watering Catfish, Chicken Filet or Pork Chops!**

(Fixin's Selection May Vary)

**Kids 5 & Under Eat Free with Adult Food Purchase of \$5.99 or More**  
(1 Child Per Adult)

**DINE IN & CARRY OUT**

**230 Sturgis Road, Marion, KY • 270-965-0021**

Open: Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

*"Come In and Get Cozy at The Cozy Hearth"*

# BBQ FEST

**FOOD  
FIREWORKS  
FUN  
DON'T MISS IT!!!**

**Friday, July 4th**  
**7 p.m. - 10 p.m.**  
**At The Salem Baptist Christian Life Center**

## Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center

1902 S. Virginia St.  
Hopkinsville, KY  
Contact Robbin Wise by dialing:  
270-885-0728  
270-348-1566  
www.wkrbc.org

Open: Mon., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tue., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Wed./Thur. by appointment

Our mission: to provide patients in Western Kentucky with a safe and adequate supply of blood while maintaining the highest standard in quality and cost efficiency.

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center is sole supplier of blood to Caldwell County Hospital, Crittenden County Hospital and Jennie Stuart Medical Center.

## 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

### GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH ENON

1660 KY 132 • MARION

SERVICES Bro. Chris Brantley pastor  
Sunday morning 10 a.m., 11 a.m.  
Sunday night, 7 p.m. Home 270.965-8164  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. Mobile 270.339-2241

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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.

### 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.*

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

224 W. Bellville St. • Marion, Ky.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.

Rev. Robert Boggs, pastor

### 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

### 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](http://www.mexicobaptist.org)

### St. William Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11 a.m.

860 S. Main St.  
Marion, Ky.  
965-2477

Father Larry McBride

### 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

### 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](http://www.the-press.com/MARIONUnitedMethodist.html)

Pastor Wayne Garvey

### 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: [dbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbc@bellsouth.net)

### 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](http://www.sugargrovecp.org)

### Tofu 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

### Harvest Pentecostal Church

209 W. Gum St., Marion

Pastor Daniel Orten and family invite everyone to come and worship with them at.

Sunday morning service | 10 a.m.  
Children's church provided  
Sunday night | 6 p.m.  
Thursday night | 7 p.m.

### Miracle Word Church

100 W. Main St. • Salem, Ky.

Pastor Billy Jones  
Office hours: Weekdays 12 - 4 pm  
Phone: 988-2108

Youth Pastor Robert "Joey" Jones  
Phone: 388-5404

Wednesday Services at 7 pm  
Sunday: Sunday school at 10 am; Worship at 11 am and 6:30 pm

### 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



# Runnin' on empty

## Rising fuel prices taking toll on locals

Retired minister and quartet singer Charles Brantley pulls up to the Five Star Marathon gas station in his Chevrolet truck and parks at one of the gas pumps. He gets out of his truck with his wife and granddaughter, squints his eyes in the bright Kentucky sun and sighs.

He knows what lies ahead of him. "Bring 'em down, bring 'em down," he sings as he looks at the numbers roll faster and faster on the pump. Brantley, like millions of Americans, is feeling the burden of rising gas prices. His truck holds 16 gallons, but at \$3.89 per gallon at the station as of Tuesday, a full tank would cost him about \$75. "You'd never dream it would come to this point," said Brantley of the rising gas prices. "It's a bad crunch for everybody."

As Brantley said, he isn't alone, but there are options.

John Davies, a representative from the Division of Energy Efficiency and Conservation at the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence in Frankfort, said that as gas prices continue to rise, Kentuckian's must change their ways in order to afford those prices. "A larger portion of people's income is going to energy and people are having to make harder decisions," said Davies. "Everybody's feeling challenged on how they'll make ends meet, but there are no simple solutions to this."

According to Davies, gasoline prices in Kentucky have increased by 488 percent since 1994, from 67 cents to \$3.94 per gallon in June of 2008. Diesel prices in Kentucky have seen an even greater increase with prices going from 63 cents in 1994 to \$4.66 in June of 2008, a 635 percent increase. Davies said simple things often keep vehicles more fuel efficient, including: obeying the speed limit, driving more sensibly, maintaining the car, consolidating to make errands and lightening the load in the car. "There's no deep dark secrets on becoming efficient," said Davies. "It's just common sense, and it's amazing what five to seven miles (per hour) less can have on your fuel efficiency."

Meantime, local governments are being cautious of rising gas prices in order to avoid a need to cut services to the public. "I don't know a whole lot we can do except just deal with the gas prices," said Marion Mayor Mickey Alexander. "We don't want to start cutting services for people just because the fuel prices are up."

Alexander said that although citizen morale hasn't been significantly affected, grumbling over rising gas prices has increased.

"Mostly, what I hear is complaining, but I don't know that it's devastated anybody's budget," said Alexander. "But at the same time, it's aggravated them, as it has all of us."

The mayor said that it's hard on everyone due to the constantly changing prices. "If we know what the cost is, whether its higher or lower, then we can at least budget for it and plan for it," he said. "As it is right now, they're just having to react like everyone else and it's a struggle for everyone."

According to Davies, public transportation has increased in several American cities and towns, with organized units available for public use. In Crittenden County, however, there exists no public transportation, but Alexander said citizens have begun to organize individual carpools.

**Tough decisions** Local businesses, such as Denny Woodall's Used Cars, are also feeling the effects of rising gas prices. Denny Woodall, who owns and operates the used car lot, said there has been a significant decrease in sales at his lot. "Two years ago I was selling 15 to 20 cars a month, but now I'm lucky to sell five or six a month," said Woodall, who attributed fewer sales to rising gas prices. Woodall said he has strug-

gled to keep up with customer needs, because most are now requesting more fuel-efficient vehicles. "A lot of people (are buying fuel efficient cars), and I can understand it, because for a while people did not do that because I don't think they thought this would last," said Woodall. "I think now they realize it's going to last, and I think we'll all be driving smaller cars, but I think it will be when they have to trade and not when they want to trade."

Down the road a few blocks, Scott Tabor, owner of Tabor's Chevron, said the rising gas prices have significantly impacted his gas sales and may cause him to quit selling gas altogether. However, Tabor said this may benefit his business, which was previously owned by his father and has been selling gas for 42 years.

Tabor's pumps are not digital and would require replacements if gas were to go over \$4 per gallon. He has already been forced to quit selling high-octane gas because of its \$4-plus price. According to Tabor, new digital pumps would cost him nearly \$4,000.

"Our gas business has dropped quite a bit with the prices going up like they have, but it wouldn't be that detrimental to lose the gas," said Tabor. "Gas is a very unprofitable portion of the business."

Tabor said that due to steadily rising prices, his business is making less and less money from the fuel, but more from other services featured at his shop. "I hate to do it because you get to see a lot of people, but it would probably improve the cash flow of the business," said Tabor. "I just don't see any downside to it other than just missing the customers that come in."

Even the Crittenden County Public Library faced budget issues as they took into account the rising cost of fuel. According to Regina Merrick, director of the library, they chose to budget for more diesel

SOURCE: AAA

### The best

States with the lowest average price of gas per gallon, per AAA:

1. Oklahoma: \$3.83
2. Missouri: \$3.83
3. South Carolina: \$3.84
4. Mississippi: \$3.89
5. Tennessee: \$3.89

fuel for their new bookmobile, which accounts for 20 percent of library circulation, rather than cut back on its service. Merrick said cuts included limiting the purchase of new books and library programs. "A lot of counties are actually cutting their bookmobile service," said Merrick. "But we decided to go ahead and take the money away from other areas of service and put it toward fuel so we could continue our bookmobile services."

**Cuts may be in future** As gas prices continue to climb, city and county officials worry that cuts may need to be made in order to serve the community. "We have gone from gasoline and diesel being a small thing in our budget to now becoming a fairly significant one," said Mark Bryant, Marion's city administrator.

According to Bryant, the city of Marion's fuel budget increased from \$25,000 in 2005-06 to a little more than \$42,000 in 2007-08. Marion Chief of Police Ray O'Neal said that local police have taken measures to be more fuel efficient, such as parking more in better observation areas to reduce the need for patrolling.

O'Neal said that even cruising through Marion by teenagers has slowed down this year. "You see a lot more parked around and you see a lot more people driving motorcycles," said O'Neal.

But the city as a whole is taking a wait-and-see approach. "We're not doing anything to cut back, instead we're watching what the state is doing," said Bryant, in anticipation of budget cuts the state may make.

The county's fiscal court, however, faces a different dilemma than the City of Marion when dealing with rising fuel prices. Judge-Executive Fred Brown said cuts to services or manpower may be in the future for Crittenden County, but added he isn't sure what cuts will be made. "We're going to have to take a generalized look at all of it and make some decisions where to cut, but I know we're going to have to do some cutting," said Brown.

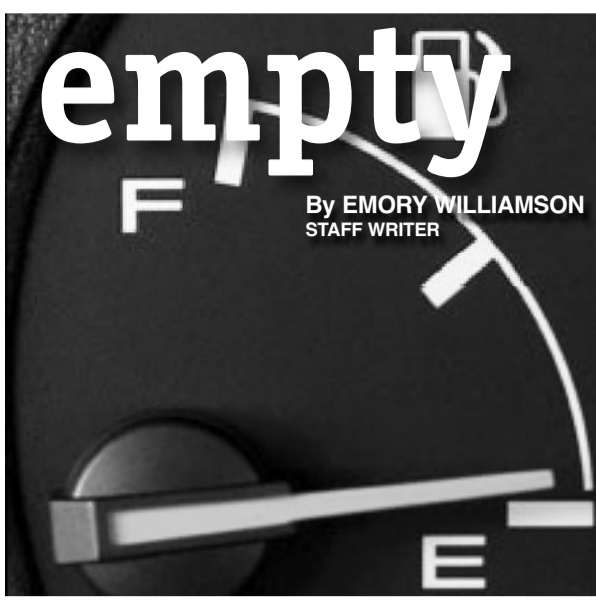
According to Brown, last year's budget required the county to cut a resource officer from the Crittenden County Public School system, a cost that was picked up by the school district at the time.

Last year, Brown budgeted \$72,000 for fuel, but spent nearly \$95,000 by year's end. He said that for next year, the budget is up to \$106,000, but would probably be 20 percent shy of what was needed.

Back at Five Star, as the numbers continue to roll at the pump, Brantley seems baffled and sings, "It's out of this world, oh, out of this world."

MPG heroes Cars with the best fuel efficiency, according to cnmoney.com

1. Toyota Prius: 46
2. Honda Civic Hybrid: 42
3. Smart ForTwo: 36
4. Toyota Camry Hybrid: 34
5. Nissan Altima Hybrid: 34



By EMORY WILLIAMSON  
STAFF WRITER

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270-965-4922

### The worst

States with the highest average price of gas per gallon:

1. California: \$4.60
2. Alaska: \$4.56
3. Connecticut: \$4.37
4. Hawaii: \$4.36
5. Washington: \$4.33

SOURCE: AAA

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