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THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008

75 CENTS A home-owned newspaper since 1879 VOLUME 128, NUMBER 51 - 16 PAGES

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 City considers legalizing new mode of travel

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR Golfers at Marion Country Club relax alongside their carts after a round of the game Tuesday afternoon. An ordinance introduced Monday by Marion Čity 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.

Council explores letting qolf 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 puttered 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 he 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 General Kentucky Assembly. Those laws would require Shelby to be

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.

Conserving fuel

The federal government offers a variety of tips for conserving fuel through its Web site FuelEconomy.org, including: See 8B For our

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

Fitting tribute



Jake Hodge tips his hat to teammates during 12under 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;

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) Source: FreddieMac.com as of June 19 **Precipitation report** Last 7 days0.49 Last 30 days. ...2.09 Since Jan. 1, 200830.39 Deviation from average.....+4.38 Source: UK Ag Weather Service at Princeton as of June 24

2008 highway fatalities

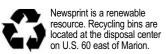
Crittenden County	1
Kentucky (as of June 23)	
Same period in 2007	
Source: Kentucky State F	

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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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

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 motorized small machines, he usually just asks them to get off the road.

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

Councilman Darrin Tabor Tabor is afraid cityapproved 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 allowable to cross from

Keep tires properly inflated

Use the recommended motor oil grade Plan, combine trips

> the east and west sides of town. Shelby has been stopped by authorities before, but clarified that she has only been asked to "be careful, and use your head crossing Main Street."

special on

the impact

of rising fuel

costs in the

county

Living on Leland Drive near Marion Country Club, Shelby spends little time on the road to and from playing golf. But the new law allows anyone within a five-mile radius of golf courses to use prescribed city streets for any reason. That would encompass virtually all of Marion.

Pippi Hardin, an avid golfer and former state police officer, has a golf cart equipped with tail and brake lights, as well as turn signals. But don't look for him to be driving on any city streets.

"It's dangerous," he said.

Senate Bill 93, which goes into effect July 15, allows local governments, such as Marion's, to make their own decision on golf cart usage. There are a number of state-prescribed restrictions above the city's.

A second reading is required before the city ordinance could become legal.

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 Α. Schluckebier of the Western Kentucky Medical State Examiner's office in

Jake always brought out the best in everybody around him.

- Tony James

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 country 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-

See HODGE/page 8A

Habitat folds; new non-profit to replace efforts

By EMORY WILLIAMSON STAFF WRITER

resident Dot Marion Meredith faced a difficult decision on June

5. Meredith, along with five other board members of local the Crittenden County Habitat for

Humanity, Meredith 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

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



The Press News & Views

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-yearold 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 daugh-

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 afterlife 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.

Thursday, June 26, 2008

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



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 reason-

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 vour 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.

Press Letters

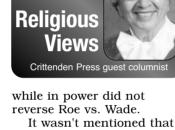
Bobcats could use community boost To the editor:

Today (Thursday) marks the midway point in the season for the Marion Bobcats

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 church getting facelift for next life as trailhead facility

By DARYL K. TABOR MANAGING EDITOR Brenton Witherspoon never eted the right r



ing.

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 Blackford the door and perhaps an ode to veterans.

Tuesday, On More on the Witherspoon took a Blackford Bridge break in the early Project that led to afternoon heat to talk the walking trail about his plans and and Veterans Walk share a cigarette or of Honor can be two with his work found online at crew, who just hap- www.blackford pen to be four women ky.com. on work release from

Crittenden County Detention Center.

"They took me to school," Witherspoon said of the help.



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

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.

The women, all transfers to

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

help," said Johnson, who con-

tinued work with a smile on

her face. "And he's treated us

poured his own time and

money into the grounds, coax-

es 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

looks better today than it did

"I've had people tell me it

was

built,"

as the work resumes.

it

"I"m glad to be able to

Witherspoon, who has

detention center.

so well."

when

Monday morning, he went Riley and Lewis. to pick up four inmates from the jail he thought would be Marion from Pewee Valley, eagerly stepped back inside 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. on the 'Net "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

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.

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 phenominal. The



Advertising Manager Marty Kares

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Regional Briefs \times

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 teh 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 Pennyrile and Western Kentucky parkways as part of the Canada-to-

Mexico intersate, 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 Pennyrile and from the Madisonville to Eddyville on Western Kentucky the Parkway.

The corridor passes through 10 Kentucky counties, includ-Henderson, Webster, ing 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 outfitted 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 vear 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.

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 occured 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 Crittenden-Livingston the 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 а 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

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

3A

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 occured. He apparently did not see a vehicle driven by lva 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 25year-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.



City, county work toward FEMA aid

The City of Marion is anticipating at least \$267,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency reimdamage bursements for 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-

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

FREE SATURDAY MOVIE OWEST PRI **SHOW INFO 365-7900**

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.





· 965-3188 · Peoples Bank ¹¹⁶ South Main, Marion, KY working for You! 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) State: 79 (17)

Crittenden County: 3 (2) Other counties: 5 (1)



BUD KRAFT/LRC PUBLIC INFORMATION Rep. Mike Cherry explains proposed changes to public employee pensions Monday before the House Committee on State Government.

Lawmakers address \$26B pension debt

A legislative plan that could save Kentucky city and county governments and school districts as much as \$60 million this year is before lawmakers for a vote this week

House Bill 1 would overhaul the state's pension system, which currently has more than \$26 billion in unfunded future retirement obligations. Measures found in HB 1 would increase the required retirement age for future public employees, limit cost of living raises for state retirees to 1.5 percent and require the state to increase contributions to the retirement system, said Rep. Mike Cherry House (D-Princeton), State Government Committee Chairman.

"This issue has been on the General Assembly's front burner for more than a year-and-a-half, and it is being resolved as I had hoped from the beginning: in a bipartisan fashion, with true input from those groups most affected by these changes, said Cherry.

In the current fiscal year, the City of Marion contributed more than \$100,000 to the pension system for its employees, while Crittenden Fiscal Court poured in an estimated \$175,000 for county workers.

State and local governments should eventually see savings of nearly \$500 million as a result of changes in the bill. Cherry said some changes set to become effective on July 1 would save city and county governments and school districts between \$50 million and \$60 million in one-time savings this year alone.

Judge-Executive Fred Brown doesn't know how much that might mean for the county if HB 1 passes, but is hoping for as much as 10 percent savings this year.

Lawmakers had not voted on the issue as of press time Wednesday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Dave and Ada Peek love their Mishawaka, Ind., home of the last 42 years so much, they decided to sell the \$350,000 house (pictured above) they won in a raffle in the northern Indiana city. Despite having left Crittenden County 42 years ago, the couple (pictured below) still call Kentucky home.

Couple wins \$350K home Crittenden natives opt to stay put despite prize

STAFF REPORT

It wasn't an easy decision, but Dave and Ada Peek decided the new home they won in a raffle just was not for them.

The Peeks, both retired and former residents of Crittenden County, recently won the house in a raffle conducted by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind. The couple has lived in Mishawaka,

Ind., for the last 42 years, making their home in a two-story house on the southwestern edge of town for almost 40 years, according to the South Bend Tribune.

For 17 years the Peeks have bought a ticket in the raffle, which raises money to help the less fortunate. After all, Ada, 66, was the director of dietary services at the hospital for most of her 40 years. This year, the couple paid \$150 for their raffle ticket – a ticket that earned them a \$350,000

home. Because they are so in love with their present home, the Peeks opted to sell the home they won.

"I'm not even sure that the three-car garage at the new house could hold all my stuff," said the 70-year-old Dave, who was a pattern-maker at Dodge Manufacturing Company for almost 40 years.

The raffle sold about 4,000 tickets, said Ada.

"Of course, we never expected to win it," she said of the house, which is now for sale.

Ada said she and Dave return to Crittenden County about once a year to visit friends and family. Her maiden name is Brown, and much of her family still remains here. as does Dave's.

"We still call Kentucky home," she said, despite having headed north 42 years ago for work.

Dave is celebrating his 50-year high school reunion this year, and the couple plans to return home for the gathering.





FOR SALE HILLCREST ESTATES

5A

Exquisite Mediterranean Brick on Lg private lot in secluded/restricted subdivision, underground utilities, 3 BR-2 Bath 2400 Sq Ft plus 2 Car garage, covered Lanai w/four rooms opening onto it with Double French Doors. Fover/Great Room has 12/13 Ft tray ceiling/ Eyebrow arch doorways/Ceramic Tile/Carpeted Floors, pre-wired for satellite/computer. Kit/Dinning w/Amish built custom cabinets/tumble stone back splash/ Corian counter tops/ pull out drawers/ lazy suzan/ appliance garage & office nook. Kenmore & Jenn Air black and stainless steel appliances, side by side Ref w/icemaker/water on door, flat top down draft range, built in convection oven/ microwave, trash compactor and ASKO dishwasher. Master suite opens onto covered Lanai w/ double vanities/ separate shower & tub, Two guest bedrooms, one has whirlpool tub & separate shower. # 44694



Saturday, June 28 • 5:00 p.m. Sharp

WE HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SELL AT AUCTION A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF RARE PAINTINGS AND **ORGINAL PRINTS BY THOMAS KINKADE AND TERRY RIDLIN. ALSO FROM THE SAME COLLECTOR OVER 120 PIECES OF FENTON GLASSWARE. ONE OF THE** LARGEST COLLECTIONS WE HAVE EVER SEEN.

FROM THOMAS KINKADE: THE END OF A PERFECT DAY #4/1998 (Canvas), VALLEY OF ABUNDANT HARVEST (Print), SWEETHEART GAZEBO #1209/13850 (Print), SUNSET ON A LAMPLIGHT LANE #21/1950 (Print). FROM TERRY RIDLIN: COLOR OF SPRING #3532/9500 (Print), OUR FRIENDS #5754/9500 (Print), TOTAL COMFORT #283/1950 (Canvas), PUPPY LOVE #190/3900 (Print). All Prints and Paintings Have Coa's and Are All **Custom Framed and Matted. All Breathtaking.**

Call 270-333-6122 or 270-952-0486 For Viewing Info The Auction Will Start at 5:00 p.m. Sharp on June 28.

SULLIVAN AUCTION HOUSE

11960 St. Rt. 141 South, Sullivan, KY 42460 Call 270-333-6112 For More Information

AHO Michelle Breeden Auctioneer, Mr. Jay Railey

	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
	EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY	
	CENTRAL DIVISION AT FRANKFORT	
	CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:02-23-JMH	
MICHELLE P., by her next friend,		
Jim Deisenroth, et al.		PLAINTIFF
vs.		
	NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND OF A PROPOSED	
	ADDENDUM TO CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
JANIE MILLER, Secretary		
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.		

JANIE MILLER, Secretary Kentucky Cabinet for Health In her official capacity, et al.

HABITAI tinued from Page 1A

fix the house for someone or didn't build the house we

"There has to be that mando any little jobs at all. If we agement there," said Hix of management for a non-profit.

DEFENDANTS

ment sought more volunteers and new board members for the organization.

"We are so close to building our next home in Crittenden County, but if we cannot get more volunteers we will be required to give the funds we worked so hard for to another county, state or even country," stated the advertisement.

According to Meredith. however, hopes for more volunteers and funding were dashed as only three people responded to the advertisement, including two in neighboring counties requesting that new homes be built for their families.

"We just can't find anv help," said Padget, of the main reason behind dissolving the local HFH affiliate. "No one wants to do it anymore."

Habitat being replaced

Although Padget and Meredith are both upset over the dissolving HFH affiliate, neither want to cease helping others in the community.

According to Padget, who has headed the

local HFH affiliate for the past six months, a new non-profit called Crittenden County Cares will replace Habitat facts the local HFH once Habitat for Humanity paperwork is finalwas founded in 1976 in ized. Padget will Americus, Ga., and serve as founder there are currently more and president of than 2,250 affiliates

CCC. Meredith said Hopkins, Union, the disbanded affil- Caldwell and Paducahiate and Jones' McCracken County affilhome will be given iates. Though former the Hopkins President Jimmy Carter to County HFH affili- is probably the most ate. She also said famous Habitat volunthat the HFHI teer, he had nothing to agreed to hand do with its founding. over funds collect-

ed by the local affiliate to CCC, which is about \$30,000.

worldwide, including

"With [HFHI] we couldn't do anything but just build the house," said Padget, who believes repairs are needed more so than rebuilding of homes. "We couldn't go in and

couldn't do anything, where with [CCC] we can do anything.

Padget also said he has received confirmations from volunteers who have professional experience with electrical work, plumbing and air/heat work.

Some advise structure

Buddy Hix came from humble beginnings. As a boy he grew up with his family in a small, wooden floored chicken house. He would later serve as president and executive director of the local HFH affiliate for nearly nine years, but was unaware that the HFH had dissolved.

According to Hix, the creation of the new non-profit, CCC, intended to replace the dissolved HFH local affiliate, may not suffice for the needs of some homes and that not a lot of repairs are needed in the area.

"You can take an old house and you can spend \$10,000 on it and make it look pretty good, but it's still an old house," said Hix. "But if it's

still an old house, no matter how much money you spend on repair, it doesn't meet the family needs - they need to get out of there.'

Hix also warned that organized management might be needed in order to properly function as an effective non-profit, such as CCC.

"If they don't have any structure or if they don't answer to someone then they may leave out some people," said Hix,

who is pastor at Unity General Baptist Church in Crayne. "It needs to be set up and have very stiff guidelines, rules and regulations. If you don't have that then it's going to be at the whim of whoever has the most power.'

"If not, you'll hurt more than you'll actually help."

Mickey Alexander, mayor of Marion, was also unaware of the dissolved affiliate, but said he was appreciative of their efforts over the

and



"There's always been a need for better housing," said Alexander.

decade

thinks

Crittenden

County Cares

will be a boost

in the county.

"But they may find that there is just as strong of a need to do repairs [in Crittenden County]. At least they're not totally abandoning the idea of helping people with housing, so that's great.'

Alexander said their efforts in the community were limited due to a small volunteer base.

"I don't think its any fault of their own and it doesn't mean the people don't care," said Alexander, who also said that he had never volunteered with the affiliate and acted more as a booster. "It's just a numbers thing."

"We have a lot of very qualified. dedicated volunteers in Marion and Crittenden County, but the problem is that the pool [of volunteers] is so small.

Alexander suggested that the new non-profit, CCC, assist the city in obtaining a Community Development Block Grant, similar to the \$1 million grant given to Princeton and two other western Kentucky cities earlier this month, in order to rebuild and repair dilapidated housing within the community. Alexander said the city missed this year's application date, but would consider applying in the future.

Padget said he was aware of the CDBG, but that the dissolved HFH affiliate had not looked into it and that he would consider discussing these options with city officials.

MAY BE A MEMBER OF THE CLASS THIS IS NOT A NOTICE OF A LAWSUIT AGAINST YOU.

THIS IS A NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND OF A PROPOSED ADDENDUM TO CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; YOU, YOUR WARD OR YOUR CHILD

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

"All present and future Kentuckians with mental retardation and/or related conditions who live with caretakers and who are eligible for, and have request ed, but are not receiving Medical Assistance community residential and/or support services."

Please Take Notice:

A lawsuit in this Court involved claims, by the named Plaintiffs, that Defendants violated provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Act by the anner in which they administered that portion of the Medicaid program concerning the provision of Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Menta Retardation (ICF/MR) services in community-based settings. The Court ruled that the case was to be maintained on behalf of the class defined above. The law suit sought only prospective, injunctive relief ordering reforms in the manner in which the program is conducted. The Court, following a fairness hearing in Marcl of 2006, ruled that the parties' settlement agreement was fair, adequate, and reasonable and it ordered the parties to abide by the settlement agreement. The Parties have now mutually reached an addendum to the settlement agreement, the terms of which are more fully described in § IV below. This case involves

no money damages. There will be no individual awards of money damages to either the named Plaintiffs or to the class members.

The purpose of this notice is to advise you of your possible membership in the class, your rights with respect to the lawsuit (including your right to clude yourself, if you so desire) and including your rights with respect to a proposed addendum to the settlement agreement.

Notice of Class Action

Your rights may be affected by this lawsuit.

Plaintiffs have alleged that Defendants violated the terms of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, in that they have not provided ICF/MR level serv ices in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of Medicaid eligible individuals who meet the ICF/MR level of care criteria and have not delivered those benefits in a timely manner. Plaintiffs asked for injunctive relief requiring reforms in the program administration, as well as for attorneys' fees and costs Defendants deny these charges. The Court has not ruled on the merits of the charges or of Defendants' denials and other defenses

You have a choice whether or not to remain a member of the class defined above.

If you want to be excluded from the class you must send a written request that includes the statement "I hereby request to be excluded from the class in the Michelle P., et al. vs. Miller, et al. litigation" to: Hon, William S Dolan, Protection and Advocacy, 100 Fair Oaks Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601 postmarked no later than July 7, 2008.

> By making an election to be excluded, (a) You will not share in any relief that may be afforded Plaintiffs; (b) You will not be bound by any decision in this lawsuit that may favor Defendants: and (c) You may present any claims you have against Defendants by filing your own lawsuit. If you want to remain a member of this class you should NOT file a request for exclusion and are not

2. required to do anything at this time.

Notice of Proposed Addendum to Class Settlement

Subject to Court approval, Plaintiffs and Defendants have agreed on an addendum to the previously approved settlement agreement. Plaintiffs asked the Court to make Defendants comply with certain provisions of the settlement agreement. Mediation ensued and the Court ultimately ordered Defendants to begin providing certain waiver services to class members. Defendants have appealed. After lengthy negotiations, and with input from many sources, the particular section of the particular section section of the particular se ties have produced a proposed addendum to the settlement agreement that, among other things, provides: Defendants will submit an amended Michelle F Waiver to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); the Michelle P. Waiver will serve 3,000 class members in the first year and add an additiona 1,500 "slots" each year thereafter, until reaching 10,000 slots.¹ The Michelle P. waiver will continue until at least 2016; the weekly maximum for certain service is 40 hours; and to the extent permitted by law, Defendants obligations are considered reasonable and necessary costs to the state of Kentucky and are no dependent on designated appropriations by the Kentucky legislature.²

Certain actions by CMS, or the parties, will trigger a dispute resolution process. There is continuing jurisdiction in the Court for a period of time that ends only when the Michelle P. Waiver is renewed or July 1, 2011, whichever first occurs. All terms and conditions of the settlement agreement not specif ically addressed in the addendum remain in full force and effect. Upon specific performance of the addendum, Defendants will have fully satisfied all obligations arising from the settlement agreement.

Defendants do not admit any wrongdoing or liability on their part. The proposed settlement with them is a compromise of disputed claims and does not mean that they agree with any of the charges made by Plaintiffs.

Plaintiffs will not be paid any attorney fees in this case.

You will not have to pay any fees or costs in this case.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO BE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS. You will be a member of the settlement class unles you request to be excluded ("opt out"). As long as you do not submit a written request for exclusion described in Section III above, you will remain a membe of the settlement class and will be bound by the settlement.

The references to the settlement agreement, the addendum, and the complaint contained in this notice are summary statements only and do no convey the considerable detail involved. Class members wishing to review the entire settlement, addendum, pleadings and other filings in this case may do so at the

5-771-14-87120	Office of the District Court Clerk
	Room 313, Federal Building
	330 Broadway St.
	Frankfort, KY 40601
During the hours o	f 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

PLEASE do not call the Clerk's office. You must go there to view the pleadings file

VIII Any class member who has not opted out may object to the addendum in writing or in person, at his or her own expense, at the hearing on fina approval. Written objections must include (a) proof of class membership; (b) the specific grounds for the objection, as well as any documents you may want the Court to consider and be presented to the Cierk's address in section VII above on or before July 7, 2008, and also mail a copy of the objection to Plaintiffs' counsel at the address listed in section III above

The Court has ordered that a hearing be held on July 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky 101 Barr Street, Lexington, Kentucky, to determine whether the Court should approve the proposed settlement.

It is not necessary for you to appear at the hearing although you have a right to do so

¹This represents a reduction from the 10,000 individuals to be served in the first year as provided for in the previously approved settlement agreement. The Addendum, however, commits Defendants to serving an additional 1,500 individuals each year until reaching 10,000 in year six, and further extends the waiv er from a minimum of three years to a minimum of eight.

²This Addendum reduces the agreed upon maximum hour limitations on the total of certain services from 50 to 40 hours per calendar week.



ThePressReligion

Faith gives hope for county's future

Ш Норе

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 daycare 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

several weeks I have had numerous conversations with Crittenden Countians who have a dream for local children. Some dream of daycare 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



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

> let your faith and courage bring your dream to life.

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 little they can do to stop you.

Prayer warriors, be prayter place. Our enemy has prayers are the key.

1902 S. Virginia St. Western Kentucky Hopkinsville, KY 270-885-0728 270-348-1566 www.wkrbc.org

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center is sole supplier of blood to Caldwell

Paul challenged Timothy, "Stir up the gift that is in you." Then

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 informa tion, call 667-2361. Marion Baptist Church is

nurch**notes**

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 every-

■ Freedom General Baptist Church will have a cemetery meet-



Every Other Friday June 27 · 7 - 11 p.m.

No Cover Charge / Free Entry

POOL · AIR HOCKEY · FOOSBALL · KAROKE · PS2 · Wii





HODGE

8A

it was by far the largest number of callers to attend a visitation. Hundreds more were at the funeral Tuesday at Rocket Arena, a place where Jake earned the affectionate moniker, "Gym Rat." His parents are both high school coaches and Jake grew up around sports. It was through athletics that he became known far and wide and touched the lives of so many people.

'Jake always brought out the best in everybody him," said Tony James, whose son, played on the Crittenden County 12under baseball

what we could so fitting. do for his family because they have always

done so much for us and for the community," James continued as tears ran down his cheek. "We thought a scholarship would be a way to pay tribute to Jake."

The fund has been set up at Fifth Third Bank where James is the local branch manager. (See obituary on page 7 for details.)

Jimmy Croft, a former Crittenden County basketball coach, watched Jake grow up in the gym because his father helped Croft with the ball team. He said Jake was destined to be a collegiate athlete.

'Opportunities knock for some kids, but not for others," Croft said. "Jake was going to have many opportunities and I think that's why a scholarship is so fitting. It will allow some kid who wants to go to college to be able to go.

The ball players with whom Jake

spent so much time met as a team Saturday afternoon and Jake's father, Denis, went to them and asked them to continue on with their dreams, James said.

The boys Jake played sports with were like one big family. They traveled together with their parents to games many weekends a year, staying together in hotels and playing games during the day.

Jake had just hit his first grand slam home run – a homer with three runners on base - to help keep his Rockets in contention for first place during a tournament at Paducah the weekend before

he died. **Opportunities** Jake's father says he is beginknock for some ning the initial kids, but not phases of gathfor others. Jake was going to rational have many

ering information for an inspibook that will help others deal with grief during the loss of a child. It will also focus on leading children to Christ. It's

- Jimmy Croft going to be "The called Legacy of Jake Hodge: It's not what

you take, it's what you leave behind."

"I always tried to instill that in my son, and in other children as a coach," Denis Hodge said. "Right now, God has my undivided attention and this is what he wants me to do. This is what I have to do. The only way to justify this is if we help win more children to Christ."

Vicky Collins, who was Jake's sixth-grade Science teacher and Sunday school teacher, said sports wasn't the only thing on the boy's mind.

"Several times I had looked at Jake's locker. You can tell a lot about a kid from his locker. What hangs on the inside of a locker usually represents something important to that child. For many athletes it's their favorite team's logo or some NFL or NBA player. It might even be a pop

Friends and family of Denis and Shannon Hodge remain in shock after the

sudden, unexpected death of their 12-year-old son Jake over the weekend. The boy was heavily involved in both sports and rodeo.

star, but it wasn't any of those for Jake," Collins said.

"The inside of his locker was covered with pictures of his family – even from the time he was small. Family pictures with him and his sister Jessi snuggled up next to his dad and mom, and another one was of him and his mom playing in the water.

"It was obvious what was truly important to Jake; and it definitely wasn't some female pop star, it was mom, dad and Jessi," said Collins.

Diana Dodson, principal at the middle school where Jake was to begin seventh grade this fall, said he was an excellent student who was always courteous and respectful to everyone.

"Jake was a strong leader among his peers, always encouraging them to do what was right. He was well-respected and among well-liked everyone at CCMS, said Dodson.

Some of his closest Dodson

friends and even casual observers remember that Jake was mature beyond his years.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

COUPLE NEEDED...for this 2 bedroom, 1 bath starter home located in Marion, immediate possession at closing on this home located on corner lot. Approx 1000 sq ft of living area that also includes Living room and eat in Kitchen. Priced at \$33,000. .Call today for more

SAVE YOUR GAS AND WALK TO TOWN...4 Bedroom, 1 bath, home in Marion, investment property or starter home. Located only 3 blocks from the center of town, and kids could walk to school. Call and set

an appointment today, list price \$22,000. **FOR THE BUDGET MINDED** This 3 bedroom 1.5 bath 14' x 70' mobile home is freshly b. The new carpeting, a large front porch, back deck & situated on nice lot. Priced at \$ 15,900. Owner / Agent. FINISHED WALK OUT BASEMENT ... 4 Bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, Dining room., Family room, Hardwood floors, Recently remodeled, updated kitchen countertops & flooring, including all major appliances, new 24' X 28' garage w/10' ceilings. All this plus nore for \$120,000. Call today for details.

MOBILE HOME & LOT. features 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, central heat & air in a nice quite the d. MINI FARM...Take a look at this home on approx. 7.5 acres.

Move into this 100 year old, farm home that offers 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hard 2 t fors, at respectively been large front porch, county water, pond, and lots of room for horses

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED... to Marion Country Club this 2 or 3 bedroom. 2 bath home offers a chefs kitchen loaded with cabinets. including dishwasher, Jenn-Air range, oven, microwave, refrigerapr. disposal. & under counter ice maker, living room. formal dining room; office w/built-in bookshelves; laundry rm w/washer/dryer/deep freeze plus attached carport. The walk-out basement features a family-multipurpose room with an attached arge sunshine room. Call today for more details SPRINGTIME ... A great time for moving into this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ready for occupancy. Features: Separate entry hall to formal living and family kit separate combination. Has central heat & air, nice size launch, command attached garage. Offering black top drive leading to a detached double car garage. Good location in Greenwood Heights. Priced in mid eighties. Call today r more details ENJOY THE PEACE & QUIET ... in this 28 x 56 Cedar sided Manufactured Home situated on 1 acre of property. Features 3 BR, 2 BA, large den w/gas fireplace & vaulted ceiling. Kitchen is equipped w/all appliances including the washer and dryer & cabinet space to spare. Large master bedroom with walk in closets, master bath has garden tub and shower unit. Also has detached 2 car garage, a small storage shed. OLD SHADY GROVE RD...This 3 bedroom, 2 full baths home located in Marion, with convenient location to town and the ball fields. Large living room, the full bath, kitchen with large dining area, utility room, several updates to the home including HVAC, paint, vinyl siding, plumbing. Immediate possession available at closing MARION HISTORIC HOME...located on corner lot 3 blocks from center of town. Features 3 BR, 2 BA, high ceilings, dining room, butlers pantry, large living room, hardwood floors, original double pocket doors leading to the dining room/kitchen area, sunroom Also has outside entry for upstairs for separate apartment includ ing kitchen & bath. 2 car garage with side street entry. WALK TO TOWN ... from this immaculate brick home featuring 2 bedroom, 2 bath, foyer, formal living room, separate dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen with appliances. This attractive home has attached double car garage and 34' x 36' shop building with loft situated on large deep lot. PRICE REDUCED QUIET AND PEACEFUL... is where this 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home is located. Situated on 2 acres in Crittenden County. For the handyman that likes to tinker there is a 24 x 30 garage with concrete floor and work benches. Home features all appliances, plenty of room to have a garden and let the kids run around PRICED REDUCED. OWNER SAYS MAKE AN OFFER. STARTING OUT OR SLOWING DOWN ... this is right for you Nice 2 bedroom mobile home w/deck, porch and portable 10' x 16' storage building. Must be moved. Reduced \$15,500.

"You never really thought of him as a kid," said Payton Croft, who despite being nine years older than Jake always thought of him as a contem-

both sons of basketball coaches, foltrips.

Croft's father, the former head basketball coach at and may be posted Crittenden County at www.Jake High School, said Hodge.com Jake was "a kid

Hodge are invited

people. He had great things ahead of him," Jimmy Croft said. His school principal recognized the

very same traits. "Perhaps the most important characteristic Jake possessed was that he

was such a person of strong character, even at his young age. Crittenden County Middle School has suffered a huge loss with the passing of Jake

Mike Jones, minister at Marion Baptist Church where Jake was a member, calls him a "a truly remark-

able young man." "I am so thankful

but what was extraspecial about Jake was his faith in Jesus Christ. It is this faith in Jesus Christ that

Jones

provides the strength for Jake's family to endure this tragic time in their lives.

The pastor said the Bible speaks of "peace that passes all understanding" and it is that "peace" that enables those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to have comfort, knowing they will see Jake again in Heaven.

staircase, 2 master suites, 4 bathrooms, kitchen w/appliances, 2 laun

dries, study, great room with gas log fireplace, recreation room plus bonus kitchen, enclosed glass solarium & private deck overlooking the

beautiful greens. In addition this lovely home has a large walk-out

heated basement, an attached oversized double car garage plus

many additional amenities. Fulfill you dreams by calling for an

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

INVESTMENT OR YOUR FIRST HOME ... this 2-3 Bedroom, *

Bath home comes complete with all appliances including washer/drver. Approx 1000 sq ft located in Burna, KY including an

extra lot for additional rental income potential or added privacy

Property includes large storage building, 1 car garage, paved cir

CHECK OUT THE PRICE ... on this 3 BR, 1.5 bath brick ranch w/

immediate possession. Located in a quiet Salem neighborhood

with immaculately landscaped yard, paved drive and a 12 x 16

storage building. Kitchen has modern stove top and built in oven

plenty of counter top space and cabinets. Carpet, laminate hard-

wood flooring, bathroom cabinets and fixtures updated. All this

house needs is your furniture and family to make it your new

home. Don't wait to long to set your appointment to see this move

CORNER LOT ... located in Salem. Features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath

stone exterior. Walking distance to bank, grocery, churches, beau-

SMALL COMMUNITY LENGTH bedroom home located in Lola. Features living room, discourse kitchen w/ stove, refrigerator,

cle drive and trees to keep you in the shade.

appointment today.

ty shop, etc. \$29,500

The Press Community Calendar

Today

A seminar hosted by Crittenden Hospital will be given at the Senior Citizens Center today (Thursday) at 11:30 a.m.

Friday

■ There will be bingo at 10:30 before lunch and also birthdays at the Senior Citizens Center.

Saturday

■ The Thomas Annual Flag Raising will take place at 11 a.m., Saturday at 2633 Wilson Farm Rd with music and fellowship. Meat and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a potluck dish and chairs. Any questions

contact Donna at 965-9441. The Shady Grove Alumni Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Shady Grove Fire Barn. Call Ray Gobin at 667-2302 for reservations. The meal is \$12 per person and everyone is invited. A car show will held Saturday in Carrsville. There is a \$5 entry fee and check-in time is 10 a.m. Prizes will be given away at 2 p.m. For information, call 988-2812. The Crittenden County Rescue Squad will hold its annual fundraising studio photograph shoot this weekend. Pictures are being taken from 10 a.m., until 5 p.m., Saturday and from 11 a.m., until 5 p.m., Sunday at the squad building on West Carlisle Street (formerly the county museum).

local1373@gmail.com. Bingo is hosted every Monday at the Marion VFW post on North College Street. The doors open at 5:30 p.m., with bingo following an hour later.

Upcoming

The Fredonia Memorial Day Parade has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. on July 4th. For those participating in it, please meet in front of the old Fredonia School before 10 a.m. If you have questions contact Brennan Cruce at 965-4520.

To make hospital stays as easy and stress-free as possible, Western Baptist Hospital is offering a free one-hour class, "Hospital 101: Your Guide to Hospital Admission." The first class is scheduled for July 17, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Atrium Classroom of Western Baptist Hospital's Doctors Office Building 2. Other classes are planned for this fall. To register or for more information, phone 575-2918. Crittenden County High School Class of 1968 reunion has been set for Aug. 8 and 9, but response is needed by July 18 for a head count. If you plan to attended or need further information, call Barbara Brickman at (423) 344-1545, or Sheila Truitt at 965-2490 ■ This year's Marion High School class reunion will be at 5 p.m., July 5 at Marion Country Club.

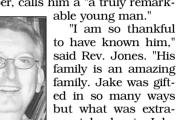
Economic Development Corporation will host its annual meeting at noon Marion Ed-Tech Center. Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo is scheduled as the guest speaker.

Ongoing

North Livingston Baptist Church will provide a 12-step, confidential recovery program for issues such as divorce, uncontrolled anger, gambling, drug and alcohol addiction, sexual abuse, codependency, food addiction, uncontrolled spending and domestic violence. The group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m., every Thursday night at the church. Transportation can be provided if needed. Call 988-3076 or 969-0402 for any questions.

'Variety! Music, Memories and More" returns for its fourth season as the main production at the Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers. Variety! features a professional cast of singers, dancers and a live band. The show plays tributes to various variety shows from the past including Ed Sullivan and Hee Haw and includes several different styles of music. Variety! is performed every Friday and Saturdav at 7 p.m. 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.







Continued from Page 1A

porary.

The two boys grew up together, lowing behind their fathers to games Hodge and on scouting

memories Comments and sto-

when with other kids, but he acted more like an adult when around older

Hodge," Dodson said.

night Monday. The funeral home said

around Paxton, team with Jake. opportunities and I think "Everyone that's why a scholarship is

Monday

The Spring Sprint that was cancelled will now become a catfish buffet. Local Chapter 1373 of NARFE will meet Monday at the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association catfish buffet. It will be held at Miss Scarlett's Restaurant in Grand Rivers. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Call Tim Diaz at 965-2621 for more information. or e-mail

The Crittenden County

Crittenden County History

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RELAX ON LARGE BALCONY...overlooking your own private stocked lake. Attractive brick features: 3 bedrooms. 2 baths, family room, kitchen w/built-in appliances; formal Living. & dining room with full glass panels overlooking lake. Has 2 car attached garage plus nice double unattached garage/workshop w/heat & air plus other amenities. Located on 3 beautiful lots in Salem Heights

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1.27 ACRE LOT...located in Marion. Many possibilities. Call today

CALDWELL COUNTY TIMBERLAND ... approx 170 acres of prime deer/turkey hunting, located in the northwest corner of Caldwell and only 1 mile east of the Crittenden County line. This tract offers both mature hardwoods and loblolly pines. Established food plot(s), borders Little Piney Creek on the west and northwest corner and right in the center of thousands acres of Western Kentucky's finest deer country. One section of the tract offers scenic views in all directions. This all timber tract is priced at \$339,500, call today and set up an appointment for showing.

245 ACRES...Crittenden Co farm that has it all, 1800 sq ft home, gues quarters, 4800 sq ft barn, corral, great pasture and lots of timber. Owner has improved this tract from day one and has more improvements that are included in the sale. All structures new since 05, pasture has been reseeded and fertilized. Lanes are cut throughout the timber for easy access. Excellent Deer and Turkey hunting in and around this property Appointment required for showing.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

RESTORED HISTORICAL COMMERCIAL BUILDING ... located Main St. in downtown Marion. This renovated building has original ornate tin/medallion ceilings, hardwood/mosaic tile flooring, replace ment windows plus central heat & air. The building has 1 and half baths, 2 stories with an open staircase leading to the balcony and second floor. Excellent for various retail businesses and downtown apart ment. Come take a look and began a new business or transfer you

location to this unique building. Call today for more details. OPEN YOUR OWN BUSINESS...this fully renovated building located in the heart of Salem is ready for you to open your business. With approx 1300 sqft of total space this building has large paved parking, over 175 feet of road frontage on US 60, with just less than an acre of land that could give you additional room for growth. Building has new central HVAC, handicap accessible, carpet, windows, and paint throughout. Rooms have been petitioned for easy access from any where inside the building. Call today and set an appointment.

533 E. DEPOT ST....commercial building. Was being used as a doc tor's office. Features large multi purpose room, offices, 2 baths, and a lot of parking space. Also has apartment with 3 bedrooms. 1.5 baths. Many possibilities. PRICE REDUCED.



Jim DeFreitas (270) 832-0116 Peggy Watson (270) 704-0079

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Runnin' on emp 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.

The John Davies, a representative worst 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 Breakdown

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 States with the this may benefit his highes average business, which was price of gas previously owned by per gallon: his father and has . California: \$4.60 been selling 2. Alaska: \$4.56 gas for 42 3. Connecticut: \$4.37 years. 4. Hawaii: \$4.36 5. Washington: \$4.33 SOURCE: AAA

> 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 highoctane gas because of its \$4plus 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.

SOURCE: AAA

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 patrol-

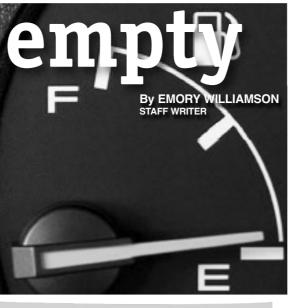
ing. O'Neal said that even cruising through Marion by teenagers has slowed down this year.

"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 dilemmma than the City of Marion



The best

Brown

States with the lowest average price of gas per gallon, per AĂA: 1. Oklahoma: \$3.83 2. Missouri: \$3.83 3. South Carolina: \$3.84 4. Mississippi: \$3.89 5. Tennessee: \$3.89

> 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



cy, according to cnnmoney.com 1. Toyota Prius: 46

- 2. Honda Civic Hybrid: 42
- Smart ForTwo: 36
 Toyota Camry Hybrid: 34
 Nissan Altima Hybrid: 34

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."

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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.

what five to

"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-

iviui le factors o into the cost of a gallon of gas.

Fixed costs

Kentucky excise tax \$0.21¹ \$0.184 Federal excise tax \$0.014 State underground tank fee Variable costs \$0.12 Distribution, marketing, profits* \$3.22 Crude oil cost Refinery cost, profits \$0.53 \$4.25 What you pay

come in."

Even the Crittenden County Public Library faced budget issues as they took into account the rising cost of fuel.

tomers that

According to Regina Merrick, director of the library, they chose to budget for more diesel



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