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News Journal

City rolls up carpet on the Klan's aims

by GARY BRYANT

The City of Corbin has rolled up the red carpet and put the welcome wagon in the garage when it comes to the Ku Klux Klan.

Recently, it was reported that the Klan would open an office in Corbin and they would hold a rally here.

In response, the City of Corbin has placed ads in both local newspapers, proclaiming Corbin's support for equal rights for all races.

Dave Hudson, Corbin city manager, said the ads were inspired by the wishes of the general and collective desires of the leadership of Corbin. The ads are only

one way that those leaders are hoping to give the message to the Klan that their ideas are not welcome.

"We have chosen a number of vehicles to convey that message," Hudson said.

Hudson said that support for equal rights is not a new thing in the city. Years ago resolutions were passed in support of equal rights, according to Hudson, and these measures re-enforce those efforts.

Corbin has developed a reputation for being a racist town, that image developed unfairly from an event that took place a long time ago, Hudson said.

"We feel that our community has received some bad publicity from an event that supposedly happened 70 years ago," Hudson said.

The event itself has not been accurately portrayed, Hudson said. That was especially true in a documentary produced about Corbin's racist past.

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ECM to improve with state funds

by DAVID M. SWEET

Emergency Christian Ministries of Williamsburg will be able to expand services due to a \$60,000 state grant.

According to ECM Director, Bill Woodward, the state grant from the Kentucky Emergency Shelter Grant Program will be utilized to tackle four major areas of homelessness in Whitley County.

"Whitley Fiscal Court helped us to get the grant, they helped us to apply; this is just the type of grant we needed," Woodward said. "We also must give God a lot of credit, because he has made things happen for us since the very beginning; leading us to this grant is just one area in which he has helped us."

Originally, ECM asked for a \$90,000 grant, but because of the high demand for grant monies for the homeless from all over the state, the grant was \$60,000, according to Woodward.

The state allocated a total of \$674,000 in grants for the entire state. Whitley County received one of the highest amounts of any shelter in the area.

"It's really going to help everyone, it's really a no lose situation," Woodward said. "The Lord is really in control of this."

ECM is the only homeless shelter of its kind between Knoxville and Lexington on Interstate-75.

He said the grant will go toward four specific areas, which are: rehabilitation, the prevention of homelessness, essential services and maintenance.

Fifty percent of the grant will go toward rehabilitation, according to Woodward. Rehabilitation includes conversion, or upgrading, of the building itself.

"We have been working on it little by little since the city purchased it for us," Woodward said. "The building is still in need of some repair inside and outside, in which this grant will help us. It is liveable now, but we would like for the building to look a lot better."

Woodward said that some routine maintenance to the rooms and to the bathrooms were top on the list.



This Sparrow found an unusual nesting site inside a tree. The parent wasn't shy for the camera or the passers (Photo by Frank Newman)

Alzheimer's patie with daughter aft

by DAVID M. SWEET

Every morning is sort of a family reunion at Betty Miller's house in Canadatown, but soon Betty will have a reunion she has been waiting on for over 26 years.

Betty's son and daughters meet every morning for coffee at her home next to Clay Canada's store in Canadatown, but last week all the talk was centered around a different type of homecoming—the one with her father John Kingery.

"You sometimes wonder how in this big world with so many people that they could come up with the

note and a bag of diapers. John Kingery couldn't tell authorities who he was. The note identified him as 'John King', and stated that he was a widower and a farmer from Spokane, Wash., with no income or savings.

Betty had not seen her father in more than 26 years; she hadn't spoken to him in about 20 years. In fact, the last time the family

said, "He tried time he was couldn't find thought the dead."

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This Week Briefly

News

Legal suit filed against Shadow Boat

"But we are just to death to hav

Klan's

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According to the documentary, a little over 70 years ago an integrated construction crew was sent to lay rails in Corbin. Popular forms of entertainment for the crew included drinking and playing poker. One night a white man was killed, and a black man was blamed for the killing.

After this point the documentary differs from what he has been told by at least one town historian, Lester Root, according to Hudson.

"His story is drastically different than the account given in the documentary," Hudson said.

According to the documentary, the blacks in the crew were sent out of town, because of fear that they would be lynched, but Hudson said that in fact the entire crew was sent out of town, both black and white to avoid further trouble.

That crew was replaced by another integrated crew, not an all white crew.

"I think that thing has been

blown all out of proportion," Hudson said.

Corbin has been tied to this event, which unjustly projected Corbin as a racist town, according to Hudson.

"The majority of this community does not have these feelings," Hudson said.

Hudson said that people in Corbin would be guaranteed their rights no matter what their race.

"We as a city and a community will do whatever is within our power to see to it that the rights and freedom of all people is guaranteed," Hudson said.

The people in Corbin are not in favor with the Klan, according to what he has been told, Hudson said.

"I can tell you this, not one single individual - and I've talked to a lot of people - has been in favor of or endorsed the principals and methods that the Klan teaches," Hudson said.

Hudson said that he thought the Klan would not receive a very warm welcome from the people in Corbin.

"I don't think they are going to be welcomed with open arms - quite the contrary" he said.

However, there would be no attempt to interfere with the Klan as long as they abided by the laws.

"They have the same rights and freedoms as everyone else," Hudson said.

ECM

From page one

Woodward said the rooms would be upgraded, as well as some outside work done, such as siding and paint work.

In essential services, of which 20 percent is applied to, includes helping some of the homeless patrons get back on their feet.

"Those that have lost their jobs, we will try to keep job listings of the area available to them," Woodward said. "This part of the funds will also help us locate permanent housing, or help relocate for permanent housing."

Still, Woodward stressed that this portion of the fund will not be used to pay rents or establish homes, but only to locate permanent housing.

However, five percent of the grant will be used to help prevent homelessness. This portion of the grant will be used to help those that need aid toward their utilities or their rent, but would not pay the full amount.

"This would be like a supplement, if someone is in dire need," Woodward said.

It would also be used for specific situations in which families risk losing their homes due to a sudden crisis or an emergency hospitalization that may wipe out the entire savings of a family.

"This is to really prevent fami-

lies from losing everything they have in dire circumstances," Woodward said. "We expect not to have many cases like this, but it all depends on the circumstances."

Woodward stressed that ECM did not want to duplicate any services already offered through other agencies, such as Bell-Whitley or the Friendship Center.

"We want to help those who truly need help, we hope we don't have people that want to take advantage of every situation they can; it doesn't work that way," Woodward said. "We keep records on people and keep in contact with these other agencies to check on what type of aid has already been given before we make our decision on those that we help."

Since November, ECM has sheltered 204 people; given 237 individuals food and has given 253 individuals clothing.

"There has been a bigger need for this type of shelter than we first thought," Woodward said. "We have had a lot of support from the community and we have managed to help a lot of people without a duplication of services. Many of these people have just had problems just came up and they needed a place to play."

Many of the situations that Woodward has helped with have been families. Many families have

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and the communication to those residents has worked quite well, causing as little inconvenience as possible. Having to work around occupied units will always involve some inconvenience to the residents and contractors as well.

The workmen have used some electricity from time to time within the units, depending on the trade of work going on at the particular time. The use of a power drill would not drive up the cost of the electricity to an excessive amount. These residents do pay for their own utilities, however, the article failed to mention the allowance which is deducted from their rent due to the utility charges.

Fire extinguishers are not mandatory within dwelling units. Smoke detectors are a requirement. If a resident decides to remove a battery from the smoke detector for one reason or another, the Housing Authority has absolutely no control or is not aware of the situation.

The smoke detectors are checked by the maintenance staff, and would never disconnect a smoke detector for any resident. In the case of a smoke detector going off continuously, is a sign of a battery being low and is needing to be replaced. The residents must be urged not to remove the batteries from the smoke alarms, since they have been installed for their own protection.

The Housing Authority did not choose to renovate these units

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