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TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny
Upper 80s
Upper 60s



Scrapbook:
Thursday's high: 90
Low: 66
Last July 16:
High: 83
Low: 67
Record since 1901:
High 101, 1980
Low 47, 1945
Precipitation:
July 15: 0
(year-to-date, 20.07)

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Privatization documentary to be shown:

Blue Gold: World Water Wars will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Marion Public Library, 600 S. Washington St. The documentary is about privatization of water utilities.

The free event is organized by some members of Marion Municipal Employees. Seating is available for the first 150 people.

— Maribeth Vaughn

American Red Cross consolidates:

The Grant County chapter of the American Red Cross consolidated with Howard, Miami, Tipton and Wabash counties July 1, forming the American Red Cross of North Central Indiana.

The office at 118 W. 25th St. will remain open, and people shouldn't notice many changes in services, according to a news release.

Office hours changed to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and it's closed Fridays.

The phone number remains 662-7600. The new Web site is www.redcrossofnci.org, and the new e-mail address is info@redcrossofnci.org.

— Maribeth Vaughn

Local YMCA joins national branding change:

Grant County's Star Financial YMCA is joining with the nationwide YMCA branding change. The building itself will still be called the Star Financial YMCA or the Grant County Family YMCA, but the nonprofit's logos, events and more will be branded as simply "the Y."

The change is the first in 43 years, according to a news release, and was revealed Tuesday at a national event. Angela Williams, membership and marketing director at the local Y, said it will be a five-year process to completely implement the change, but summer programs and clothing are already being branded with the new logo. She said it represents the Y's commitment to healthy living and support for community.

The logo represents moving forward as it looks like an arrow, she said, with the traditional triangle that represents spirit, mind and body. The letters "YMCA" remain in small print on the logo, reflecting the organization's roots.

— Maribeth Vaughn

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ROB EDWARDS / redwards@chronicle-tribune.com

STAYING HYDRATED — Gary Masiogale gets a huge drink of water Thursday afternoon while taking a break from pouring concrete at The Gardens at Matter Park. Temperatures reach into the low 90s with heat index's reaching into the 100s Thursday.

High temps making outside work difficult

Workers take precautions in the extreme heat

NICOLE BOGUE
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The hot temperatures and high heat index are making it difficult for local employees who spend their workday outside.

A heat advisory was issued Thursday and in effect from noon until 7 p.m. The temperature reached 90 degrees Thursday. With combined humidity, the heat index was 100 degrees.

Bob Goins, Marion postmaster, said the heat is difficult on the mail carriers, but they are taking precau-

tions to stay cool. "They have been instructed to take extra breaks and replenish with water," he said. "They also park their trucks in shaded areas."

Goins said some of the mail carriers take coolers filled with ice to stay cool. He said he will be having a safety talk with the mail carriers this morning to discuss safety precautions regarding the extreme heat.

"Most of my carriers are struggling, but they will make it," he said. "They are good workers."

Staying hydrated is the most important thing for people who are working outside. Todd Curran, Vice President of Curran Roofing, said they approach the extreme heat with common

sense.

He said heat on top of the roof can be between 105 and 110 degrees. He said they emphasize watching one another because they may not know how the heat is affecting them individually. "We supply them with Gatorade and tell them to take extra breaks when needed," he said. "We tell them to keep an eye on one another."

Ann Vermilion, administrative director at Marion General Hospital, said there is not currently a rise in heat-related illnesses, but they are ready and expect it to happen. She said the young and the elderly are the two demographics affected the most by heat.

She said there are several things people can do to pre-

vent heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses.

"Stay indoors if all possible, but if you must be outside, drink more fluids," She said.

She said drinking more water is the best thing to do.

The extreme heat is not keeping people from enjoying golf. There has not been a decrease of golfers at Arbor Trace Golf Club or Walnut Creek Golf Course, according to course officials. There also have not been any heat-related incidents reported at the golf courses.

According to the National Weather Service, the temperature is expected to stay in the nineties throughout the weekend, with heat index values as high as 103.

Quilting celebration kicks off

Crafters share love for hobby

BY MARIBETH VAUGHN
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Celebrating quilting came easy for a group of women gathered Thursday afternoon.

The annual celebration of the Quilters Hall of Fame began Thursday with workshops, lectures and shopping.

One lecture, "Dancing on Your Quilt," didn't necessarily have people tapping their toes, but it did have about 10 women gathered to share their excitement for quilting.

"It's so wonderful," said

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ELAINE MOORE / emoore@chronicle-tribune.com

WALL HANGING — Cindy Claycamp, left, and Margaret Long hold up a wall hanging quilted and created by Hazel Carter on Thursday evening during a Show and Tell at the Marion Public Library as part of the Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration.

United Water could lease or buy utilities

Company among three proposing bids to purchase

BY MARIBETH VAUGHN
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United Water could lease Marion Municipal Utilities as opposed to an outright purchase, a company official said, and employees would be offered jobs if an agreement is made.

The company is among three that proposes purchasing the water and

wastewater utilities. The others are Aqua Indiana and American Water.

Jim Perron, director of project development for United Waterworks, said he's been to Marion a few times over the last three years, discussing a purchase of the utilities with Mayor Wayne Seybold.

"We think of it as a public / private partnership; we become part of the community," Perron said.

While the company proposes purchasing the utilities, it could also lease both with an upfront concession fee. Perron said that would

allow the community to keep ties to the utilities and would also give the city the upfront funds desired. Mayor Seybold has said funds from a purchase would be put in an account to where the interest would go toward street and sidewalk improvements.

United Water's proposal also states that employees would be offered jobs if they want to join the company. Perron added that if they wish to stay with the city because their years of retirement benefits have accrued, they could.

United Water operates in

eight states and provides service to more than 500,000 accounts. It currently operates the city of Indianapolis' wastewater utility.

Perron recognizes the city's high quality of water, and said the public utilities run very efficiently. He said the company prides itself in excellent water treatment.

He said United Water has experience in combined sewer overflow improvements, and its experience would help the rate payers because overall cost could be decreased.

"Rates will increase

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Firefighters hope to halt unwanted fire calls

Officials hope to impose fines on some facilities

BY MISHELE WRIGHT
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Fire officials are hoping to decrease the large number of unnecessary fire alarm runs by imposing fines on facilities, but some business owners are against the ordinance.

Earlier this month, the Marion City Council approved a first reading of an ordinance that would reduce the amount of false fire alarms in the city.

Marion Fire Chief Steve Gorrell said the department responded to 343 false alarm calls in 2008 and 302 false alarms in 2009. Some of the places that firefighters respond to often for false alarms include Scripture Hall at Indiana Wesleyan University, Carey Court Apartments, Lyons Manor, Colonial Oaks Health Care Center, Marion General Hospital and the VA Medical Center, he said.

The number of false alarms decreased in 2009 because firefighters began going into businesses at the end of 2008, trying to figure out what problems the businesses were having.

The number of calls units responded to at Carey Court Apartments decreased because fire officials discovered the incorrect smoke detectors had been installed and that they were located in the wrong place, Gorrell said.

He said he hasn't heard feedback from anyone about the ordinance.

"I think they understand where we're coming from," he said about the business owners.

David Poe, maintenance director at Colonial Oaks Health Care Center, 4725 S.

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THE ORDINANCE:

Schedule of penalties:

■ Second false alarm: A letter will be sent to the business stating it has 15 days to correct the problem.

■ Third false alarm: A \$50 fee will be imposed.

■ Fourth false alarm: \$75 fee.

■ Fifth false alarm: \$100 fee.

■ After the fifth false alarm, a \$125 fee will be imposed thereafter in the same calendar year.

■ If firefighters respond to a fire alarm and they find that the alarm company is working on the system without notifying the department prior as required by the State Fire Marshal's Office, the alarm company working on the system will be fined \$150.

Examples of alarms that don't qualify as a penalty of this ordinance:

■ An activation of the alarm cause by a fire or smoke.

■ A qualified person testing the alarm system that has notified the department before the test.

■ An alarm caused by someone who is not an employee smoking near a detector.

■ A malicious activation or pull station by someone who is not an employee.

Source: General Ordinance No. 10-2010.



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