

## Business Pulse

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Jessica estimates she sold about 20 houses last year and is on that same pace this year with around 10 houses sold thus far.

"The market right now is just crazy," said Jessica. "Anything under \$150,000 is selling fast. If you can get something in the \$100,000 to \$120,000 range that's a decent house, it will be gone. I put one on the market last Thursday and had a contract on it Sunday."

One thing that helps is they do almost all of the renovation work themselves. Daniel says they do use an outside company for carpet work and they also use a licensed electrician for major electrical jobs, but other than that they do about everything themselves.

Jessica says one thing she likes about the business is it's a family affair. They often take their children with them while they're doing upgrades and she says many people comment on how nice it is to see everyone together.

Jones & Co. has already taken three real estate listings and has one property pending. For more information, you can call the office at 474-2020 or reach Jessica directly at 808-8442.



**Renewed Creations is opening Monday on South Chancery Street next to The Truck Lot. The business is owned by Jennifer Bond and Daughn Kropff.**

### BUSINESS OFFERS CHANCE TO RENEW

Life would be so much simpler if you could make yourself look like new with a coat of paint and a little tinkering. That strategy might not work for us, but it works for the furniture and decorative items at Renewed Creations.

The business opens Monday on South Chancery Street in the mini plaza located next to The Truck Lot.

Jennifer Bond and Daughn Kropff are the owners.

Jennifer has been painting furniture for more than five years and also doing light upholstery work. She says the trend right now is to definitely paint over the natural wood, even on some nicer furniture pieces.

"Our focus is to get everything in working order, to renew it," said Jennifer. "We'll always have new pieces coming in and coming out. We have some unique things

to offer, some nice things for Warren County."

Jennifer says they had no trouble filling their store with a variety of merchandise. They haven't even opened for their first day and "we're outgrowing our space already," she says.

Daughn is an avid crafter who specializes in embroidery and vinyl work. She has developed some decorative pieces from items that had previously looked to have little value.

"We're such a disposable society. We want to throw everything away," said Daughn. "But like our name says, we want to refinish and renew. We'll also be offering some classes."

Class schedules haven't been firmed up, but the classes will include topics such as chalk painting, stencil classes and signage classes. They don't have an abundance of available space to accommodate large booth vendors, but they will be selling a few items from other people such as designer woodwork which is said to be very eye-catching.

It's the first official business for both ladies, but they've been in this line of work for years and helped other store owners launch from the ground up. They say opening the store has been a new and rewarding experience and they're eager for opening day to arrive this Monday.

Regular hours are Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### THE IMPACT OF REGGAE

MTSU is known for doing economic studies on different events like Bonnaroo and UT football games. One of these days I'm going to do an economic study on Reg-



**Snazzy T-shirts commemorating McMinnville are available at Renewed Creations. The store is filled with unique items and is open Monday thru Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. each day.**

gae at Smooth Rapids.

The topic is relevant in this day when one of our top points of emphasis seems to be on attracting tourists to Warren County.

In my conversations at Reggae at Smooth Rapids, I talked to many people from out of town. Many were from within a two-hour radius, but were staying here the entire weekend.

You also have to consider all the out-of-town bands who came here to play. They have family, support staff and others who accompany them on the road and they have to eat and pay for gasoline too. For example, the first band of the festival, Nomadic Culture, traveled from Atlanta.

If Reggae at Smooth Rapids can attract 1,000 people over the three-day event and each person spends an extremely low estimate of \$50, that's an economic impact of \$50,000. I think a much more realistic estimate would be \$125 per person for an economic impact of \$125,000.

Either way, we can see how a three-day music festival is not only a barrel of fun, it also strikes a pleasant economic chord. The same can be said for concerts at Cumberland Caverns, which brings people to Warren County and those folks spend money too. I will eventually satisfy my curiosity and do these economic studies.

### FAIR LIGHTS JUST AROUND CORNER

The Warren County A&L Fair will parade into town next month and fair talk is already hanging in the air like a carnival prize.

A number of people have seen an ad that's been running in the *Standard* about a fair food booth that's available for rent and asked me which booth it is. The great moral of this story is that a number of people saw the ad so it shows how tremendously effective newspaper advertising can be.

The booth for lease is the prized Lions Club food booth next to the grandstand. During pageants and performances, this booth is hog wild with customers.

I talked with McMinnville Lions Club member Michael Boles on Friday and he told me there has been interest from several people about leasing the food booth and he believes a new tenant will be found. He says the booth is for lease because McMinnville Lions Club has so many older members it's hard for them to work a demanding shift at the fair.

"It takes a lot of volunteer work," said Michael. "And we don't have a lot of volunteers."

### THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Business tips appreciated. Call 473-2191.



**Allen Betschart is one of the vendors on hand for the fourth annual Reggae at Smooth Rapids. The music festival continues all day Sunday with tickets available at the gate for \$25.**

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