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# The Enterprise

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# Going Broke?

Store owner says foot traffic over gray machines is gone; business suffering



**“Everything has a ripple effect. These lawmakers were only worried about helping the horse industry ...you think the people that play these machines are going to bet on a horse? I can tell you they’re not. This is killing the small business owner, but they don’t care.” -- STORE OWNER --** Asked to remain anonymous for this story

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

(Editor’s Note: The identity of the Clay County store owner in this story is concealed upon agreement for granting the interview. This store owner agreed to give insight on how the ban of gray machines has affected their business. We will recognize the owner as Jane Smith.)

“We may be closed before we get an answer over these poker machines.”  
That’s how one Clay County store owner feels

while they await the outcome of litigation over “gray machines.”

Store owners are seeing a drastic decrease in their business following a law passed by the legislature that went into effect earlier this month banning the operation of what is commonly known as, “poker machines.”

One store owner wants the public to know how the ban could affect them in the future.

“These machines were a supplemental income for many of us store owners,” Smith says. “This helped us offset price increases, especially on our food.”

Smith says since the new law went into effect closing her machines down, she’s seen a 60% decrease

in sales.

“These machines spurred business,” she said. “When playing would eat, drink, buy cigarettes etc. People running a store, you don’t make money from selling just gas. It’s a combination of many things with a small profit margin that adds up.”

Smith says each item, including gas, has a small profit. To keep her doors open she says all these things work in conjunction.

“Somebody may need to buy gas. They’ll come in, buy a pop, a pack of cigarettes and even your newspaper,” she said. “We didn’t make much of

See **MACHINES A6**

## Fiscal Court helps fire depts., forms new tourism board

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

Money was flowing from the fiscal court Thursday during a special called meeting.

County Judge-Executive Tommy Harmon and the court discussed helping local fire departments. The court agreed to give each county department \$5,000 and \$65,000 in coal severance tax funds to help purchase a fire truck for the Manchester Fire De-

partment.

“Our fire departments are a vital part of our community,” Harmon said. “Anything we (the court) can do to help our citizens we will. We’ve got six magistrates that care about our county and want to do what’s best for it. I couldn’t ask for a better group to work with in moving our county forward.”

The money for Manchester Fire Department helps each department.

“They serve as the primary backup

See **HELPING A6**

## FUN TIMES AT THE CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Taylor Hoskins and Waelynn Bowling participated in making tie dye shirts at the Clay County Public Library recently.



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