



Partly cloudy; high 48



### ANOTHER 'L'

Wildcats fall to 0-2 on season with loss at North Carolina/C1



### PANTHERS WIN

KWC opens with 72-61 win over Goshen/C1

Election: GOP's Stevens loses Alaska Senate race/A2

# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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75¢

## DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

# County officials support plan

### Fiscal Court will decide level of financial assistance

By James Mayse  
Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess County officials said Tuesday they like an \$80 million plan to renovate downtown Owensboro, and some said the county should contribute financially to make it a reality.

But Fiscal Court members said they will need to determine if there is broad public support for the plan and how much of a contribution they can afford to make.

The Gateway Planning Group presented the downtown master plan to the community Saturday. The plan, which includes a market square and convention center, would require \$79.4 million in public funding if built in its entirety.

**"We cannot afford to go into it as a 50-50 player (with the city). We could borrow \$40 million, but we couldn't pay it back."**

— Reid Haire

County Commissioner Mike Riney said he has been involved with downtown initiatives for more than 20 years.

"As far as I can remember, this is the most achievable plan I've seen, the most realistic," Riney said. "... This is one of the best (plans) I've seen. I want to compliment this group and those who

worked with them. "If we're ever going to (redevelop) our community, this might be the plan," Riney said.

Judge-Executive Reid Haire said he supports the plan.

"Now, the challenge is to determine the extent of the county's participation," Haire said. "We cannot afford to go into it as a 50-50 player (with the city). We could borrow \$40 million, but we couldn't pay it back."

Haire said he has requested a cost breakdown of specific items in the plan. He also plans to meet with Owensboro City Manager Bill Parrish and Fred

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### Owensboro mayor-elect is ready to move on downtown proposal

By Owen Covington  
Messenger-Inquirer

Though Owensboro Mayor-elect Ron Payne was out of the country last weekend, on Tuesday he echoed many of the sentiments expressed at Saturday's We the People meeting for the rollout of the proposed downtown master plan.

The implementation phase of the plan developed by the Gateway Planning Group calls for city and county support through likely tax increases to pay for an \$80 million package of projects in downtown Owensboro including a \$21 million mixed-use indoor events center.

**"We're going to find a way to do it."**

— Ron Payne

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## PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

# Holder is Obama's top choice

### Ex-Clinton official may be first black attorney general

By Matt Apuzzo and Lara Jakes Jordan  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's top choice for attorney general is Eric Holder, a former No. 2 Justice Department official in the Clinton administration and Obama campaign aide who would become the first black to serve as the nation's chief lawyer.



Barack Obama



Eric Holder

The Obama transition team has gone so far as to ask senators whether they would confirm Holder, who reviewed Bill Clinton's controversial pardon of fugitive Marc Rich just leaving office, an Obama official and people close to the matter said Tuesday.

But the Obama official said the decision has not been finalized, and transition spokesmen said no decision has been made.

Holder did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday. Asked Monday by The Associated Press whether he expected to be nominated, he responded in an e-mail: "Who knows?"

One person involved in the talks said the Obama team has received some assurances that, while the pardon would certainly come up during hearings, the nomination likely wouldn't be held up.

All spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the pardon "would be a factor to consider."

"I wouldn't want to articulate it among the top items, but it's worthwhile to look at," Specter said.

Asked if Holder would be a good choice for attorney general, Specter said it was too soon to say.

"I know something of Holder's work in the Clinton administration, and that's about it," he said. "I'd have to take a much closer look at his record and talk to him and think about it."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., had not been informed about Holder, his spokeswoman said.

On the last day of Clinton's term, Holder, then the deputy attorney general, was asked whether Clinton should pardon Rich, a wealthy commodities dealer who had spent years running from tax charges. Holder said he was "neutral, leaning toward

See Holder/Page A2

## OWENSBORO-DAVIESS COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE

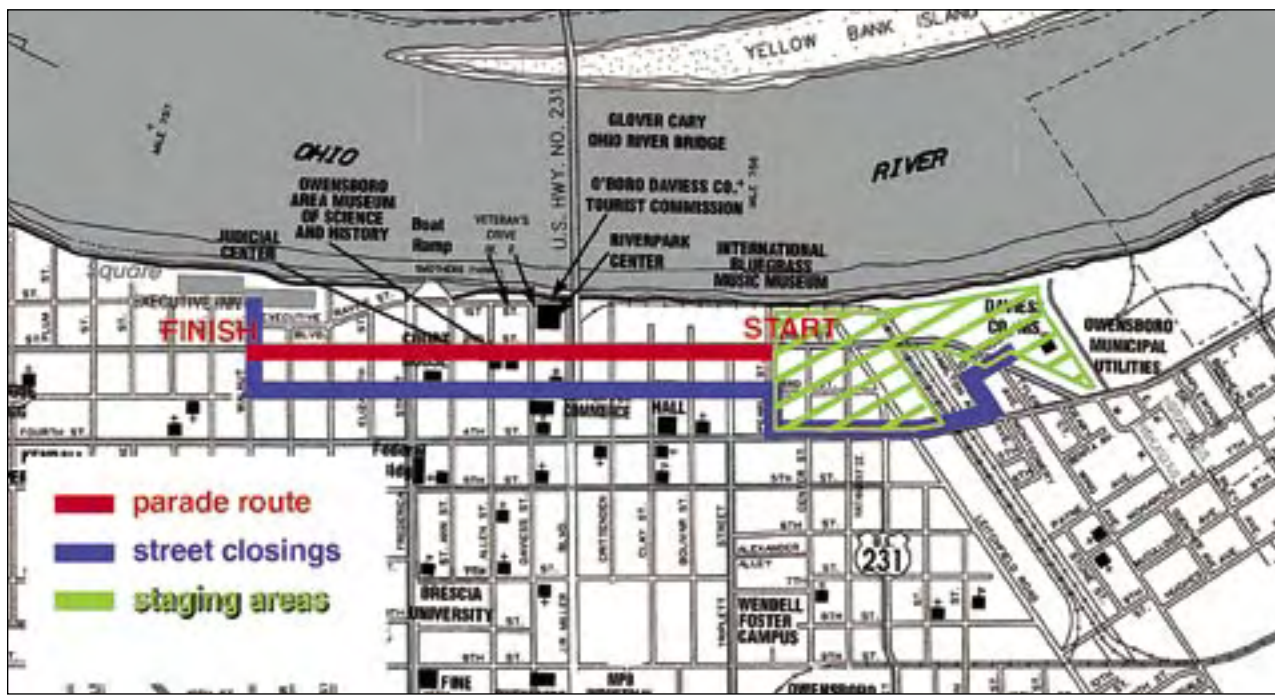


Jenny Sevcik, Messenger-Inquirer/jsevcik@messenger-inquirer.com, 926-0123

Bob Russell, from bottom left, Billy Tyler and Tom Hall, all with Owensboro's street department, secure lit reindeer to the department's Christmas parade float Tuesday inside a street department garage. Hall, a crew leader, said ideas for the float were "tossed around" by various street department

employees, and the end result is a "culmination of everybody's input." The float will be finished by Thursday, so employees can spend Friday preparing downtown for the Saturday parade.

# Preparations are under way



### Parade will be on Saturday

By Beth Wilberding  
Messenger-Inquirer

A timer on the Owensboro-Daviess County Christmas Parade's Web site is counting down — to the second — the start of the 72nd annual Christmas Parade.

And with Saturday's parade quickly approaching, participants have just a few days left to get their floats ready for the event. This year's theme is "Oh Let Your Light Shine."

"It's kind of a guide for everybody to use to come up with their float designs," Kevin

See Way/Page A2

# Critics: Zigzagging on bailout rattles markets

By Daniel Wagner  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Financial markets hate uncertainty, but that's what they're getting from Washington.

The Treasury Department's frequent, scattershot revisions to the \$700 billion financial bailout have badly shaken investor confidence, and experts say the confusion could delay the lending

revival necessary for an economic recovery.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson has repeatedly surprised lawmakers and financiers with reversals of earlier statements in

the six weeks since Congress passed the package.

Last week, Paulson officially abandoned the initial centerpiece

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- Television/D6





# Markets

## STOCK PRICES

Prices of stocks of local interest and widely held stocks at the 3 p.m. close Tuesday.

**DOW JONES AVERAGES**  
30 Industrials +157.17  
20 Transportation Cos. -10.15  
15 Utilities +0.67

Stock name	Close	Change
Adv. Auto Parts	26.55	+0.74
Aegon	4.38	+0.08
Aetna	23.29	+0.49
AK Steel	7.90	-0.25
Alcatel Lucent	2.33	+0.08
Alcoa	9.48	-0.19
Allstate	25.00	-0.14
Altria	16.96	+0.76
Amazon.com	38.44	-1.25
Amer. Elec. Power	30.46	-0.22
American Express	19.38	+0.01
American General	1.95	+0.04
Apple	89.91	+1.77
Ashland Oil	15.61	-1.07
AT&T	26.57	-0.20
Atmos Energy	23.81	-0.02
Avon	22.31	+0.30
Baidu	128.76	-5.33
Bank of America	15.19	+0.16
BB&T Corp.	26.55	+0.05
BCE Inc.	31.17	+0.66
Best Buy	20.97	+0.20
Big Lots	15.69	+0.56
Boardwalk Pipeline	20.90	-0.84
Boeing	39.56	-1.62
BP-Amoco	45.51	+1.72
Bristol Myers	20.49	+0.79
Brown-Forman	48.10	+1.32
Burger King	19.81	-0.40
Capital One	29.25	-0.62
Century Aluminum	8.74	-0.91
ChevronTexaco	73.40	+2.62
Cisco	16.45	+0.24
CitiGroup	8.36	-0.53
Coca-Cola	43.49	-0.48
ConocoPhillips	49.89	+3.13
Constellation	12.19	+0.88
Cracker Barrel	14.08	+0.15
CSX	36.00	-1.58
Dana Corp.	0.71	-0.18
Deere	33.72	+0.98
Dell Computers	10.60	+0.08
Dillard's	3.23	-0.08
DineEquity	9.90	-1.75
DirectTV	20.37	-0.07
Disney	20.67	+0.93
Domtar	1.57	-0.03
Dow Chemical	20.85	+0.19
Duff and Phelps	7.04	-0.18
DuPont	26.92	-0.04
Eastman Kodak	7.81	+0.51
eBay	12.30	+0.09
EchoStar Comm	10.53	-0.38
EMC Corp.	10.20	+0.34
Ericsson Co.	6.52	+0.01
ExxonMobil	76.33	+2.95
Fannie Mae	0.47	+0.02
FedEx	64.79	+2.03
Fifth Third Banc.	9.32	+0.18
Fort Motor	1.68	+0.04
Fortune Brands	36.41	+0.93
Freddie Mac	0.62	+0.09
General Dynamics	53.24	+0.27
General Electric	16.06	-0.05
General Motors	3.09	-0.09
Goldman Sachs	62.03	-0.46
Goodyear	5.23	-0.11
Google	297.42	-2.70
W.R. Grace	3.47	-0.43
Halliburton Co.	17.66	+0.14
HealthSouth	11.19	+0.02
Hewlett-Packard	33.59	+4.25
Home Depot	20.71	+0.71
Honeywell	26.38	+0.35
Hon Industries	11.71	+0.07
Humana	30.19	+0.97
IBM	80.08	+2.60
Intel	13.11	+0.11
J.C. Penney	16.46	+0.26
Johnson & Johnson	60.89	+1.62
J.P. Morgan Chase	32.14	-0.63
Juniper Networks	14.66	-0.06
Kimball Intl.	4.81	-0.17
Kimberly-Clark	58.15	+1.34
Kinder Morgan Energy	49.70	+0.49
Kohl's	28.13	+0.68
Kroger	26.98	+0.14
Keefe	0.90	0.00
Eli Lilly	33.34	+1.21
Loews	26.18	+0.20
Lowe's	19.10	+0.11
LSI	2.82	-0.19
Macy's	6.09	-0.92
MainSource Finan.	13.83	0.00
Marathon Oil	25.30	+0.47
McDonald's	56.51	+0.90
Merrill & Co.	26.13	+0.14
Merrill Lynch	11.40	-0.38
MetLife	20.72	-1.51
Microsoft	19.62	+0.43
M-3	62.17	+1.37
Morgan Stanley	12.03	+0.81
Motorola	3.90	-0.10
National City Corp.	2.10	-0.10
New York Stock Exch.	22.59	-0.53
Nike	46.64	+0.33
O'Charley's	2.92	+0.04
Office Depot	1.93	+0.09
Old National Bank	16.25	+0.04
Oracle	17.02	+0.11
Panera Bread	39.77	+1.19
Peabody Energy	24.51	-1.63
PepsiCo	53.14	+0.17
Pfizer	16.29	+0.37
Plurix Imports	0.71	-0.16
PNC Bank	55.45	-3.74
Procter & Gamble	64.25	+1.74
Prudential	19.91	-0.98
Qwest	2.86	-0.03
Radio Shack	9.19	-0.18
Regency Comm.	0.139	-0.071
Regions Financial	9.59	+0.53
Rent-A-Center	13.13	+0.25
Republic Bancorp	20.92	-0.19
Research In Motion	47.25	+5.01
Rite Aid	0.39	+0.07
RJR Nabisco	44.95	+0.79
Ruby Tuesday	1.39	+0.08
Sara Lee	9.43	+0.21
Sears Holdings	30.19	-3.63
Sherwin Williams	54.47	+1.18
Shoe Carnival	9.93	0.00
Sioux	0.20	-0.03
Sonic	7.82	-0.02
Southern Co.	35.00	-0.48
Sprint Nextel	2.15	-0.03
Staples	16.94	+0.46
Starbucks	8.38	-0.26
Steak 'n Shake	3.43	-0.10
Sun Microsystems	3.71	+1.10
Target Corp.	5.46	+1.46
Texas Roadhouse	8.40	-0.19
Time Warner	8.40	-0.28
Toyota Motor Corp.	63.25	+0.39
Tyco	19.09	+0.04
Tyson Foods	5.01	+0.28
UniFirst	26.47	+0.82
Unilever	23.46	+1.03
UPS	54.31	+1.03
U.S. Bancorp	25.73	-0.07
U.S. Steel	29.10	+0.46

## Market watch

Nov. 18, 2008

**Dow Jones Industrials**  
+151.17  
8,424.75

**Nasdaq composite**  
+1.22  
1,483.27

**Standard & Poor's 500**  
+8.37  
859.12

**Russell 2000**  
-3.79  
447.51

## NYSE diary

Advanced: 1,156

Declined: 1,981

Unchanged: 88

Volume: 6.07 b

## Nasdaq diary

Advanced: 980

Declined: 1,501

Unchanged: 72

Volume: 1.88 b

SOURCE: SunGard AP

Ventas	23.09	-0.48
Verizon	28.50	-0.74
Viacom	16.46	-0.64
Wachovia	5.26	-0.01
Walgreen	23.75	+1.10
Wal-Mart	52.72	+0.91
Waste Mgt.	31.39	+1.36
Wellpoint	33.98	-0.08
Wendy's Intl.	3.71	+0.17
Weyerhaeuser	32.32	+0.44
Whirlpool Corp.	37.53	-0.01
Williams Co.	16.70	+0.01
Xerox	6.06	+0.04
Yahoo	11.55	+0.92
Yum Brands	25.37	-0.13

**NYSE leaders**  
NEW YORK — Sales, closing price and net change of the 15 most active New York Stock Exchange issues, trading nationally.

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
SPDR Finl	214,275,196	11.75	-17
CitiGroup	209,500,402	8.36	-53
Bank of Am	146,599,113	15.19	+16
ProfilIn	143,199,783	5.93	-12
GenElec	133,535,664	16.06	+05
ProfilUSA	120,438,933	24.63	-18
iShMkt	110,657,844	21.53	-32
Wachovia	94,159,974	5.26	-01
iShiUSZ	89,794,408	45.03	-22
ProfilUSA	85,628,325	101.55	-174
WellFargo	79,784,313	27.20	-63
MerrillYnch	67,947,847	11.40	-38
JPMorgChse	66,350,024	32.14	-63
ProfilRDOO	64,743,390	25.32	-23
HewlettPk	63,364,721	33.59	+425

**AMEX leaders**  
NEW YORK — Sales, closing price and net change of the 10 most active American Stock Exchange issues, trading nationally.

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
SPDR	486,541,272	87.08	+1.61
SP MidCap	12,278,479	91.00	+1.70
SemiconHr	12,236,320	16.45	-30
OLISWCH	8,278,800	85.07	+1.97
US Oil Fd	7,826,059	44.77	-39
MktGoldM	6,373,807	19.56	-10
GreyWolf	5,034,755	6.30	+14
RetailHt	4,814,900	67.02	+19
ShiSilver	4,000,328	9.48	+30
ElkRising	3,360,029	05	
Gaming	25,352,070	9.50	-50

**Nasdaq leaders**  
NEW YORK — Most active Nasdaq issues.

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
PwSts OOD	235,763,999	28.34	-03
Microsoft	104,207,095	19.62	+43
Intel	93,378,249	13.11	+11
Cisco	66,253,532	16.45	+24
Oracle	53,587,581	17.02	+61
Yahoo	48,152,681	11.55	+92
Apple Inc	41,903,821	89.91	+1.77
RschMotn	40,858,590	47.25	+5.01
Dell Inc	26,558,861	10.60	+08
ApldMtl	25,352,070	9.50	-50

**Gold prices**  
Selected world gold prices Tuesday.  
London morning fixing: \$736.50 up \$2.50.  
London afternoon fixing: \$738.00 up \$4.00.  
NY Handy & Harman: \$738.00 up \$4.00.  
NY Handy & Harman fabricated: \$737.04 up \$4.32.  
NY Englehard: \$739.90 up \$4.00.  
NY Englehard fabricated: \$795.40 up \$4.31.  
NY Merc. gold Nov. 2008: \$732.60 up \$9.30.  
NY HSBC Bank USA 4 p.m. Tue. \$736.00 off \$4.00.  
**Silver prices**  
NEW YORK — Handy & Harman silver Tuesday  
\$9.740 up \$0.230.  
HH fabricated: \$11.688 up \$0.276.  
The morning bullion price for silver in London \$9.380 off \$0.120.  
Englehard \$9.560 up \$0.150.  
Englehard fabricated \$11.472 up \$0.180.  
NY Merc. silver spot month Tuesday \$9.550 up \$0.220.  
**Nonferrous metals**  
NEW YORK — Spot nonferrous metal prices Tuesday:  
Aluminum — \$0.8710 per lb., N.Y. Merc spot Tue.  
Copper — \$1.7070 Cathode full plate, U.S. destinations:  
Copper \$1.6550 N.Y. Merc spot Tue.  
Lead — \$1.2780 metric ton, London Metal Exch.  
Zinc — \$0.5404 per lb., delivered.  
Gold — \$738.00 Handy & Harman (only daily quote).  
Gold — \$732.60 Troy oz., NY Merc spot Tue.  
Silver — \$9.740 Handy & Harman (only daily quote).  
Silver — \$9.550 Troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Tue.  
Mercury — \$650.00 per 76 lb. flask, N.Y.  
Platinum — \$820.00 Troy oz., N.Y. (contract).  
Platinum — \$837.00 Troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Tue.

# Owensboro: New commission is coming

From the Front Page

"We're going to have to invest in ourselves, and we're going to have to invest in the future generation," Payne told members of the Daviess County Rotary Club. "I'm confident we're going to do it. We're going to find a way to do it."

The refined plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and its more than 200 pages will fall to the new Owensboro City Commission taking office the first of the year for action.  
Payne will be one of three new members on the five-person panel, and he said Tuesday that he will be looking to adopt the plan and approve a recommended financing plan for the plan within several months of taking office.

"I would hope shortly after we take office, within months, that we can finalize implementation of this first component," Payne said.

The plan presented Saturday is the result of months of public meetings and a week of design workshops in September to establish what elements the community wants in its downtown and potential ways to finance their construction.

Along with the indoor events center, the package of projects includes \$15 million to complete Smothers Park on the riverfront, \$5 million for a new "market square plaza" and \$13 million for downtown street improvements.

The entire package carries an estimated cost of \$79.4 million, which the staff with Gateway

Planning Group has said could be funded by increases in the occupational or insurance premium tax rates in the city or county.

Owensboro City Manager Bill Parrish said the next step for the city will be to adopt the downtown master plan early next year. That will be followed by financing recommendations for the commission members to consider, he said.  
"I think we can adopt the plan and say this is the direction we want to go and then figure out the financing," Parrish said.

Charlie Castlen, who will return to the commission for a fifth term next year after a two-year break from the board, said Tuesday that he is still working through the details of the downtown master plan but is hesitant about raising taxes at a time when the economy is struggling.

"My initial reaction is that now is not the time to be raising taxes," Castlen said. "We're in the middle of an economic slowdown. I personally think things are going to get worse before they get better."

John Kazlauskas was elected Nov. 4 to the commission for the first time, and he said Tuesday he is excited about the plans that have been laid out.

But when asked about whether he would support increasing tax rates to pay for the package of projects, Kazlauskas said he still has some questions that need to be answered regarding private sector involvement.

"I'm not ready to go there yet," Kazlauskas said. "I think

the biggest thing right now is how is this going to be financed and how is the business sector going to come in."

The presentation of the downtown master plan has Payne rethinking some priorities that he named during his successful campaign for mayor this year.

Payne said Tuesday that it is no longer a top priority for the city and county governments to acquire the closed Executive Inn Rivermont property along the riverfront.

The downtown planning showing the proposed location of the new indoor events center on the site currently occupied by the state office building makes the hotel property less crucial to downtown plans, Payne said.

"The idea of utilizing the state office building (property) I think is a great thing for us to do," Payne said.

Payne also said the countywide referendum to identify top projects and gauge public support for funding them is still a priority but is secondary to making sure this first phase of the downtown master plan comes to pass.

In order to get a sense of public support, Payne wants public meetings on whatever financing plan city and county leaders come up with to pay for the projects.

"I do want to hear what the community has to say about this," Payne said. "I sense that there is a significant amount of support in our community."

Owen Covington, 691-7334, [ocovington@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:ocovington@messenger-inquirer.com)

# County: Fiscal Court will study proposal

From the Front Page

Reeves, the city's downtown development director, to discuss parts of the plan, such as acquiring the state office building at Second and Frederica streets.

The county, however, will not take action until the new City Commission takes office in January, Haire said.

"After Jan. 1, there will be a new administration, and they might come in with different priorities," Haire said.

County Commissioner Jim Lambert said: "I think we'll look to the city to state their position, what their intentions are and how they are going to proceed."

The county will need to take its direction from the City Commission, Lambert said.

"I think (the new commission needs) to come to their position and declare their intentions, and I'm sure they will," Lambert said. "I have no reason to believe they won't. It's sort of their home game. ... I don't think we need to jump out and tell the city what to do, or take the lead."

"It's a good plan. ... I think everybody agrees it's a doable plan," Lambert said. "But it will take some commitment."

County Commissioner Bruce Kunze said he was involved in the public process that resulted in the master plan and supports the proposal.

"I think we'll see a lot of private dollars flowing to downtown once we start on the public projects," Kunze said.

But Kunze said officials will have to study the project in order to get a concrete cost.

"We're going to have to look at the total amount," Kunze said.

The cost of the individual components of the project could be adjusted, which might bring down the total cost, Kunze said.

"The first decision we have to make is ... are we prepared to do the whole package?" Kunze said.

"The answer should be 'yes.' This is not about making downtown look pretty ... this is really about the future of Owensboro and creating a downtown" that is attractive for residential living and activities, he said.

Riney said public meetings should be held to gauge community interest and approval of the plan. "We just have to figure out how we can get the total community support to do this," Riney said. "Eighty million dollars is a lot of money."

The Gateway Planning Group did not make a recommendation as to how the city and county should pay for the plan. But Gateway officials did include information about how much could be raised if the city and county raise their occupational taxes and insurance premium taxes.

If county officials consider a tax increase, meetings should be held throughout the county to explain the decision and receive comments, both Haire and Kunze said.

"I want the people who live in the county to understand what the plan is," Kunze said. "I think it's also going to be very important to get their input on the tax options."

James Mayse, 691-7303, [jmayse@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:jmayse@messenger-inquirer.com)

# Oil prices fall again as demand for fuel walters

By Mark Williams

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil prices continued to fall Tuesday as a government report showed that gasoline prices in October plunged further than they ever have and home heating oil, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas