

REMEMBER TO
VOTE TUESDAY



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USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

The Crittenden Press

www.the-press.com • kentucky.com affiliate

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2006

75 CENTS
An Independent Newspaper Since 1879
VOLUME 127, NUMBER 18 - 26 PAGES



LEAF 'EM ON CURB

City asks residents to avoid raking their leaves into street

The City of Marion is asking residents to avoid raking leaves into the street. City maintenance crewman Troy McNeely said that when leaves are raked into the street and it rains, they end up in the storm drains which clogs the drains and floods the streets. "We're asking that residents please rake their leaves to the curbside, but not into the street," McNeely said. The city will continue its leaf pickup program through Dec. 5.

Absentee voting ends Monday

Absentee voting is now underway and will be available until 4 p.m., Monday for anyone who will be out of the county on election day. Absentee balloting — on an electronic voting machine — must be done at the county clerk's office on the main floor of the courthouse. The deadline for requesting paper absentee ballots has passed and those must be returned to the clerk's office by election day, Nov. 7.

County schools closed Monday and Tuesday

There will be no school Monday and Tuesday. Classes are out Monday for a professional development day for teachers and Tuesday for the election.

Woman's Club Election Day lunch planned

The Woman's Club of Marion will serve its popular Election Day Lunch at the clubhouse on East Carlisle Street from 11 a.m., until 2 p.m., Tuesday. Tickets may be purchased from any club member for \$7 each, or purchased at the door. Carryouts will be available.

Free food for Crittenden folks

Free food will be available for Crittenden County residents only from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Friday at the PACS Senior Citizens Center on North Walker Street across from Fohs Hall.



Mostly SUNNY
28/53
THURSDAY



Mostly CLEAR
33/53
FRIDAY

Rain gauge

Last 7 days3.02"
Last 30 days5.31"
Year-to-date56.74" (+16.43")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

965-4300: ANOTHER WAY

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Brain Drain??

Is Crittenden County getting enough of its top graduates to come back home?

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

The mass exodus of rural Kentucky's smartest and most educated people is becoming a cause for concern.

It's such a troubling trend that the Kentucky League of Cities and the state economic development groups are focusing in on the matter and trying to develop short- and long-range plans to reverse the course.

Terri Johnson wrote a feature article for the summer issue of City Magazine, the Kentucky League of Cities' official publication. In it she wrote, "the implications of brain drain affect most aspects of any location. Whether it's Iraq or a city in Kentucky, when countries or communities consistently lose smart, motivated people, life gets tougher for those left behind."

The article points out that Iraq

leads the world in brain drain — in other words its most talented people are leaving.

In Crittenden County, almost a quarter of the high school's top graduates are coming home after getting a college education.

That figure surprised the former top graduates interviewed for this story. They say the number of top grads returning to Marion is higher than they expected, and they have an idea why others, like themselves, are coming home.

"We were ready to start a family and wanted to raise our kids in a place like Crittenden County," said Marion policeman Chuck Hoover, who graduated from Crittenden County High School with honors in 1996.

Hoover had gone to college, earned a bachelor's degree and was working in Cobb County, Ga., when he decided to move home.

Crittenden County's EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25 years and over	6,460
Less than 9th grade	17.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	15.4%
High school graduate/equivalency	40.2%
Some college	15.0%
Associate degree	4.4%
Bachelor's degree	4.2%
Graduate or professional degree	3.1%

Several other top graduates have done the same. From 1985 to 2000, there were 55 valedictorians and salutatorians who graduated from the local high school. A dozen currently either live or work in Crittenden County.

Stafanie Hardin, the guidance counselor at CCHS, said she too is a bit surprised by the percentage of

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CRITTENDEN'S TOP GRADS

From 1985 to 2000, a dozen of Crittenden County High School's top graduates have returned home to live or work. Those in bold with asterisks have come home.

YEAR	VALEDICTORIANS	SALUTATORIANS
2000	Stacy Cook	Ashley Johnson* Jessica Lefan Lindsey Watson Kara Harris* Brooke Marshall
1999	Katie Towery Beth Brantley Kim Hunt* Ashley Guess	Adam Robertson
1998	Kathy Gland Libby Maddux Nathan Howton Shanna Wood Amanda Grau	
1997	Adria Mott* Jami Tabor	Leigh Ann O'Neal
1996	Jennifer Crowell Nathan Boone Shanna Moore	Jeff Lefan Chuck Hoover* John Foster
1995	Josh Hamilton	Amy Ginn
1994	Kelley Dameron* Jason Lacy Corey Crider	Tiffany Clark*
1993	Jason Corley	Kathleen Guess*
1992	Jill Highfill	JaiAnn Fowler
1991	Charles Cook	Kristi Jones
1990	Patty Corley	Tiffany Orr Mathew Smith Christina Todd* Tonya Nation*
1989	Allison Diaz	Marianne Watson
1988	Kay Spurrier Crystal McDaniel*	Elisa Mills
1987	Andy Mason	
1986	Susan Mills Chris Cook* Greg English Cassandra Moore Sherry Ramage	
1985	Sally McKenney	Mike Padgett



Soggy Rockets

The camera lens was wet and blurring during Friday night's rain-drenched football game at Rocket Stadium. Lynann and Denny Woodall of Marion were among the few loyal fans who weathered the soggy game to see to the hometown team upset Russellville. Crittenden will host the same Russellville team this week in the first round of the Class A playoffs. See sports page 5B.

State provides help for CCMS on CATS testing

BY ALLISON EVANS
PRESS ASST. EDITOR

While brief, Kathy Evanko's visit at Crittenden County Middle School could have lasting effects.

Evanko was hired by the Kentucky Department of Education as a Highly Skilled Educator, a position created to assist schools designated as Level 1 through Level 3 assistance schools on the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS).

Evanko is assigned to Crittenden County Middle as a result of its Level 1 status on the 2006 CATS test.

A McCracken County educator, Evanko is on loan to the state as a Highly Skilled Educator, and will return to her teaching position in McCracken County at the start of the 2008 school year. However now she serves as a resource for in-house consultation, giving advice to teachers and students. Since she began working two days a week at

CCMS in October, Evanko has been listening and learning, she said, studying the school's CATS scores and Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, which also must be updated as a result of Level 1 status.

"I am a resource here," Evanko said. "Several years ago the role, accurately or inaccurately, of a Highly Skilled Educator (formerly Distinguished Educator) was to tell teachers what they were doing wrong, to get rid of teachers... maybe that perception has changed, because it is my job to build capacity within teachers and their school because they are the ones making the changes."

Evanko has 19 years experience as a science teacher, nine of

those in McCracken County. This is her second year to work as a Highly Skilled Educator, and she is currently assisting another western Kentucky middle school. Evanko is also among one percent of teachers nationally to achieve National Board Certification. The thorough process is a voluntary one for teachers and requires rigorous self assessment, video taped examples of their teaching styles and samples of student work. She is a graduate of Murray State University and resident of McCracken County.

Crittenden Middle is one of 37 schools in the assistance category, the top one-third of which are Level 1. Evanko is one of about 45 Highly Skilled Educators in Kentucky — a program born from the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990.

"Crittenden has been so recep-

See TEACHER/page 12A

Nuisance notices

City is reminding citizens of old car, rubbish laws

STAFF REPORT

While high grass keeps the City of Marion's code enforcement officer hopping during the summer months, winter poses a different challenge.

George Foster, the code enforcement officer, says that over the coming days and weeks his office will be sending out new notices to residents who are not in compliance with city nuisance ordinances.

While high grass is among the most common violations, Foster says just general rubbish or junk piled up on city lots is becoming a real issue.

The city began an aggressive campaign against junk a few years ago and strongly targeted old cars and appliances during the first few months.

"We're not seeing as many junked cars as we used to," said Foster. "I think we're getting rid of more than are coming in."

The City of Marion issued 179 ordinance violation warnings in 2004, 158 in 2005 and so far this year there have been 124 warnings issued.

"We will probably be back up around 160 violations for the whole year," Foster said. "Most people take care of the problem when we make them aware of it."

Foster said that depending on the violation, the property owner has between five and 14 days to either rectify the situation or file an appeal with the City of Marion Code Enforcement Board.

The City of Marion is publishing an advertisement in this issue of the newspaper, reminding property owners about the city's nuisance ordinances that deal with old cars and appliances. Foster said the "friendly reminder" is for people who might live out of town and own rental property in Marion, or simply need a little notice to get their property squared away before the city issues a warning.

"Most people will abide by the ordinance if they're just reminded about what's required," Foster said.

The city's ordinance prohibiting junked cars and old appliances reads in part, "The presence of any junked motor vehicle or appliance on public property or on any private lot, tract, or parcel of land or portion thereof, occupied or unoccupied, improved or unimproved, within the city, shall be deemed a public nuisance."

The ordinance says that it is "unlawful for any person to cause or maintain such a public nuisance by placing an appliance on, or by wrecking, dismantling, partially dismantling rendering inoperable, abandoning, or discarding any motor vehicle on the real property of another, or to suffer, permit, or allow a junked motor vehicle or appliance to be parked, left, or maintained on his own real property..."

The ordinance does not apply to legitimate businesses such as repair shops or salvage yards.