

The Crittenden Press

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THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

75 CENTS
A home-owned newspaper since 1879
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 46 - 16 PAGES

Government offices closed for holiday

All city, county, state and federal offices will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. This includes Crittenden County Public Library and the solid waste convenience center.

CCHS graduation set for next week

Graduation ceremonies next week at Crittenden County High School will kick off Tuesday with class night starting at 6 p.m. The following day, baccalaureate services will begin at 7 p.m. Commencement will officially end the 2007-08 school on May 30. It begins at 7 p.m.

June 7 slated for Crayne Day event

The annual Crayne Day will be observed on June 7. Those interested in setting up for Crayne Day will need to call Kathy Mills, owner of the Crayne General Store, at 965-8913 for information. Each individual or group will need to pay a \$3 fee to help offset the expenses for the event.

Co-op students looking for work

The business department at Crittenden County High School wants to hear from businesses who are interested in hiring a co-op student for the 2008-09 school year. Students are available for a couple of hours each day to work in office settings.

Press closing office on Memorial Day

The Crittenden Press will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. We encourage our readers to visit one of the two memorial services in the county on that day - Shady Grove and Mapleview Cemetery in Marion.

Public meetings

Marion City Council will meet at 4 p.m., Friday at City Hall for a public hearing on the proposed 2008-09 budget. Final approval of the \$2.5 million spending plan is anticipated.

By the numbers

Fixed-rate mortgages (fees)
30-year (southeast)5.97 (0.7)
15-year (southeast)5.56 (0.6)
Source: FreddieMac.com as of May 15

Precipitation report
Last 7 days1.19
Last 30 days5.69
Since Jan. 1, 200828.33
Deviation from average+7.32
Source: UK Ag Weather Service at Princeton as of Tuesday

2008 highway fatalities
Crittenden County1
Kentucky (as of May 19)273
Same period in 2007321
Source: Kentucky State Police

American war dead
Afghanistan (as of May 10)497
Iraq (as of May 14)4,081
Source: U.S. Department of Defense

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Board hires Yarbrough

New schools superintendent from neighboring Webster

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Rachel Yarbrough believes the pieces are in place to make Crittenden County schools some of the best in the state. Starting July 1, she will begin putting that theory to the test.

announced in February his intentions to retire, Yarbrough began her career as a teacher and moved through the ranks as a principal and central office employee. Unlike Belt, a Crittenden County native, Yarbrough comes from Webster County, where she graduated high school and has spent her entire 19-year career as an educator. She has served the last nine years as assistant superintendent there, helping to oversee some major changes and improvements in the district.



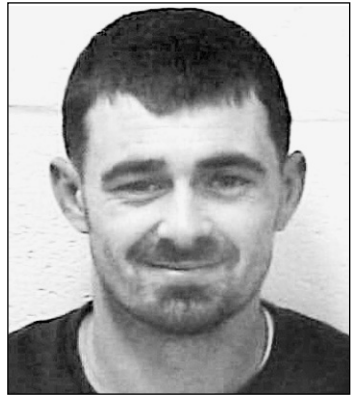
Yarbrough

"I feel like we are getting ready for a renaissance in Crittenden County schools," Cook said after the board unanimously selected Yarbrough over three other finalists for the position. "Our best days are ahead of us."

The 40-year-old former basketball star at Webster County and Oakland City (Ind.) College will take over what Cook called a solid foundation laid by Belt in his three years as superintendent. On that foundation, however, rests a small, rural district in the midst of an almost-annual budget crisis.

Rising fuel and utility costs, coupled with increased state mandates and shrinking reimbursements based on declining enrollment forced the district to make more than \$300,000 in cuts last year, including staff positions. Belt, in the midst of preparing his final

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WEBSTER COUNTY JAIL PHOTO
Wesley N. Dockrey remains hospitalized after being shot by a state trooper last week.

Man shot by trooper at city inn

Kenny Patel, owner of the Royal Inn and Suites on Sturgis Road in Marion, said robbery suspect Wesley N. Dockrey and his girlfriend had checked into the motel less than an hour before a confrontation with police ended with Dockrey being shot at least once.

The suspect, who is from

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Saluting sacrifice



City Utilities Director Brian Thomas adjusts a floodlight Monday to illuminate a memorial on Marion Commons to local military veterans killed in action. Also pictured, Greg Tabor and Jamie Richardson place a placard with the names of all Crittenden Countians killed in World War II. Casualties and wars since World War I are recognized at the memorial. Sister Lucy Tedrick, a local advocate of veterans' recognition, said the remembrance is particularly impressive after nightfall.

PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

City, memorial services pay homage to those killed in nation's defense

STAFF REPORT

In Shady Grove it will be the same tried and true ceremony. At Blackford it will be a familiar ceremony with a new twist. And in Marion, much will be the same with a couple of additions.

The long-standing tradition of Memorial Day services in Crittenden County continues this three-day weekend at the traditional spots - Mapleview Cemetery, Shady Grove

Cemetery and relative newcomer the Blackford Memorial Walking Trail. But a new wrinkle will highlight two of the events.

First, the new tradition at Blackford, which includes the Veterans Walk of Honor, will pay special tribute beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday to Andrew Jackson Smith, a runaway slave awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery as a federal soldier during the Civil War.

Danny Witherspoon, who labored for years to create the Blackford memorial, chose Smith, a black man, to honor the bravery of all Americans who have served the flag, no matter their color. And, Smith has local ties as well.

He was born in Livingston County, two decades before the war began in 1861, though the



Andrew Jackson Smith

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City moves forward with tax rollback, budget

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

The City of Marion plans to move ahead with approval of a \$2.5 million budget that includes a tax break and an almost five-percent raise for city employees.

A tax reduction would not technically come until September when council members will vote on new property tax rates for 2008, but City Administrator Mark Bryant's 2008-09 budget reflects revenues from a 10-percent cut in the levy on real estate. The reduction, if approved at a 4 p.m., budget hearing on Friday, would result in about \$20,000 less income for the coming fiscal year.

The new tax rate would be set in the fall at 21.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value if the council agrees to the budget and sticks with the revenue plan. Revenue losses would not affect city ser-

Proposed contributions from city's budget

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

American Cancer Society	\$100
Crittenden County Health Department	\$5,000
Marion-Crittenden County Airport Board	\$10,000
PACS Senior Citizens Center	\$1,200
Senior Citizens Food Bank	\$3,600
Community decorations	\$1,500
Crittenden County Animal Shelter	\$1,500
FoHs Hall Community Arts Foundation*	\$0
Marion-Crittenden County Park Board*	\$0
Crittenden County Drug Coalition*	\$0
NRCS (building down payment)*	\$0
TOTAL	\$22,900

CITY AFFILIATIONS

Pennyrite Area Development District	\$1,408
School resource officer	\$6,000
Pennyrite Narcotics Task Force	\$1,129
Kentucky League of Cities	\$900
Kentucky Rural Water	\$750
Pennyrite RC&D	\$200
Marion Main Street Inc.	\$7,500
Crittenden County Crime Prevention*	\$0
TOTAL	\$17,887

*Agencies or affiliations funded by the City of Marion within the last five years.

There are 23 full-time workers and fewer than 10 part-timers, Bryant said.

If approved, Bryant would remain the city's highest-paid employee at \$57,514 followed by the utilities director at \$48,693. The chief of police would earn \$36,742. The department's other full-time police officers would take home \$32,745 to \$33,205. The lowest-paid full-time positions inside city government take home \$18,836. Benefits for full-time employees include 100 percent of health insurance costs for the employee.

Councilman Jason Hatfield also wants to explore doubling the per-run pay for city firefighters. Marion firefighters are paid per response and would receive only \$19.38 per run under the proposed budget. City

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