



West Memphis resident named to state board

Watkins named to State Board of Collection Agencies

By TRIP COOK

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Gov. Mike Beebe announced Monday the appointment of Robert Watkins of West Memphis to the State Board of Collection Agencies. Watkins, who has been a resident of West Memphis since 1999, is the owner of Central Mini Storage at 300 N. 14th St.

The SBCA, which was formed in 1965, is the state regulatory agency on collection agencies and check-cashing company activities in Arkansas.

The SBCA investigates consumer complaints about collection agencies and licenses check-cashing and collection agencies.

Watkins replaces Opal Lang and will serve through January 1, 2010.

“It is a real honor to be selected by the governor to serve on this board,” Watkins said on Tuesday.

Watkins was administered the duplicate oath of office by county judge Melton Holt on March 21 and was witnessed by his wife, Dewery and daughter, Anita.

Watkins has served as an advocacy volunteer with AARP Arkansas, Better Breather Club of Crittenden County, Citizens Advisory Committee Member for West Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Exploratory Committee member for renovating the old Marion school.

Dewery and Robert Watkins are also participants in the Eden at Home Initiative, which seeks to improve the lives of elders living at home.

The SBCA will be Watkins first service on a state regulatory board.

Watkins is a member of First Missionary Baptist Church, where he and his wife have facilitated financial management workshops, including information on predatory lending.

[City taking next step in suit against railroad](#)

By TRIP COOK

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The Arkansas Highway Commission ruled during an unprecedented hearing Tuesday that the City of West Memphis has 10 days to submit a brief to the commission in their dispute with the Union Pacific Railroad. Other than the ruling, the commission took no action during Tuesday's hearing, which was the first hearing held under the state's Railroad Regulatory and Safety Act of 1993.

Traffic stop nets cocaine bust for Marion police

By MATT BREWER

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A Marion police officer recovered \$60,000 worth of cocaine during a traffic stop a week ago.

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WMHS quiz teams know their stuff

By Billy Woods

West Memphis School District

High school quiz competitions are noted for their thick, tense atmosphere.

So, how can you explain it when a 17-year-old snaps off a quick, facetious answer that cuts through the tautness?

No decision on operation for county landfill

By TRIP COOK

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The six members of the Crittenden County Sanitation Committee were deadlocked after a 3-3 vote on the two private companies vying for operation of the Crittenden County landfill during a three-hour meeting on Wednesday. The committee was split evenly on a motion to recommend either The CWI Group of Atlanta or Santek Environmental of Cleveland, Tenn. for a "public-private partnership" for the landfill.

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