

# The Crittenden Press

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Printed in Marion, Ky., on recycled paper and soy ink  
USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

75 CENTS  
An home-owned newspaper since 1879  
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 9 - 16 PAGES

## Press closed for Monday holiday

The Crittenden Press will be closed Monday in observance of Labor Day. Ad and editorial submission deadlines will be moved to noon Tuesday. This also means your Press will be one day late, hitting stores on Thursday instead of Wednesday. Subscribers will also be one day behind. Your Early Bird, too, will be delayed, since the mail will not run on the Monday holiday.

## Other closings for Labor Day holiday

All city, county, state and federal offices will be closed Monday, including the U.S. Post Office. Also on Saturday, all courthouse offices will be closed, including those normally open on the weekend — circuit court clerk, county clerk and sheriff.



## Woodmen honors local firefighters

Commemorating 9/11, Crittenden County Woodmen of the World will be presenting American flags to nine area fire departments on Sept. 11. The presentation will be made at 9 a.m., about the same time the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed on that Tuesday six years ago. A total of 343 firefighters were killed in the terrorist attack on New York. The Woodmen office is located at 800 S. Main St. The community is invited to attend.

## Music on Main takes a week off

Performances for Music on Main will take this Saturday off, but will return Sept. 8 with Grandpa's Legacy from Paducah. The group appeared at the Gazebo two years ago and were quite popular. The Marion Main Street-sponsored performances continue through Sept. 22.

## Local meetings

**UPCOMING**  
• Marion City Council will meet 6 p.m., Sept. 5 in council chambers to finalize city tax rates for 2007 as well as some yet-to-be-determined agenda items.  
• Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet 9 a.m., Sept. 7 for a special called meeting at the courthouse. Magistrates are expected to finalize tax rates for 2007 as well as some other agenda items.  
• Crittenden County Board of Education will meet 6 p.m., Sept. 11 at the middle school for its regular monthly meeting.

## Rain gauge

Reported by UK Agriculture Weather Service as of Wednesday at Paducah.

7 days 30 days 2007  
**1.16" 1.17" 26.11"**  
below average: 7.19"

## Forecast

Reported by the National Weather Service.

**Thursday** Partly sunny 20% 89/70  
**Friday** Partly cloudy 10% 87/65

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## Matthews gets homecoming

STAFF REPORT  
Chase Matthews' 23rd birthday may be his biggest yet.



Matthews

On Saturday, the Dycusburg native will celebrate his big day with the whole town during the third annual Dycusburg Day festival. Visitors from all around the county and neighboring areas are expected to take part in the summer event.

But for the Iraq war veteran, it will be neither his birthday cake nor the festival parade he's likely to remember. For Matthews, Saturday will serve as a bit of a homecoming — a return home from a life changed March 19 when a roadside bomb in southern Iraq tore apart his military transport, severely injuring the National Guard soldier and two fellow guardsmen. The informal welcome

See **HOME**/page 5A



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR  
One of Crittenden County's injured Iraq war veterans, Chase Matthews, has returned home from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a welcoming community.

## Education committees under way

STAFF REPORT  
The future of Crittenden County schools largely rests in the hands of dozens of volunteers from the community and school system that have come together to tackle two major issues before the board of education.

In the last week, separate board-appointed committees have convened to address the feasibility of a four-day school week as a budget-cutting measure and a new state-mandated plan for the facilities housing students and school operations.

See **SCHOOLS**/page 5A

# A summer to forget

## Water, fire frets headline drought

STAFF REPORT  
A combination of wind, heat, fire and drought is causing great concern among city and county leaders and firefighters.

It's also creating a major challenge for farmers and ranchers. One of the worst droughts in recent history is to blame for cattleman Chad Mott's disaster last weekend.

The Mott City farmer lost nearly all of his winter reserves, 160 rolls of hay, to a fire Friday that apparently started by spontaneous combustion, a result of dry, hot conditions. Now, Mott may have to sell off his entire herd because he hasn't enough hay to get his cattle through the coming winter.

At livestock markets in Marion and Ledbetter, operators say they're moving record numbers of cattle for this time of year as farmers react to forecasts of more dry weather for the next couple of weeks. Many ranchers are selling off parts of their herds because pastures are parched and hay shortages are critical.

Mott and other farmers say winter feed is terribly scarce. USDA officials have released a record number of Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP, acres in the immediate area so farmers can cut otherwise forbidden forages.

Round bales of hay are fetching about \$75 to \$80 apiece, if you can find them, Mott said. Some high-quality forages such as alfalfa are bringing greater prices.

"At these prices, if I had to buy enough hay to feed all winter, it would cost me about \$25,000," Mott said. "Of course, I just can't do that."

### Water concerns

While farmers are trying to cope with these problems, city and county planners are also

See **WATER**/page 3A



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR  
Cattle are herded Monday into the auction ring at West Kentucky Livestock Market in Marion where local ranchers are selling livestock at record rates. Above, auctioneer Miles Crabtree (left) and Mark Faughn keep track of the sales while market manager Danny Fulkerson rests on a cane he used to keep the cows under control on the floor.

## Cattle sold in record numbers

By **DARYL K. TABOR**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The near-record sale of cattle through West Kentucky Livestock Market in Marion may make for some attractive bookkeeping numbers this summer, but what's black today could be red like the center of a rare steak next year. And that bleak outlook is not only for the cattle industry, but for those who enjoy its product, too.

For the last several Mondays, due in large part to ongoing weather woes, West Kentucky Livestock Market has been processing cattle through its auction lot like no other time in the recent past.

"Oh yes, we're double what we usually do," said manager Danny Fulkerson, just one day after trading 933 head of cattle.

While Fulkerson admits sale num-

bers, which have broken the 1,000-head mark in recent weeks, are good for commissions today, next year's numbers are sure to be way down. When you sell 350 calves at market today, he explained, that's 350 head off the market for next year.

"Numbers are going to be short," he forecasts for spring cattle sales.

That will mean lower commissions for livestock traders in 2008 and fewer slaughter animals to keep the refrigerators in the meat aisle full, driving up beef prices in the long run.

Cattle are being traded off in herds as area ranchers cut their losses after a double-whammy from Mother Nature in 2007 — a late spring freeze and a major drought. One of the worst heat waves in the last half-century has withered pasture land, forcing some cattlemen to start feeding hay in August. This and relentless heat have put a stress on the animals.

"I've never seen it this dry for this long," said livestock market office man-

ager Linda Edwards.

Coupled with a rare April freeze that not only destroyed the amount of hay stores available for lean times but reduced the amount of protein available in early summer forages, many farmers are rushing to cut losses.

Fewer cattle mean fewer mouths to feed with unheard of \$80 bales of hay on the local market. So, ranchers in the parched Ohio and Tennessee valleys are rushing their cows to sale for slaughter or relocation to greener pastures in the Plains states.

"Out West there is all kinds of grass," Fulkerson said Tuesday.

In western Kentucky, Crittenden County has been parched, he points out, but larger cattle-producing areas like Christian and Trigg counties are even drier. The livestock market manager said ranchers could recoup some of their losses from a bad 2007 if federal or state disaster declarations were to provide some drought relief funds like it did in the early 1990s.

## 'Smoke' performance Sept. 6 at Fohs Hall

STAFF REPORT  
Back for one performance only, the wildly popular "Smoke on the Mountain" play hits the Fohs Hall stage next week.

Next Thursday's event is the final installment in the "Smoke" trilogy, with the first two episodes having already visited Marion. Once again, the actors from Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville, Tenn., will bring the Sanders family alive.

Crittenden County native Jeff Hughes, along with his wife Tracey,

are once again sponsoring the musical, entitled "Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming."

A review from the Fairfield Glade Vista supplied to The Press from Hughes sums up the plot:

"It's October 1945, and the gospel-singing Sanders family is back together again.

"The war is over and America's years of prosperity are just beginning. At Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Rev. Mervin Oglesworth is giving his last service. He's been called to preach



### 'Smoke' showing

"Smoke Homecoming" will show at Fohs Hall 7:30 p.m., Sept. 6. Tickets are \$15

in Texas. He's already bought a 10-gallon hat and is preparing to ride into the sunset with his wife June, who is eight months pregnant.

"Denise and her husband join Mervin and June in starting the baby boom. Tomorrow morning, young

Dennis Sanders takes over as Mount Pleasant's pastor.

"Join the Sanders family as they send Mervin and June off in style, with hilarious and touching stories and 25 toe-tapping bluegrass gospel favorites."

The Thursday night only show starts at 7:30. Reserve tickets are still available at \$20 each. Those tickets can be purchased by calling 965-5983. General admission seats are

See **SMOKE**/page 3A

# Gun laws net arrest

STAFF REPORT

Gun control notification laws helped Marion Police Department make an arrest last week of a convicted felon for the possession of handguns.

Anytime weapons are purchased at a retail outlet, local police are notified of the sale, including the name of buyer. When local authorities learned last Tuesday, Aug. 21 that Judy Lillian Calvert, 43, had purchased two handguns from Hodge Outdoor Sports, they recognized that her husband, Ricky Calvert, 52, was a convicted felon. Felons may not have weapons inside their home according to Kentucky law.

Officers notified the probation and parole officers in charge of Calvert's file then paid a visit to his home at 200 Watson St. There, officers found the guns, a .22 and .40 caliber, in a bedroom. They also found two bags of marijuana hidden inside a portable radio. Police reports indicate that officers saw smoke in the air and smelled marijuana upon entering the house.

Ricky Calvert was arrested and charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of marijuana.

Judy Lillian Calvert was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

Once at the Crittenden County Jail, Judy Lillian Calvert was also charged with promoting contraband. She allegedly had two knives hidden inside her pants which were found by Deputy Jailer Tina Rushing.

# Sewer has tempers raw

STAFF REPORT

Spending the \$1.15 million in grant money the City of Marion has available for sewer extensions has some tempers on the city council raw.

At a meeting last week, two councilmen were vocal in their opposition to a proposed mile-long sewer extension to S&J RV Park on U.S. 60 West. Darrin Tabor and Jason Hatfield want to see the \$450,000 initially allocated for the mile-long line add-on spent for providing sewer to more of the 116 residences and 15 businesses inside the city without the utility.

The issue arose from S&J owners Linda and Jerry Holsapple's request to the council to reconsider last month's rejection of the extension to their business property, where



Tabor

they are considering construction of a 20-room motel when Linda's health improves. State regulations require a tap-on to a sewer system before either the hotel or expansion of the RV park can be considered. An enlarged septic system is not permitted to accommodate expansion.

At times, the exchanges were heated between the two councilmen opposing U.S. 60 expansion and the Holsapples. Tabor and Hatfield, too, were boisterously against Mayor Micky Alexander's support of the project, which was first conceived last year before a grant request for the project was submitted.

The division will not likely subside until a final sewer extension project is named for the \$450,000.

# Marion's water OK

STAFF REPORT

You may want to put away the clear glasses until the drought is over.

Despite some discoloration and possible odor at sporadic locations across Marion, City Administrator Mark Bryant assures residents the water is fine to drink.

Seems the long, dry, hot days are not only evaporating water at an alarming rate, the combination of all those factors is promoting algae growth that is making the city water difficult to treat to perfection.

"It tests okay, but we've been running around like a chicken with its head chopped off trying to correct this," Bryant said Tuesday. "I assure you it's safe."

To supplement, and hopefully alleviate some of the problems, Marion will purchase water from Crittenden-Livingston Water District for a few days, Bryant said on Wednesday morning.

A new intake at Lake George, Marion's water reservoir, is being installed next week. The city administrator said that could remedy the current problem, drawing better water for treatment.

# HOME

Continued from Page 1A

home comes three weeks after arriving back in Dycusburg with his father Rudy after a lengthy recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. A pot luck gathering Saturday will be at noon in the Dycusburg Missionary Baptist Church fellowship hall.

Many of Chase's brothers-in-arms plan to head to Dycusburg for a visit with their buddy. Even one of the other soldiers injured in the March 19 attack, Jonathan

McMackin, who is now in Texas, will try to make the homecoming, according to Rudy.

"Hopefully, he'll be back," the dotting father said.

Also on Saturday, the county will be dedicating the Cumberland River boat ramp at Dycusburg and the surrounding park in honor of the soldier. Magistrate Greg West will be making the presentation in conjunction with the noon dinner. The area will be dubbed Chase Matthews Recreation Area.

The community is welcome to attend both the homecoming and dedication ceremony.

While at Walter Reed, Matthews

underwent numerous surgeries to repair his injuries, which included losing a portion of both legs and a fractured arm.

"Don't believe what they tell you," Rudy said of the poor conditions at the army hospital reported by the media. "They took care of him."

Rudy said he and Chase spent the first week back home at the house, just getting settled back in and allowing Chase to get comfortable with his surroundings prosthetic limbs.

"We didn't get out at all the first week," Rudy said in a visit to Marion Monday.

Since that time, Chase has been busy visiting and catching up on the nearly two years since he was first deployed to Iraq. He even has a new car.

"He's doing real good," Rudy said Monday. "He's on the go all the time."

The family is in the process of trying to thank all of those who supported or helped Chase during his recovery. For Rudy, the cards, visits, donations and prayers were more than he can possibly account for individually.

"Everybody's been real supportive," he said.

# SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

These groups will meet over the coming months, issuing final reports to the board for consideration.

On Monday evening, 44 volunteers came together in the high school library to kick off four-day school exploration. The individuals have been divided into four committees based on their interest in each area of exploration.

The proposal has been made, based on Webster County's lead of going to the four-day school calendar four years ago, as a cost-cutting measure for an ailing school budget. A spring meeting with Webster school officials provided enough positives to convince the five-member Crittenden County Board of Education to pursue the feasibility of the measure here.

Superintendent John Belt addressed the collective volunteers as to the importance of their exploration over the coming months.

"I don't know what the recommendation would be right now," he said, if he had to advise the board of education one way or another on implementing the abbreviated school week. "I'll be relying on your study."

The committees are heavily weighted with individuals connected to the board either through employment or relation to an employee. Also, two board members - Phyllis Orr and Eric Larue - have chosen to take part in committees.

Belt said all the committee members volunteered because of their concerns with the issue. He said he did not refuse any members of the general community who expressed an interest.

The work ahead for the four committees - finance, communication, academic and childcare - will involve numerous meetings amongst themselves. Fact-finding studies, surveys and interviews will be conducted as each committee sees fit.

"It's a tremendous challenge to get good solid information from the community," Belt said.

The superintendent reiterated that he and the board as a whole will be hands-off until a final report is ready to be submitted to the local school board. Belt said that will need to be done by

# 4-day school committees

## Childcare

Kathryn Turner, chair  
Mayetta Witherspoon  
Denise Guess  
Linda Fortune  
Michelle McConnell  
Shana Geary  
Tonya Driver  
Jennifer Beverly  
Carol Davis

## Finance

Brent Highfill, chair  
Ken Crider  
Larry Orr  
Kay Kirby  
Jeff Ellis  
Janet Stevens  
Sharon Murray  
Sarah Riley  
Jenni Gilkey  
Laura Poindexter  
Scotty Hopkins

## Communications

Holly White, chair  
Steve Graham  
Jayme Young  
Glen Conger  
Teresa Foster  
Ramonda Ford  
Barbara Myers  
Diana Dodson  
Kelly Platfoot  
Carol West

## Academic

Karen Nasserri, co-chair  
Melissa Tabor, co-chair  
Laura Brantley

Sharon McDaniel  
Debby West  
Mandy Hunt  
Eric LaRue  
Marilyn Iddings  
Vicky Collins  
Amy Caraway  
Wendy Dunham  
Ruth Marshall  
Phyllis Orr

# Facilities plan committee

## Superintendent/designee

John W. Belt, superintendent

## Parents

Mary Cooksey, CCES  
Phyllis Berry, CCMS  
Audra Hunt, CCHS

## Teachers

Carolyn Traum, CCES  
C.D. McCord, CCMS  
Larry Duvall, CCHS

## Administrators

Melissa Tabor, CCES  
Diana Dodson, CCMS  
Steve Head, CCHS

## Central office

Greg Binkley, maintenance

## Community leaders

Alan Hunt  
Perry Newcom

## Board of education

Bill Asbridge, chair

## Local building/zoning

Kenneth Winn

middle school, a half-century-old building with a leaky roof. But Lucas warned during a detailed PowerPoint presentation that new construction allowed by his department is based upon unsuitable facilities or measured student need. The Crittenden County Board of Education also has a very low bonding potential to finance a new school. That amount two years ago was only \$137,772.

Also present at the gathering was Butch Canty, hired by the board of education as a facilitator to help the volunteers through the lengthy, comprehensive process.

"Having a facilitator takes a burden off administrative staff," Lucas said. "It's money ahead."

A 35-year educator with four years with the Kentucky School Boards Association, Canty's job will not be to determine needs, only coach the local volunteers through their information gathering and analysis process. An architect has been hired by the school system to evaluate and rate each building and classroom.

"My job is to see that the regulations are followed and to aid the Local Planning Committee in writing the next four-year plan," Canty said.

Currently, there are five school districts in the state being sued over their local facilities plan. None had employed a facilitator.

The Crittenden plan should be completed and turned over to the local board of education by early 2008. Once approved, the plan will be sent to Frankfort for final approval.

During the duration of the plan-writing, public forums will be held to keep the community abreast of the plans and progress. That first meeting will be 5:30 p.m., Sept. 10 at the middle school library. It will follow the Local Planning Committee's first meeting at 4 p.m.

During that meeting, Canty has scheduled for the planners to meet with the board's bonding agent over the money situation, as well as discuss system demographics, technology and transportation.

The second public forum will be 5:30 p.m., Sept. 25 in the same meeting place. The committee will convene immediately following the community's input. A third public forum has yet to be determined, but will be advertised when decided upon. It will come at the end of the planning process.



Belt

February. That way, if the board elects to implement four-day schooling after review of the pros and cons found by committees, there will be time to adjust before the 2008-09 school year.

In the interim, communication between the committees and community is critical, Belt said.

"The root of 90 percent of problems we as humans have is because of communication," he said.

Some of the key hurdles forecast for the committee work is keeping communication open, issues with reductions in classified staff employment hours and retirement credit and extracurricular programs.

"We need to be creative in dealing with that," Belt said.

Childcare issues, too, are a question. Currently, both daycare facilities in Crittenden County are maxed out in enrollment. Attending school only four days could create a problem for many families who do not have a means for childcare arrangements during the school year, either due to financial or other restrictions.

The superintendent will hold a sort of half-time meeting with the four committees in October to monitor progress and provide any needed direction in conducting fact-finding. But, he will wait until a final report next year to provide a recommendation to the board.

"If it doesn't show solutions, we're not going to do it," Belt said. "We'll need to find another solution."

## Facilities plan committee

Meeting last week, a state-mandated committee aimed at creating a four-year facilities plan for the school system got under way.

The 15 members made of personnel and parents associated with each school, as well as members of the community at large, met with Tim Lucas, Kentucky Department of Education architect, for their own guidance session before delving into months of work ahead. They will be devising the plan to address the system's building needs.

"This is not a wish list," Lucas cautioned the group.

The biggest concern to Superintendent Belt is the

# THANK YOU... MORE THAN WE CAN EVER EXPRESS

During Chase's recovery, he has received some of the best care available to any American today. From the battlefield medics to the doctors, nurses and staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the care and compassion shown our soldiers is second only to the advanced medical procedures that limit the devastation from battle.

For this, we are eternally grateful.

But words escape when trying to express how overwhelmed we have been with the efforts of those under no obligation to give from their hearts. The cards. The visits. The calls. The donations. And the prayers. All have offered so much to help us through this difficult time and return home to Dycusburg with much hope for the future.

Those moments when things seemed darkest, when recovery seemed such a distant goal, a simple gesture of genuine kindness would remind us why the sacrifices of a soldier can be made so willingly. It is never in our plans to call on our friends, neighbors and family for aid during such times; indeed, we never plan on these things happening at all. But, you kept us from having to make that

call for help by so kindly offering a hand, an ear, a prayer in anticipation of our need.

We could never begin to adequately thank each of you by name without inevitably overlooking one of those acts of love. Just know that each morning Chase rises for a new day and pushes one step further, it is all made worthwhile by the knowledge we will have never felt alone in this trip.

Recovery is not over. There is still at least one more trip to Walter Reed for surgery. The healing will continue. But the best therapy for all of us is to be back home, living our way of life among those who care most.

Chase is still our boy, our buddy and the young man who offered himself in defense of his country. We will continue to need your support and well-wishes, as well as the understanding that Chase is still Chase.

Quite simply, thank you each and everyone.

Spec. Chase Matthews and family

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# Striking out for a look at Marion's old park

From the archives of The Crittenden Press, let's read about Marion's first baseball team, its members and some of the action from its games, and how the team's popularity prompted businessmen of Marion to create a new ball park for the community.

June 1907 - The Crittenden Press

The people of Marion have recently organized a first baseball team. This team will be called The Marion Baseball team.

J.W. Wilson and J.H. Orme are the financial managers, W.H. Clark is field manager or coach, Albert M. Shelby, owner and proprietor of the Marion Steam Laundry, has contributed to the team its suits.

They haven't any ground yet but Mr. Clark is trying to get the junior baseball park on the Weldon & Blackburn addition in West Marion for the playing of their games.

Good order will be maintained during all games played by this team. *(The Weldon-Blackburn addition was located in the area where Weldon Street is today.)*

June 1907 - The Crittenden Press

It didn't take long to get the team ready for a game, for later that month the Press published an advertisement for a game. It read: There will be a match game of baseball today at the Baseball Park in the Weldon Blackburn addition, between Marion boys and the Princeton ball team. Come out and see a good game and encourage the homeboys. General admission will be 15 cents, ladies and children 10 cents.

August 1908 - The Crittenden Press

Now, let's recall some of the action of the team.

On last Wednesday, the baseball team of this place went to Morganfield to meet the hitherto undefeated champion of that thriving

**Brenda UNDERDOWN**  
**Area History & Genealogy**



**Forgotten Passages**

city. They went accompanied by the usual "pitiful few" and followed by the bright hopes and best wishes of every inhabitant of our town, and were received with the most gracious Kentucky hospitality. But instead of the rivalry expected they found only sympathy for their sad plight in being compelled to play the world beaters who represent that community. This feeling of pity had changed considerably when umpires justice and Gardner called the game at 3:30. Further change of sentiment was noticed as the game progressed.

Marion broke into the run column in the first inning. After Bunk Perryman and John Grimes had proved "easy picking" for the fast Morganfield infield. Guess hit a scorcher over third base and on a combination of wild throws and his own brilliant base running, he scored.

In its half of the fourth inning, Morganfield made their lone tally. Taylor, the first man up, hit a terrific drive directly to Gossage. Instinctively, he jumped and grabbed at the ball with his bare hand. To the astonishment of all, he held it. It was a remarkable catch but probably was responsible for the run made later.

The next two men up hit safely as Gossage was pitching with a deadened hand; and an error by Lamb on a difficult chance filled the bases, and Grimes error (which we can easily excuse, as he caught a wonderful game) let in the score.

The game went on without a score until the ninth, although several times Marion had men on bases.

In the ninth, believing that the margin was a little too narrow, our boys increased theirs by two runs. Lamb beat out a beautiful bunt to second, then Rochester, next at bat, hit one too hot for their star shortstop, and brought Lamb home. Gossage then made a clean hit to right field scoring Rochester home. This ended the scoring as Morganfield couldn't touch Gossage in their half of the inning.

The feature of the game was Gossage's pitching as he had the local team completely at his mercy. Morganfield put up a good game, its infield being especially strong but good hitting by the entire Marion team and clever work on the bases by Guess, Lamb

and Rochester easily defeated them.

**Amateur champs**

This team went on to be the amateur champion of western Kentucky in September of 1908. It went up against the eastern Kentucky amateur champions, Russellville. Russellville came out the victor after two hotly contested games and was the champion amateurs of Kentucky.

May 1909 - The Crittenden Press

**Public Park for Greater Marion**

As the result of the baseball team's successful ball playing, a number of Marion's public spirited citizens wanted to have a public playground, a new and grand park for this ball team to play, something they could be proud of when they invited other teams to Marion.

They thought a permanent playground was a much-needed addition to the town and every person who takes pride in her advancement, or enjoys any of her pleasure, should help liberally and encourage this enterprise.

The first step was to form the Marion Playground Association Incorporated. This was done and members of the ground committee consisted of C.S. Nunn, J.H. Orme and W.V. Haynes. Others helping in this project were, E.J. Hayward, O.R. Hurley, C.W. Haynes, Gus Taylor, John A. Moore, John Wilson, C.V. Franks and T.H. Cochran.

Several areas were looked at, but what the committee thought the best suitable ground was picked out and it was located south of the Old Cemetery, in a beautiful lot of about three or four acres and was shaped by nature for a pleasure resort.

It was the intention of the promoters to purchase the ground and lay off a baseball diamond, tennis courts, and so improve it as to make it suitable for all athletic sports.

It will be dedicated to the people of town and county and the pupils of the school, where they may congregate for recreation and athletic games.

It is the closest to the town center and in all way the most suitable piece of property adjacent to town.

In August of 1909 the Marion Playground Association purchased this piece of property from Presley S. Maxwell.

They at once got to work and started getting the land in fine shape, the grounds were laid out and prepared, a tall board fence was built on the front and side and a grandstand for seating was installed.

The businessmen and citizens are to be congratulated



1908 MARION BASEBALL TEAM OF 1908, ONE OF THE BEST IN WESTERN KENTUCKY.  
1st Row left to right: Taylor, Grimes, Rochester, Brown. 2nd Row left to right: Moore, Perryman, Guess, Lamb, Clark  
Top Row left to right: Gossage, Mitchell, Manager Baird, Justice, Conley.

The Marion Baseball Team of 1908 was one of the best in western Kentucky, according to the caption under the original photograph published in The Crittenden Press. The players were (front from left) Butch Taylor, John Grimes, Gray Rochester, Brown, (second row) Moore, Bunk Perryman, Capt. Guess, Lamb, Clark, Paul Gossage, T. Mitchell, Manager Baird, Justice and Conley. The original caption listed only the players' last names.

for their liberal assistance in assisting and encouraging such an enterprise, for there's not anything that would add more to the beautifying of our city than a first-class park.

Maxwell Athletic Park, Marion's New Ball Park, was formally opened in a fine game with Sturgis, in which the Marion aggregation was victorious by a score of 4-2. Both teams played nicely, but the features of the day were the heavy hitting Guess, who out of 4 times up made 4 hits, and the work of Gossage, who only allowed the visitors two hits and struck out 16 of their men.

In today's terms

Maxwell Athletic Park was named after P.S. Maxwell, from whom the Marion Playground Association purchased the property. Mr.



The Maxwell Athletic Park was Marion's new ball park. It was formally opened in June 1909. In this photograph, Marion was playing Sturgis. The park was located between where Crittenden Farm Supply and Riley Tool & Machine are today located.

Maxwell also helped with the preparation of the park

The park was located where Riley Tool & Machine is today and the park continued west all the way to Blackburn Street and to where Crittenden Farm Supply is today located.

In Nov. 1918, Levi Cook purchased this property from the Marion Playground Association and it was then known as Cook's Park.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corp. was located in that area.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**From The Crittenden Press Archives**

**Local news articles from this week 50 years ago:**

•Jewel Little placed second in the senior 4-H Tractor Driving Contest held at Princeton. The contest was the district event and represents the half way point between county contests and the state fair.

•Johnson Electric Company in Marion has won a trip for two to Florida and Cuba in a sales contest sponsored by General Electric. The vacation will last a week, mostly in Miami but includes 48 hours in Havana. The award is based on points for appliance sales.

•Mrs. Robert Frazer of Marion, who is visiting in Islamorada on the Florida Keys with her husband and two children Billy Bob and John, pulled in a fish this week that when registered may be declared a record, according to Upper Keys Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Frazer hooked a 36-pound, four-ounce barracuda on a 20-pound test line while fishing in the Gulfstream.

•Nancy Claire Corley was awarded a Mary Gibbs Jones scholarship by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Miss Corley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baylus Corley and a 1957 graduate of Marion High School.

**Local news articles from this week 25 years ago:**

•John Pyse of Marion and his two-year-old nephew were in a wreck Friday morning. The El Camino driven by Pyse went over the railing of the bridge over Crooked Creek and fell 20 feet. Neither was injured.

•Jackie Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Vinson of Marion, is serving as reporter of the Crittenden County High School Chapter of FFA for the 1982-83 school year.

•The Crittenden County Rockets' defense held Caldwell County Tigers to just 39 yards rushing en route to a 7-6 win Friday night.

Archives of The Crittenden Press are on microfilm at the Crittenden County Public Library

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