

MARKER

FROM PAGE A1

And while the truth is sometimes a little stranger than fiction, the story of the Harpe Brothers will definitely keep you awake at night.

The Harpes were America's first serial killers, but their notoriety often goes unnoticed because there wasn't much of a police force in this time period nor witnesses to testify against them. As the old adage suggests, "dead men tell no tales."

These cousins, often referring to themselves as brothers, killed indiscriminately along the trail. They hid the bodies, often filling them with rocks and tossing them into the river. The Harpes ranged from western Kentucky to east Tennessee and back again, and never got caught. Yet after the body count started to add up, and the modus operandi became consistent, frontier justice was hot on the Harpes' trail.

The Harpes were not the only violent malefactors in the area at the time. In fact, there was a whole den of outlaws living on the Ohio River at Cave in Rock. Cave in Rock started as a counterfeit coin operation,

followed by a respite for those on the run. The outlaw band welcomed those on the wrong side of the law and preyed on flatboats going downriver.

When the Harpes decided to take one of these passersby, rob him of clothes and dignity, and force him and his horse off the cliff overlooking the river, that was too much for even the outlaw band. They forced the Harpes to leave at once.

The saddest part of their lives of crime was that they captured young women along the trail. Textbook definitions of Stockholm Syndrome, these three young women bore their sons and felt their wrath in a personal nature. Because one of those babies was crying too loudly, the Harpes dashed it against a tree.

The three young women took the fall for the Harpes on more than one occasion, and though acquitted each time, each time found their way back to the villainous pair.

Finally the long arm of the law caught up with the Harpes after they killed a Webster County family. "Big" Harpe was struck down after a long chase that ended in Muhlenberg County. His head was removed, and one of his female victims was forced to carry it back to Dixon. It hung

at a crossroads outside of town until it deteriorated, developing the moniker "Harpe's Head Road. The grotesque image served to remind other criminals of a fate that would follow them if they chose to do evil here.

This was not the first instance of such a "road sign." Famous poet and playwright William Shakespeare describes Scottish forces removing the heads of their enemies and setting them up as displays to warn would-be attackers.

The historical marker at the same crossroads reminds us of how thin the line was between civilized and uncivilized in the early days of a developing country, but also that communities survived and thrived though

attacked by some of the most dangerous killers history has ever known. Resilient and unwavering, there's no chance we could be scared of a

LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Providence will be taking sealed bids on Surplus Property located at 111 South Broadway

Sealed bids will be accepted from August 27, 2025 until September 12, 2025 at 4pm. Bids will be opened by Mayor Glover on September 15, 2024 at the Providence City Council meeting at 6pm. Bids may be brought by the utility office at 201 E. Main or mailed to P.O. Box 128, Providence KY 42450. Bids should be addressed to the attention of Providence City Clerk

The City of Providence reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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EMPLOYMENT

The City of Providence is currently taking applications for the position of Director of Public Works. This position is under the general direction of the mayor, responsible for general oversight of public utilities and departments involved in maintaining the cities infrastructure. Departments supervised include electric, water, sewer, gas, sanitation, streets, parks and maintenance.

This position works in conjunction with department supervisors, plans, organizes and participates as appropriate in the ongoing operation of municipal utilities and departments involved in infrastructure maintenance. Develop/approve department work priorities and daily work assignments. Ensures that all department operations are performed consistent with state/federal statutes and regulations, including the submittal of required and necessary reports. Ensures all departmental employees are properly trained and/or certified for performance of duties. Ensures all departments maintain adequate supplies and equipment to allow proper performance of job duties. Inspects work of departments to ensure it meets desired standards. Interacts with the mayor in preparation of department budgets and ensures departments operate within adopted budget constraints. Represents the city in discussions with citizens regarding department activities. Performs related work as necessary.

Applicant must have a valid drivers license, be a graduate of accredited high school or equivalent (GED), Supplemented by 5 years' experience in a position involving direct related work responsibilities. A College degree in business management, engineering or a directly related field may be substituted for up to 3 years of experience. Applications are available Monday through Friday 8-4pm at Providence City Hall. The last day for taking applications for this position is September 05, 2025. The City of Providence is an equal opportunity employer.

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