

Building demolition continued from front page

Jackson said the city has contracted with New Commonwealth Engineers. Last Thursday the engineers wanted to send another team of engineers to look at preserving the Byassee Drug building if the 2 Creative Gals building did have to come down. Jackson owns the 2 Creative Gals business building, and it is next to the 103 East Clay building targeted for demolition. "They don't think ours is going to make it," he said. The 2 Creative Gals vendors were removing items from the store on Monday.

He said engineers are looking to secure the Byassee Drug Store building as much as possible before demolition begins. Byassee Drug is located next to the 2 Creative Gals building.

Magistrate Irvin Stroud, who owns the building on the other side of Byassee Drug Store, which houses his business A Shear Blend, said the first move should have been for Kentucky Utilities to cover the electric lines with plastic cylinders.

"I had to do it when I restored the front of my building," he said. "People don't realize, when you get up there fooling around, that line can arc to whoever is up there." He said he would like to talk with the engineer himself. He said it has been difficult for some of his clients to get in and out of his business with the barricade tape blocking the parking spaces in front of East Clay. He said both pharmacies in that strip with blocked off parking spaces have some handicapped customers, and it is difficult for them to get their medications, and some aren't coming in at all because they can't easily get to the sidewalk.

"If they would cover those lines with plastic cylinders, they might could open the street back up," Stroud said. "I would think what they had roped off initially would be enough," he added.

Jackson said Kentucky Utilities brought a crew of six in on the Monday following the Saturday of the winds that brought more of the corner building down at 103 East Clay, but he would share that with them as well.

Jackson said when the contractor gets recommendations from the engineers, he [the contractor] would finalize his proposal and be in the city within a week or two if the city accepts the proposal.

Jackson said he, Tom Dickson who oversees the city's street department, and Clinton Mayor John Kelly met with various contractors, one of whom has done demolition work in downtown Paducah.

Jackson's role as EMS information officer does not involve the decisions made concerning street block offs, but he has worked as a facilitator concerning the Emergency Declarations, which helps cut through some of the red tape involving multiple state agencies when trying to get a project done in a timely manner.

Jackson said he has appreciated the work of the City of Clinton on this, and they have been transparent concerning discussions involving the demolition project.

Magistrate Stroud asked about the discussion involving the shoring. "Are they wanting to shore the roof, or the walls?"

Jackson said they are looking at reinforcing the walls

and shoring the attic of the Byassee Drug building. They also want to stabilize the wall between the 2 Creative Gals building and Byassee Drug Store. "There's no way they can do anything on the roof," Jackson said, "Due to the way the buildings sit." All of the shoring will have to take place internally.

Stroud said he wants to be involved, as a business owner, when the shoring takes place. He asked if anyone is talking about hand-picking the building down. Jackson said a contractor out of Paducah mentioned that Friday, that he would take some pieces down with his trackhoe, using special attachments, and handpick other areas to bring them down, especially along the wall between the vacant building and the 2 Creative Gals building.

The cost of shoring isn't cheap. Some of the recommendations come with a \$150,000 price tag of which the city will turn in to its insurance company, and they will put a lien on the property to try to recoup some of those costs.

Columbus Belmont-State Park Shelter to be moved; Gibson to start constructing building at Enterprise Park

Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson announced at Monday's fiscal court meeting that the state will be moving Shelter A located near an area of the bluff that has been refenced following erosion a few years ago. The fencing was moved inward away from the bluff. The shelter is next.

"It's getting ready to be moved; the contract has been put out, and a contractor has been hired to move it," he said. It will be moved to the side and forward from its current location.

Judge Wilson said the Corps of Engineers continue to work on the erosion situation at the park bluffs, and they are putting some rip rap at the base of the problem areas of the bluff.

Judge Wilson said Gibson EMC will begin work this week on their new building at Enterprise Park, the area of land the Hickman County Industrial Development Authority owns, located between Farmer's Gin and Oak Hill Country Cub. "We are close to getting Gibson Drive completed," Judge Wilson said.

Tax Rates

A public hearing regarding county tax rates was advertised in the newspaper and the floor opened for comments, with hearing time held and passage for each as follows: Real Estate - .158 and Tangible/MV- 11.4. The 15.8 for real estate is lower than that of 2022, which was .162. The .114 for tangible and motor vehicle remains the same as last year.

Next, the fiscal court approved the 2023 tax rates to be placed on the 2023 tax bills. The county only sets the county rates. The other agencies listed set their own and request the fiscal court to approve placing them on the county's tax bill. They are as follow:

	2022 RATE	2023 RATE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT.....	.013	.013
CLINTON FIRE PROTECTION.....	.10	.10
HEALTH TAX DISTRICT.....	.032	(REAL ESTATE) .032
.....	.032	(TANGIBLE) .032
.....	.032	(MOTOR VEHICLE) .032
DCEE(EXTENSION OFFICE).....	.0580	(REAL) .0570
.....	.0580	(TANGIBLE) .0570
.....	.032	(MOTOR VEHICLE) .032
COLUMBUS FIRE DISTRICT.....	.10	.10
SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	.602	(REAL ESTATE) .566
.....	.602	(TANGIBLE) .566
.....	.547	(MOTOR VEHICLE) .547
COUNTY.....	.162	(REAL ESTATE) .158
.....	.114	(TANGIBLE) .114
.....	.114	(MOTOR VEHICLE) .114
OBION CREEK WATERSHED.....	.0506	(REAL ESTATE) .0506
BANK DEPOSITS.....	.00025	.00025

These rates are per \$100.00 assessed valuation. Bank deposits rate is based on deposits.

As detailed in last month's Times, apportionment of district boundaries has changed. The fiscal court approved the second reading of the ordinance.

The fiscal court approved the Memorandum of Agreement concerning new election equipment allowing the county to recoup costs and money to be put back into the general fund.

The fiscal court approved a quote from Harp Election Services for equipment purchase for \$17,553.00. The court approved a quarterly payment of \$8,750 to the Hickman County Memorial Library. The fiscal court's contribution is \$35,000 annually, to be reviewed annually.

The court approved an annual contribution to the Hickman County Museum in the amount of \$2,000, which is used to pay for their insurance.

The court approved a pay request of \$325,709.40 to Allen Searcy Building Contractor, Inc., for work on the new Mission House project. Judge Wilson said he thought the project would be completed and the building in use by next summer. A progress meeting was held last week and signage approved. Shelving will be purchased next.

Cash transfers were approved as follow:

General to Ambulance fund- \$750 insurance; General to DES- \$30,000 for salaries; General to Jail- \$170,500 detention center bond (this is the next to the last payment on the jail building); general fund to LGEA- \$5,500 for deputy coroner salary; ARPA to general fund- \$39,318 loss of revenue (sheriff's office); and road fund to general fund- \$100,000- truck license

The next regularly scheduled fiscal court meeting is set for Monday, Sept. 25 at 8 a.m.

Missing persons case continued from front page

Burchell was described as 5-feet-6 and 105 pounds with blue eyes and strawberry blond hair. She wore plastic rimmed glasses.

Burchell's son Trent Burchell was 3-1/2 years old when she went missing. His sister was younger. He said through messaging with the Times that his grandparents, Eddie and Shirley Wright, raised them, but they are now deceased.

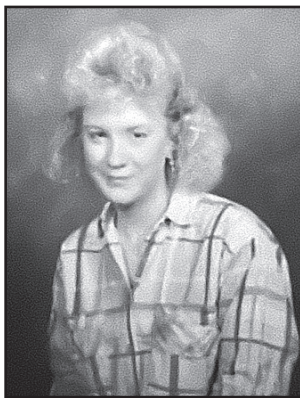
"I miss them so much," he said. He said he does have memories of his mother, who went missing so young.

Trent attended Carlisle County High School and resides in Michigan today with a family of his own. He will turn 33 next month.

"This case has affected my life since I was a child. I would love to be able to see justice served in this and finally be able to know where my mom is and give her the proper burial that she deserves," he said.

He continued, "My grandparents, unfortunately despite their efforts, were unable to have the opportunity to do so, and I would love to be able to have that closure they were never given. My children deserve to know where their grandma is and what happened to her. I'm glad the sheriff contact me and is reopening the case after all these years."

At the time of his mother's disappearance, law enforcement didn't have



Trent Burchell treasures photos of his mom, Michelle Burchell.

access to the technology available today.

That technology just might lead to long awaited answers and closure.

If you have information that might be helpful in



Trent Burchell would like for his mom, Michelle, pictured above, to have a proper burial, something he says his grandparents never got to see.

solving this case, please contact the Hickman County Sheriff's Office at 270-653-2241.

WAVE Confluence Conference 2023 set for Oct. 10 in Columbus, Ky.

The 2023 WAVE Confluence Conference will be held Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 from 12:30 - 5 p.m. at the Columbus-Belmont State Park Conference Center.

This year's focus will be on the river and economic development.

Confirmed speakers are:

Secretary of State Michael Adams, Republican nominee for reelection

State Treasurer Allison Ball, Republican nominee for State Auditor

Michael Bowman, Democratic nominee for State Treasurer

State Senator Danny Carroll

Russell Coleman, Republican nominee for Attorney General

State Senator Jason Howell

Mark Metcalf, Republican nominee for State Treasurer

Kim Reeder, Democratic nominee for State Auditor

State Representative Steven Rudy

Buddy Wheatley, Democratic nominee for Secretary of State

State Representative Robby Mills, nominee for Lt. Governor

President Bob Jackson, Murray State University

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

By SHERRY ALLISON

Recently, I had the honor of speaking to Rotary. Perhaps as I share a little bit of what I spoke about, the people of Clinton and Hickman County will be encouraged. With the recent happenings concerning the downtown area of our county seat, Clinton, and its building issues, it would seem all of us could stand some encouragement.

Many of you will remember that at the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce Annual dinner, an artistic rendering of what Clinton could look like in the future by award winning, local artist Sheryl Triplett was placed on display for those attending. If you remember, this was a project sponsored

by the Hickman County Fiscal Court, the City of Clinton, and the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce.

Sometimes we all need a glimpse of a vision of the future to wrap our thoughts around what our part could be in moving us toward that vision.

As Chamber President Deena Pittman, along with the chamber board have talked, we along with other community leaders realize that even as many actions are being taken to move us forward, a "Community Planning Group, a "think tank" or brainstorming with people from different areas of the county may lend itself to ideas to better serve the needs of the people living here. The Chamber is currently working with the

PADD office on a survey that will go out to the people of the county seeking their thoughts and ideas. Hopefully, this will be available sometime in October.

If you would like a glimpse of the artwork of Clinton, it is presently on display at the Clinton Bank.

As the town awaits the demolition of the Old Frame Shop building and the effect it will have on 2 Creative Gals, the location at 106 S Jefferson Street (the old Sweet Gumm business location is being prepared and stocked by the vendors. According to owners, Christy Kimbell and Deena Pittman, a date of its opening for business will be announced in the near future.