



The Columbus Homecoming Activity Committee and friends at the Chicken Fest Saturday. The committee is also having a fish fry at the senior center Saturday. See page 2 for more information!



A couple of vehicles at the museum's Cruise-In Car Show Saturday.



Some of Tyler Westbrook's vintage car related memorabilia displayed at the museum Saturday.



Chicken Festin' L-R: Sara Darnell, John Turner, Doris McDaniel, and Beth Gaddie. (Photos by Gaye Bencini)



Robert Armbruster's car entry Saturday at the Hickman County Museum's Cruise-In Car Show.



Mitchell Hill visits the Barnyard Buddies Petting Zoo at Chicken Fest Saturday!



Christopher Hill at the Barnyard Buddies Petting Zoo at Chicken Fest.



Raymond King next to his Corvette at the Hickman County Museum's Cruise-In Car Show Saturday at Chicken Fest.

Columbus park museum was once home to the town's Confederate mayor

By BERRY CRAIG

I'd heard the museum at Columbus-Belmont State Park was the home of B.W. Sharp, the rabidly pro-Confederate mayor of Columbus when the Civil War started. So, I emailed my friend, historian John Kelly Ross of Clinton. He probably knows more about Columbus history than anybody alive.

"Yes and no," he replied, explaining that the original Sharp house was "much, much larger" and that after the war, Thomas Brown, a former Missouri Confederate officer, owned the blufftop dwelling. Ultimately, the home,



Civil War Museum at Columbus-Belmont State Park today. (Photo by Berry Craig)

used as a military hospital by both sides in the war, "was torn down, and bits and pieces of the house were reused to build the park museum," Ross explained. He doesn't know "to what extent any portions were left intact or if

they just used the resulting pile of lumber to build the park museum and anything else they needed." Anyway, Sharp is all but forgotten in local history. But even before the war started, he was writing Confederate bigwigs, urg-



Photo of the house from a 1935 park booklet written by Charles J. Custer and titled "Old Columbus."

ing them to help themselves to his town and to nearby Cairo, Ill., to boot. Like almost all Columbus citizens, Sharp was ardently pro-slavery and

pro-Confederate, sentiments reflected in a March 17 letter to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. "I am prompted by many

of your friends in this portion of Ky. to address you for the purpose of being advised how can a bat-

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Students last day of school is May 16; HCES teacher Bizzle to retire June 30

Hickman County Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at the board office behind the high school. Present were Superintendent Heather Spillman; Finance Officer Kim Wilson; Board Members Matt Hicks, Matt Latham, Caleb DeWeese, and Stephanie Grubbs; Instructor of Special Education Christel Nall; Principals Tiffany Ray and Jeff Boaz; Middle School Dean Eric Blalock; and visitors.

Superintendent Heather Spillman said the school system is on schedule for graduation May 17 at 7 p.m. The last day for students is May 16, and for

staff, May 17.

Personnel Changes include Kelli Dalton is transferring from Community Ed Director to Administrative/Human Resources Assistant, effective July 1, and Leslie Bizzle is retiring as elementary school teacher, effective June 30. Other highlights from the meeting are:
Drama Club positive impact on students

At the meeting, the board recognized members of the Drama Club who have participated in school plays for four years. They are Hailey Meshew, Dallas Wiliford, and Stanley Dean. They spoke about the

positive impact their participation in plays has had and the confidence it has given them performing and speaking in front of a crowd.

Principals' and Dean's reports- upcoming dates

High School Principal Jeff Boaz's Report included various testing updates, community involvement activities, and that the Ag teacher position is open. GSP recipients were Sydnee Bailey, Jack Byassee, Macy Fuller, and Kaden Grubbs. GSE recipient was Kady Boaz and CHA

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Roadside trash pick-up position approved; Warrants issued for non-compliance concerning roadside litter

Hickman County Fiscal Court met in regular session Monday, April 28 in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office. Present were Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson; Magistrates Henry Cole, Irvin Stroud, and Kory Naranjo; Administrative Assistant Hillary Webb; County Treasurer Amy Crump; Deputy Judge/Executive Dawn Allen; County Attorney Jason Batts; and visitors Hickman County Sheriff Ben Natividad and Gaye Bencini.

At the Monday, April 28 fiscal court meeting, the Hickman County Fiscal Court voted to hire a part-

time person for \$15 an hour to pick up roadside litter. This is a seasonal job, nine months out of the year, and is funded with money from the Litter Abatement Grant.

If the money is not used for this specific purpose, the county will lose the grant funding.

At the meeting, Magistrate Henry Cole said he thought it would be a good idea if the person hired oversaw high school youth who need community service hours, keeping in mind roadside safety issues. The roadside litter pickup includes the City of Clinton.

Duties would include safely operating and

maintaining assigned equipment, such as the pickup truck, trash grabbers, bags, and safety gear. The individual would need to adhere to safety protocols and guidelines while working in outdoor environments and alongside traffic and maintain detailed records of litter pickup as outlined by the Solid Waste Coordinator.

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