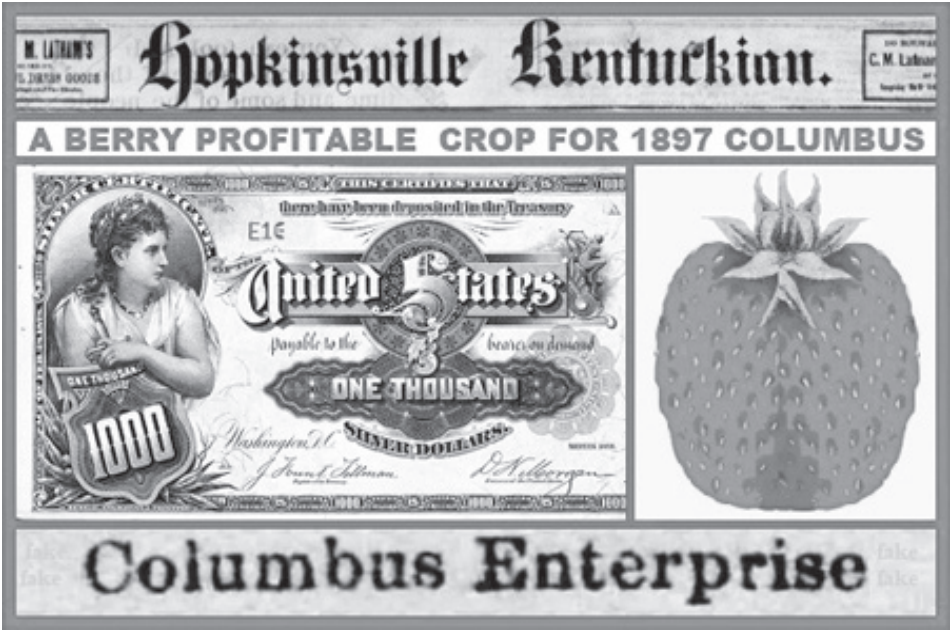




Senior volleyball players shown with Hannah Ray, seated, who will continue her career at Dyersburg State Community College. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

A Berry Profitable Crop for 1897 Columbus



By JOHN K ROSS JR.

The June 1, 1897, "Hopkinsville Kentuckian" quoted the following from the "Columbus Enterprise" of Columbus, Ky., "The shipping season [three weeks long] closed on last Saturday and ... for the information of our readers, we have gathered the facts concerning the strawberry shipments An association was formed [a few years ago which] after a year or two divided into two to-wit: 'The South Western Kentucky Strawberry Association,' of which Mayor Harry Pearson is president and the 'Columbus Strawberry Association,' I. R. Cook, Esq., president. All of the berries shipped from this point this season have passed through these two associations

The South Western Kentucky Association (President Pearson) has shipped during this season 6,528 cases of berries. The Columbus Association (President I. R. Cook) has shipped 8,964 cases, making a total of cases shipped 15,474. A case contains twenty-four quarts or six gallons of berries. These berries had averaged \$2.50 [\$95 today] each [when sold by the farmers] [Thus,] we have the sum of

\$38,685 [\$1.47 million] the gross sales of the berries The cost of picking, and of boxes and cases, is sixty-five cents [\$24.70] per case which amounts to \$10,058 [\$382,200]. Freight is sixty cents [\$23] per 100 lbs. and three crates weigh one hundred pounds, amount of freight 5,158 pounds at 60 cents [\$23] per hundred, \$309.48 [\$11,760]. To this must be added ice charges, which are ... 15 cents [\$5.70], which amounts to the sum of \$77.37 [\$2,940]. Adding all these expenses together we have the total expenses (excepting commission charges) ... in round numbers \$10,445 [\$396,910]. Deduct this amount from the gross sales and we have the sum of twenty-eight thousand two hundred and forty dollars [\$1.08 million] net proceeds, from which must be deducted commissions

Now when we consider that the boxes and cases are all manufactured here, and that price of picking is all paid here to those who reside in the community, it will be seen that the bulk of the money is distributed right here in our midst. The Pollock Bros. have a box factory here, and they have supplied all the boxes and cases used. This firm received

13 1/2 cents [\$5.13] per case, which amounts to \$2,088.90 [\$79,382]. The pickers received \$7,969.11 [\$302,822] With these facts staring us in the face, who will say that strawberry culture is not a lucrative business?"

Somehow the editor forgot to include the material and labor costs the farmers had to pay to plow their fields, fertilize them, plant the seeds or seedlings, and weed them. In 1897 Columbus shipped 15,474 cases of strawberries. At 24 quarts per case, they contained a total of 371,376 quarts of berries. Since the strawberry pickers were paid \$7,969.11 that meant each received 4 2/3 cents [\$1.78 today] for that quart they had picked. During this time period a quart of strawberries usually sold in grocery stores for between 15 cents [\$5.70] and 20 [\$7.60] cents per quart.

The editor/owner of the "Columbus Enterprise" was James E. Greene. His newspaper only lasted from 1896 to 1898. Unfortunately, no original issue is known to have survived. I recreated (i.e., FAKED) the newspaper's masthead which I used in my illustration.

Richard Parker to speak at Jackson Purchase Historical Society meeting



Richard Parker

The Jackson Purchase Historical Society (JPHS) will meet on Saturday, May 17 at 10:30 am at Temple Israel at 330 Joe Clifton Dr, Paducah, Kentucky. Speaker will be Society Vice President

Richard D. Parker, who will discuss his research on the Bernheim and Dreyfuss families, formerly of Paducah, Kentucky and their connections to the development of the bourbon industry and major league baseball.

People associate Kentucky with bourbon, of course. Baseball typically does not come to mind when one thinks of Kentucky bourbon. Believe it or not, the two go hand-in-hand as the man responsible for baseball's modern-day success called Paducah, Kentucky home for eight years and worked in the bourbon indus-

try. That man, Barney Dreyfuss, would leave region and go on to create the World Series and help turn baseball into the popular sport it is today. If it wasn't for Kentucky Bourbon, however, none of Dreyfuss' success might have been possible. His uncle, Issac Wolfe Bernheim—who called Paducah home for 20 years—would become one the world's most powerful "Bourbon Barrons" and helped propel the young Dreyfuss into his baseball management career. Learn the whole, fascinating story on May 17 at Temple Israel.

Area Obituaries

James Reeder

Mr. James E. Reeder, aged 80, of, Fulton Ky., passed away on Friday, May 9, 2025, at his residence. He was born in Hickman, Ky., on December 14, 1944, to the late Ed and Nittie B. West Reeder. James spent the majority of life in this area. He is survived by his sister, Mary (Charles) McDaniel, of Clinton, Ky. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters and two brothers. No services will be held for Mr. James E Reeder this time. Hornbeak Funeral Chapel is entrusted with the arrangements.

Deed Transfers

05/06/2025- Ward, Thomas Steven to Grogan Properties LLC
05/06/2025- Fraser, Daniel J. Estate to Weatherford, Steve, Living Trust.
05/08/2025- Byassee, Jeffrey Wayne to Byassee, Jeffrey Wayne Co. Trustee

TIMES
Deadline
Noon on
Mondays

Hickman County Fiscal Court
Ordinance 2025-02
BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF HICKMAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 was tentatively approved by the fiscal court on Monday, April 28th, 2025, and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Office on May 5, 2025.
The adoption and second reading are scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the office of the Hickman County Judge Executive.
SECTION ONE: The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

GENERAL FUND			Budget Appropriation
Category	Purpose		
5000	General Government		1,342,033.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property		227,700.00
5200	General Health and Sanitation		17,900.00
5300	Social Services		14,600.00
5400	Recreation and Culture		106,600.00
9000	Administration		702,453.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND			2,411,286.00
ROAD FUND			
5000	General Government		37,000.00
6100	Roads		2,100,850.00
7000	Debt Service		103,000.00
9000	Administration		229,452.60
TOTAL ROAD FUND			2,470,302.60
JAIL FUND			
5100	Protection to Persons & Property		103,562.00
9000	Administration		29,600.00
TOTAL JAIL FUND			133,162.00
LGEA FUND			
5000	General Government		5,018.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property		150.00
9000	Administration		2,952.00
TOTAL LGEA FUND			8,120.00
CDBG FUND			
5000	General Government		750,000.00
TOTAL CDBG FUND			750,000.00
DES FUND			
5100	Protection to Persons & Property		48,425.00
9000	Administration		10,175.00
TOTAL DES FUND			58,600.00
AMBULANCE RENTAL FUND			
5000	General Government		2,200.00
9000	Administration		19,080.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND			21,280.00
CIVIL WAR DAYS			
5400	Recreation and Culture		107,000.00
TOTAL CIVIL WAR DAYS FUND			107,000.00
USDA			
7000	Debt Service		31,545.00
9000	Administration		11,455.00
TOTAL USDA FUND			43,000.00
Clerk Storage			
5000	General Government		19,500.00
TOTAL CLERK STORAGE			19,500.00
Opioid			
5000	General Government		41,900.00
TOTAL OPIOID			41,900.00
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATION			
Fund	Total Budgeted Amount	% of Total Budget	
GENERAL	2,411,286.00	39.76%	
ROAD	2,470,302.60	40.74%	
JAIL	133,162.00	2.20%	
LGEA	8,120.00	0.13%	
CDBG	750,000.00	12.37%	
DES	58,600.00	0.97%	
AMBULANCE RENTAL	21,280.00	0.35%	
CIVIL WAR DAYS	107,000.00	1.76.%	
USDA	43,000.00	0.71%	
CLERK STORAGE	19,500.00	0.32%	
OPIOID	41,900.00	0.69%	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGETED:			100%

SECTION TWO:
This ordinance shall be published in Hickman County Times by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE:
This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:
All interested persons and organizations in Hickman County are hereby notified that a copy of the county's adopted budget in full is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/ Executive during normal business hours.

I, Kenny Wilson, Hickman County Judge Executive, on behalf of the Hickman County Fiscal Court, hereby certify that the Hickman County Fiscal Court reviewed and considered this Summary on the date signed below, and certified this Summary as accurate by a motion made and approved by members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court as reflected in the record of these proceedings lodged in the Office of the Hickman County Clerk.

Kenny Wilson
Hickman County Judge Executive

4/28/2025
Date