

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to express the school's appreciation to individuals, families, businesses and organizations that have provided annual scholarship opportunities for our students. Approximately \$64,000 in local scholarships was awarded to our seniors this year. This is remarkable considering the size of our community! We are truly blessed to live in such a caring, generous place.

Because we are such a small school and community, it is often difficult for our students to compete for scholarships at the state and national level. Therefore, our students rely heavily on local scholarships for much-needed financial assistance. The school would like to encourage more individuals, families, businesses and organizations to establish scholarships to be awarded to deserving seniors of their choice. Memorial scholarships are a great way for families to honor the memory of a loved one while also helping make college possible for a student.

It is very rewarding to see the faces of these young people when they find out they have received a scholarship. Those expressions of gratitude make all of the effort involved worthwhile. Our students greatly appreciate your interest in and support of their educational endeavors. These students are the future of our county, and your investment in their lives ensures a brighter future for this community.

Sincerely,  
Ann Pettit  
Guidance Counselor  
Hickman County  
High School

Acknowledgment



The family of Alma J. Hunter extends their heartfelt appreciation for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Herbert Emerson, Dortheia Curtis, Lamargo Robinson, and Mike Riley.

We are particularly grateful to Rev. Anthony Johnson, Brown Funeral Home, the Community Service Club, and Second Baptist Church.

May God richly bless each of you!

Sincerely,  
The Hunter Family  
Jerelean, Wilada, Eloise,  
Marion, and Karen

Hot cars can be deadly

By SHERRI HANNAN  
University of Kentucky

Summer is nearly here, bringing with it hot, sunny days.

And nowhere do you feel those hot temps more than in the car. A hot car is more than just uncomfortable – it can be deadly to small children.

On average, a child dies from heatstroke every nine days. In more than half of these deaths, the caregiver forgot the child was in the car. Parents, family members and babysitters all believe this could never happen to them. But in most cases, responsible caregivers simply forgot the child was in the car. A change in routine, stress or distraction can all play a role.

Heatstroke happens faster than you think. Even on a mild day, the tem-

Continued on page 8



The Fulton-Hickman Counties Habitat for Humanity office and warehouse building construction is coming along, located on Hwy. 51 Clinton, across from the drive between the health department and the former Jakel building. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)



Steven Nicodemo, brand manager for O.H. Ingram River Aged, speaks to members of the West Kentucky Regional Alliance's Leadership group Thursday morning at Iron Banks in Columbus, Ky. Scott Beyer, master blender, gave tours of the floating barrelhouse. The group also toured Columbus-Belmont State Park and had lunch at The Belmont. (Photo/Gaye Bencini)

John "Drew" Williams Announces Campaign for U.S. House in Kentucky's 1st District

Drew Williams, a lifelong resident of Marshall County and community leader known for revitalizing the historic Tater Day spring festival, officially announced his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives in Kentucky's 1st



Drew Williams

Congressional District.

Williams, who has worked in family-owned businesses on Kentucky Lake building personal and marina boat docks for nearly two decades, says he is running to bring a new working-class voice to Washington—one rooted in tireless effort, intersectional engagement, and community empowerment.

"I'm running for Congress to make sure the people of western Kentucky have someone who shows up, listens, and fights like hell for every person on every street. I've never waited for someone else to fix a problem—I've always rolled

up my sleeves and done the work right alongside my coworkers, my neighbors, and my fellow community members. When I tell you, 'I am here for you,' I mean it!"

Williams says his campaign will focus on strengthening small towns, investing in rural health and infrastructure, defending American Liberties, and restoring accountability in government. He also emphasized his commitment to bringing a message of unity and hope to a divided political.

Currently this seat is held by James Comer, Jr.

Bridges, roads continued from front page

(by phone); Sheriff Ben Natividad; and visitors, many of whom were associated with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Also present were Tommy Ingram, Hickman County Superintendent with the State Highway Dept., and Kelly Byassee, foreman of the Hickman County Road Department.

The Hickman County Fiscal Court heard from Jason Looper and Bruce Benefield and other representatives with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as they discussed the fiscal year 2025-26 Rural Secondary Road recommendations.

Hickman County's Flex Funds from the state are in the amount of \$185,316.00. Flex Funds are for resurfacing county roads.

Benefield gave updates on both state and county roads.

Benefield said this year bridges have been the main focus of the state transportation cabinet.

He presented information on bridges they will be working on in the county, one of which is KY 780 -123.

Work is currently being done on the bridge on Whitlock Road. The duration of that project is estimated to be 30 days. Instead of being 34' wide, it will cover a 60' span. The beams are outsourced, and it's a matter of them coming in

from the factory for them to be installed.

St. Rt. 944 work is being finished up and work is planned on St. Rt. 1529. Magistrate Cole asked if there would be a shoulder on St. Rt. 944, and Benefield said yes.

Benefield said with the recent rain downpours, Tommy Ingram and crew have been busy with cross drains, to keep water from accumulating.

Magistrate Cole asked if there were plans for repair on State Route Hwy. 123, a short distance from the turn off of Hwy. 80, where there is a large wash out on the right side of the road. Tommy Ingram said plans are to dig it out with a track hoe and install a new pipe. Benefield said once that is complete, the road will be repaved.

Cole said there is also a place in front of the former Iron Banks Hotel, now the property of O.H. Ingram, at the turn to go to Columbus Park, where a culvert is holding water in front of the Jones residence.

Magistrate Stroud noted an area at the end of Pillow Road where the cross drain crosses Hwy. 58 and asked if the state planned to extend that. Benefield said plans are to pave that area this summer.

Judge Executive Kenny Wilson asked about Springhill Road and if it will be looked at

for approval. Benefield said it will be reviewed for approval.

Judge Wilson asked about the condition of the paving along Hwy. 58 W toward Columbus, an ongoing problem following work done by individuals who were with Murray Paving four years ago. Jason Looper said he noticed there were rough places, and they plan to pave over them at some point when funding is available.

The state will also look at paving over rough areas from Hwy. 58 E to Hwy. 45.

Magistrate Stroud said State Route 1708 that cuts through Hwy. 123 to 307 needs improvement as well.

Mission House Project Done

At Thursday's fiscal court meeting, an allotted time was held for the public hearing for comments concerning the new mission house building. This is a requirement to close out the Department of Local Government Mission House Project, for which the county received a Community Development Block Grant.

Mattea Mitchell, who works with the Purchase Area Development District, said the Community Development Block Grant requirement is that the project has a national objective, which in this case serves

low to moderate income individuals. The project cost \$1.5 million, with an administrative cost of \$25,000 to the Purchase Area Development District. The remaining administrative cost was \$2,500 and that payment completes the project. The fiscal court approved the payment.

What's next

The county has applied for and been approved for a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant to upgrade the Hickman County Senior Citizens Center building, and that project will begin next.

Budget for next fiscal year

The fiscal court approved the second reading of the proposed budget for the fiscal year June 30, 2025 to July 1, 2026.

Judge Wilson commended the staff in his office who worked to get it to the state for approval in a timely manner to be reviewed and sent back to the county to be put in place.

Health Ins. Renewal Rates

The fiscal court voted to approve the health insurance rates, which increased 10-11 percent, and that the county absorb the increase in costs so that they are not passed on to

county employees.

Request for Donations

The fiscal court approved a request by The Hickman County Museum to pay \$2,667.06 toward the museum's insurance premium covering the museum property.

The fiscal court approved a request by the Hickman County Trap Team for the USA State Competition in Berea, Ky. The donation amount approved by the court was in the amount of \$500.

The fiscal court approved a request for a donation for the annual Community Fourth of July event held on the Clinton First Assembly grounds. The donation amount approved was in the amount of \$500.

Annual Bid Openings

In the absence of County Attorney Jason Batts (present by phone), Hickman County Sheriff Ben Natividad opened the sealed bids received for pipe, gravel, and limestone. Each bid was announced and the fiscal court voted to award Yates & Sons the bid for pipe; Mid-South Materials for red gravel; and Shawnee Stone for limestone products.

The next meeting of the Hickman County Fiscal Court will be held Thursday, June 26 at 8 a.m.