



David Strange, shown here at the Hickman County Relay for Life event Saturday, Oct. 18, remains the Champion Relay for Life Cake Auction Winner! He has been a long-time supporter of Relay for Life. His contributions are appreciated! (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

## New Business: Open Oct. 25- Ribbon Cutting 10:30 am

# Ink By Koot Tattoo Studio

By GAYE BENCINI

Ink by Koot Tattoo Studio is opening at 106 South Jefferson St., Clinton, Ky., this Saturday, Oct. 25.

Owner is Herman Eaton, Jr, and hours will be Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for appointments and from 3:30 p.m. – 12 a.m. for walk-in customers. Hours Saturday and Sunday are walk-ins all day, 9:30 a.m. – 12 a.m.

His artistic skills go beyond tattoo artistry. He is also a talented painter. When asked what drew

him into a career as a tattoo artist, Eaton, 40, said he has been painting for over 20 years.

“My childhood friend, Nelson Summit, who was a local tattoo artist in my city of West Helena, Ark., inspired me to do tattoos,” he said. Now Eaton has 15 years’ experience.

“Do they hurt?” I asked.

“It depends on the location,” he replied. “Some spots hurt; some don’t, but I also have numbing cream. That helps a lot if it’s a sensitive area.”

He will do any design the customer requests

and has a book of designs from which they can also choose.

Samples of his completed tattoo work on customers are shown in a photo collage display on the wall of this shop as is the business name mural he painted. Several pieces of his canvas art are displayed, and he plans to offer his paintings for sale as well at some point.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a tattoo artist, Eaton said, “Meeting new people, the conversations and hearing everybody’s stories. They

are mostly about their upbringing and whatever led them to where they are in life right now.”

Depending on the complexity of the tattoo’s design and size, the work could take between 10-12 hours or as quickly as 30 minutes for a very simple design.

Clients must be at least 17 years old with parental consent or 18 and older.

See samples of his work on the Ink by Koot Tattoo Studio Facebook page and plan to attend the Chamber Ribbon Cutting Saturday at 10:30!



Maribeth Ferguson sang at the Hickman County Relay for Life event Saturday evening.

## Your talent is needed Saturday night!

### Variety Show Oct. 25

The Hickman County Relay for Life event was held Saturday night, but another Relay related event is planned for this Saturday evening, Oct. 25 at the First Assembly of God Family Life Center starting at 6 p.m.- The Relay for Life Variety Show!

Debby Watson, who co-chairs Hickman County Relay for life with Christy Ferguson, said Mini Pearl and Patsy Cline are among the planned performers.

If you would like to share your talent for a fun-filled night for a good cause, please contact Debby Watson at 270-254-0800.

## City updates public on grant-funded infrastructure

### Projects progress on track despite behind-the-scenes timeline

The City of Clinton is actively moving forward on two major infrastructure projects funded by state and federal grants: Lift Station Improvements (through a Delta Regional Authority [DRA] grant) to meet environmental compliance requirements with the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW), and Stormwater Drainage Improvements (through a Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery [CDBG-DR]) to address flooding in residential and commercial areas.

While residents may not yet see construction underway, important progress is happening behind the scenes — and the current pace is normal for federally funded projects. These grants come with strict rules that require detailed planning, environmental studies, and approvals before any funds can be spent or work can begin.

**Why It Takes Time**

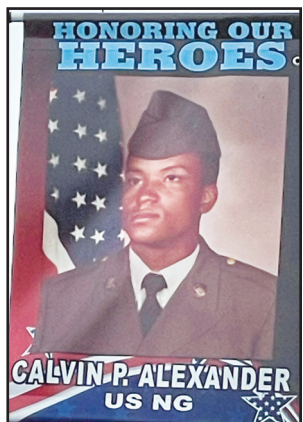
Before the City can break ground, the following must be completed:

- Environmental Reviews to ensure no harm to land, water, or historic sites
- Public Notice & Comment Periods to gather feedback from residents
- Engineering & Design Work to define the



Gibson Electric Community and Member Engagement Specialist Jessica Toliver (left) presents a \$5,000 CoBank Sharing Success grant to the Hickman County Emergency Management Agency. Gibson Electric and Gibson Connect contributed funding for the matching grant, which will help the agency purchase a rescue boat.

## Hometown Heroes



Calvin P. Alexander  
US NG



Ralph Patey  
US Navy



Carlos McClure  
US Navy



Robert Lee LeClere  
US Army

