

Coffee and conversation

continued from front

be dealing with a "thing" in addition to the regular business work.

It's real life, actually, and it's painful at times, but be prepared. And pray a lot.

You may spend a lot of time on the phone with a phone company while an automated voice asks, "Are you still there?" while you scream, "Yes! I'm trying to tell you!" and repeat the account number in a loud yell no matter how many times you told your Team Kid church kids never to respond in anger.

Your office commode sewer line may stop up and your house washing machine may have been recalled and you wait for days and days for the new control panel.

Your office light bill may be outrageously high for no apparent reason.

Where was I?

Oh yes, being a small business owner is challenging, and it's not for the faint of heart.

Is it worth it? Yes.

You push through and keep going. You make the mistakes, you deal with the bumps and do what you love.

Being an imperfect member of an imperfect community and working together to make it better, well that sort of coming together can lead to great things.

Watch for announcements for the next Coffee and Conversation meeting. It's a great way to share ideas, frustrations, and hopes!

Anyone is welcome to attend. The date will be announced.



Attending the Coffee and Conversation meeting at the Hickman County Extension Office Friday were Shane Bizzle, Heather Spillman, Julie Wilson, Gaye Bencini, Sherry Allison, Justin D. Jackson, Leanna Wilkerson, Kory Naranjo, Kerri Wiser, Tom Dickson, Hillary Webb, Amy Leslie, Lacy Shultz, Wanda Holbrook, Mike Keller, John David Tucker, Melissa Goodman and Amie Tooley, who led in the discussion.



This tiny home is new lodging offered by Zack and Tiffany Farmer on Hwy. 58 E.



Hickman County Cooperative Extension Office staff member Melissa Goodman is shown with Amie Tooley, who led in Coffee and Conversation at the Hickman County Extension Office last Friday.



Pictured above, the living room and kitchen area of Zack and Tiffany Farmer's Tiny House overnight stays rental and shown right, the bedroom. Find out more information on the airbnb website.



IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY!

By SHERRY ALLISON

A delicious breakfast awaited those attending Coffee Hour on Friday, January 9 at the Hickman County Extension Office. Melissa Goodman introduced the speaker and facilitator, Amie Tooley, CEO of Connective Consulting.

Prior to the meeting beginning, this reporter enjoyed a few minutes conversation with this native Hickman Countian, discussing her dad, Phil Clifton, who had been a classmate of mine. As she presented an array of resources, she made the statement that she wondered at her dad's success in business without the access to the internet and AI available to business owners now. Amie announced a goal of hers was to begin incorporating the services of a Virtual Assistant into her business in the near fu-

ture. Each participant introduced themselves and shared personal successes, some accomplishment where they overcame a challenge and what they saw as a hindrance or perhaps better said challenge they see the need to overcome in their personal business or community service.

As the Coffee Hour came to a conclusion, Amie asked for individuals to name needs and services the community were lacking. Funding for building and revitalization efforts was of the top most mentioned challenges. Mental health concerns for local residents and a shelter for animals were two that also were mentioned. It was very beneficial as a variety of topics were shared across a number of people that may not always have an occasion to share concerns and ideas about our community. Amie made sure the

hour moved along nicely and all in all, it seems it would be time well spent, perhaps once a quarter or even monthly for entrepreneurs and community service members to meet.

Last week, when reporting that Hickman County Memorial Library Director Laura Poole was quoted as saying, "On to the next adventure," we now see what she means. A committee is being formed for Clinton's America 250 Parade. The meeting will be held at the library on January 14 at 1 p.m. to begin the planning process.

The Library is also beginning a Woodlands Nature Station Presentation on Friday January 16 from 3-4 p.m. Also, on January 16, Mike Keller from the Hickman County Extension Office will be presenting Laugh & Learn at 10 a.m. This month's topic is Spectacular Snow! Laugh & Learn offers playdates for

Pre-Schoolers, offering games, story time, and sensory and developmental activities. For more information contact Mike at 270-653-2231 or email him at MIKEKELLER@UKY.EDU.

What fun it will be for students to receive their very own birthday cake kits on their birthdays. These generous donations come from the Gordon, Barber, Selvey families and KY Care. The kits can be taken home by the students to celebrate with their families.

4-H director, Melissa Goodman announces that registration is open for Hickman County Summer 4-H Camp. Early registration is encouraged. There are also scholarships available for Hickman County Youth.

Not sure how many of you would be in agreement, but when Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's festivities are

finished and all the tinsel, wreaths and lights are safely put away until next year, I'm highly anticipating spring.

It appears Heirloom Acres is preparing for that as Caroline announced May 2 to be their Spring Fling date as they actively seek vendors for this popular event. In the meantime, we can look forward to a festive February as 2 Creative Gals has their Valentine goodies for sale.

As for any other announcements, the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce will be meeting tomorrow to continue planning for the year.

A calendar update is that Chicken Fest will be on the 24th and 25th of April. We are hoping to announce annual membership meeting plans for March and a Farm to Fork fundraiser for August in next week's Times. Lindsay Bowles has announced that as each day

passes, more details are being addressed for the FREE Bluegrass on the Bluff concert scheduled for June 6 at Columbus Belmont State Park. The committee working on this highly anticipated event are in the process of finalizing vendors and other details for this event. We've worked with Lee Jackson on the exact site where the bands will be performing and everything is shaping up to make this a very entertaining and successful event. So, mark your calendars and plan on a great time with talented bluegrass bands in the park.

As always with the new year, all of the community organizations in Hickman County begin making plans to bring many activities, fundraisers, school functions and more to our active community. After all, it's All About Community.

Results of Hickman County Sheriff's Audit released

FRANKFORT, Ky. - State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Hickman County Sheriff Ben Natividad. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on

the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Hickman County Sheriff in accord-

ance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format.

However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting meth-

odology is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky.

The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance. The auditor also noted no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property

taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the auditor's website.