

The HICKMAN COUNTY TIMES

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WPSD-TV Local 6 cameraman Jason Thomason, Hickman County Chamber Board Member Sherry Allison, WPSD-TV reporter Jasmine Youngblood, and Hickman County Chamber President Deena Pittman met Monday morning at Kountry Cafe in Clinton to talk before heading out for a Hidden Gem segment on Hickman County. A heads up for our Tuesday night online subscribers, you can watch the segment on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 6:04 a.m. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)



A northbound freight train at the Ky. 80 crossing in Arlington on Snowy Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Berry Craig)

'Snowmageddon' doesn't measure up to The Great Blizzard of '78

By BERRY CRAIG

Editor's note: Berry originally wrote this for the Jan. 28 edition, which was not published.

I haven't seen official snowfall totals for Hickman and Carlisle counties from last weekend, but five inches seems about right. It should stick around for a while, because temperatures aren't expected to climb above freezing for the next few days.

Anyway, Saturday and Sunday's snow--dubbed

"Snowmageddon" in some quarters--was only a dusting compared to January, 1978, during which the Jackson Purchase shivered under a blanket of snow of varying depths for the whole month.

The worst snow dump tumbled from the heavens 48 years ago Sunday, when The Great Blizzard struck. The howling snowstorm lasted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 27, 1978, and piled up a foot or

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A wind-blown snow-dappled male Cardinal awaiting his turn at our backyard bird feeder (Photo by Berry Craig)

Jan. 28 edition of the Times canceled

By GAYE BENCINI

There was no Jan. 28 edition of The Hickman County Times. It was a hard decision to make, but after snow and ice hit the weekend prior, schools closed, meetings and interviews were canceled, and mail had ceased running in places, the decision was made not to publish. The paper is printed in Murray, Ky., then brought in mail tubs to Clinton, and mail tubs are then delivered to the Clinton Post Office where the mail goes out on a truck to a sorting facility. The Times also delivers mail tubs to the Fulton and Arlington Post Offices. It is very expensive to print and mail, and I didn't feel there was adequate content to put one out and delivery would be treacherous.

As of Monday, Feb. 2, schools have reopened and meetings are back on schedule. We would rather have a paper with good content rather than something thrown together just to have one printed. Hopefully, this will be a rare occurrence!

Jackson working in FEMA applicant agent position

Changes in Emergency Management discussed at fiscal court meeting

By GAYE BENCINI

Hickman County Fiscal Court met on Thursday, Jan. 29 in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office. Present were Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson; Magistrates Henry Cole, Irvin Stroud, and Kory Naranjo; Deputy Judge/Executive Dawn Allen; County Attorney Jason Batts; and visitors Justin D. Jackson, Sheriff Ben Natividad, and Gaye Bencini.

At Thursday's fiscal court meeting, Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson explained recent decisions he made concerning the Hickman County Emergency Management director position and the creation of a new position.

One of those decisions was to give Justin D. Jackson, who recently resigned as emergency management director, a different position as a FEMA applicant agent, one in which he continues to make \$21,000 a year. That salary will be paid for out of the county road fund.

Emergency Management positions paid from DES funds include Dylan Jewell, \$15,000 a year as interim emergency management director; Scott Smith, as deputy director, \$6,000 a year; and Ethan Cunningham, deputy director, \$2,000 a year.

Prior to this, Justin Jackson was paid \$21,000 a year as emergency management director; Scott Smith, \$6,000, and Dylan Jewell and Ethan Cunningham were paid \$2,000 a year, all paid for from the DES fund.

Magistrate Henry Cole said he had no problem with the people chosen for the positions or the jobs that they have done, and are doing, but expressed his disapproval of the decision being made without the magistrate's input or approval.

At the opening of the meeting, Judge Wilson said, "The most important thing we do every day is take care of the citizens of our county to keep them safe."

He then discussed the two recent changes in the emergency management office. On Dec. 23, Justin D. Jackson resigned from his position as emergency management director due to KRS:39A which states a person may not serve as emergency management director while campaigning for an office. Jackson has filed as a candidate for the Office of Hickman County Judge/Executive in the upcoming May Primary. Also filing for the office is Magistrate Kory Naranjo. Judge Wilson did not seek re-election.

Judge Wilson said Jackson's resignation left the Hickman County Emer-

gency Management Department without a director.

At Thursday's fiscal court meeting, Judge Wilson asked Deputy Judge/Executive Dawn Allen to share some information about what the director's job entails.

She said that when a disaster strikes, the director, along with the county road crew begins making assessments. The director gathers the data and Allen said she begins keeping up with personnel hours, materials used, equipment on site, gps coordinates on roads, and other required highly detailed documentation.

She said she, Jackson, and Judge Wilson have bi-weekly phone conferences with FEMA representatives and the project manager.

"It's a lot," she said.

The information is calculated for FEMA reimbursement to the county. At the meeting, she held up a thick folder, an example of the amount of paperwork involved.

Judge Wilson said prior to Dec. 23, the Hickman County Emergency Management team consisted of Justin D. Jackson, director; Scott Smith, Dylan Jewell, and Ethan Cunningham, deputy directors.

"All of those were part-time workers," Judge Wilson said.

"If we were going to



IN MEMORY OF MIKE FRIZZELL- Columbus Volunteer Fire Department, Clinton Fire Department, Hickman County Fire & Rescue, Hickman County Sheriff's Department, and other neighboring departments honored the memory of Mike Frizzell the day of his funeral, Saturday, Jan. 31. Frizzell passed away Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the age of 72. He was former Chief of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department, former Chief of Hickman County Fire & Rescue, former Deputy Director of Hickman County Emergency Management, and former State Fire & Rescue Instructor for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He served nearly 30 years as a volunteer first responder/firefighter for the citizens of Hickman County. *See obituary on page 5.*

City still not on board with Tosh Farms' proposed gas line extension project; needs more concrete numbers before considering

By GAYE BENCINI

Clinton City Council met in regular session Monday night, Feb. 2, at Clinton City Hall. Present were Mayor John Kelly, Council Members Wynita Dillard, Betty Morrow, Laura Poole, Tommy Kimbro, and Jerry Rushing. Jerome Jenkins was absent. Also present were Clerk Kaitlin Wilson; Police Chief Tom Dickson, Attorney Heather Johnson, and Gaye Bencini.

Clinton City Council members say they need more information concerning the proposed gas line extension project before it's a hard yes on their part.

Tosh Farms has purchased the former Harper Hams plant site to build a truck washing/sanitizing facility and is interested in a gas line for New Commonwealth Natural Gas to run to the plant site on Hwy. 51 N. The line

stops on Hwy. 58 W near State Route 1540 (what is referred to as New Chapel Road) and would need to cross that land to his site.

No concrete numbers

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