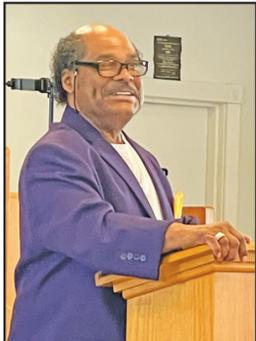


The HICKMAN COUNTY TIMES

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Green Valley MBC, Clinton, Ky., hosts WKGV District's Black History Program



Mr. Mahlon Thomas was the guest speaker at Green Valley Missionary Baptist Church Sunday afternoon in Clinton, Ky., for the WKGV Dist. Black History Program.



Rev. Wendell Gray, St. John MBC Bardwell; Rev. Leroy Fitts, Green Valley MBC, Clinton; Rev. Jessie Johnson (front), Greater Antioch MBC, Fulton; Rev. Lawrence Ragland, Pleasant Hill MBC, Hickman; Rev. Eugene McDonald, Green Valley MBC, Clinton; Rev. Derrick Fitts, Columbus MBC, Columbus; Rev. Steven Turner, Johnson Chapel MBC, Hickman; Rev. Fred Ford, New Ebenezer MBC, Paducah at the West Kentucky Green Valley District's Black History Program at Green Valley MBC in Clinton, Ky., Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

By GAYE BENCINI

In 1964, Mahlon Thomas, now 72, was in the fourth grade, and the world to which he had been accustomed, changed.

Thomas was the guest speaker at the West Kentucky Green Valley District's Black History Program held Sunday afternoon at Green Valley MBC in Clinton, Ky.

He had attended school in a one-room school building during grades 1-3.

"Our parents sheltered us. We didn't have to worry about anything," he said.

After his third grade year, schools were desegregated and on the first day of his fourth grade year, he stepped into what had been an all-white student classroom.

"We had to go to school about 30 minutes later than everybody else to keep down on something happening that might cause trouble," he said.

He, Celeste Jenkins Em-



The West Kentucky Green Valley District Choir singing Sunday at Green Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Clinton, Ky. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

erson and Roberta Martin walked into the fourth grade classroom.

"It was the first time I had ever seen a handicapped person," he recalled.

It was also a harsh introduction to cold-hearted adults.

The teacher was taking

them to their seats in the classroom.

"She said to me, 'Hmmm. You all can come to our school, but you need to go to our own church.' Back then I thought, 'I do go to my own church. What is she talking about?'"

As he grew older and un-

derstood things, he realized what she meant.

He remembers playing with children on the swings and slides and that handicap girl in the class "was the nicest and sweetest person at the school for us- on the first day."

Thomas said Black His-



Moderator Lawrence Ragland presented Mrs. Helen Lee with the Keeper of the Dream Award at the WKGV District's Black History Program in Clinton, Ky.

tory started in Africa, when people were sold as slaves, put on a ship for 40-60 days on the trip to America.

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Pastor Tom Hoskins passes away at age 92



Elizabeth and Bro. Tom Hoskins on their wedding day at Iron Banks Lodge October 2017.



Bro. Tom Hoskins singing at Columbus Baptist Church last year.

By GAYE BENCINI

Long time columnist for The Hickman County Gazette and later the Hickman County Times, Pastor Tom Hoskins, passed away Monday at age 92.

For me, he was more than a columnist, he was a long-time friend. I believe he was preaching at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church when I first became ac-

quainted with him and his wife Dorothy.

Through his weekly visits to the newspaper office, then the Gazette, he would drop off a column, usually brief, and for years hand pecked on his old, manual typewriter. Sometimes he would bring his wife Dorothy to get her hair done at Margaret's Beauty Shop across from the Gazette office, at that time located in what folks

referred to as The Yates Building.

We talked about his passion for old cars and trucks, fixing them up and driving them. He had a Ford Model A and a Ford Model T, among other vintage vehicles. He often pulled up in a vintage red truck.

Later, he left pastoring at Mt. Moriah and began preaching at a church in Cairo. I began with



the Times in 2010. One day Bro. Tom stopped in with a column, and I was so glad to see him. We resumed our friendship with his weekly visits at

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School Board Member Klint Kimbell made the February Super Falcon staff presentation at the board of education Monday night to Joel Ferguson, mechanic, pictured holding the award. (Photo/Gaye Bencini)

HCES Academic Team to participate in regional competition Saturday

By GAYE BENCINI

Matt Latham, Klint Kimbell, and Stephanie

The Hickman County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. Present were Hickman County School Superintendent Heather Spillman, Finance Officer Kim Wilson, Board Members Matt Hicks,

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