

**Hickman County Historical Society Open by Appointment Contacts:**

Johnny Humphreys  
270-519-2131; LaDonna Latham 270-254-1740; Tom Bugg 270-254-6387

**Mission House**

in Clinton is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 8 a.m. - 2:30 pm and the first Saturday of the month from 9-12.  
**270-653-3271**

**School Board**

Hickman County Board of Education will meet in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, in the Board of Education office located at 416 Waterfield Drive, Clinton, KY, to transact routine business.

**Hickman Co. Museum open on Wednesdays**

The Hickman County Museum is open on Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. Tours can also be arranged by calling 1-270-654-9008. If no one answers please leave a message and the call will be returned.

**Ambulance Board**

The Clinton-Hickman County Ambulance Board meets the third Tuesday of each quarter at 6 p.m. at the EMS building on James Phillips Drive, Clinton, Ky.

**Columbus Council**

Columbus City Council normally meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Columbus City Hall. Kay Ferguson is mayor.

**Clinton City Council**

Clinton City Council normally meets in regular session the first Monday of the month at Clinton City Hall. (City Hall has relocated to the South Jefferson St. building) at 5 p.m. John Kelly is mayor. City Hall: 270-653-6419.

**Hickman County Fiscal Court**

The next regular meeting of the Hickman County Fiscal Court will be Monday, March 23 at 8 a.m. in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office.

**River Stages Ohio at Cairo Feb. 24 23.99**

**Hickman County Memorial Library**

The Hickman County Memorial Library is open Tuesday - Friday from - 2-4:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:30 - 12:30. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

**Candidate Filings:**

**Hickman County Judge/Executive: (Only Registered Republicans vote in this race in May)**  
Justin D Jackson (R)  
Kory Naranjo (R)

**Magistrate Dist. 1 (Vote in November)**  
Henry Cole (R)  
Incumbent  
Troy Carter (D)

**Magistrate Dist. 2 (Only Registered Republicans Vote in this race in May)**  
Justin Boaz-R  
Curtis Weatherford-R  
Daniel Kimbell- R  
Fred Cox- R

**Sheriff (November Vote)**  
Ben Natividad (Incumbent)-R  
Eugene Morris- D

The following are unopposed:

**Magistrate Dist. 3**  
Irvin Stroud (Incumbent)  
**PVA**

Amanda Ballantine (Incumbent)

**Coroner**  
Paula Boaz (Incumbent)

**County Clerk**  
Rachel Myers

**Jailer (Transport Officer)**  
Robert Hopkins (Incumbent)

**County Attorney**  
Jason Batts (Incumbent)

**April 4, 2026-** Mail-in absentee ballot portal opens

**April 20, 2026** by 4 p.m.- Last day to register to vote in the Primary

**May 19, 2026-** Primary Election Day

**June 2, 2026 at 4 p.m.-** Last day to file for Mayor, City Council, School Board (Dist. 1 & 4) and Soil Conservation

**June 4, 2026 at 2 p.m.-** Public drawing for ballot positions for November General Election

**Sept. 19, 2026-** Mail-in absentee ballot portal opens

**Oct. 5, 2026 at 4 p.m.-** Last day to register to vote in the November General Election

**Nov. 3, 2026-** General Election Day

If you need to register to vote or apply for an absentee ballot, please visit govoteky.gov. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk's office at 270-653-2131.

Winners take office Jan. 2027.

**Clinton Community Blood Drive First United Methodist Church Monday March 16 12-6 p.m. Go to RedCross-Blood.org and enter sponsor code: Clinton or call 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule an appointment today.**

**WKGV District's Black History**

continued from front

"They used the bathroom where they were on board. They were washed down with a hose," he said.

"What were they thinking about? How did they do it. Could we do it today? When they were captured, what was going through their mind? Who do you think they called upon? They called upon the Lord."

He continued, "Our Black History started the moment that we took our first breath," he said. "All of us can contribute to the history of the United States of America."

Thomas said that Carter G. Woodson, who is known as the Father of Black History, in 1926 wanted to designate a time in the United States to recognize what Black people have done and had been doing.

"Shortly after that, he decided to form what we called Black History Week." In 1976, President Gerald Ford wanted to continue the recognition of Black History. But it was President Jimmy Carter who said, "No, we're not just going to have one week in February, we are going to open up the whole month to celebrate Black History Month."

Thomas said February was chosen because it centered around the birth month of two individuals, President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, "the most important leader in the Civil Rights Movement."

He said the annual event celebrates the achievements and roles of Blacks in history, and he noted the importance of Barack Obama becoming President of the United States.

Thomas noted several individuals who contrib-

uted to the story of resilience and perseverance including Hank Aaron, the baseball player who broke Babe Ruth's record. He noted George Washington Carver and his work with peanuts and sweet potatoes, and methods to restore soil used in planting.

Among the many he mentioned as contributing to Black History included Claudette Colvin, who at age 15, refused to give up her seat on a bus before Rosa Parks did the same 90 days later.

"She was defying segregation, and they arrested her. She should be honored as well. Determination. Determination."

He told the youth attending the program Sunday, "Don't let anybody tell you that you are nobody. Don't let them tell you that you can't do anything.... Prove them wrong.... Believe in yourself. Be somebody. Be that you want to be. You can and you will be rewarded for being a great student."

It was a day filled with singing and inspiration.

Brief skits, singing, and/or readings were done by representatives of Greater Antioch MBC, Green Valley MBC, Johnson Chapel MBC, Mt. Sinai MBC, Pleasant Hill MBC, and St. John MBC.

Among special recognitions were to Rev. Derrick Fitts, pastor of Mt. Gilead MBC in Columbus, Ky., and a plaque presentation to Mrs. Helen Lee, recipient of the Keeper of the Dream Award.

The program was called to order by SS & BTU President Leroy Fitts. Greetings were by SS BTU vice President Sheila Kinney. The WKGV District Choir brought

music selections.

The invitation was led by Host Pastor Rev. Eugene McDonald of Green Valley MCB, Clinton, Ky.

Closing remarks and benediction were by Moderator Lawrence Ragland.

*Mahlon Thomas Bio:*

- 1971 Graduate of Carlisle County High School

- 1975 & 1979 Graduate of Murray State University with a BS and MA in Education and a Minor in English

- Retired Educator after 28 Years (1975 - 2003) of service as a Teacher of Math, English, Social Studies, and Physical Education, all with the Carlisle County School System

- Presently still a School Bus Driver

- Former Summer employee for 42 years at Murray State University with the Project Upward Bound Program as Resident Advisor, Head Resident Advisor, English Instructor, Curriculum Advisor, and Resident Hall Director

- Member and officer of Prince Hall Masonic Family for the Jurisdiction of Kentucky ~ Stone Square Lodge #5, F&AM, Past Honorary Worshipful Master; Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Secretary ~ Past Member of Paducah Consistory #92

- Balkis Temple #157 past Recorder ~ Past District Deputy Grand Patron for Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter, OES, Far Western District and Past Patron of Queen Esther Chapter #4, O.E.S.

- Member of Retired Professional Education Associations Locally, Statewide, and Nationally

- Member/President/Past Secretary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Xi Pi Lambda Chapter, Pad-

ucah, KY

- Member, Usher, Church Clerk & Treasurer of St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Bardwell, KY

- Volunteer for Carlisle County 4-H ~ Past Teen Leader and Treasurer

- City Councilman for the city of Bardwell, KY, since 1995

- President & Member of Inter-Denominational Union Choir of Paducah, KY

- Member of West Kentucky Gospel Music Association (WKGMA)

- Member of the Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky and the Kentucky Morticians Association as its Sergeant-of-Arms.

- Achievements - High School French Award, Outstanding Young Man of America 1979, Distinguished Young Man of America 1981, Honorary FFA Member, Honorary FBLA Member, Upward Bound 25, 30, 35 & 40 Year Service Award, Un-

- sung Hero Award (Burks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church), Kappa Alpha Psi Community Service Award, Outstanding Black Paducah Area Man, Kentucky Colonel, United States Senate Achievement Award, The Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Recognition Award 2002, recorded a CD entitled "Too Close To The Mirror," recognized with the 2023 "Fred Award" by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators and recognized as the 2024 Driver of the Year by the Student Transportation Association of Kentucky.

- Presently, Funeral Director, Cremation Specialist, and Notary with Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home

- \* Info courtesy Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home.

**Scammer claims local resident to receive \$15,245,000.00**

Someone came in the Times office and brought a letter with a header "Canda Trust." The person who brought it in recognized it as a scam but said they would like for the Times to let anybody else getting a letter like theirs to be warned.

The letter was from a David Maha, who said he served as an administrator in the Estate Management Department at TD Canada Trust, Toronto, Ontario. It stated it was reaching out in connection with the estate of a deceased client, who resided in Toronto until his passing in 2016. It stated the man died without a will and without known heirs. "Despite extensive efforts over the past several years, we have been unable to locate any of his relatives."

It stated that he wanted to represent the letter recipient as next of kin "allowing you to claim the dormant estate account which currently holds a balance of \$15,245,000.00." It stated if the letter recipient wanted more information, to contact them at the email address provided.

The letter recipient, who lives in Clinton, recognized the scam and did not contact the person claiming to be David Maha.

**Hickman County Lady Falcons Softball Team having steak dinner fundraiser March 7**

The Hickman County Lady Falcons Softball Team will have a steak dinner fundraiser March 7. The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 26. Tickets are \$25 each for a steak, baked potato, salad, drink, and a side of homemade dessert. Location is the high school cafeteria, and it will take place from 4-7 p.m.

**Jackson Chapel to have revival services March 8-13**

Jackson Chapel Church will have revival March 8-13 at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12 will be Youth Night. A different preacher will speak each night. Gene Panell will preach at the kick-off service. Mickey Fowler will preach youth night.

**MURPHY'S POND Part 1**

By DANNY WHITLOCK

A collection of stories like the ones I have been writing for the Hickman County Times would not be complete without at least one tale regaling the benefits of skinny-dipping. I can't say for sure, but it seems that skinny-dipping has fallen out of favor with young men. For those of us who were around in the 1950's, it was a favorite activity during the summer months. My mother was dead set against this type of activity and went to great lengths to check my underwear for telltale signs of pond mud. Accordingly, I went to great lengths including walking 50 yards through the grass and away from the pond naked to prevent leaving any mud on

my tightly-whites.

In a previous story, I outlined how a number of boys would arrange to gather after church at Jackson's Chapel and look for something to entertain us. On this particular Sunday, we had decided to head to Murphy's Pond for another skinny-dipping adventure. I should note that this was not the Murphy's Pond now owned by Murray State University and home to hundreds of water moccasins. This was a pond owned by a man named Cle-tus Murphy, hence Murphy's Pond.

We thought that the pond was very large and over our heads in the middle. Looking at the pond today, I'm shocked at how much it has shrunk. It had a few boards and an inner tube that we could use for

floating support. It goes without saying that all of my skinny-dipping activities were sans swimwear...we were all naked as jaybirds. We circled the pond looking for snakes and spotting only two banded water snakes who were happy to get out of our way, we swam.

We were all swimming, floating, and having a very good time just being boys and enjoying the day. One of the boys had snagged the inner tube and was floating in the middle of the pond. Suddenly, he screamed and flipped out of the tube and made a bee-line toward the bank. This of course, spooked the rest of us and we all headed for the pond bank.

Continued next week

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