

The HICKMAN COUNTY TIMES

PO Box 237 Clinton, KY 42031 270-653-4040 Volume 17 Issue 14 gaye@thehctimes.com

Weekend of pancakes, yard sales, & BBQ



The legend- The griller Dale Bean gave the super grill a test run at his shop in Clinton, Ky., Saturday morning, as he prepares for Chicken Fest.

By GAYE BENCINI

Whoaaaa.

My stomach was going to be hurting. I thought the jar of bread and butter pickles we bought from Jackie Barnett Mason at the Bargain on the Bluff event Saturday would last all week, but they were gone *in a day*. It's a good thing her homemade bread sold out before my husband and I got there.

Mason was one of many participating as a seller in the Bargain on the Bluff event at Columbus-Bel-



The Columbus Homecoming Activities Committee members and friends were among the many participating in the Bargain on the Bluff event at Columbus-Belmont State Park Saturday morning. (Photos by Gaye Bencini)



Chris Fuller, Glynn Jones, and Tom Dickson are shown at the Hickman Lodge 131, Clinton, Ky., Masonic Lodge pancake breakfast Saturday morning.

mont State Park. Kathy Stephens Wilson and sister Susie had some great deals too- like expensive looking Hobby Lobby

flower stems that had been \$12.00 for \$2 each. Vendors lined the park's circle drive with a wide assortment of items offered.

Gene and Freda Bolin were selling Gene's wares of handcrafted wood items.

A giant, stuffed teddy

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The breakfast club and hushpuppies

By GAYE BENCINI

Hypothetically speaking, I could have been in my Times newspaper office in Clinton, Ky., interviewing the President of the United States, with the desk surrounded by Secret Service Agents, and Donald Martin would have come in, walked right up to my desk, and said, "Here, try this hushpuppy I made and see what you think." Then he would have given one to the President and Secret Service Agents.

That's just how unpretentious and giving he was, and when he was on a mission, well, he was on a mission.

Donald Martin of Clinton, Ky., passed away last Thursday, April 9, at the age of 88. His wife, Louise, whom he adored, passed away in 2020. They most recently made their home on Piper Drive in Clinton, Ky., and it was their Christian ministry of giving that touched lives.

They gave away countless Read and Grow Bibles for children, and Donald continued this ministry after the passing of his beloved Louise. When I last taught Team Kids at church, we used two of the picture books he had donated for the class, and I know the visuals from those lesson memories will stay with those kids, thanks to Donald's generosity. We may never know the extent of the gospel seeds he and Louise planted with their generous children's Bible donations throughout the years.

He and Louise were involved in gospel group singings, and they also traveled with others to sing and raise money for the Easter Seals Telethon, accepting no pay for themselves for travel expenses. They were a big part of the singings at Oakton Methodist Church, which was also a site for Telethon fundraising.

For a time, Donald and Louise helped Belinda Walker at her B'Maw's Restaurant in Clinton, Ky., and perhaps it was there he mastered the making of his famous hushpuppies.

In recent years, it was nothing for him to call the newspaper office and ask if I wanted a personal size



Donald Martin



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Harpole buildings and downtown development among HCIDA meeting discussion



Harold Jackson has been doing dozer work at Enterprise Park in preparation of the commerce center construction.

By GAYE BENCINI

The Hickman County Industrial Development Authority Board, Inc., met for their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting April 9 in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office at 8 a.m. Present were Board Chair Teresa Dowdy, Board Members Mattea Mitchell, Tommy Roberts, Ethan Cunningham, Rick Canty, Mike Grimmitt, Kory Naranjo, Kenny Wilson, and Attorney Jason Batts and Fulton-Hickman County Economic Development Partnership Director Mark Welch; and visitors Len Lemons, Daniel Kimbell, and

Gaye Bencini.

As noted in last month's Times, the Hickman County Industrial Development Authority Board has purchased the vacant former Harpole True Value building (the yellow painted building) on North Washington Street in Clinton, Ky., with plans to bring the structure down. This does not include the privately owned Hickman County Times (owned by the Times) and privately owned Kountry Café businesses (owned by Kountry Café), red brick structures, also along that strip of North Washington Street.

Board Member Mattea Mitchell said they met with Bacon Farmer Workman (BFW) Engineering, based in Paducah, and discussed the Harpole building and showed them on the computer how the rubber roof on the Hickman County Times office attaches to the roof of the Harpole building, which is set for demolition.

"We want to be sure that we do nothing that is going to be detrimental to that building," Mitchell said. "They are going to send somebody down to take a look at that building, but we essentially were able to show them [on the computer] what our concerns were." Mitchell said Bacon Farmer Workman will advise on the best course of action to take down the Harpole building.

Mitchell said BFW will provide a list of reputable contractors to do the demolition work. If the estimated cost exceeds \$40,000, it will have to be bid out. Local options will also be considered in having the debris hauled off.

The next step is determining what will go back in that space once the building is down and debris removed.

"We will leave that to the professionals of what's go-

ing to look good and comparable to the buildings that are there," Mitchell said. "We want something that is an asset."

She said if the board wants to do that, they need to solicit a request for qualifications from an architectural firm to assist with designing the building or buildings that might be constructed in that space. The HCIDA voted to solicit an RFQ for an architect.

Board Chair Teresa Dowdy said some members of the Harpole family would like to go into the building to get some family items before demolition. She said they are willing to sign a liability waiver with the HCIDA before entering the building, which is in a deteriorated state. The HCIDA voted to approve Attorney Jason Batts draft a waiver, releasing the HCIDA from liability and allowing the Harpoles to go into the building, and include a deadline to have the items removed.

Business Commerce Center

The HCIDA continues plans for the business commerce center at Enterprise Park. Enterprise Park is the HCIDA property on Hwy. 51 N between Farmer's Gin and Oak Hill Country Club and where Gibson EMC is currently located.

The commerce center will consist of spec buildings for businesses to purchase.

Mitchell said the HCIDA agreed at the January meeting to solicit a request for qualifications for an architect to design the commerce center. Three firms responded- Thoroughbred Engineering

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