

The HICKMAN COUNTY TIMES



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With the sign on The Ingram Distillery "Mellowed on the Mississippi," in the background, the Hickman County Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, Aug. 24 at The Ingram Distillery in Columbus, Ky. Holding the ceremonial ribbon-cutting scissors is Hank Ingram, founder & proprietor of The Ingram Distillery. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

The Ingram Distillery, an addition to Hickman County tourism

By GAYE BENCINI

"We are so proud to be a part of this community here in Columbus and Hickman County," Hank Ingram, founder & proprietor of The Ingram Distillery, said Friday.

The Hickman County Chamber held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at The Ingram Distillery Friday afternoon, and tours of the grounds and the floating barrel barge were en-

joyed by the many who attended.

"From the outset, we have been welcomed with open arms by the people here, and we look forward to being here for the long haul," Ingram said.

Ingram said their investment in the community was a decision made after careful consideration. "There are many places we could have chosen to set up shop, but there was just something spe-

cial about where we are today."

Chamber Board Member Sherry Allison, agreeing with Ingram's comment about the distillery's choice of location being special, expressed thanks to Ingram for the addition to tourism in the county and said the Chamber looks forward to helping promote and expand on that.

Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson

said, "It's an exciting day in Hickman County."

He noted the Ingram Barge Co., a main transition point for barges and located on the Mississippi River in Columbus, Ky., is the largest employer in the county. He said when the Hickman County High School Falcon Academy began in 2011, Ingram and First Community Bank were the first sponsors of the dual credit course program be-

ing offered to students, so they could complete college courses while in high school and enter college as sophomores.

Wilson talked about Ingram's donation of materials and working with the vocational school students in the welding program, to provide job opportunities for them here in the county.

"It means so much to our county," he said.

Wilson said the county

is currently working with the Corps of Engineers to get the bluff stabilized.

Hank Ingram donated trees to the City of Columbus last year, which were planted in the median across from Columbus City Hall.

The Ingram Distillery Tours may be booked online on their website. The Distillery is located at the former Iron Banks Lodge grounds, 11217 KY-58, Columbus, KY 42032.



Ember Massey and Serinity Thompson enjoy the Barnyard Buddies Petting Zoo at Spring Chicken Fest. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)



Nylah Mason and Natalyn Mason enjoy one of the rides at the annual Spring Chicken Festival held in Clinton, Ky. (Photo courtesy Patricia Shields)

Pharmacist sentenced to 30 months in prison for role in \$2M healthcare fraud scheme

The following is from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Kentucky:

Paducah, KY – Michael Shawn Boaz, 47, of Clinton, was sentenced last week to 30 months in prison and 3 years supervised release for one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and 13 counts of fraudulent prescriptions and ordered to pay restitution of \$1,806,212.90.

U.S. Attorney Kyle G. Bumgarner of the Western District of Kentucky, Special Agent in Charge Marie Maguire of the U.S. Food

and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, Metro Washington Field Office, and Special Agent in Charge Kelly Blackmon of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General made the announcement.

On November 3, 2025, Boaz entered a guilty plea to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and fraudulent prescriptions. According to court documents, while working as licensed pharmacists, Boaz and his co-conspirator fraudulently billed health care benefit programs for customers at two pharma-

cies in Kentucky.

From 2017 through 2021, they caused \$2,185,739.52 in losses to health care benefit providers by submitting claims for fraudulent and unauthorized prescriptions.

Boaz added boutique vitamins to customer prescription orders. He told customers that the vitamins were "free." However, Boaz billed the customers' health care providers between \$1,000 and \$6,000 for each bottle of vitamins. Boaz also submitted claims for fraudulent and unauthorized prescriptions for the antihistamine Carbinoxamine Maleate. He

Continued on page 2

County enters into agreement with senior center for rehab work

By GAYE BENCINI

Hickman County Fiscal Court met in regular session Monday, April 27 in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office. Present were Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson; Magistrates Henry Cole, Irvin Stroud, and Kory Naranjo; Administrative Assistant Hillary Webb; County Treasurer Amy Leslie; Deputy Judge/Exec. Dawn Mathis; County Attorney Jason Batts; and visitors Troy Carter, Curtis Weatherford, Sheriff Ben Natividad, Daniel Kimbell, Justin D. Jackson, and Gaye Bencini.

The Hickman County Fiscal Court unanimously approved the le-

gally binding agreement between the fiscal court and the Hickman County Senior Citizens Center concerning Community Development Block Grant Funds.

The county is a grant recipient in the amount of \$83,450 for renovations to the Hickman County Senior Citizens Center building at 212 North Street, Clinton, Ky. The project will include structural repairs, construction of accessible ramps, ADA compliant restrooms, kitchen enhancements, and heat and air, plumbing, and electrical upgrades.

The county's match is \$835.00, but that amount is covered by a federal grant

County Road Aid decreases yearly

The fiscal court approved Resolution 2026-02, County Road Aid, in the amount of \$764,791.78. Judge Wilson said this was \$150,000-\$160,000 less than last year "if they honor the agreement," Wilson said, "They fell short this year."

He said 12 years ago when the current fiscal court administration be-

See Fiscal Court on page 2

