

# Mission House finances continued from front

they have had to use over the past two years “to keep the doors open.”

She continued, “No blame for anybody. It just happened.”

While donations and retail store room sales have decreased, public needs have increased.

She said in what she refers to as “the everybody food program,” they have gone from 72 boxes to now 180-200 boxes of food items a month being distributed.

The senior citizens’ cheese program has gone from 60 to 120 distribution per month.

She noted Mission House programs conducted last year, which included:

\* The Toy Store for children at Christmas, which served 168 children.

\* The Anthem Food program in November, which furnished food for 501 families.

\* The Beat the Heat fan program in the summer.

\* Eight families who suffered house fires were served, where they are allowed to come in and get free clothing and other essentials.

\* A summer snack program provided snacks for 125 children.

\* The Mission House receives cleaning wipes from the Purchase Area Development District (PADD) for distribution. The PADD office also assists The Mission House through the Feeding America programs.

All donated food items are weighed, and that information is turned in to the PADD office. Last year donated food added up to 10,360 lbs.

“We go three times a week to the Dollar Store and pick up there,” she said. The Dollar Store has a small window of time where Mission House staff can pick up food for distribution before it goes bad. Last year they picked up 20,300 lbs. of food from the Dollar Store. McAuliffe said she volunteers use of her own vehicle for the pickup.

She said when those receiving SNAP benefits had their benefits cut, the governor provided a SNAP-gap assistance where the Mission House was able to get 537 cases of food, with 12 to 24 items per case, for distribution.

In November, the Tennessee Valley Authority provided approximately 200 emergency kits to The Mission House for distribution.

While programs like Anthem and those offered through the PADD office, along with local donations of food help the organization to provide for the community, the expenses are outweighing the income.

“As far as money we take in, we get \$300 a month in rent from West Kentucky Allied,” McAuliffe said. West Kentucky Allied Services had an office in the prior building and has an office in the new building.

McAuliffe said five churches donate a total of \$595 monthly to The Mission House and one church donates \$500 quarterly.

“As of last night, our balance was \$4,520.25 in the bank. We do have a Care account that was started back when Harper’s (Ham plant) burned, and it’s got a balance of \$2,576.00.

She said the “Mission of Hope,” fund started years ago, for emergency gas travel needs, has \$302.

She said there is \$273 in savings.

“In the general account, \$2,000 of that is from a grant I received that has to be spent on food, and it must be spent by Dec. 31. I have to account for every penny of it,” McAuliffe said.

Magistrate Kory Naranjo, who attended last month’s Mission House Board meeting, said it was discussed that the program where free clothes are given away would be stopped.

“Is that showing any results yet?” he asked.

“Maybe a little,” McAuliffe said.

Naranjo asked if the rent charged to West Kentucky Allied had gone up. McAuliffe said it was \$150 and is now \$300.

The Mission House also has bills that are reportedly costly for the fire safety inspections and the security system.

Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson said the formation of The Mission House was started by the Ministerial Alliance, and that its operation would be the Alliance’s responsibility.

“We are all so supportive of The Mission House,” Judge Wilson said, in reference to the fiscal court.

“But today, we have got to have more information, and you have a fundraiser coming up June 4, but there needs to be some other funding sources coming in to help,” he said.

Judge Wilson recommended tabling any action until they have more information and McAuliffe makes a request with a specific amount of money for the court’s consideration.

“I think we need to see what this fundraiser is going to bring in, and we need to expand the money coming in each month because that deficit is too much,” Judge Wilson said.

Judge Wilson thanked McAuliffe for her hard work overseeing the Mission House operation.

The fiscal court voted to approve tabling any action concerning The Mission House pending further information.

## Preparing county guidelines, restrictions for Data Centers

Hickman County Attorney Jason Batts said people are increasingly asking questions and expressing concerns about the legality of data centers, which are new and on the rise with the rapidly advancing use of artificial intelligence (AI).

“It’s actually becoming an issue at local, state, and federal levels,” Batts said.

“Those data centers are basically large coolers for the computer equipment.”

In the past, when it came to issues like hog barns or solar farms, Batts said attorneys could reach out to experts with the Kentucky League of Cities or The Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) for guidance.

However, because AI is so new, not that much information is readily available.

The location of the centers is a major concern that has been expressed by people who have reached out to Batts. The data centers require a large amount of land and a large amount of access to of both water and a power source.

From his research he found that most places don’t let the data centers tap onto their electrical circuits because of the immense power draw on the grid.

Data Center companies have created massive generators to work around the power supply issue, but those generators create a lot of noise.

“Some counties, cities, states, and federal level groups are looking into this because of the amount of very measurable heat coming off of them,” Batts said.

They also use a massive amount of well water, and the discharged water is hot.

He said he has been approached by concerned individuals about what county government would do concerning setbacks, safety, and visual restrictions.

Batts said The Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) is having virtual data center training June 10, free and open to anyone, 1-2 central time. Participants must preregister online.

Batts said some counties are already preparing for the possibility of companies wanting to locate data centers in their area by setting permit requirements, setbacks, etc.

Batts said, legally, industry can’t be banned based on its type. But restrictions to protect the citizens can be put in place.

Magistrate Kory Naranjo said he had researched information on the data centers and said the buildings are very large, the size of a Wal-Mart super center, but they only employ 5-6 people.

The court approved for Attorney Batts to draft an ordinance for review regarding Data Centers.

## Annual Bid Openings

Sealed bids were opened for paving, pipe, and rock.

Of the two submitted paving bids, the court approved the bid by Jim Smith Contracting.

Of the two submitted bids for pipe, the court approved the bid submitted by Energy Culvert.

Of the five submitted bids for rock/hauling, the court approved the bid submitted by B&N Trucking.

## Other

The fiscal court approved:

\* Ordinance 2026-01 Budget 2nd reading

\* Resolution 2026-02, Airport Board Reappointments- Cody Byassee will fill the term of Jerry Rushing, who resigned due to health reasons.

\* Request of donation for Community Fourth of July Event at Assembly of God- \$500

\* Misc. line-item transfers

\* Cash transfers- General to Road- WEX (gas card)- \$1,481.11; Jail to Road- WEX (gas card)- \$72.24; Road to General- Dawn Allen- \$1,956.15

\* Proclamation request- National Mississippi River Day June 2

\* Sheriff’s 2025 Property settlement subject to audit

## Dates to remember

June 4- Mission House Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser at First Baptist Church, Clinton from 4-6 p.m. \$10 per plate.

June 6- Bluegrass on the Bluff at Columbus-Belmont State Park beginning at 11 a.m.

June 9- Community Forum at the extension office at 6 p.m.

Judge Wilson told the magistrates he may not be able to attend some of the events due to upcoming knee replacement surgery.

The next fiscal court meeting is set for June 25 at 8 a.m.

## It’s All About Community! FREE Bluegrass on the Bluff Event



Dalton Harper



Southern Legacy



The Sugar Mules bluegrass band will be among those at Columbus-Belmont state Park June 6.

### BLUEGRASS ON THE BLUFF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Columbus-Belmont State Park 9:00 AM Grounds Open.

11:00 AM starts the day off with Open jam sessions in the picnic area and continue throughout the day. ALL Pickers welcome!

Main Stage Schedule

11:00 AM – Festival Opening, Welcome and Festival Kick-Off

• Prayer

• National Anthem

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM- The Watershed Ramblers

12:30 - 1 PM- Concession Stage Breakout- Workshop Pavilion- 52nd Regimental String Band. Civil War instruments & music demonstration

1-2 PM- The Dalton Harper Band

2-2:30 PM- Concession Stage Breakout- Workshop Pavilion- Nathan and Sam Lynn- Bluegrass music and river history

2:30 - 3:30 PM- The Sugar Mules

3:30 - 4 PM - Concession Stage Breakout- Workshop Pavilion, 52nd Regimental String Band. Civil War instruments & music demonstration

4-5 PM- The Wheelhouse Roustlers

5:30 - 7 PM- Southern Legacy

Festival Closes at 7 p.m. \* All times are approximate.

By SHERRY ALLISON

Lindsay Bowles, executive director of the Kentucky Great River Road Organization, has announced that the Bluegrass on the Bluff Committee will meet to finalize set up schedules for the FREE concert on June 6 at the beautiful and historic Columbus Belmont State Park. On the top of the hill overlooking the grand Mississippi River will set the stage awaiting the lineup of bands scheduled to play beginning at 11:00 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, find you a spot to enjoy outstanding bluegrass music.

Also, for your enjoyment will be the Snack Shop featuring its famous “quickie dogs” and smooth and creamy ice cream custard. Also, on hand will be local area favorites, Hillbilly Barbecue and The Belmont with more delicious selections. We will also be introducing a new vendor to our line up of food trucks. Good Time Island Lemonade and Drinks out of Wickliffe, Ky. We believe the name speaks for itself. Overall, KYGRRO has your drink and food needs covered. A side note. Maps will be available to show where everything is located from stage area, to merch, to food, water station, and bathrooms and more. The maps will be available at the merch tent.

This week we continue to feature more of the bands lined up to take the stage on what promises to be a fun filled day.

The Sugar Mules are a Cleveland-based bluegrass band blending tradition and innovation through high-energy performances and original songs rooted in bluegrass, Americana, and country. Born out of backyard jams in 2020, they’ve grown into a musical powerhouse known for ripping solos, sweet harmonies, and spontaneous live shows that leave crowds stomping and grinning. From nationally-known festivals to iconic local venues, the Mules bring seasoned chops, undeniable chemistry, and a whole lot of stomp—built to burn, built to last. Make sure you’re on hand for a stompin’ good time with the Sugar Mules.

Dalton Harper is an established voice in traditional bluegrass and gospel music, hailing from Bunker, Mo. Raised in the well-known Harper family band, Dalton grew up traveling churches, festivals, and community stages across the Midwest, developing his musicianship in a family rooted deeply in bluegrass gospel traditions. Known for his authentic style, strong vocals, and heartfelt stage presence, Dalton continues carrying that family legacy forward. He is also the brother of Hannah Harper, whose national rise on American Idol in 2026 has brought even more attention to the Harper family’s musical roots. Together, the Harper name represents faith, family, and a deep commitment to

preserving traditional music for a new generation. The Dalton Harper Band promises to emit beautiful notes that will echo throughout the park. You will want to be there for their performance.

KYGRRO’s Bluegrass on the Bluff is pleased to welcome Southern Legacy as its concert headliner. Award winning musicians (Grammy, IBMA and SPBGMA honors), Besides being featured on radio, streaming playlists, and notable stages, Southern Legacy has toured internationally at festivals, theaters and performing arts centers. With their growing fanbase which features a strong social engagement, they have over 100,000 combined social media followers. Southern Legacy is currently releasing new music. Amelia Ricci, Bluegrass Road Trip states, “Southern Legacy is an exciting new band taking the bluegrass scene by storm.

With a lineup featuring the genre’s most acclaimed songwriters and musicians, they are a powerhouse act that is already making waves. With their exceptional talent and instrumental precision, Southern Legacy is a must-see act with unforgettable performances.” Another review given by Ernie Evans Promoter, Producer Evans Media Source LLC states, “The recent loss of bluegrass legends sparked concern about the genre’s future. Our legends were irreplaceable, leaving a void that seemed impossible to fill. But then a group of young legends in the making formed Southern Legacy. This supergroup has restored confidence in the industry ensuring the pioneer’s legacy lives on with justice.”

With this lineup added to last week’s article featuring Watershed Ramblers and Wheelhouse Rounders, the day is set to delight any bluegrass music aficionado! Add to it the background of one of the most stunning views at a Kentucky State Park you could ever hope to see and it’s a ‘Win Win for everyone!

**Reminder of another important community event:** The fundraiser for The Mission House will be held June 4 from 4-6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clinton. \$10.00 per plate includes spaghetti, salad, breadstick, dessert. Your support helps provide food, clothing and special programs for individuals and families in our community. After all. It’s All About Community.