



The Hickman County Senior Citizens activities will be relocated to the West Kentucky Baptist Association building on McMorris Street in Clinton, Ky., when rehab work begins.

Moratorium on data centers in the county extended to 12 months; Rehab work on senior center to begin

By GAYE BENCINI

Hickman County Fiscal Court met in regular session Monday, July 27 in the Hickman County Judge/Executive's Office. Present were Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson, Magistrates Henry Cole, Kory Naranjo, and Irvin Stroud; Administrative Assistant Hillary Webb, County Treasurer Amy Leslie, Dept. Judge Exec. Dawn Allen, Attorney Jason Batts, and visitors Sheriff Ben Natividad, Road Foreman Kelly Byassee, Troy Carter, Curtis Weatherford, Attorney Leanna Wilkerson, and Gaye Bencini.

It was the consensus of the fiscal court at the July 27 meeting to extend the

three-month moratorium on data centers in the county to 12 months.

The court voted at the June 25 meeting to pass a resolution that would place a three-month temporary moratorium on the construction, development, and operation of data centers within Hickman County to allow the fiscal court time to study and enforce regulatory standards, safeguarding local resources and utilities.

This will give the court more time for research and public input to develop the best long-term ordinance possible regarding data centers. Public meetings will be held prior to the end of the 12 months.

Pre-bid meeting held July 29 for Senior Center rehab construction

The time is drawing near for work to begin on the Hickman County Senior Citizen building rehab project. In April, the Hickman County Fiscal Court unanimously approved the legally 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 senior citizens building at 212 North Street, Clinton,

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Community mourns loss of Fulton veterinarian Dr. Hartsell

Ward Animal Clinic, Fulton, Ky., where Dr. Bryan Hartsell has worked a number of years, posted the following announcement on Facebook Sunday night: "It is with heartfelt sadness that we make this post. Dr. Hartsell passed away unexpectedly while on vacation in Montana. To our clients, we don't know what the next days, weeks or months will look like. And we ask for your patience and understanding as we try to figure things out. Please be in prayer for Cheryl, Nathan, his mom, and the staff during these difficult days."

Obituary: Larry Bryan Hartsell passed away Saturday, August 1, 2026, in Montana. Bryan was born August 25, 1970, in Hay-

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Dr. Bryan Hartsell



In this photo taken Friday, July 31, work continues on the new playground at Hickman County Elementary School. Opening day for students is Aug. 12. See related story on page 2.

Columbus Homecoming Parade, other annual homecoming events this weekend

Friday, Aug. 7- 5 p.m. Columbus-Belmont State Park Conference Center, Meet & Greet & Fish Dinners, Bingo, Cake Walk (Adults); Cup Cake Walk (Children). Cake Auction.

Saturday, Aug. 8- Annual Parade- 10 a.m., followed by announcement of parade winners, Gospel Extravaganza, Bump & Jumps, Easy Listening Band, all at Riverview Park.

Sunday, Aug. 9- Homecoming Service at Mt. Gilead Missionary Baptist Church, Columbus 11:30 a.m. Rev. Derrick Fitts, pastor. Everyone welcome. Meal to follow.

See article on page 2 for additional details including Saturday night dance.

Ambulance Board seeks to add paramedics, trainees

By GAYE BENCINI

The Hickman County Ambulance Service met at the ambulance building on James Phillips Drive on Tuesday evening, July 21 with Board Chair Bobby Gifford, Members Kevin Cunningham, Ethan Carter, Jerome Jenkins, Chad Frizzell, Melanie Barber, Bill Little, Director Sandy Perkins, Assistant Director Gary Walker, and Gaye Bencini, visitor, in attendance. Board Members Laura Poole and Nancy Davis were unable to

attend.

The Hickman County Ambulance Service Board is actively working to add a paramedic to the ambulance service staff by offering a pay incentive. Currently, the director, Sandy Perkins, is the sole full-time paramedic. Perkins said she sometimes puts in 155 hours a week. The service has a part-time paramedic on staff in addition to Perkins.

A shortage of emergency service personnel continues to be a problem across the country.

After discussion, the board voted to offer a three-year contract with a bonus of \$1,000 per year, for up to three-five years, on a case by case basis, depending on experience and certifications.

In addition to hiring an additional paramedic, the board voted to offer incentives to new paramedic trainees.

At the July 21 meeting, the board voted to pay the \$2,495.00 cost

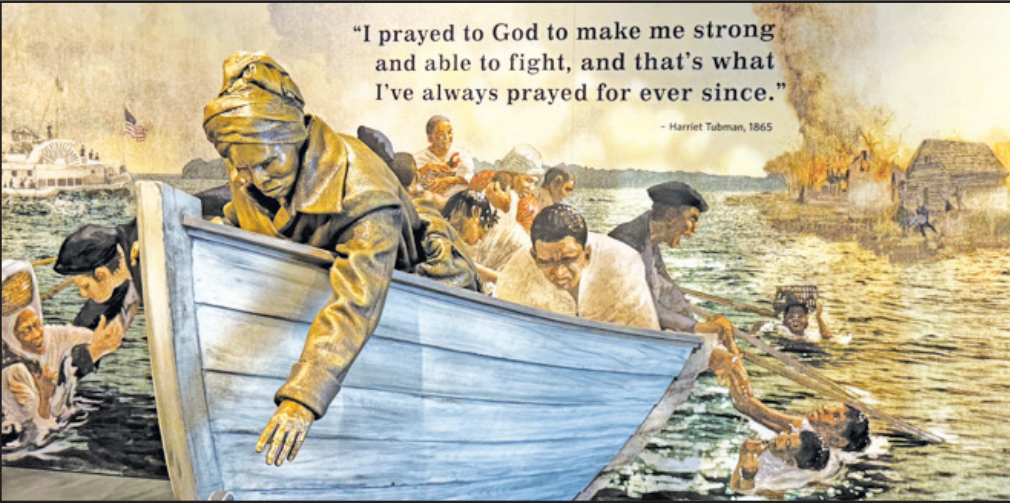
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'...I was free, and they should be free'

By BERRY CRAIG

Harriet Tubman was 27 in 1849 when she escaped slavery in Maryland.

She managed to evade arrest and re-enslavement and reached Philadelphia, the largest city in free state Pennsylvania. Tubman could have lived the rest of her life in freedom. Instead, she repeatedly risked her life and liberty by secretly returning to her home state to guide enslaved family and friends to



Display in the national park visitor's center near Chesapeake Bay.

freedom. "...I was free, and they should be free," she explained.

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Between 1850 and 1860,



Abbey Bellew, Hickman County FFA, was named FFA Member of the Year on Thursday, July 30, at the WAVE Ag Day event held at the Columbus-Belmont State Park Conference Center. See additional WAVE photos on page 10. (Photo by Gaye Bencini)

Hwy. 51 Improvement Project delayed but still in state's plans

By GAYE BENCINI

Clinton City Council met in regular session Monday, Aug. 3 at Clinton City Hall. Present were Mayor John Kelly, Councilmembers Wynita Dillard, Betty Morrow, Laura Poole, Mary Kimbro, Bill Lickliter, and Jerome Jenkins; Clerk Kaitlin Wilson; Attorney Heather Johnson; visitors Nathan Clark with Kentucky American Water,

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