

Hickman Middle Homecoming
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Caring for the First Lady
Worlds Apart, page B3

Hunter Safety this week
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Hickman County Times 50¢

Volume 62 -- Number 35, Centerville, Tennessee County Population 22,295 -- Centerville Population 3,793 (2000 Census)

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2 Sections
Monday, September 13, 2010

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9/11

Survivors step ahead; memorial takes form

Of the 2,973 persons who died in four terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, more than 2,749 of them were killed in and near the World Trade Center complex in New York City.

On that same morning on the site of the twin towers, another 17,000 persons avoided death: They were able to escape from the twin towers and its vicinity, either on their own or through the rescue efforts of fire fighters, police, co-workers and volunteers.

About 300 of those survivors now lead daily tours around the 16-acre site, providing facts about what happened, the 911 Memorial being created now -- it will open next September -- and their own stories about how that day affected their lives.

On September 14, Brian and Cindy Branco, who still live 10 miles from the site of the attacks, told their story to a group of about 25 tourists, including the editor of the Hickman County Times.

Their story is recounted here.



On one corner of the World Trade Center site in New York City, the new Freedom Tower is 55 stories high now, heading for 190.

Pieces of paper flying; a wife's frantic hope

Brian Branco was at work on the 70th floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He's a computer consultant, and his work with Thompson Baseline -- which analyzes investment decisions -- brought him from New Jersey to Manhattan at least three days a week.

"I was sitting at my desk and I basically felt a little vibration," he said. "Nothing really to think about. If you were ever in a building and the central air conditioning kicks on? Kind of

like that, but not really. It was a little rougher sound but nothing that you'd think twice about, necessarily.

"A couple minutes later, I saw papers flying. I saw thousands of pieces of paper flying, out my window. So I thought in my head maybe something above us blew up. But -- so an air conditioner blew up or something above us happened. Not the end of the world. They'll get us down, no big deal.

"People kind of started to panic after they saw the paper. So we're on a sky lobb-

by, (with elevators from floor) 78 down to 1. I went to the sky lobby and somebody said, 'Tower one got hit by a plane.' But being up there all the time, we thought it was a Cessna, a police helicopter, something like that. We never ever thought anything less than that. Planes run into the building all the time."

"I went back in to my desk and called my wife and I told her what happened and I basically -- we had a fight and I hung up on her and . . .

Cindy Branco corrected

her husband.

"I hung up on him," she said.

This was on Tuesday morning, and she had been mad at him since Friday. Brian had bought a new sports car. "and he absolutely refused to let me drive his stupid car. And I wanted to take it Friday night and we had a fight and literally I hadn't spoken to him in four days.

"So that morning he kissed me good-bye and I said, 'Psst, whatever.'

Cindy worked at a fruit (continued on page A8)

Hospital ER opens Tues.

Hickman Community Hospital will begin using its new emergency room on September 14, the first step toward bringing its \$3-million addition into its daily operation.

The move to the larger emergency room moves the entrance to it back to the original site, on the far end. That also means that the

parking lot area will have to be readjusted, a process that will reduce the available area for the next month.

Hospital improvements include a specialty clinic area, a chapel, a new lobby and admitting area. Renovations for physical and occupational therapy services are ongoing.

But he's on furlough already

Mallady must remain in main facility

A judge has ordered that Kenny Mallady may not be held in a licensed facility outside of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, though the matter apparently will be appealed.

Mallady, 33, was found not guilty by reason of insanity in the 2003 stabbing death of his mother, Betty Jo Gordon, and her husband, Jimmy Gordon, and has been held at the mental health institute since the 2006 conviction.

The institute notified court officials in April that it would transfer Mallady to a supervised 24-hour licensed facility in Antioch for a 30-day furlough. At that time, administrator Candace I. Gilligan informed court officials that if the furlough worked out satisfactorily, the plan was "to release Mr. Mallady from in-patient hospitalization" at that point.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Jay Fahey said the transfer to the Antioch facility occurred some time ago. He said that facility would not allow Mallady outside its walls without supervision at all times.

Despite Gilligan's written

comments, Fahey said questioning during the hearing -- held August 31 and September 2 in Hickman County Criminal Court -- gave no indication that release from custody was part of the long-term plan.

"There was not an indication that, five years from now, they'd seek permission for him to live on his own," the prosecutor said.

That is a concern for Mallady's family, according to a letter filed with the court by Regina Warren, daughter of Mrs. Gordon and Mallady's sister.

"If I had known previously that Kenny had already been released some four months ago, I would have left the state in order to avoid him and protect my family," she wrote, adding that her grandparents would fear his release.

Judge Robbie Beal ruled against the furlough request, but Mallady will remain in the Antioch facility in anticipation of a request for review to an appeals court. That process could take some time.

Big-time aluminum can thief arrested

A Hohenwald man was arrested last week on charges that he stole 1,200 pounds of aluminum cans and 12 vehicle batteries from the Hickman County Solid Waste Transfer Station in Centerville early in August.

Officer Charles Pierce reported that Casey R. Givens, 34, of Hohenwald, was charged with two counts of burglary -- taking 600-pound bales of cans, about August 1 and 2 -- as well as the theft of the batteries.

Previously arrested was Dustin L. Cantrell, 18, of the Duck River community. He was charged with one count of theft, involving two 600-pound bales of aluminum, about July 30 and taking them to Shapiro Recycling in Dickson.

Givens was due in court on September 7, the day he was arrested; his bond was \$11,000. Cantrell appeared in General Sessions Court the same day, and his case was reset for October 4.



Brian and Cindy Branco conduct tours around the World Trade Center site regularly.

Tuesday, Thursday nights

Girl Scout Parent Night

See page B2

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