

**Locally made
clothing**
Hidden Treasures, page B1

Rochelles'
100 farm years
see page B4

East Middle
wins MTAC title
see page B3



Hickman County Times 50¢

Volume 64 -- Number 41, Centerville, Tennessee

County Population 24,690 -- Centerville Population 3,644
(2010 Census)

22 PAGES
2 Sections
Monday, October 22, 2012

Aetna, Bon Aqua, Brushy, Bucksport, Coble, Farmer's Exchange, Gray's Bend, Grinders Switch, Little Lot, Locust Creek, Lyles, Nunnely, Only, Pinewood, Pleasantville, Primm Springs, Shady Grove, Shipp's Bend, Spot, Swan, Totty's Bend, Vernon, Wrigley

This Week in Hickman County

Saturday, October 27

**See page
A12 for
details**



In Centerville Halloween Events

Zombie Suicide Run
8 a.m.,
Centerville Elementary

At the Old Courthouse

**Pumpkin Carving
Contest, 3 p.m.**

Haunted Mansion,
5 p.m.

Live Music, 5 p.m.

Halloween Parade,
6:30 p.m.

**Costume Contest
Judging, 8 p.m.**



Hickman Humane Society

**Monster Bash,
Doggie Dash**
9 a.m.-2p.m.
RiverPark



**Arts and Ag
Harvest Market,**
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Grinder's Switch
Winery



Oktoberfest
Noon-2 p.m.
Life Care Center of
Centerville



**Turkey Shoot &
Halloween Party**
8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Pinewood Volunteer
Fire Department
Fire House

Hickman County Legislative Body meets Monday, 7 p.m.

One more time on HCHS, land

A Budget Committee report may help the Legislative Body make decisions on projects that require as much as \$8.25 million when commissioners meet Monday night.

The October 22 session comes as bid expiration

dates for roof and HVAC work approach on October 31; a deadline for an industrial-commercial property deal in East Hickman is even closer.

Commissioners meet at 7 on Monday night in the Hickman County Justice

Center, in Centerville, to visit the issues again. The meeting is open to the public.

The Budget Committee will report on ways to pay for money borrowed to complete both projects.

The larger need is \$7.25

million for a metal roof and a heating and cooling system for Hickman County High School. The cost could be covered over 10 years by a 22-cent property tax increase or a \$33-per-vehicle wheel tax increase.

A lower-cost option is

\$6.15 million, for a rubber roof with a shorter lifespan and room-by-room HVAC units.

Budget Committee member Gary Hanes said the panel, which met October 11, is not recommending
(continued on page A3)



Minnie Pearl's best buddy on any stage, especially the Grand Ole Opry's, was musician Roy Acuff.

100th birthday of Hickman County's most famous daughter is October 25

Minnie's century old story

Born 100 years ago this Thursday in Centerville, Ophelia Colley's dreams of a dramatic acting career didn't work out like she hoped . . . but she became world famous anyway.

That is, fame came to her Minnie Pearl — the character she developed as she learned she could make people laugh. The success of the innocent Minnie and her down-home humor led her to the Grand Ole Opry and recognition that a little

2 auctions, see page A12

Centerville girl could only dream of.

By the time she died in 1996 at age 83, Mrs. Colley had won the nation's top accolades and, through Minnie, had become both an ambassador for American values and a symbol of cancer research.

How did all that happen? Following here are some

excerpts from her 1980 autobiography, "Minnie Pearl," written with Joan Dew.

"I grew up totally innocent of evil or wickedness of any kind. I think one of the reasons Minnie Pearl has found so many fans is because she retains some of this guileless, childlike innocence that character-

ized my formative years. No one locked their doors or feared their neighbors in Centerville. The whole town was my playground."

Sarah Ophelia Colley was born September 12, 1912, the fifth daughter of T.K. and Fannie Tate House Colley, who both had come here from Franklin. She grew up within easy walking distance of the Public Square, was encouraged by her sisters to perform and graduated from Hickman

County High School in 1930.

Growing up, her best friend was Monnette Thompson; it was Monnette who finished ahead of Ophelia — her father called her "Phel," pronounced "feel" — in the annual Oratorical and Declamatory Contest during their senior year. Phel read a portion of the final scene from Madame Butterfly; Monnette, a funny story about a
(continued on page A2)



Teacher of the year

Christian Fisher (center) is Hickman County's 2012 Teacher of the Year, chosen by school administrators and recognized with a \$200 prize from Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative. Fisher — eighth grade social studies teacher at East Hickman County Middle School — is shown here with MLEC's Gary Cunningham (left) and schools Supt. Jerry Nash.

The guru of Halloween

Bobby McFarlin started decorating his yard, then on West End Avenue, more than 20 years ago. Last year, he was the mastermind behind the first Centerville Halloween Parade, a year ago which drew nearly 30 floats and a thick

crowd. "I was surprised," he says. "Really, I just think Halloween is a tradition here."

The spooky fun continues this Saturday. The second parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. and will follow the tradi-

tional Christmas Parade route, from the Centerville Church of Christ down College and then Church to the Public Square, down North Central Avenue and finally up East Swan Street to the start.

(continued on page A12)

Big day opens vote

More than 300 persons cast a ballot on the first day of early voting, in advance of the November 6 General Election.

Elections administrator Martie Davis said the 301-vote total included 194 ballots cast at the Election Commission office in Centerville and 107 ballots cast at East Hickman High School.

Both sites remain open six days a week through November 1. Voters must bring a government-issued photo identification card.

**ELECTION
2012**
**November 6
General Election**
**Candidate
Announcements**
See page A7
**U.S. House
District 7**
Wm. Ryan Akin
Credo Amouzouvik
Jack Arnold
Marsha Blackburn
Lenny Ladner
Howard Switzer

Tuesday

**EHHS Choir
in concert**
7 p.m.



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Leadership tour

Visiting Hickman County Mayor Steve Gregory last Wednesday during the Youth Leadership tour were high school students (from left) Hannah Mayberry, Presley Jones, Loren Hell-

mann, Dakota Adams, Jordan Anglin, Brad Perry, Brett Wilson and (not shown) Jon Voyles and Travis Thornton.

Minnie Pearl

(continued from page A1)

stable boy and a horse race.

"Monnette's reading had made them laugh; they had fun listening to her. She brought them enjoyment and she would probably have won even if I hadn't blown the best part of my reading. Years later, thinking back on that traumatic incident made it easier for me to accept comedy as a career. Possibly the Lord was already trying to show me then that I didn't have the talent to become a great dramatic actress."

She attended Ward-Belmont, a two-year "finishing school" — emerging with the continuing desire to go into dramatic acting. She ended up teaching piano, dancing and dramatics in . . . Centerville.

"The hometown that had once offered me both adventure and security now seemed like a prison, holding me back from the challenges and attainments I felt sure awaited me in the world. . . . My friends either were still away at college or had married and were raising families. I felt stranded, cut off from all that was new, fun and exciting. Centerville hadn't changed, but I had."

In the summer of 1934 she found a job with Sewell Production Company, which sent its "directors" to small Southern towns to produce local plays, sharing the profits with local organizations. In early 1936, she was assigned to produce a show in Sand Mountain,

Ala., arriving in a winter storm with no place to stay for the next 10 days, until an accommodating older couple welcomed her in.

"I thought about that cute old lady for a long time after I left her home. I had been collecting country stories and anecdotes from the time I'd begun on the road, and it was fun to repeat them in dialect. But I had never thought of building a character around them. . . . I named her Minnie Pearl because both names were country names I had heard and loved all my life."

She stopped back at her parents' home in Centerville shortly after her experience in Sand Mountain, and imitated the old woman who had welcomed her.

"You'll make a fortune off that some day, Phel, if you keep it kind," her father said.

Still on the road in 1937, Ophelia was suddenly called home by the death of her father at age 80; he never did see Minnie Pearl on stage. But despite the challenge of losing a parent, Ophelia continued to work on the character: stories, singing and clothing were refined as she continued to direct plays in the region. She tried her new character out in 1939 in Aiken S.C., at a Pilot's Club convention.

"As I passed among the tables in my costume, speaking to people, smiling and saying howdy, an incredible thing happened to me. I felt my self mov-

ing out of Sarah Ophelia Colley into Minnie Pearl. I felt more uninhibited than I ever had felt doing her before, but it was more than that. I became the character."

By the spring of 1940, though, the Sewell Company was pretty much out of business; plays weren't selling in the rage of radio and recordings.

"I was 28 years old; I was broke; I had no job and no promise of one. I wasn't married and I didn't have a career. I wasn't even qualified to do anything, except teach dancing or dramatics, and not only did I hate that idea, I couldn't have made a living at it anyway because there weren't enough prospective students in my small hometown."

By August, she won a job running the recreation center and earning \$50 a month, through the World Progress Administration; it was upstairs in the Sam Davis Lodge of the Knights of Pythias building; by Thanksgiving, she was overseeing 100 children a day after school.

The Lions Club asked her to present a show in the fall, and she did so, bringing Minnie Pearl to the local stage with some supporting characters. Ten minutes was enough to show her talent, and she was next asked to perform at an upcoming state banking convention, also in Centerville. The guest speaker was late and she was pressed into service, without much preparation.

Pamida: more items

The final stage of Pamida's liquidation sale will run through November, with merchandise brought in from the company's distribution center and other stores, with savings of up to 50 percent.

Centerville's Pamida is among the last group of stores that will be converted

over to Shopko Hometown.

The conversion will take from five to six weeks, with new signage, fixtures, a new design layout and an expanded mix of merchandise.

More than 170 recently-acquired stores are in the Shopko conversion process.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

TURKEY SHOOT: 8AM-4PM • HALLOWEEN PARTY: 4PM-8PM

at PINEWOOD FIRE HALL

COME IN COSTUME!

Mr. William Jack Easley, 74

Services for Mr. William Jack Easley, 74, of Nunnally, who died on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at Hickman Community Hospital in Centerville, were held on Sunday, October 14 at McDonald Funeral Home in Centerville.

A native of Centerville, Mr. Easley was the husband of Patricia Dooley Easley and the son of the late Robert "Buck" and Jessie Bates Easley. He was a construction business owner and served in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

In addition to his wife, he leaves two daughters, Karen Lewis of Franklin and Jennifer Easley of Spring Hill; his stepmother, Dorothy Easley of Centerville; two sisters, Roberta Anderson of Centerville and Wanda Qualls of Columbia; two stepsisters, Judy Mathis of Centerville and Jerry Forrester of Union City, and three grandchildren, Brooklyn Lewis and Caroline Lewis both of Franklin, and Joshua Smallwood of Spring Hill. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jimmy Easley.

The funeral service was conducted by Bros. Bert Mathis and Bill McDonald and was followed by burial in Milan Cemetery in Centerville.

The family asks that any memorials be made to Centerville United Methodist Church.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Hickman County Finance Office is accepting sealed bids for three (3) school bus units. Specifications and bid requirements may be obtained from Tommy Barnes, Director of Transportation, Hickman County Schools at 931-729-3391, Ext. 2241, or email: tommy.barnes@hickmank12.org.

Sealed bids must be mailed or delivered to the Hickman County Finance Office, 114 North Central Avenue, Suite 203, Centerville, TN 37033 and clearly marked on the outside of the bid envelope "School Bus Units."

Bids will be opened on Tuesday November 13, 2012 at 10 a.m. at the Finance Office. The Hickman County Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids or parts of bids.

The Hickman County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #80 is accepting donations to help take unfortunate Hickman County children Christmas shopping.

Thanks to your help last year, we were able to take 50 children shopping.

To make a donation, call Jerry Deal at 615-476-1750, Jonathan Aydelott at 931-994-2027, Jonathan O'Guin at 729-5146 or drop it off at the Hickman County Sheriff's office.

Thanks in advance for making this happen!

All contributions are TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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