

**Sportsplex  
Jamboree**  
Saturday; see page B2

**Brett Wilson,  
valedictorian**  
EHHS; see page A8

**Easter events  
listed**  
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# Hickman County Times 50¢

Volume 66 -- Number 14, Centerville, Tennessee

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

**18 PAGES  
2 Sections**  
**Monday, April 14, 2014**

Aetna, Bon Aqua, Brushy, Bucksnot, 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

## 260 jobs and growing



Crews finished up construction at the Deerfield residence last week.

## The Ranch's success keeps growth going

By BRADLEY A. MARTIN  
Builders were inescapable at The Ranch's new Deerfield residence, on Pinewood Road, trying to finish up at the 12,000-square-foot facility last Tuesday.

Concrete pouring, appliance installation, furniture placement, a final coat of paint . . . the crews from Blystad and Conder construction companies were pushing it.

"We've missed 75 days because of rain," explains Greg Phillips, executive director at The Ranch,

which treats adult disorders of many kinds at its small-group homes and centers spread around Pinewood and Nunnely.

Completion, he hoped was within a day or two -- he had 15 clients ready to move in for treatment at the facility's Center for Relationships and Sexual Recovery. It will be home to 15 men for a month; a 28-day stay can cost \$27,000, though insurance helps most clients. Office, counseling and group discussion space is included.

High cost, you say? Most

clients are supported by insurance. And maybe, in job-poor Hickman County, the price is a gift:

Right now, 260 people have jobs at The Ranch, three-fourths of them full time, and about 90 of them are Hickman County residents. That's an increase of 110 jobs in less than two years. The Ranch already was, in June of 2012, the largest private employer in Hickman County.

That won't change, because new staff is needed imminently at Deerfield -- (continued on page A7)

## East Hickman VFD brings fire fighters, sets 1st fundraiser

More than 20 volunteers have joined the East Hickman Volunteer Fire Department as fire fighters, said Chief Thomas "Bubba" Yates, with the new unit's first fundraiser scheduled at the end of May.

Training is underway, and Yates reported that he has completed state-supervised fire chief training as well.

The department, which has property on North Lick Creek Road, has applied for a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development division, and Yates said he is hopeful that -- with that funding -- a building can be erected this summer.

A spaghetti supper and bake sale have been scheduled for Friday, May 30 at East Hickman Community

Center, from 4 to 9 p.m.

Yates said the new department has been approved by the Tennessee Fire Marshal's smoke alarm grant program, which will lead to free installation of those devices within its five-mile zone.

"We are currently working with the 911 board and communications to figure out what addresses fall in our district," Yates said.



CREATIVE IMAGES BY JENNIFER photo

## Miss Hickman

Brianna Turnbo was crowned Miss Hickman County on April 5, the high point of the annual pageants, which benefits Hickman County 4-H programs. Photos from all four competitions are on page A10.

## Grand Jury returns 1st-degree murder

The Hickman County Grand Jury has indicted Pamela Susan Brown for first-degree murder in the shooting death of Ellen Kimberly Taylor, her adopted daughter, last October 2.

The Sheriff's Department reported at the time that an argument occurred at the home of Brown, on Buck Litton Road, and that she asked Ms. Taylor, who was 41, and two others to leave. When they did not, she retrieved a gun to try and clear the house.

Taylor was shot once in the head with a 38-caliber pistol, Sheriff Randal Ward said. At that time, he said it

was unclear whether the victim was intentionally shot or whether the gun discharged accidentally.

The grand jury's indictment, issued on April 2, says that Brown "did intentionally, deliberately and with premeditation kill" Ms. Taylor.

Brown also was indicted for aggravated assault involving the same incident, for causing Eric Adam Taylor "to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury" from a firearm.

Brown, who is free on bond, is scheduled to be arraigned in Hickman County Criminal Court on May 21.

### A closer look

## Most HS grads go no further

By BRADLEY A. MARTIN  
College is not a traditional path for high school graduates from Hickman County, according to statistics compiled by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

This, however, is: Slightly more than half of high school diploma-winners here do not pursue any additional education in the year after they complete high school.

On average from 2006 to 2012, about 40 percent of local graduates go on for more education, compared to about 55 percent across the state.

Both figures include not only four- or two-year colleges but also technical schools, like those in Hohenwald and Dickson, and nonprofit private institutions. All of those destinations are combined in the "college-going" category.

"That's slightly lower than what I would have expected," said Hickman County schools Supt. Jerry Nash. Rob Mitchell, specialist at the Tennessee Career Center, said the statistics seem to be in line with his experience in helping adults figure out what

Hickman County Schools College-going rates			
Grad Year	Graduates	College	%
2012	293	110	43.5%
2011	280	96	34.3%
2010	275	116	42.2%
2009	274	118	43.1%
2008	248	104	41.9%
2007	249	92	36.9%
2006	231	90	39.0%

College is defined as 4- and 2-year colleges/universities, Tech centers, private in-state nonprofits and out-of-state institutions. Not included: Vanderbilt University, private for-profits.

SOURCE: Tennessee Higher Education Commission

career direction to take.

"In my business, a lot of these students go out of high school and don't do anything for three or four years before they realize, 'I've got to do something,'" said Mitchell, also chair of the Vision Hickman board, which addresses workforce development issues here.

Most of the people who seek help through the Career Center office in Centerville are in their late 20s or early 30s, Mitchell said.

At Tennessee College of

Applied Technology at Dickson, Gary Fouts, the student services coordinator, will tell you the same thing about the average age of skill-seeking enrollees there.

"From 25 to 35," he said. The statistics, though maintained by the THEC for several years, have not been studied here before; the Times came across the data during a review of reporting from a Columbia State conference last month.

Until now, the best refer-

ence for where high school graduates from Hickman County end up after receiving their diplomas has been through irregular surveys over the past 20 years, conducted by Nash and the Times. Those queries to seniors during the spring of their final high school year normally has shown that a little more than 80 percent plan to seek additional training, compared to entering the workforce or the military.

Expanded THEC data for the Class of 2009 showed that 118 graduates, or 43.1 percent of the 274 who received diplomas, entered an institution during the next 16 months. The break-out shows that 36 of those who went on, or 13.1 percent, entered a four-year institution, compared to 24.3 percent statewide, while 51 entered a two-year institution.

"I think we have the student capacity to go to college and be successful," said Nash. "I'm not sure the culture values it enough."

Another 15 went to a Tennessee College of Applied Technology, then known as Technology Centers.

(continued on page A5)

### Pleasantville Community

## Turkey Shoot

Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.;  
see page B2



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## 2010 College Participation Report

	High School Graduate	College-going Rate	In-State 4 yr.	In-State 2 yr.	Tech. Center	In-State Private (non-profit)	In-State Private (for-profit)	Out-of-State
<b>East Hickman County</b>	122	40.2%	6.6%	21.3%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	4.1%
<b>Hickman County</b>	152	45.4%	18.4%	16.4%	6.6%	1.3%	0.0%	2.6%
<b>Tennessee</b>	60,496	56.2%	24.3%	17.8%	2.0%	5.0%	0.5%	7.0%

SOURCE: Tennessee Higher Education Commission

# Most go no further

(continued from page A1)

In that year, THEC data reports that the top five institutions attended during that year were, in order, Columbia State, Middle Tennessee State, the University of Tennessee-Martin, Tennessee Technology Center at Dickson and APSU.

Given that more than half of graduates here are not seeking additional education in a workforce that appears to demand higher skills to earn a good wage, the question becomes what can be done about it.

The editor of this newspaper — who is reporting this story — presented the data to the Board of Education last Monday, and asked them to consider funding four additional guidance counselor positions at the high school level. Each entering class of freshmen would see one guidance counselor for all four years.

Board member Tim Hobbs said he believes a guidance counselor assigned to the Career-Technical Department, which

provides hands-on training at both high schools, could have that effect as well.

Nash said additional guidance counselors would improve effectiveness, given that the existing high school staff is stretched thin as it is, “but here again, I could make good arguments for several other areas that need help.”

The school board has struggled to maintain programs in the last few years, given a slightly declining enrollment, no significant funding increases from local or state government and what its members see as the expense of \$1.5 million a year to cover basic operational costs at East Hickman High.

“We could do a better job coming out of the eighth grade,” Nash said.

At the Career Center, Mitchell said he believes that the THEC statistics don’t take a long enough view and therefore does not account for students who “come out and struggle for

a few years and realize . . . and then they come back for an education.”

But it is not the only issue that explains the need for post-high school education.

“One of the things that most definitely stops a kid from going on to school is the cost,” he said. Most definitely it is an impediment factor.”

Financial assistance may get a boost this year: Gov. Bill Haslam has proposed the Tennessee Promise: that tuition be eliminated from all College of Applied Technology schools, as well as community colleges.

“But (students) still have no skin in the game,” Mitchell said. “I would put down that you’ve got to have kids that have to prove that they have capability of doing college work. Over 60 percent get the Hope Scholarship and go for just one year, because they can’t maintain grades.”

Mitchell said he believes the effort of the local Business-Education Council,

made up of educators and Chamber of Commerce members, to provide tours and interaction with members of the workforce — from police to auto workers — is an important way to help students understand education’s role.

“When I speak to a senior class, the first thing I ask them is . . . what exactly is a high school diploma? Inevitably, I don’t get an answer from anybody in the room,” he said.

“Finally, I have to explain to them — it’s nothing more than a state-sanctioned document that says you have the ability to learn. And when you leave here that’s when you go learn. When they walk across that stage, it’s not the end, it’s the beginning.”

## Career-Technical course revision seeks a better fit

More than a dozen courses are being added or realigned in the Career-Technical departments of both high schools for 2014-15, director Don Qualls told the Board of Education last Monday night.

They range from Landscaping and Turf Science to Entrepreneurship, plus Nursing, Masonry and Ag Finance. The list also includes Mechatronics I and II, created in response to Nissan of Smyrna, which has eight openings for maintenance technicians, who start at \$42,000 a year. The courses will help a student move into the next-level courses at Tennessee College of Applied Technology, where the necessary certificate can be earned in about 18 months.

Qualls said all courses are

being created to provide seniors and juniors at HCHS and EHHS with more specific skills that will lead to better jobs. They are a result of program realignments at the state level as well as identifying local needs.

“These should be better fits as far as jobs are concerned,” said Qualls. “It’ll speed up the process of someone completing the program and getting a certificate.”

Course enrollment at EHHS and HCHS will take place this month.

The revised/added courses — at both high schools unless otherwise noted — include:

Entrepreneurship, which is a new Business course that will also be designed for seniors who have completed Carpentry, Welding and Ma-

sonry and Cosmetology sequences and are interested in going into business for themselves.

Agriscience, Landscaping and Turf Science and, at HCHS, Ag Business and Finance

— Masonry I and II, at HCHS, which will include hands-on work outside the school, including an outdoor shed project at Centerville Intermediate next fall

— Nursing, at HCHS, taught by registered nurse Joann Redding, which will focus on skills and on visits to various settings where nurses work.

Course sign-ups at EHHS and HCHS will take place this month.

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## Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday, April 13: Regular Worship at both churches**

**Easter Experience Journey:** In the fellowship hall at Centerville UMC: “Walk with Jesus” during his last week, from his entry into Jerusalem to the cross, to the Resurrection.

**Monday, April 14 - Good Friday, April 18**

**Special Prayer Time:** The sanctuary at Centerville UMC will be open each morning from 7-10 for a time of prayer and reflection. Communion will be available.

**Holy Thursday, April 17**

**The Reign of Darkness:** 8 p.m. at Centerville UMC. A deeply moving presentation of the passion of Jesus, in ancient script and familiar hymn, performed by believers in this community.

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

**Sunrise Service:** At the break of day gather at Shipp’s Bend UMC to celebrate the Risen Lord! -- 6 a.m., OUTSIDE, weather permitting.

**Easter Worship at both churches**

**Celebrate** the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Everyone is welcome every Sunday!*

**9:30 a.m. -- Shipp’s Bend UMC**

**11:00 a.m. -- Centerville UMC**

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Rev. Eddie C. Smotherman, Pastor

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