

THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE



NEWS
HARDIN COUNTY
EXTENSION
HOMEMAKERS GET
TAKEN TO THE SWAMP
PAGE A2



SPORTS
NORTH HARDIN HAS
MUCH IN COMMON
WITH APOLLO
PAGE A6



TODAY
Sunny
81 - 61
COMPLETE REPORT,
PAGE A2

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AMY SMITH/The News-Enterprise

Executive Chef Rob Hoilman prepares chicken for the evening meal at Warm Blessings Community Kitchen. The non-profit agency, which began in Elizabethtown 20 years ago, is located at 609 E. Dixie Ave.



AMY SMITH/The News-Enterprise

Program Director Jennifer Wise and Executive Director Josh Miller discuss details of upcoming events at Warm Blessings Community Kitchen, which offers meals and more to individuals dealing with food insecurity.

After 20 years, Warm Blessings continues to fight food insecurity

BY AMY SMITH
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Serving only two individuals on its opening night in 2006, Warm Blessings Community Kitchen now averages dishing out 140 to 150 meals a night and has become one of the area's most visible hunger-relief and community-support organizations.

"I started volunteering at Warm Blessings with my youth group while I was in high school in Green County," Executive Director Josh Miller said.

According to Miller, one in five Hardin County students and one in six adults in Hardin County experiences food insecurity, which is defined as people who don't know where their next meal

will come from.

Warm Blessings fights that reality on a multi-faceted approach.

"Partnering with other local nonprofits such as Feeding America and United Way as well as local schools, churches, civic groups and businesses," Miller said the non-profit does more than provide meals.

It also offers assistance obtaining IDs, birth certificates and Social Security cards and connects people with government resources such as SNAP and WIC food programs and the Kynect health insurance portal. It also makes referrals to housing and social service agencies.

At its site at 609 E. Dixie Ave., Warm Blessings also offers laundry and shower facilities and seasonal day shelter support

during extreme cold weather, Miller said.

Jennifer Wise has been with Warm Blessings since its early days and currently serves as program manager overseeing daily meal operations, volunteer coordination, food distribution and community partnerships.

"I've seen the need for food assistance grow significantly, but I've also seen our community step up in incredible ways through volunteers, partnerships and support," Wise said. "Warm Blessings has grown from a small effort into a consistent source of hope and meals for families."

While providing a means to bridge the food gap for families, seniors and

SEE AFTER/PAGE A3

Whiskey House lays off 30% of workforce here

BY JANET PATTON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Another Kentucky distillery has announced layoffs as the ongoing slump in demand for bourbon and whiskey continues to take a toll on jobs.

Whiskey House of Kentucky in Elizabethtown laid off about 30% of its workforce on Tuesday, CEO David Mandell said, and 22 workers were laid off with a right to recall.

"We were among the last contract manufacturers to make workforce adjustments, and we fully expect to be among the first to bring employees back as demand returns," Mandell said in a statement.

He said laid off employees

will receive severance packages, continuation of benefits and assistance with job placement.

"As an industry, we are navigating a cyclical slowdown, and our responsibility is to make thoughtful decisions that protect the long-term health of our company, our customers and our employees," Mandell said. "These decisions are difficult because they affect people we care deeply about. That's why we've worked hard to support those impacted with meaningful severance, continued benefits, and career transition assistance."

Whiskey House opened in July 2024 in Elizabethtown

SEE WHISKEY/PAGE A3



Submitted

Local club to celebrate National Garden Week with many activities

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

National Garden Week takes place annually in the first full week of June.

The designated week is spearheaded by National Garden Clubs, a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Louis that promotes a love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility. The week's purpose is to bring more awareness to the importance of gardening and preserving gardening traditions and practices by passing on knowledge to new gardeners.

The Garden Club of Elizabethtown is a member of the Garden Club of Kentucky and National Garden Clubs and is focused on the observance June 7-13.

"We have events for the public, as well as some special activities for club members," said Mary Beth Marcum, a club member.

Marcum said its events kickoff at 10 a.m. Saturday with the ladybug release held in conjunction with the Hardin County Public Library in Elizabethtown.

On Sunday, the club will host its second National Garden Week Kickoff called Celebrate Native Plants from 2 to 4 p.m. at Freeman Lake Park in Elizabethtown.

"At the kickoff event, participants can enjoy an afternoon by the lake, learn about gardening, native plants and pollinator gardens. Our Lakeside Pollinator Gardens have won national awards

for their design and educational emphasis," Marcum said. "Bring a chair and spend some time meeting new people, enjoying the outdoors and getting ideas for your yard. We are teaming up with 'Growing Natives Hardin County KY Swap Group' for this event. They will be giving away native seeds and answering questions."

Thursday, June 11, at the public library a youth program called Trees in the Library's Backyard and Botanical Art Workshop will be held from 3 to 4 p.m.

To end the week, the club's annual fundraiser, Garden Tour and More will be on June 13.

Marcum said they are encouraging everyone, including families, to come join the club at its many events which include maintaining public spaces such as the Cunningham Garden behind the Brown-Pusey House and other speakers at club events, operate junior garden programs and therapeutic gardening at local senior living facilities.

"We encourage people to pick one of the many events and bring their families," Marcum said. "The Garden Tour and More is our primary fundraiser. It allows the club to continue our many programs and projects free of charge."

Tickets to tour the four private gardens are \$15 each and available in advance on Eventbrite or at the door by cash, check or Venmo.

Public invited to forum with HCS planning committee

BY GREG THOMPSON
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Hardin County Schools Local Planning Committee will host a forum next week to review school construction priorities.

The committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Library Media Center of Bluegrass Middle School, 170 W.A. Jenkins Road, Elizabethtown.

"The Local Planning Committee is an advisory committee to the board of education that meets every four years to develop a new district facility plan," said Shelee Clark, chief operations officer.

Any construction project the board wants to complete over the next six years must be listed on the facility plan sent to the state for funding to assist with construction costs.

According to John Wright, community relations specialist for HCS, the forum will give parents, guardians and school staff an opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions regarding the district's future building plans.

"We seek input," Wright said.

Typically, in the past, he added, these



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

Progress continues Wednesday on the new West Hardin Middle School going up in Cecilia, which is one of the priorities on the Hardin County Schools facility plan.

forums have not been well attended.

Besides sharing ideas, offering suggestions on building new facilities for the district, the public will also be able to offer maintenance needs for current HCS facilities.

The main role of the committee is to listen for ideas and suggestions as it prepares to contribute to the official facility plan for HCS. This plan will be sent to the Kentucky Department

of Education for its review and be approved by the board of education at a future meeting.

Attendees are welcome to stay after the forum, Clark said, to hear presentations from the district's architect regarding current construction projects.

This is the first of three forums required as part of the facility planning process.



INDEX

CALENDAR, A4
COMICS, A10
OPINION, A5
SPORTS, A6-A8

CLASSIFIEDS, A8
JAIL LOG, A2
PUZZLES, A9
WEATHER, A2

OBITUARIES

No new death notices were reported today by area funeral homes.

SINCE YOU ASKED

Results of The News-Enterprise online poll as of 5 p.m. Wednesday.
Did you know Muhammad Ali was once known as Cassius Clay?
YES: 98.6% • NO: 1.4%

TODAY'S QUESTION: What type of garden do you have?

MEDICAL CANNABIS

Governor Andy Beshear tries to clarify who qualifies for medical cannabis

PAGE A4

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