

# THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE



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**FRIDAY**      **OCTOBER 10, 2025 • SERVING HARDIN COUNTY SINCE 1974 • REACH SUBSCRIBER SERVICES AT 270-505-1770 • \$2**



**Skylar Grace, left, and Chanese Johnson are co-owners of the business venture She & Co., which aims to support local residents display and market their products.**

## She & Co. founders create path for local entrepreneurs

**BY KODEE BRINEGAR**  
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

A women-led business venture that aims to foster a community of small business owners is setting up shop in downtown Elizabethtown.

She & Company is setting up shop at 330 W. Dixie Ave. next door to Buried Treasure Thrift Shop in downtown Elizabethtown.

“I have been blessed to run into a lot of people and make friends who have become business owners. And in that realm of business relationships, I’ve been able to succeed in my business without having to feel like will I need to make orders

SEE **PATH/PAGE A9**



**The house at 330 W. Dixie Ave. in downtown Elizabethtown is going to be home to She & Co., a woman-led business venture co-owned by Chanese Johnson and Skylar Grace.**

## Recall petition filed on LaRue school tax hike

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Three LaRue County residents plan to petition for a recall of the LaRue County Board of Education’s recent property tax increase.

Any property tax change that creates a local revenue increase of more than 4% year over year is subject to a recall.

The board approved a tax rate of 57.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real and personal property during a special called meeting on Sept. 4. The approval followed a 45-minute public hearing that allowed more than a dozen people to voice an opinion on the proposed levy.

The rate is a 4.2-cent increase from last year’s. The increase will allow the district to satisfy state requirements for what is known as a nickel tax, which is necessary to obtain additional funding from the state for building projects.

In a public notice, LaRue County Clerk Rhonda Metcalf said the petition committee consisted of David Ragland, William “Bill” Manning and Jerry Bird.

“We would like to see how the voters in our county feel about this decision,” Ragland said. “It was voted on previously and we would like to give the voters – the ones who’ll be paying the tax – the opportunity to have input.”

The petition must be signed by 731 registered and qualified LaRue County voters and be submitted to the county clerk by 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20. Upon filing of the petition, Metcalf will have 30 days to verify sig-

natures to determine if the matter would be placed on a ballot.

If the petition is certified, the school board will have to decide whether it wants to continue to pursue the tax levy, abandon the matter or put it to a vote.

If the vote option is chosen, the board would have to decide whether it will finance a special election or wait and have the issue included on the next regularly scheduled ballot, which likely would be the May 2026 primary election.

If the district chooses to cancel the tax levy increase, the board would be required to amend and decrease its property tax rate to ensure the revenue generated is no more than a 4% increase over the previous year.

Supporters of the levy have said the tax is an overdue investment in today’s students and generations to come. They also referred to the district’s need to have infrastructure that both permits and promotes student success, the desire to have more locally offered Career and Technical Education courses and emphasized that local property tax funds stay in and benefit the local community.

Those in opposition describe increase as an undue burden on local families. Opponents also said the district has adequate funding and raised concerns that specific information as to how the additional money would be utilized have not been provided.

## Upton man accused of sexual abuse asks court for detailed charges

**BY KODEE BRINEGAR**  
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

An Upton man accused of multiple incest and sexual abuse charges has a motion requesting a bill of particulars under consideration.

Alan Brent French, 60, appeared Thursday before Hardin Circuit Judge John Simcoe as one of his attorneys described a motion seeking a bill of particulars.

A bill of particulars is a written response that provides a defendant with specific details about the claims made against them in a case.

Defense attorney Roger Rigney said the motion speaks for itself.

“It’s an 11-count indictment and each and every count alleges that the conduct claimed of happened between Jan. 1, 2020, and Jan. 26, 2024,” Rigney said. “What we’re asking for is an account of these counts to explain, you know, when they happened and where they happened.”

Without the bill of particulars, Rigney said it would be impossible to prepare a defense for French.

“There are 11 different counties, and each county has to be uniquely identified with that. That’s the law

in Kentucky,” Rigney said. “We are entitled to know who, what, how and when each of these offenses occurred. We think we’re entitled to know the particulars of when, where, and how these things have occurred. We think we’re entitled to the bill of particulars.”

Bullitt County Commonwealth’s Attorney Amanda Troutman said she objects to the motion for the bill of particulars.

“There can be an indictment and the discovery that was provided,

SEE **ABUSE/PAGE A9**



**Alan Brent French, right, appeared Thursday in Hardin Circuit Court, where he and his defense attorney Blaine Hamilton listen to discussion about a motion in his sexual abuse case.**

<b>INDEX</b> CALENDAR, A9 CLASSIFIEDS, B5 COMICS, B9 OPINION, A4 PUZZLES, B8 SPORTS, B1-6 TRANSFERS, B7 WORSHIP, A5	<b>OBITUARIES</b> Helen Louise Maupin, 101 Bishop Ray Paul Payne, 89  <b>PAGE A6</b>	<b>SINCE YOU ASKED</b> Results of The News-Enterprise online poll as of 5 p.m. Thursday: <b>QUESTION:</b> Have you ever worked in a manufacturing plant? Yes: 62.8% • No: 37.2% <b>TODAY’S QUESTION:</b> Have you ever attempted to start a business?	<b>INSIDE</b> Game of the Week and other high school football coverage  <b>PAGE B1</b>  <b>FIND US ONLINE:</b>
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