

# GED

FROM PAGE A1

Middleton, who previously went through the program to earn a GED.

"Like you, he took the road less traveled," Lang said, as she introduced him.

In a motorized wheelchair, Middleton rolled forward to a small table where a mic had been placed for him. He had suffered a severe injury and lost use of his legs in a motorcycle crash in 2004.

Middleton was presented with his GED in 2013. He had left high school the day he turned 18 and never looked back.

When his daughter entered fourth grade is when Middleton said he began to think differently about having a diploma, something that at one point to him "was an irrelevant thing."

He feared the day when his little girl would ask, "Daddy, when did you graduate?" If he were to be honest with her, he would have to say, "Oh, baby, I didn't graduate. I quit."

When Middleton made the decision to get a GED, he arrived at the office one morning at 8 o'clock first thing. It kept it a secret from his wife and daughter.

"I didn't tell anyone what I was doing," Middleton said.

He admitted to the new graduates it was difficult for



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**Graduates of Heartland Adult Education, having earned a GED, toss their caps off Friday evening at the end of the commencement ceremony at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.**

him to go through the necessary classes.

Algebra, especially, was the hardest class he had ever encountered.

"I had to do Algebra, Pre-Algebra, somebody else's Algebra, I believe," Middleton said, earning a round of laughter. "Man, it was tough. I passed with a 70, and my professor was extremely generous with that 70."

Middleton encouraged the graduates to reach for their dreams and to "dream big."

Lang shared that many others, like Henry Ford, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, as well as comedian Chris

Rock, Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's, and race car driver Danica Patrick, all started after having earned a GED, or something equivalent.

"Each and every one of you is the superstar of tonight," Lang said.

Like any other commencement ceremony, the graduates were told to switch their tassels and throw their caps into the air, only to have them bounce back after hitting the ceiling.

The consortium, through ECTC serves not only Hardin County, but Breckinridge, Grayson, Hart and LaRue as well.



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**Marina McShanog, right, hugs Becky McGuffin after receiving her GED diploma Friday night during the Heartland Adult Education graduation ceremony at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.**



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**David Middleton, who earned a GED in 2013, was guest speaker for the Heartland Adult Education graduation Friday at ECTC.**



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**Kimberli Richardson places her graduation cap on the head of a family member Friday. Richardson was among nine earning a GED through the Heartland Adult Education program at the community college.**

# PROTEIN

FROM PAGE A5

protein products earlier this year.

"From our perspective, broader market dynamics

continue to indicate a tight and evolving protein landscape," said Bryan Morin, the sports brand manager at Now.

## MORE ON THE WHEY

Wolfley, at Ever.Ag, said manufacturers are investing in

whey protein production, which should eventually improve supplies. But the relief won't be immediate.

Glanbia, an Irish nutrition company, said in November that it planned to increase its whey protein isolate production in New

Mexico, but the additional capacity won't be in place until 2027. In February, Canadian dairy company Agropur said it intended to increase whey protein manufacturing at plants in Quebec, Nova Scotia, South Dakota and Wisconsin by 2029.

In the meantime, higher prices could cause some consumers to stop buying whey protein powders, especially at a time when groceries are getting more expensive overall, Wolfley said. Reduced retail demand might reduce shortages at the

wholesale level.

"The supply-demand dynamics could start to improve, but I don't know if that's a tomorrow dynamic or within a year. Some of these things are going to take time," Wolfley said.

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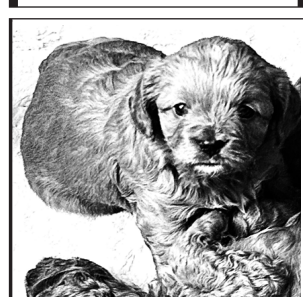
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