# The Advocate-Messenger

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#### Judge denies motion to dismiss in Hardwick lawsuit against Danville Police

BY JOSELY LABARRERE

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Boyle Circuit Court judge has denied efforts by the City of Danville and one of its police officers to dismiss a civil lawsuit filed by Cindy Lou Hardwick on behalf of John H. Hardwick. According to a court order filed July 17, Judge Michael Dean of the 50th Judicial Circuit ruled against motions from Officer Alex Hutti and the City of Danville, doing business as the Danville Police Department, to throw out the complaint.

The order reads: "IT IS ORDERED THAT Defendant Alex Hutti's Motion to Dismiss for failure to state a claim is denied; The Motion to Dismiss filed by the City of Danville dba Danville Police Department and its police Officers on grounds that the Complaint is violative of the rule against claim-splitting is also denied."

Cindy Lou Hardwick filed the lawsuit after John H. Hardwick, who has demen-

tia, was arrested in 2024 following a shoplifting accusation at the Danville Walmart. The complaint alleges that officers mishandled the situation due to a lack of proper training on how to interact with individuals with cognitive conditions.

In a related federal lawsuit, attorney Ephraim Helton named the City of Danville, Police Chief Anthony Gray, Assistant Chief Glenn Doan, and officers Brandon Conley, Benjamin Ray, and T.J. Godbey as defendants.

That complaint claims, "A lack of training of the police on the signs and symptoms a person may exhibit for having dementia puts these people in extreme danger when encountering police." It further alleges officers "falsified police reports" and "attempted to gain criminal convictions on erroneous criminal charges to cover up unlawful behavior."

With the judge's ruling, the case will proceed in Boyle Circuit Court under case number 25-CI-00090.



'The Art of War' opens Aug. 5 at the Art Center of the Bluegrass. (Photo submitted)

### 'The Art of War' comes to Art **Center of the Bluegrass in August**

**SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE-MESSENGER** 

hroughout history, war has left an indelible mark on every culture it touches. Among the most destructive of human activities, it has also inspired a wide range of creative re-

sponses — some that glorify the sonal collections of Dr. Jonas Hurbattlefield and others that mourn the devastation it leaves behind. A new exhibit at Art Center of the Bluegrass offers a compelling look at how artists have interpreted war from the Bronze Age to the atomic era.

The exhibit draws from the per-

ley and Julie Hurley, as well as two local collectors who wish to remain anonymous. Together, their contributions bring centuries of history to life through a striking range of objects, images, and artistic commentary.

See WAR, on 2

## Bate Middle theatre earns national recognition

BY JOSELY LABARRERE

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ohn W. Bate Middle School has earned national recognition as one of only 21 schools across the country selected to participate in the Disney on Broadway School of Excellence program, an initiative launched by the Educational Theatre Foundation (ETF), Disney Theatrical Group (DTG), and Music Theatre International (MTI).

The award grants Bate Middle School the opportunity to produce a Disney musical free of charge, complete with licensing, production materials, and access to exclusive educational webinars led by industry professionals.

"This program celebrates what happens when students are empowered to lead, create, and collaborate," said Dr. Jennifer Katona, president of the Educational Theatre Foundation. "By giving young artists the tools to tell these beloved stories, we're not just supporting school theatre, we're also investing in the future of the art form."

Schools were selected based on demonstrated creativity, leadership, and student engagement in all aspects of theatre production-including direction, choreography, design, and stagecraft. The selected schools will stage productions of Disney titles such as Newsies, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and High School Musical between fall 2025 and December 2026.

John W. Bate Middle School was the only Kentucky school chosen for this honor, standing alongside institutions from California, Texas, Florida, and other states in the nationwide program launched in 2024 to mark 30 years of Disney on Broadway.

For more information on the Disney on Broadway School of Excellence program, visit foundation.schooltheatre.org.

## Kimberly Milburn returns to Danville for recital

**STAFF REPORT** 

will return to her alma mater for a recital at the Gravely Hall Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Aug. 3, at 3 p.m. The Danville High School graduate will be joined by pianist and current DHS teacher Melinda Morgan. A brief audience Q&A

will follow the performance.

Milburn, a mezzo-soprano, ocalist and Danville na- expressed excitement about repassion for performance began.

"At DHS, I was encouraged to be creative, to think about the wider world, the big picture," she said. "DHS teachers and administrators taught us to be excellent and to believe that absolutely nothing was out musical theatre numbers.

of reach, an uncommon senti-

ment." The hour-long program will tive Kimberly Milburn turning to the school where her include a range of music centered around themes of love and hope. Selections will feature Italian songs, Mexican folk songs arranged by Manuel M. Ponce, and pieces by composers Schubert, Bizet, and Bolcom. The recital will close with classic 2:45 p.m.)

accessible and uplifting," Milburn said. "I hope we can bring a little light in an uncertain time and inspire and speak honestly to the next generation of artists."

#### **EVENT DETAILS**

- Date and Time: Sunday, Aug. 3, at 3 p.m. (doors open at
  - Location: Gravely Hall Per-

"This recital is meant to be forming Arts Center, 115 E. Lexington Ave., Danville, KY 40422 (use side entrance)

- Admission: \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Free for Danville Independent Schools students. Limited Pay What You Can tickets available.
- Tickets and Info: www.kimberlymilburn.com

See MILBURN, on 2



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