

Hearty Slice helping with utility bills

When Travis Owsley started Beverly's Hearty Slice in 2020, he wanted to feed hungry people during the pandemic. But the nonprofit, named for his late mother, Beverly Slaughter, has grown far beyond that.



TRAVIS OWSLEY

With bitterly cold weather and snow hanging on in Owensboro for nearly two weeks, the organization is working to help people with their utility bills and more.

Owsley said, "There's a desperate need out there. People are struggling with their utility bills."

So, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 20, the organization will be handing out more than 100 gift cards for utility bills in Kendall-Perkins Park.

There are 75 for Owensboro Municipal Utilities customers and 30 for Kenergy

customers. And, Owsley said, "We'll be giving away 25 tents for people who live in Tent City," the homeless camp on the riverbank.

Last May, Beverly's Hearty Slice gave 75 sleeping bags to people living in the encampment.

"If we get more money, we can buy more tents, if they're needed," Owsley said.

Food, water and hygiene products will also be available

The event is sponsored by the Fraternal Order Of Eagles Post 4168.

Owsley said, "So many people don't want to go into shelters. We're trying to help them too."

He said, "We've put three or four homeless families up in hotels because there was no place for them to go."

Owsley said, "There's a

desperate need. It's an emergency, similar to what we did for food when the government was shut down."

Temperatures stayed below freezing in Owensboro for 11 straight days before the temperature crept into the mid-30s on Monday.

When the organization started six years ago, it offered free pizza and soft drinks twice-a-month in Kendall-Perkins Park.

But the mission has grown a lot since then.

It later added feeding sites at Rolling Heights, Dugan Best and Colony Mobile Estates.

And last summer, it gave 700 backpacks filled with school supplies to kids just before school started.

It also holds Thanksgiving and Christmas parties for those in need.

And it gave six \$500 college scholarships to high school graduates last year.

Cargill announces 'workforce reductions' at Owensboro facility

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Cargill, which owns the former Owensboro Grain facility downtown, has reduced positions at the plant.

Details were scarce about what Cargill called "workforce reductions" at the facility. No indication was given as to how many employees lost their jobs or when the layoffs took place.

Cargill purchased Owensboro Grain in 2023. The privately owned company shares little information. It reduced its companywide workforce by 5% in late 2024 but declined to share details about where employees would lose their jobs.

In a written response received Wednesday night, Cargill Director of Reputation and Management Sarah Ragaller said, "Cargill is taking steps to align operations and talent with our long-term strategy and evolving business needs. As part of this effort, we have made the decision

to close the hydro plant at our Owensboro, Ky., facility and are also making select workforce reductions across the site.

"These changes reflect both restructuring and a shift in production strategy to better serve our customers," Ragaller said in the statement. "We are deeply grateful to our affected colleagues and are committed to treating them with care and respect. Owensboro remains a valued part of our operations, and we are committed to the community."

Community business and economic development leaders said Wednesday they were unaware of the layoffs at the facility.

Dave Kirk, president and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, said he had no information about the layoffs and that Cargill officials have little interaction with the chamber.

Claude Bacon, president

and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp., also said in an email that the EDC has received no communication from Cargill.

Calls to the Owensboro facility were routed to a voicemail in the human resources department and were not returned.

A WARN notice could not be found Wednesday regarding the layoffs.

WARN notices are issued only in specific circumstances, particularly when a company with more than 100 full-time employees lays off more than 50 workers at a single facility.

Michelle Drake, director of workforce development for the Green River Area Development District, said in a voicemail Wednesday that she had no information about the layoffs.

"Of course, we will try to offer rapid response services (to employees), but at this time I have no information," Drake said.

Brown sings his way to 'Golden Ticket' on 'American Idol'

BY MICHELE LOHMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Maceo native Marty Brown watched on Monday night as his son Christian Brown, 22, advanced to the Hollywood round of ABC's American Idol.

The show, filmed last fall at Nashville, Tennessee's Belmont University, featured initial auditions from the contestants in front of the celebrity judging panel of Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood and Lionel Richie.

"All of them are my heroes, you know," Marty Brown said about the American Idol judges. "Lionel Richie, he's a legend and a great songwriter, and I've always gravitated towards songwriting. I wrote my first song when I was 12 years old. And then Carrie Underwood and Luke Bryan are songwriters."

Brown, 60, a country music singer and songwriter, found some success in the 90s and then rediscovered in 2013 when he appeared on "America's Got Talent."

His 22-year-old son Christian Brown is now trying to follow in his father's footsteps by advancing to the all-important Hollywood Week round of "American Idol," a long-running competition television show for singers. It began in 2002 and has produced musical artists such as Carrie Underwood, Kelly Clarkson, Chris Daughtry and Clay Aiken.

Brown, who wrote the country hit "I'm From the Country," which peaked at number three on the charts for Tracy Byrd in 1998, said that being able to perform his song in front of the judges alongside his son made him feel like "a proud father."

"I let him take the lead because this was his time to shine, and he just pulled me up on the stage," Marty Brown said. "He made me feel like I was 22 years old again."

The father son duo performed "I'm From the Country," with Christian playing the guitar.

"He started picking up the guitar at about 14 or 15 years old," Marty Brown said. "I kind of tricked him (into learning to play). I've got a lot of guitars around the house, so he's been around them. I told him one day, 'Christian, you go get those two J 45s and bring them both in here because I might break a string,' but really, I just wanted him to bring them both in there so that I could show him



Photo provided by Marty Brown

Christian Brown, right, stands with his father, Maceo native Marty Brown, after receiving his "Golden Ticket" that advanced him to the Hollywood Week round of "American Idol."

how to play. And I showed him the first chord, and he took to it like a duck to water."

For his official audition, Christian, who currently works as a mechanic at Ford, chose to perform one of his father's original pieces, "Wildest Dreams," a song that Brown said he wrote when he was 19 or 20 years old.

"When I wrote that song, I was a father myself, and that's why I wrote it, and I guess that's why Christian chose to do it on "American Idol" because he just gave me my grandson Isaiah. He's two months old ... Isaiah was watching it last night. He watched his daddy and his granddaddy," Marty Brown said.

Brown said that Christian grew up in Franklin, a small town in Simpson County, where Brown said that he moved from his Maceo roots to be closer to Nashville.

"I built a house in Franklin, and we raised him here on this hilltop, and

he's been around music all of his life," he said.

The tradition of music in the Brown family began with Marty's mother and father, who Brown said "showed me how to play and sing just like I showed Christian."

"I was just looking at him, and I saw my daddy in him. I saw my mama in him, and I saw myself in him. ...When I was looking at him, it was just a moment, and that's what you pray for on those shows, is to have a moment, and I was proud to be a part of that moment," Marty Brown said.

Christian's rendition of "Wildest Dreams" earned him accolades from the judging panel, along with a "Golden Ticket" to the singing competition's next round in Hollywood. During the Hollywood round, contestants are narrowed down to a final group of performers who will sing live on the world's stage for the honor of being crowned the winner of

"American Idol."

"He's amazing. He's a good kid. As much as I taught him music, I wore him out with those 10 Commandments. He's a good boy, and he knows to handle himself, too...I was so proud of him, not only for his singing and for his talent ability, but that boy's only 22/23 years old, and he went in front of millions of people — and how he handled himself — I was so proud of that," Marty Brown said. "He has a velvet voice, and he has a massive talent. He's chasing his 'American Idol' dreams. I mean, he made me cry."

"And I guess you could say that Christian Brown's 'Wildest Dreams' came true."

"American Idol" will air another round of auditions during next Monday's show, and then the Hollywood round is set to run at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, on the ABC network.

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SECTION 0010

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CONTRACT 653-24-02 SACRAMENTO GRAVITY SEWER
CITY OF SACRAMENTO MCLEAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Sealed proposals for the following work will be received by the City of Sacramento, McLean County, Kentucky, at the City Hall, 210 West Third Street, Sacramento, Kentucky 42372, until 1:00 pm local time, **Thursday, February 19, 2026**, for furnishing labor and materials and performing all work as set forth by the Advertisement, General Conditions, Specifications, and/or Drawings prepared by Bell Engineering. Immediately following the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids, all proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the above conditions will be publicly opened and read aloud at the City Hall Annex, 290 Main Street, Sacramento, Kentucky 42372. A non-mandatory prebid conference will be held at 1:00 pm local time on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at City Hall Annex, 290 Main Street, Sacramento, Kentucky 42372.

The work to be bid is described as follows:
All necessary excavation, labor, materials, and equipment for the construction and installation of approximately 10,800 linear feet of 8-inch PVC sewer pipe and appurtenances.
Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

City of Sacramento
Sacramento City Hall
210 West Third Street
Sacramento, Kentucky 42372

Associated Builders and Contractors of Kentuckiana, Inc.
1333 Magnolia Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104

Bell Engineering
107 Forbes Drive
Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240

KPAP, Community Development Office
Cabinet for Economic Development
Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(Advertisement for Bid Only)

or may be obtained from Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, phone 859/255-1021, upon receipt of non-refundable deposit as follows:

CONTRACT 653-24-02--\$250.00

Sealed proposals for this Contract shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope as follows:

"Sealed Proposal for Contract 653-24-02. Not to be opened until 1:00 pm, local time, Thursday, February 19, 2026."

If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the proposal must be enclosed in another envelope and mailed to the City of Sacramento, 210 West Third Street, Sacramento, Kentucky 42372, allowing sufficient time for such mailing to reach this address prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals. Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond made payable to the City of Sacramento, Kentucky, in an amount not less than the percent of the base bid indicated in Specification Section C-200, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Security. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of 60 days after the date bids are opened. He may, however, withdraw his bid at any time prior to the time and date scheduled for opening of same or any authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered and will be returned unopened to the bidder.

The attention of all contractors is called to the fact that any contract awarded under this Advertisement for Bids is expected to be funded in part by a grant from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) Cleaner Water Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The OWNER's share will be provided from current funds on hand and/or from revenue bonds.

Work to be performed by contractors involved in this project may be subject to the minimum wage rates established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act.

A federal wage rate determination will be incorporated into the Specifications by an addendum issued prior to the scheduled bidding date, if it is applicable to this Project.

Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order Nos. 11246 and 11375, which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. Where the President's Executive Order No. 11246 is shown, Executive Order No. 11375 also applies.

Bidders must make positive efforts to secure small or minority owned business enterprise participation in this Project.

Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, the Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and the Davis-Bacon Act.

Bidders must certify that they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated or based on race, color, creed, or national origin.

Bidders must show a certification of prior work under Executive Order 11246 (Equal Employment Opportunity) as amended.

All contractors and subcontractors must comply with 41 CFR 60-4, in regard to affirmative action. This is to ensure equal opportunity to females and minorities, and apply the time tables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.

This Project is subject to the Buy America, Buy America (BABA) Act and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 requirements.

The City of Sacramento may consider informal any bid not prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this advertisement and/or the Specifications and may waive any informalities or reject any and all bids.

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
Betty J. Howard, Mayor