

Heartland HAPPENINGS



JUNE 2023

Lincoln Heritage House, Hardin County

HARDIN—LARUE—BRECKINRIDGE—HART—GRAYSON



Chris Reed

Thank you to the United Way of Central Kentucky for funding BOTH of our 2023-2024 initiative proposals!

Sharing the beauty of our Consortium counties in this issue.

All county photos by:
dana wolfe

Director's Corner

It doesn't seem like a year since I came on Board here at Heartland Adult Ed. And, yet, here we are at the end of our fiscal year – a year that flew by!

As a team of many, we have accomplished so much, including hitting a big yearly goal over a month early. This happened not because of me, but because of the dedication, professionalism, and sheer tenacity of the instructors and staff members who work every day to make sure that the student experience is positive and productive. I can't begin to tell you how often I am grateful to be working with such a talented group of people and they each have my thanks for everything they do.

With their help, we are moving forward into the next fiscal year with ideas, plans, and initiatives that will benefit not only the students, but the local communities of which they are a part. We are always expanding our community partnerships and this past year has been no different. We have developed important and lasting relationships across a number of businesses, government, the school system, social agencies, and community members, to name a few. Their contributions to our purpose here is sincerely appreciated and deeply valued.

As I think about the last year, I am thankful that I made the decision to walk through these doors. My small part in the pursuit to help adult students reach their goals has been among the most fulfilling experiences of my career and it has been my pleasure to serve in this rewarding role.



Stem to Stern

dana wolfe

College and Career Navigator



Freeman Lake, Hardin County

Our students deserve to be recognized for their academic achievements, but they also have talents and skills outside the classroom as well. This issue includes examples submitted by some of our amazing students including music (instrumental and voice), technical skills, artwork, poetry, advocacy, and more.

We wanted to catch up with our graduates and, when asked to write a few words, they didn't disappoint. Once they come through our doors, they will always be part of the Heartland family and hearing their current endeavors and successes just warms our hearts. We are proud to share them with you.

Speaking of Heartland, we are more than just Hardin County – much more! Our counties also include Grayson, Hart, LaRue, and Breckinridge. These four counties are featured in this issue with a bit of history and photographs that I took within those counties. Not only are the students family, but each and every staff member in every Consortium county is an integral part of the Heartland family.

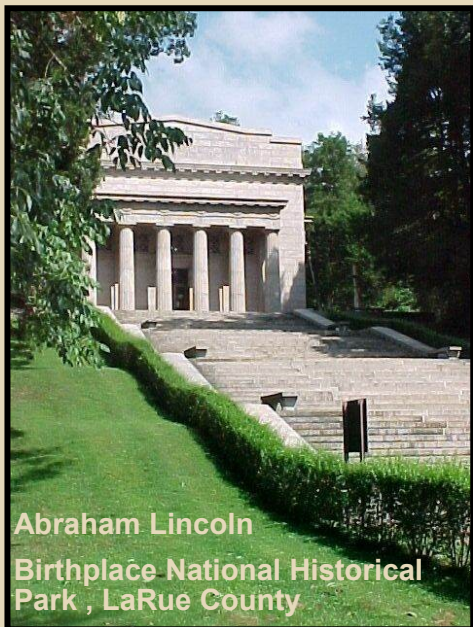
Talking about family....this is a tough one. Our Hardin County Data Specialist, Amanda Herndon, is leaving us at the end of this fiscal year. She's moving back home to Indiana to be surrounded by family and, though we are happy for her, we are profoundly saddened that she will no longer be with us. Amanda has grown with us from a GED student, to a GED graduate, and to a valued employee. Her laugh, smile, and endless Tik Tok videos will be deeply missed (though I fully expect to receive more screaming goat videos, Amanda!)

This issue is all about bragging rights – and we got 'em!



Freeman Lake, Hardin County

We are at the end of one fiscal year and on the doorstep of another. It's an appropriate time to look both backward and forward. Though we've had a very successful 2022-2023, we never rest on our laurels. We have new initiatives for the next fiscal year and plans are well underway to get them implemented. Onward!



Abraham Lincoln
Birthplace National Historical
Park , LaRue County

LARUE



"Hodgenville was established in 1818 and became the county seat when Larue County was created in 1843. Robert Hodgen served as sheriff and as representative of Hardin County in the General Assembly of Kentucky.

In addition to operating his mill and farm, Hodgen operated in his home an inn or 'ordinary' in which many notables were entertained. Among Hodgen's customers were Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, whose "'inking Spring Farm' is located three miles south of Hodgenville. It was there, on February 12, 1809, that their son, Abraham, was born.

The future President is said to have come to the mill many times to play with the Hodgen children. The Lincoln family lived on the Sinking Spring farm until 1811 when they moved 10 miles north to the Knob Creek Farm." (www.achp.gov/preserve-america/community/hodgenville-kentucky)



BRECKINRIDGE

"Breckinridge County, the thirty-ninth in the State, is one of those bordering on the Ohio River. It was formed in 1799 from a part of Hardin County, and named for Hon. John Breckinridge, the first of that illustrious family in Kentucky. It is bounded on the north by the State of Indiana, from which it is separated by the Ohio River; on the east by Meade and Hardin Counties; on the south by Grayson County; on the west by Hancock and Ohio Counties.

The county... has its caves and other natural wonders. Along Sinking Creek particularly are a number of caves, some of them considerable in extent. Two or three miles above Clifton Mills, on the creek, is the 'Penitentiary Cave,' one of the most extensive in the county. It has never been fully explored, but so far as it has been...[it is] rich in subterranean magnificence. Near Webster is another cave worthy of a description. Two or three hundred yards from the entrance, a subterranean stream is reached that is almost equal in the sounds produced, to Echo River in the Mammoth Cave." (genealogytrails.com/ken/breckinridge/history.html)

The county was named for John C. Breckinridge. Battlefields.org writes, "Born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1821, John Cabell Breckinridge was a graduate of Centre College and later Transylvania Law School in 1845. He holds the record as the youngest Vice President ever elected to office, serving under President James Buchanan starting in 1856. In 1859, a year before his term as Vice President was to expire, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.." (www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/john-c-breckinridge).



Breckinridge County Public Library

GRAYSON



Grayson County Courthouse

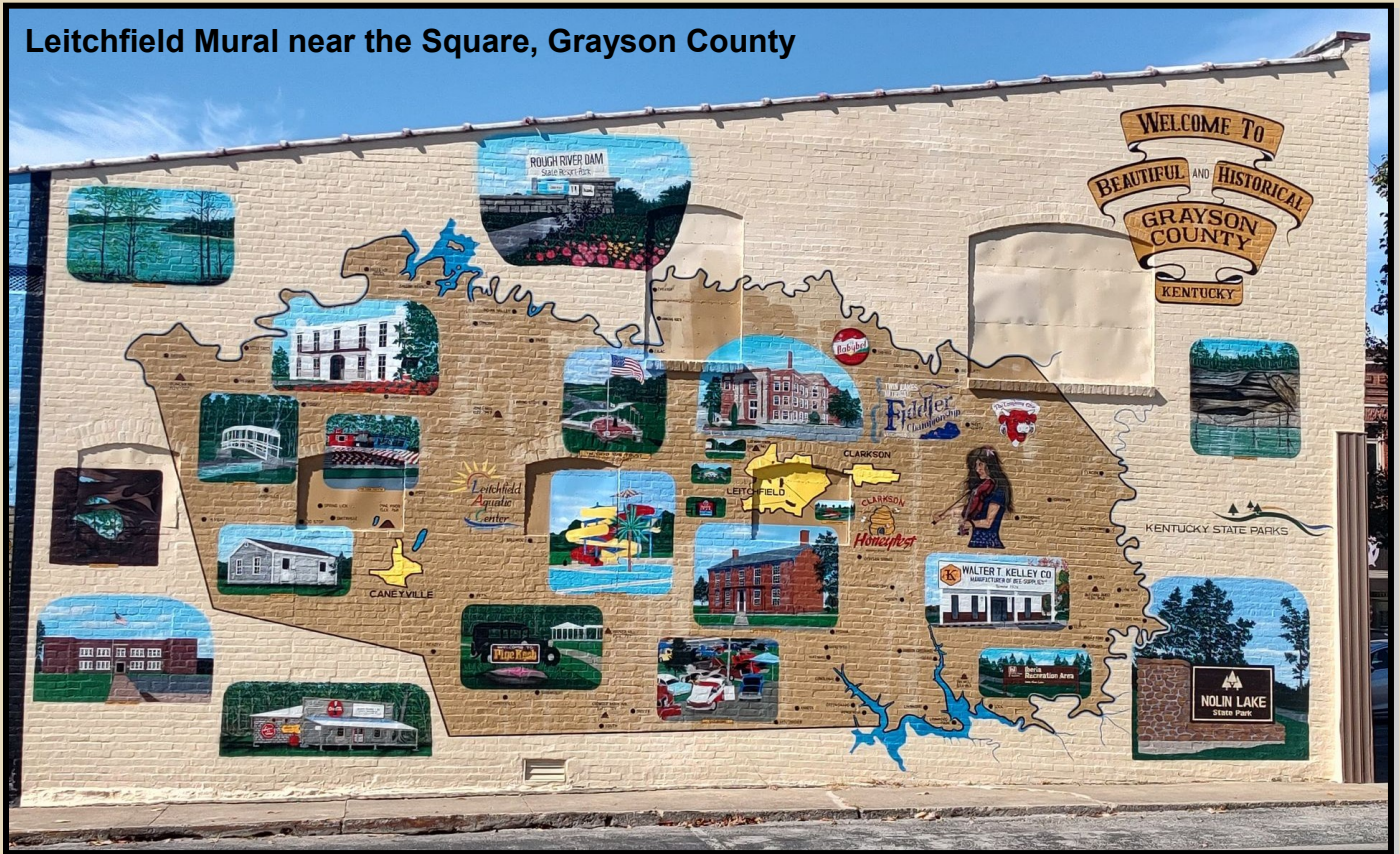
“Grayson County is located in west-central Kentucky and is bordered by the Rough River on the north and the Nolin River on the southeast. Formed in 1810, it was the fifty-fourth county established from land given by Hardin and Ohio counties. The county is named for William Grayson, a United States Senator from Virginia and a Revolutionary War colonel. Leitchfield, named for Major David Leitch the original owner of the town site, is the county seat. The town was formally incorporated in 1866.”

<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/tours/show/45#:~:text=Grayson%20County%20is%20located%20in,by%20Hardin%20and%20Ohio%20counties>.

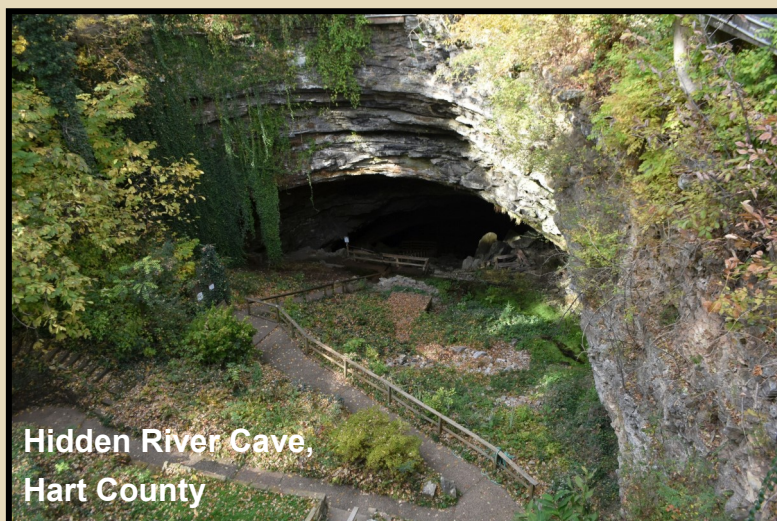
The current courthouse located in Leitchfield, Kentucky, is the fourth courthouse for Grayson County. The first three were lost to fires that destroyed some or all of the records. The first fire was the 1864 fire, the second was in 1896, and the third burned in 1936. The fourth courthouse was built in 1938. (<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/643?tour=45&index=1>)

Historical Marker near the Courthouse: “For Col. William Grayson, 1740-90, aide de-camp to Gen. Washington. Lawyer; in Revolutionary Army, 1776-79; Board of War, 1780-81; Virginia Assembly and Continental Congress, 1784-87; State Convention ratifying Federal Constitution 1788; first U. S. Senate, 1789-90. Washington once owned 5,000 acres in county, which was formed from Hardin and Ohio counties.” (<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=123269>)

Leitchfield Mural near the Square, Grayson County



HART



Hidden River Cave,
Hart County

Hart County was founded in 1819, created from land from Hardin and Barren Counties. The county was named for Kentucky native Captain Nathaniel Gray Smith Hart, who died in the War of 1812. At the time the county was formed, Munfordsville was the largest town in the new county and was designated as the county seat for this reason. Currently, the largest city in Hart County is Horse Cave.

Hart County has had three courthouses. The first was built in 1820 and then torn down seventy-five years after construction. The second courthouse burned on January 3, 1928. The current courthouse was constructed on approximately the same location as the second courthouse.

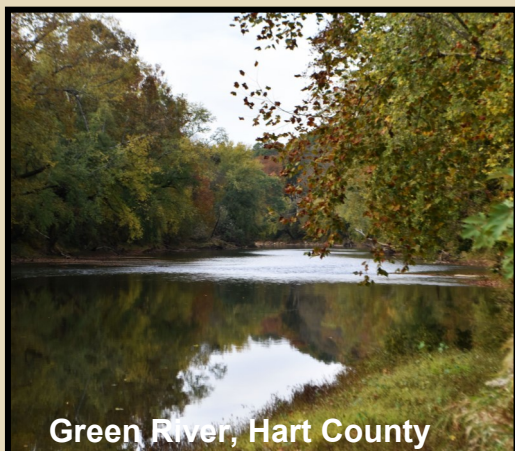
In terms of ancient history, Salts Cave lies beneath portions of Hart County. It is one of the richest repositories of Native American artifacts in this part of North America. Many of the artifacts found in Salts Cave are now housed in the Heyl Museum in New York City. Most of Salts Cave lies within Mammoth Cave National Park.

Hart County has a significant link to Daniel Boone. Daniel Boone's family camped above Boiling Springs in 1775. During their encampment a young son died. He is reported to be buried above the spring in an unmarked grave.

In the nineteenth century, Hart County was host to several noted visitors who came to stay at the Old Munford Inn. Local legend says that Andrew Jackson stayed overnight in the inn. Jenny Lind is said to have visited in the 1850's.

Hart County was home to two Civil War generals. Thomas J. Wood and Simon Bolivar Buckner, who later became governor of Kentucky, both went to Green River Academy and then to West Point. The two fought on opposite sides in the war, which was the case with many family members and friends in Kentucky during the war."

The single most sig- <https://hartcountky.org/hc-me/history/#:~:text=The%20county%20was%20named%20for,Hart%20County%20is%20Horse%20Cave.>



Green River, Hart County



Wigwam Village, Hart County

Graduate Updates

I'm enrolled to start college at summer, next June 5— the Associate Degree in Health Technologies. I was a little hesitant to do it, but we'll see how it goes. Everything is so different and new for me; however I always like to study. Thanks for your assistance and for the kindness. I always love to read and I'm a fan of the public library now. I started a goal to borrow at least one or two books every two weeks. With the summer knocking the door, I choose more garden and planting books. I also started a new hobby— painting florals in fresh acrylic. (Carol Smith)

Obtaining my GED gave me the confidence to apply for a new position with my current employer. I'm happy to share that after 15 years holding many different jobs, I finally have "writer" in my title! I am a Technical Writer, specializing in complex job aids and knowledge base documentation. I would say to those considering their GED...it's never too late! Who knows what could be just around the corner, waiting for you to take that first step. Invest in yourself...you're worth it! (Debbi Smith)

Hi, my name is Ursula, and I graduated from Hardin/LaRue GED center in 2021. Since then, I've gone on to ECTC, earning a dual degree with a goal of getting a degree in human services. I work at Intensive Health which offers primary care, therapy, and help with addiction. I also work with Stepworks doing groups with people in our sober living. As someone who once struggled with addiction and am now sober, I want to be able to share my experiences, strengths, and hope with others who also struggle. You may be thinking you would never be able to do something like this. But getting my GED was the best decision. If I can do it, then you can as well. (Ursula Davidson)

I have a good update for you. I'm currently enrolled in classes at Hopkinsville Community College in the surgical technology program. I start in the fall semester. I am currently working at VisionWorks but will soon be working at a new job due to it being a work from home job. I also have plans in motion to get my own apartment. I should be moving in July if all goes well. (Sierra Hopson)

Getting my GED allowed me to receive the tools and the confidence I needed to pursue further education. I am so thankful to the staff for helping me do that! I am now enrolled at ECU to begin classes for my dream career (Jaz Hill-Brown)

Since I've received my GED, I've been hired for a job that will be beneficial to my future with robotics and engineering. I've enrolled in college classes for engineering and, from here on out, the only direction I can go is up. (Blaine Metcalf)

(I am) earning an Associate's Degree. Technically, I will finish in the fall, but since I am enrolled in the final two classes that I need, the student self center says 100% complete. If all goes well with those two final classes, I will be transferring to WKU for a Bachelors degree!! Social work! Can you believe it?!? It's freaking crazy man! (Rebecca Gash)

I earned my GED at Hardin County Adult Education. On the campus of ECTC in Elizabethtown, under the direction of the wonderful Ms. Diane and staff in 2018. Since then, I earned my Associate in the Arts from ECTC in 2021. I will earn my Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Family Studies and a certificate in Family Home Visiting in December 2023 from WKU. I want to inspire anyone who is pursuing education at any level. It takes sacrifice, dedication, courage, and a solid foundation. Starting from this level helped me to believe in myself and I will always carry a special place in my heart for my start at Hardin County Adult Education. (Gracey Vanzant)



Graduate Updates

I am about to start summer classes at ECTC, and couldn't be more excited. I'm still working full time as well. (Kristina Dunn)

I'm able to finally get enrolled into college to start my studies on Neuroscience, which I couldn't do before getting my GED. Career opportunities are definitely more available and I just feel so much better having my GED than stressing constantly about my education. It has definitely been one of the best decisions I've made yet. (Emily Thorpe)

I'm going to use my GED to enroll into college courses in order to expand my creative and artistic abilities. I put off getting my GED for 10 years, for it to have only been 4 days worth of work. So believe me when I say, the sooner you commit to something, the sooner you'll recognize your own capabilities and potential. (Micah Curry)

We are so proud of you!

Courthouse on the Square,
Hardin County



Graduate Spotlight

Since obtaining my GED I have a newfound confidence. I no longer feel as if my personal growth is being hindered by not having it. In the famous words of Alexander Graham Bell, "When one door shuts, another opens." That statement is how I can best explain the endless world of opportunity that now lies in my hands. There are so many things that strike me as interesting that it has been a challenge to just choose one. I am currently working as a warehouse associate and am going to school for my associate in science, I have obtained my Adult Peer Support Specialist credentials as well as my Community Support Associate credentials, in addition to starting at the Kentucky School of Phlebotomy in June to obtain my certificate as a phlebotomist.

Getting my GED helped me set goals, and expectations for myself. I chose my degree with the intention to become a social worker or a therapist. As a previous domestic violence victim, I am extremely interested in devoting my time to women who may need the support and help that I did. Furthering my knowledge to be a blessing to someone else. I am beyond proud to have gained the confidence to obtain my diploma.

Kamryn Clark



We will miss you, Amanda!

I want to say thank you doll. You've been there with me through this wonderful and exciting journey I'm on with my GED, I will always remember your encouragement and guidance to help me get as far as I have, thank you and I will miss you doll. I wish you all the best this world has to offer. Thanks again. (Rita Logsdon)

I wish her nothing but the VERY BEST on her next journey. (Regina Ritchey)

It was a pleasure knowing you and I wish you all the best. (Sue Ferguson)

Amanda: As you get ready to leave us and embark upon your next adventure, I wanted to take just a moment to say, I will miss you. You have a kind heart and a gentleness of spirit that is not common in today's world. We have only known each other for a few years but in that time you have shown yourself to be a steadfast friend. Your smile and infectious laughter made the work environment not only tolerable, they made it pleasant. My prayer for you as you depart is that God would grant you every happiness and that your heart would be filled with love, light, and peace. I wish you all the best. (Justine Blue)



This year I have relied so much on the staff and Amanda has been a huge part of that. We will miss her! Her hard work and dedication this year has definitely helped us reach our goals. She is a friend to everyone that enters the office and I will miss her for sure! (Chris Reed)

Best wishes to you! (Teresa Lush)

Amanda is a strong female, hard-working, a great friend, cool, and a sweet person. Classy, sassy, and a bit smart-assy. Always, (Tina Anderson)

A-Team Forever!



I first met Amanda when she was a student with us. She worked hard, she was easy to teach, and she passed. Usually when a student passes I am happy for them, happy to see them take off to new horizons, but with Amanda I felt sad because we wouldn't see her again. When I found out she was going to be hired in our team, I was thrilled! She has been such a great person to work with. Always dependable, always positive, always encouraging, and a real inspiration to our students. A real gem. I am sorry to see her go, but I wish her all the best in her new horizons! (Pam Kraan)

Amanda Sugarmama, you are loved. Your overall positivity and consistent, patient wading through paperwork will be sorely missed. Enjoy your next adventure and all the joys headed your way. Girl, ya always got a home right here. (Joyce Vercellino)

My goodness, I can't believe this is actually happening. OK, OK...I'm glad you are so excited about moving back home, but, selfishly, I wish you were staying. You bring such laughter into this office and that will be greatly missed. I mean, who else is afraid of ice? (LOL!!) Seriously, you deserve all the happiness is in your future. I miss you already! (dana wolfe)

Amanda will be greatly missed. She understood the challenges of going back to school and getting her GED, so she was a great help and inspiration to many of our students. I wish her all the best as she enters this new chapter in her life. (Gary Bohannon)



(Becky McGuffin)



Amanda has been very helpful in assisting Kyra with taking her test. (Alyssa Butler)

I have enjoyed working with Amanda, first as a student and then as a co-worker. She has always expressed a good attitude and helpfulness in any situation. I will miss her at the front desk. (Sandra Singleton)

Ode to Amanda

She's cunning and wise
with a GED to boot.
She puts students at ease
by telling her personal experiences -
(she especially loved learning math :).
Her smile lights up the office
as well as her UK sports and weather tips.
She brings flair to our celebrations
and whips up a mean crack jelly dip.
She leaves a lasting impression on us all,
especially on the A-Team.
Your shoes will be hard to fill
and your presence will be missed.
Keep in touch -
best wishes on your new adventure!
And make sure you invite me
to any girls night out in Etown!

(Laura Lang)

I will sure miss her. Thank you for all your help, motivating me, and the countless emails for reminders, events or just to share other info. You have been always patient with all my question and made sure I understood the whole process. I will very much miss seeing you coming to the adult education center and hope will have wonderful time in your hometown. (Bilge Harris)

Sending well wishes to you and all the best because wherever you go, your beautiful soul is going to shine ! Thank you for always being so nice and thoughtful patient and understanding. People of good character are hard to fine . (Phylisa Gross)

I just started my GED process back in February of this year. Amanda was the first person that I had contact with! She has been so helpful and motivating throughout this entire process. She makes me believe in myself. I wish her the very best! (Jasmine Henry)

I think Ms.Amanda is very sweet and while I feel like I know her too well, I felt very encouraged when taking my first GED test. I do hope she has a safe journey home. (Jeffrey Nguyen)



Freeman Lake, Hardin County



Please Don't Fire Me, Chris



Here's the part of the newsletter that I will definitely hear about later. If you know Chris, you will fully understand why.....

Chris came on as our Director at the beginning of this fiscal year – and what a year it's been. Chris has a magnetic personality and, as a result, you can't take him anywhere in Hardin County unless you have time to spare. He hates the limelight, but like a politician shaking hands, the man seems to know every person who crosses his path. Without exception, they all say what a great guy Chris is – and though he would be embarrassed by the attention, we have to agree.

This year, Chris has brought a feeling of daily positivity and support into the Consortium offices. He appreciates and trusts his staff and continually asks them to educate him on what he doesn't know. There are no pretenses with Chris Reed and, under his leadership, we are destined for great things.

Thanks, Chris, for "un-retiring," for a very successful first year, and for choosing Adult Ed.

~dana, et al

Heartland
Adult Education

2023 Graduation

JUNE 23
7:00 PM

ECTC, RPC Building, Room 210
270.769.8866

WEEKEND FORECAST
100% CHANCE OF MATHEMATICS

FREE!
GED MATH WEEKEND

Call today to reserve your spot!

Friday JUNE 16 5-8 PM	Saturday JUNE 17 9 AM-4:00 PM Break for lunch at noon. Ready testing at 2:30.	Sunday JUNE 18 9 AM Office opens at 9 AM for last minute instruction and Official Testing (or to be scheduled for Official Testing)
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270.769.8866

600 College Street Rd. 300 OTB Building, Room 310 Elizabethtown

Blaine Metcalf



Student Talents and Skills

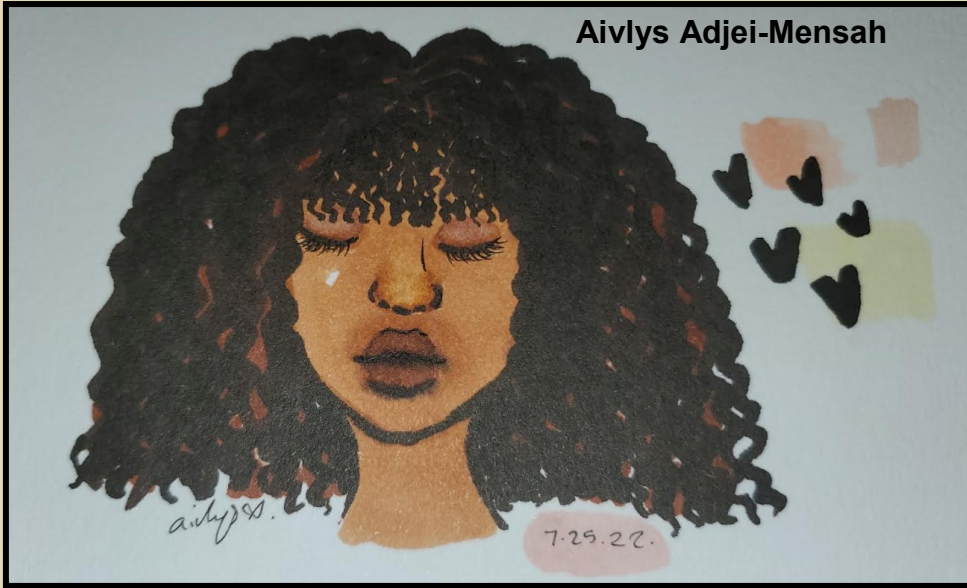


Debbi Smith

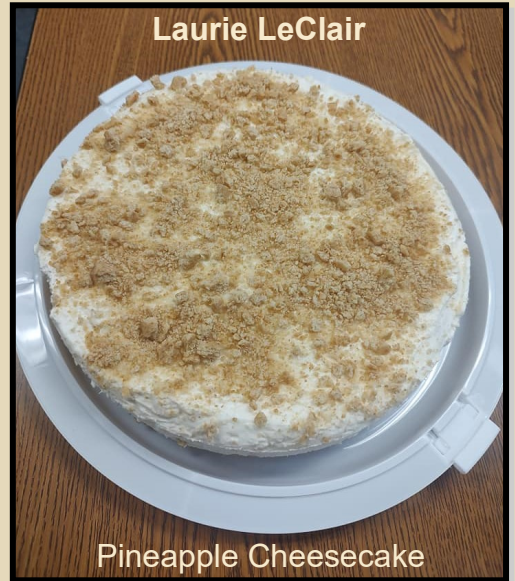
Carol Barillas-Smith



Aivlys Adjei-Mensah



Laurie LeClair



Pineapple Cheesecake

Student Talents and Skills



Craig Bennett—Fire Service



Emily Thorpe



Above, left and right: (Micah Curry:) Flyer I made for work for an upcoming event and a picture of my computer and music setup.

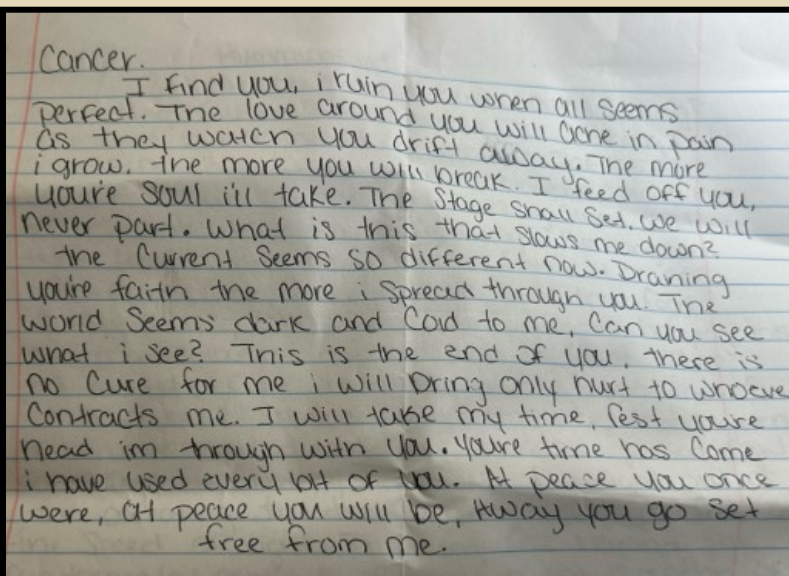


**Aram Jasim
Welding**

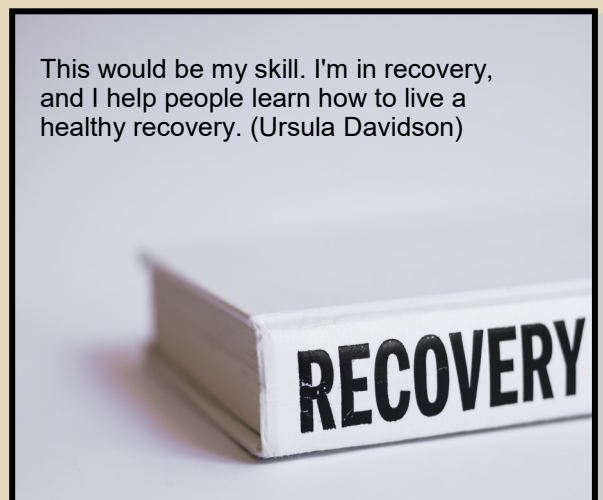
**Student
Skills
And
Talents**



Jessaca Payton



(Left): Poetry by Katie Douthitt



This would be my skill. I'm in recovery, and I help people learn how to live a healthy recovery. (Ursula Davidson)



Horse Cave Mural, Hart County

**Heartland
Adult Education
Consortium Locations**

Hardin/LaRue

(270) 769-8866

ECTC Campus

600 College Street Rd.

OTB 300, Room 310

Elizabethtown

(Classes also In Radcliff)

Breckinridge

(270) 756-1730

116 Old Highway 60

Hardinsburg

Grayson

270.259.9038

125 E. White Oak Street

Leitchfield

Hart

(270) 524-1267

230 Interstate Plaza Rd.

Munfordville



heartlandGED.com

Connect with Us!



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/HardinLaRueAdultEducation)

[HardinLaRueAdultEducation](http://www.facebook.com/HardinLaRueAdultEducation)

Check out our Facebook page for community resources, job fairs, employment opportunities, announcements, and plenty of encouragement! Please like the page and share any posts you think may be helpful for someone else. The more shares, the more people we may be able to help!

Please visit and like our other Consortium Facebook sites.

- ♥ Grayson County Adult Education
- ♥ Hart County Adult Education
- ♥ Breckinridge County Adult Education

