

# Jefferson Bourbon Distillery opening pushed back due to inclement weather

BY DENIS HOUSE  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Due to recent inclement weather, the new Jefferson Bourbon Distillery won't be completed by its original November planned opening.

That was the news Rebekah Taylor, operation manager with the distillery, told those present at the June 21 Friday Forum, which was sponsored by the distillery.

"We lost 3 1/2 months due to rain," Taylor said. "Plus a transition that Pernod Ricard and ClayCo Construction is going through didn't go as smoothly as we wanted."

Taylor said the new opening date is now July 2025.

"The delay will allow us more time to work on the visitor's center," Taylor said. "It gives us more time to get exactly what we want. We can pause and look at exactly what we want."



DENIS HOUSE/Paxton Media Group

Construction on the Jefferson's Bourbon Distillery continues. Because of recent bad weather and changing contractors, the opening of the facility has been pushed to July 2025.

Brooklyn Leep, executive director of the Marion County Industrial Foundation, said this isn't unusual in a project of this size.

"I was on site a week ago," Leep said. "They are switching contractors, so ClayCo is no longer onsite. That's why you might have seen equipment leaving the site recently. There

will be delays because of switching contractors, but that happens on projects like this."

Jefferson's Distillery also issued a press release with construction updates.

"It may look like things are slowing down on the outside, but on the inside, we are full speed ahead!" the press release said. "We've

set all 14 fermenters in place, received both of our 15,000-gallon cookers (that's a lot of mash!), and have both of our green energy electric-powered boilers in their final home here at our carbon neutral distillery."

Denis House can be reached at editor@lebanonenterprise.com.

# State drug crackdown yields 200 arrests in Operation Summer Heat

BY BRUCE SCHREINER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A sweeping investigation into suspected drug trafficking rings has produced more than 200 arrests and drug seizures valued at nearly \$685,000, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Thursday. He also touted prevention and treatment programs fighting the deadly addiction epidemic.

A Kentucky State Police investigation, launched three months ago, involved every state police post across the Bluegrass State. The crackdown, dubbed Operation Summer Heat, is ongoing and will result in additional arrests, said State Police Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr.

"Kentuckians in those targeted areas can sleep a little better tonight knowing that these drug dealers have been removed from their communities and will now face prosecution," Burnett said.

Beshear also announced advances in providing comprehensive treatment for people battling addiction. Four additional Kentucky counties — Breathitt, Jessamine, Lee and Nelson — have been certified as Recovery Ready Communities for the help they provide people overcoming addiction, he said.

Kentucky has made progress with its multi-pronged approach to addiction, the Democratic governor said, pointing to declines in statewide drug overdose deaths the past two years. The state is at the national forefront in the per-capita number of residential drug and alcohol treatment beds, he said.

"Despite this, we know that our work is not yet done," Beshear said Thursday. "We are still losing far too many people, each one a child of God missed by their families and their communities."

On the enforcement side, the statewide drug operation has netted 206 arrests on a combined 490 charges, with trafficking in a controlled substance accounting for a majority, Burnett said.

Drug seizures totaled 554 grams of fentanyl, 219 grams of cocaine, 4,862 grams of methamphetamine, 41 grams of heroin, 2,931 fentanyl pills, 50 hydrocodone pills, 64 oxycodone pills and 90 hallucinogens, the commissioner said. The street value of the illicit drugs seized is about \$684,953. Authorities also recovered \$37,159



AP photo/Mark Schiefelbein

A container of Narcan, a brand name version of the opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone, sits on a table following a demonstration at the Health and Human Services Humphrey Building, Sept. 8, 2023, in Washington. On Thursday, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear announced a sweeping investigation into suspected drug trafficking rings has produced more than 200 arrests and drug seizures valued at nearly \$685,000.

in cash, \$10,000 in stolen tools and one stolen vehicle during the operation, he said.

"There are now fewer individuals out there that pose a threat to our people," Beshear said at a news conference. "This was no easy feat — one that put law enforcement face-to-face with danger."

The operation took out of circulation both lethal narcotics and the money that helps fuel drug trafficking operations, the state police commissioner added.

A total of 1,984 Kentuckians died last year from a drug overdose, down 9.8% from the prior year, according to the 2023 Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Report. Fentanyl — a powerful synthetic opioid — was the biggest culprit, accounting for 79% of overdose deaths in 2023, the report said.

Kentucky's Republican-dominated Legislature escalated the fight against fentanyl this year by passing a sweeping measure that's meant to combat crime. A key section created harsher penalties when

the distribution of fentanyl results in fatal overdoses.

At the federal level, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has steered huge sums of federal funding to his home state of Kentucky over the years to combat its addiction woes.

Beshear on Thursday stressed the importance of treatment, calling it an example of "living our faith and values" by offering second chances for people fighting to overcome addiction. So far, 14 of Kentucky's 120 counties have gained Recovery Ready certification. The designation recognizes a commitment to providing access to addiction treatment and recovery support and removing barriers to the workforce.

Kentucky can't "incarcerate our way out of this problem," said Scott Lockard, public health director for the Kentucky River District Health Department.

"This emptiness left by drugs, we need to fill it with something else," he said.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The City of Bardstown will accept sealed bids for the purchase of "Electric Distribution Transformers 2024" in Bardstown, Kentucky. Bids shall be received until 10:00 A.M. prevailing time on Friday, August 23, 2024 at the Office of the City Clerk of Bardstown located at 220 N 5th Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004, at which time and place all bids shall be opened and read aloud.

Forms of bid and bid documents, requirements, and specifications are on file at the Office of the City Electrical Engineer and may be requested in person or by email at [erichter@bardstown-connect.com](mailto:erichter@bardstown-connect.com) or by telephone at 502-348-5947. The City of Bardstown reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to the opening of bids

J. Richard Heaton  
Mayor

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## LEGAL

**NOTICE OF INTENT**  
Bardstown Mainstreet Program, One Court Square, Bardstown, KY, 40004, hereby declares its intention to apply for a temporary Liquor, Distilled Spirits, Wine, Malt Beverage Licenses no later than August 16, 2024. The business to be licensed will be located at 200 East Flaget, Bardstown, KY 40004 doing business as Cheers To Bardstown. The Principal Officers and Managers are as follows: Randi Mouser, Executive Director, One Court Square, Bardstown, KY 40004 (Business Address) Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the licenses by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, KY 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of this legal publication.