

RVBH secures funding to expand community support programs

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

RiverValley Behavioral Health (RVBH) has been awarded \$253,169 over two years from the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission to expand support for children and families affected by substance use in western Kentucky.

The Western Kentucky Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Expansion Project will focus on helping children who may be impacted by parent or caregiver substance use. The initiative will serve Hancock, McLean, Ohio and Union counties by bringing together from local agencies and organizations to identify children in need earlier and connect families with support services more quickly.

"I might be biased because I come from the world of prevention, but I think this is really important," said Brooke Arnold, director of the RVBH Regional Prevention Center and the leader of the project. "We know that the return on investment with prevention, it doesn't cost as much money to do prevention as it does with treatment. But recently it's been estimated that one-in-four children are living with a caregiver that has substance use disorder in the United States. And just a few years ago that was one in eight. So we want to make sure that these kids and these communities are feeling supported and not falling through the cracks."

"Oftentimes kids are overlooked because they're the first ones impacted by a parent or caregiver with substance use disorder, but yet they're the last one to be seen or identified or even get services. So we think it's really important, because our kids are 100% of our future. We definitely want to invest in them and make sure that we're setting them up for success

and giving them all the things that they need to be successful and functional healthy adults in our communities."

The funding for the project comes from Kentucky's share of a \$1 billion national settlement with corporations held responsible for the opioid epidemic. Under state law, half of the funds are distributed directly to local governments, while the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission oversees the remainder for statewide grant programs.

The funding is part of a statewide investment of nearly \$34 million announced by Attorney General Russell Coleman to combat the opioid crisis, and it will strengthen those efforts by increasing collaboration across the region, expanding training opportunities for professionals and creating long-term systems of care that help protect children while supporting family recovery.

"In some families or communities, it's the thinking of don't be heard, you're just there to be seen that it's not safe to talk about or healthy to talk about emotions, and it can be kids don't know who to trust," Arnold said. "For a lot of families, they want to keep things private, and sometimes that's not always the best thing. So this is making sure that children have access to trusted adults and mentors and individuals in the community that really have their best interests at heart and want to make sure that they're getting all the support that they need. It's just so vital. It's being able to support our communities and allowing kids to be kids and have fun childhoods and not having to deal with with adult things too early."

This funding aims to strengthen those efforts by increasing collaboration across the region, expanding training opportunities for professionals, and creating long-term sys-

tems of care that help protect children while supporting family recovery.

RVBH has long been involved in Drug Endangered Children (DEC) efforts at both the state and national levels. These efforts focus on helping children who have been exposed to substance use, trauma, and other difficult life experiences. RVBH has worked alongside community partners to improve support systems for children and families affected by substance use disorders.

Through the new project, partners from child welfare, law enforcement, healthcare, schools, courts and behavioral health services will work more closely together to improve communication, make referrals easier, and provide help before problems become more serious.

"This is going to allow us to build the capacity of these four counties — expand their capacity," Arnold said. "Honestly, there's a lot of great work that's already being done in these rural communities. We want to come alongside them and continue to just bolster the services that they offer and also just help coordinate those approaches. A lot of times, unfortunately, we get stuck in our silos, and that's how children can slip through those cracks. We want to make sure that we are working efficiently and effectively and coordinating all those services so that true collaboration is happening, where all the different people at the table are making each other stronger."

"You make me stronger about what you bring to the table, and I'm going to make you stronger with what I bring to the table. I don't have to reinvent the wheel, but just how do we make sure that we're all working together in a system that supports the children and their families, so that more families can stay together when it's when it's safe and healthy to do so."

As project leader, Arnold will lead regional collaboration efforts, support county DEC

teams, coordinate training initiatives and help ensure communities have the tools and partnerships needed to respond effectively to children and families impacted by substance use.

Arnold brings significant expertise to this effort through her leadership and ongoing work with the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, where she serves as Kentucky's point of contact for all DEC Alliances across the Commonwealth. Her experience in building multidisciplinary partnerships and advancing best practices for children impacted by substance use will be instrumental in the success of this initiative throughout Western Kentucky.

"I think local communities typically have local solutions, and each community knows what will work, but it can't be a blanket approach because one size doesn't fit all the needs of each kid," Arnold said. "We're really trying to understand causes. Where is this coming from and how do we address those root causes? Because typically, the substance use disorder is masking a bigger issue or is a result of things that have been happening. And we know that substance use disorder is often a generational cycle, so if that's all you've ever known, if you have never experienced healthy relationships and how to talk about thoughts versus feelings and knowing what a trusted adult looks like, then it's hard to know how to receive that or how to give it."

"I think sometimes we're giving out Band-Aids to fix problems that need sutures, that need to go deeper and hoping that it sticks when we didn't get to this problem overnight — and it's not fixed overnight. But if we can support one child and one family, then it's worth it; coming alongside them to make sure that they feel seen and heard and respected and shown that they're cared about."

Free Father's Day event at Shiloh's Lounge

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Beverly's Hearty Slice and the Sheila K. Foundation are partnering for a free Father's Day event from 1 to 3 p.m. on June 21 at Shiloh's Lounge & Grill, 1846 Triplett St.

And Beverly's Hearty Slice is having its first golf scramble fundraiser June 26 at Ben Hawes Park.

Travis Owsley, Hearty Slice's founder, said this is the first golf scramble and it sold out of sponsorships quickly.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, one of the sponsors, has contributed \$1,500, he said.

The Father's Day event was started last year by Owsley and Justin Davidson, who owns Shiloh's Lounge & Grill. Beverly's Hearty Slice and the Sheila K. Foundation honor both of their mothers, who died early.

They added a free Mother's Day event this year.

Owsley said there will be a DJ, a photo booth, cornhole, pool, dominoes, spades and arcade games for the kids.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available.

Owsley said fathers are important for society.

And that's why he and Davidson are inviting all fathers and their families for a free party.

Owsley said earlier, "We believe present fathers and men mentors would help with the gun violence and drug overdose in our community."

He said, "If fathers haven't had the chance to spend time with their kids due to work, incarceration or just not present at all, this is a great, safe opportunity to do so."

Owsley said, "This is a free event to make beautiful memories with their kids."

When Beverly's Hearty Slice began 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 help with utility bills.

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 recently awarded college scholarships to six students.

Amateur radio club donates books to library

BY KADEN PITT
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Owensboro Amateur Radio Club donated nearly a dozen books to the Daviess County Public Library on Wednesday, June 3.

The club was chartered with the American Radio Relay League seven decades ago and works not only to keep the hobby alive but to act as the last line of defense in the event of a disaster.

"When all else fails, amateur radio will be there," said Steve Morgan, a member of the club for more than 50 years.

Morgan has seen this very need arise first hand when in the 1970s the Owensboro club became the first of its kind to be flown into a disaster by the National Guard.

"We were picked up by a National Guard helicopter and sent to Pikeville, Ky.," said Morgan. "They had lost all communications and we were their only communications to the outside world. That was the start of what they call 'jump teams' around the United States. So, this club has been very

proactive."

Proactivity for the club today includes giving resources back to the community. They had first donated to the library in 2009 in honor of a deceased member. Now the club is replacing the books that have since expired or become obsolete.

Martin hopes books like these will help spark interest in the next generation of amateur operators.

"The young people are what we're after," said Martin. "They're the ones that are the future of this hobby."

The club hopes in the future they'll have the opportunity to help middle and high school students learn amateur radio as well.

The next major event for the club will be the ARRL field day. This practice exercise is held the last weekend of every June and gives operators around the country the opportunity to set up equipment in a field environment. The Owensboro club will be at Panther Creek Park on June 27 and 28, practicing their hobby and in doing so working to keep it alive.

Felix Martin Foundation provides about \$3M to Muhlenberg organizations

BY THE MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to several Muhlenberg County organizations, including Muhlenberg County Schools.

The funding will help county residents working to earn their GEDs, provide assistance to high school students taking college classes and support the school district's Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, among other initiatives.

Additional funding will benefit the city of Drakesboro, the Muhlenberg County Arts Council and the Muhlenberg Humane Society.

The foundation was established in 2008 by Felix E. Martin Jr., a Greenville native, World War II and Korean War veteran, and former engineer and public relations supervisor for Southern Bell Telephone Co. After inheriting about \$270,000 from his father, Martin

invested the money and amassed an estate worth more than \$60 million by the time of his death in 2007.

According to the foundation's website, Martin left \$50 million of his estate to create the organization, which focuses on the education, civic and cultural needs of Muhlenberg County residents.

The foundation accepts grant applications throughout the year, with requests reviewed four times annually.

Grants announced Tuesday include \$200,000 for the Muhlenberg Achieves postsecondary success program. Created by the foundation, Muhlenberg Achieves "strives to build the strength of Muhlenberg County's future workforce by helping Muhlenberg residents access resources to pursue degrees and certifications beyond high school," according to a foundation news release.

Muhlenberg Achieves will use the funding for college campus tours, financial aid

workshops and career exploration opportunities for middle and high school students.

The foundation also awarded \$55,000 to the Muhlenberg Community College GED Learn & Earn program. In addition, Rocketown received a \$200,000 challenge grant as

it raises money to build a youth facility.

The Muhlenberg County Fair Board received \$100,000 for upgrades to the Agriculture & Convention Center. According to the news release, the improvements will allow the facility to expand its use throughout the year, including during the summer months.

SCHOOL

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"Very excited about the hire, a quality coach with local ties and significant investment in our community," Wagner said.


Troutman's hiring gives the middle school program a coach who has already worked with many local athletes through youth football, offseason training and strength and conditioning opportunities. His background with the KFL and his continued support of athletes

through the fitness center provide a natural connection between the youth, middle school and high school levels.

MCMS has also announced several important dates for the upcoming season.

Equipment day will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, July 10, in the MCMS gym. August schedules will be handed out at that time.

The first practice is scheduled for from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 13. Any incoming or returning players must have an updated KHSAA sports physical in order to participate.



LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ISLAND, KENTUCKY
No. 26-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF ISLAND, KENTUCKY, ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS OF THE CITY OF ISLAND, KENTUCKY.

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message have been prepared and delivered to the Island City Commission; and WHEREAS, The City Commission has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ISLAND, MCLEAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

That budget previously adopted by Ordinance 25-02 is hereby amended to reflect the changes in revenues and expenditures. That the annual budget for the Fiscal year beginning July 2026 and ending June 2027 is hereby adopted as follows:

	GENERAL FUND	MRA FUND	LGEA FUND	WATER FUND	SEWER FUND
Resources Available:					
Fund Balance Carried Forward	\$199,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$9,000.00
ESTIMATED REVENUES:	\$171,500.00	\$8,224.40	\$500.00	\$359,850.00	\$147,546.00
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATIONS:	\$370,500.00	\$42,224.40	\$9,500.00	\$394,850.00	\$156,546.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	\$123,950.00	\$42,224.40	\$9,500.00	\$320,650.00	\$155,896.00
EXCESS OF RESOURCES OVER APPROPRIATIONS:	\$246,550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,200.00	\$650.00

SECTION 2:

The new budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as amended, is hereby adopted.

SECTION 3:

The amounts outlined in the annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, are approved and appropriated for the indicated purposes.

SECTION 4:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

This ordinance shall be in effect on July 1, 2026.

/s/ Joseph Hamilton, Mayor
City of Island

ATTEST:
/s/ Sarah Brown, City Clerk
First Reading: 05/06/2026
Second Reading and Adoption:
Publication: