



THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Just desserts

Anthony embraces 'sweet' career choice
WEDNESDAY'S WOMAN, A10

Swinging for the fence

■ Prep baseball: Elizabethtown @ North Hardin
■ Prep softball: LaRue County @ Elizabethtown

Sports, B1

WEDNESDAY

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Fiscal Court weighs jail safety and right to faith

Local church feels ban on baptisms at detention center infringes upon inmates' freedoms

By **MARTY FINLEY**
mfinley@thenewsenterprise.com

The Elizabethtown Church of Christ sees a ban on baptisms at the Hardin County Detention Center as an infringement on the American right of free religious expression.

Joe Brothers, a congrega-

tion member, said the church quietly has advocated a repeal of the ban for years. As believers, Brothers said, the church is compelled to stand publicly for what it believes in, including the right of all Americans, including inmates, to participate in baptism as an affirmation of belief in Jesus Christ.

A small group of church

members joined Brothers on Tuesday during a presentation before Hardin Fiscal Court. Church members hoped county government would act to change the policy.

Jailer Danny Allen said the ban does not specifically target baptism by immersion in water. It's a policy prohibiting

Turn to **JAIL, A13**



JILL PICKETT/The News-Enterprise

Joe Brothers, of the Elizabethtown Church of Christ, addresses Hardin County Fiscal Court at H.B. Fife Courthouse in Elizabethtown.

Motion filed to suppress statement in rape case

By **SARAH BENNETT**
sbennett@thenewsenterprise.com

A public defender representing Kelly C. Ferguson, an Elizabethtown man facing first-degree rape and sodomy charges, filed multiple motions Tuesday in Hardin Circuit Court including a motion to suppress a statement by the defendant.

Ferguson, 35, is a registered sex offender. He was found guilty in 1997 of first-degree sexual abuse. In August, he was arrested by Kentucky State Police after an alleged sexual encounter with a female younger than 16.

According to a citation, the teen alleges forcible rape and sodomy. The citation also states Ferguson "confessed" to the encounter.

Ferguson's attorney, Carolyn Brown, filed a

Turn to **FERGUSON, A12**

Early to plant, early to pick, except ...

Fickle weather worries farmers

"A LOT OF FARMERS AREN'T PUSHING IT LIKE I THOUGHT THEY'D BE."



JILL PICKETT/The News-Enterprise

Patrick Preston takes a measurement Monday as he installs new disc openers to ensure they will create the proper trench when he sows corn this spring at his farm between Glendale and White Mills.

Last year's April rain forced widespread field replanting

By **AMBER COULTER**
acoulter@thenewsenterprise.com

Area farmers might take advantage of unseasonably warm weather to plant corn early this spring, depending on potential rainfall over the next several days.

Matt Adams, a Hardin County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources, said farmers in the county could begin planting corn this week or by the second week of April if rain predicted for today and later this week does not make soil too wet and temperatures do not dip too low next month. The traditional earliest time for planting is between April 10 and April 15.

Adams expects most corn planting to be finished by May if rains hold off.

Memories of last year's weather could influence farmers' decisions on when and how much to plant before mid- to late April, Adams said.

"I don't think it will be a tremendous number of acres," he said.

Turn to **FARMS, A14**

Elizabethtown to invest \$11M in sewer work

Project aims to hamper overflow

By **MARTY FINLEY**
mfinley@thenewsenterprise.com

Elizabethtown officials divulged plans Monday to invest roughly \$11 million in new sewer work in the city where sanitary sewer overflows are prevalent.

The plan devised by HDR Engineers targets the Poplar Drive, Valley Drive, Hawkins Drive and Harvard Drive areas and offers projects officials believe will ease overflows and upgrade a system that has eroded.

In making the improvements, the city must create solutions rather than clear one problem upstream and push the problem down-

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Elizabethtown City Council examines parking downtown
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Area producers, businesses line up to help West Liberty farmers.

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WEATHER



STORM CHANCE
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TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Bradley Alan Burnett Sr., 47
Ova Justice, 95

■ COMPLETE OBITUARIES, A4

IN THE NEWS

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- **STUDENTS PERFORM PASSION STORY TODAY.** St. James puts story of Christ on stage. **HEARTLAND, A2**

SINCE YOU ASKED

Results of Tuesday's *The News-Enterprise* online poll, as of 7 p.m.:

QUESTION: Should George Zimmerman be charged in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin?
Yes: 47 percent **No:** 53 percent

TODAY'S QUESTION: Do you think the Kentucky General Assembly will pass a budget this session?

Find the poll question under the "opinion" menu at www.thenewsenterprise.com

PULSE, THURSDAY



Do teens grasp the horror of 'The Hunger Games'?