



# Meeting with belittling, threat of lawsuit ends in profanity

See **MEETING**, page 2

# Severe weather leaves thousands without power



See **SEVERE**, page 8

# Inmate's escape attempt thwarted

See **WOMAN**, page 2

# Council approves budget with pay raises, extra funds for firefighters

**By Sharon Burton**  
**snburton@adairvoice.com**



The City of Columbia and the Adair County Fiscal court fireworks show will be held Tuesday, July 4 after sunset. The event will be held at the old fairgrounds across from Lindsev Wilson College.

## Street paving in the City of Columbia will continue in July



# Meeting with belittling, threat of lawsuit ends in profanity

FROM PAGE 1

month in a split vote. She said she had not heard any positive comments about a new tax. She also questioned Bryant's remarks that the tax could be reduced in two years.

She went on to ask if there were projections on how much revenue would be brought in from the payroll tax and Bryant said the city receives around \$1.4 million from its 1 percent occupational tax. He interrupted her several times, then asked, "Are you receiving a check other than a government check, maybe?" he said.

She said she did not receive a payroll check but her children and grandchildren do.

"Let them take care of themselves (sic); mine is taking care of themselves," he told her. "What kind of education did they get; what kind of education did you help them get to be able to survive? That's not my problem."

The woman responded that she was trying to show him respect to his office and he inter-

rupted, "I don't need too much respect. I haven't had respect since day one from most of the people of Adair County because they don't want progress, and I do."

From there Bryant went on to remark about his past ownership of a company 30 years ago and his comments became directed at magistrate Chris Reeder after Reeder asked him what happened to the company.

"Your attitude is what holds this whole county back," Reeder replied. Reeder tried to ask a question about the proposed ordinance, which includes an occupational tax and a net profit tax, but the question was drowned out by Bryant's comments.

When the woman in the audience asked Bryant when revenue from the tax would start coming in, Bryant apparently misunderstood the question and told her if she wanted to know she needed to attend meetings of the Economic Development Authority.

"But that is the problem with people, they don't want to listen to



Tuesday night's fiscal court meeting became heated several times between County Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant and magistrates and constituents in the crowd.

'I haven't had respect since day one from most of the people of Adair County because they don't want progress, and I do.'

County Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant

nothing. They don't care...Why don't you come and participate?" he said.

With emotions high at this point, magistrate Mark Humphress told Bryant he would not get an occupational tax with his vote that night. Mag-

istrate Flatt told Bryant that "the people of the Adair County put you in that seat and they will take your hind in out of it."

"They will take you out, too," Bryant replied.

Bryant continued with an argumentative stance as he replied to another citizen and questions from magistrates. He told the woman who spoke earlier that he wished she had not moved to Adair County.

Several items were addressed in other business then magistrate Flatt said he had received some calls he needed to address. The county has an administrative code that sets when employees receive paid time off. Bryant signed an exec-

utive order that allowed the employees who work in the annex to take a day off with pay on the Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend. Flatt asked him why he did that.

"This Tuesday is a holiday, and I'm pretty positive I'm going to have another executive order for Monday," Bryant said.

"I think that's illegal," Flatt said. "If you do it, we won't have a choice but to file a lawsuit."

Several comments were made about employees who didn't get to take off, such as 911, jail, sheriff's office and road department, and whether they should get holiday pay.

"I know it's not fair," Bryant said. "We don't have the money to pay them."

The chaos went on for a few more minutes, then the meeting was adjourned. As magistrates began to stand up, Bryant said, "They ought to ask me about the water district, and how much money was stole out there, that I took a stand for. You guys ain't got no guts to take a stand."

Bryant had brief words

with Flatt and magistrate Tony Denton and magistrates began making their way out of the room. Bryant's comments were laced with profanity, and he then told a citizen who attended the meeting that he was trying to get money to people who need money but they (using profanity) were not smart enough. It was unclear if he was referring to magistrates or all Adair County residents.

Some business was taken care of during the two-hour plus meeting, including retaining Melinda Quinn as treasurer for four more years at \$20 an hour, and hiring several part-time employees for dispatch.

Second readings were approved to change the wait for employees to receive insurance to 30 days and changing the level at which purchases must be bid from \$30,000 to \$40,000. Road bids were accepted and an appraiser was hired to appraise a building the county owns on Reed St.

A recording of the meeting is available on the Community Voice Facebook page.

By Sharon Burton  
snburton@adairvoice.com

## Woman arrested after hit and run

FROM PAGE 1

eral charges. The vehicle she was driving, a 2015 Toyota Prius, had been reported as being involved in a hit and run incident earlier that day.

When officers determined that Johnson was under the influence of alcohol and/or other substances, she was transported to T.J. Health Columbia by the sheriff's department after she refused treatment from EMS. She was admitted and later transferred to University of Louisville for injuries she received in the collision.

She was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol; possession of a controlled substance, 2nd degree; prescription controlled substances not on proper container; possession of open alcoholic container inside motor vehicle; reckless driving; improper equipment; and wanton endangerment.

Deputy Tweedy is continuing the investiga-

tion and was assisted by officers with Columbia Police Department.

### Man arrested after traffic stop

An Adair County man was arrested after an early morning traffic stop Sunday on methamphetamine charges.

Deputy Josh Durbin initiated a traffic stop around 1:21 a.m. on Union Church Rd. 13 miles north of Columbia.

After roadside investigation, probable cause was found that the operator may be in possession of controlled substances, according to the sheriff's office. A search of the vehicle yielded methamphetamine and the operator, James McClintock, 50, was taken into custody and lodged in the Adair County Regional Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance, 1 degree, methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia; rear license plate not illuminated; and improper

headlights.

### Wayne County pair arrested on drug charges

On Saturday, Durbin and K-9 Deputy Chandler Staten initiated a traffic stop on KY. 55 north of Columbia and learned that the driver, Tony Saunders, of Monticello, had an active Wayne County arrest warrant for trafficking in a controlled substance.

K-9 Nitro was deployed on the vehicle and a positive hit indicator was given for controlled substances inside the vehicle. A search was conducted, which yielded a quantity of suspected methamphetamine.

A passenger, George Young, was taken into custody on charges of possession of a controlled substance, 1st degree, methamphetamine. Saunders was arrested for an outstanding felony indictment. Both men were arrested and lodged in the Adair County Regional Jail.

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# Community Calendar

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Bloomington Chapel Church, 55 Bloomington Church Rd., will wrap up vacation Bible school tonight, June 29 at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Milltown Church, 3262 Milltown Church Rd., will host "Lava Lava Luau" Vacation Bible School on **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 28, 29 and 30** beginning each night at 6 p.m. Keeping cool when things get hot! Emotions are like a volcano that erupts, but with God's help, we can learn to take control of our emotions! At the Luau, we'll see what God's Word says about anger, jealousy, frustration, and learn how we can respond with kindness. Come join us on the island for a Bible lesson, craft, music, games and a meal each evening. For more information, call or text Pastor Barney Taylor 270-634-1032 or Nancy Taylor 270-378-2404.

## LOY FAMILY REUNION

The Harvey-Loy Family Reunion will be held **Saturday, July 1** at the Wheat Fellowship Hall next to the Columbia Church of the Nazarene. The event will begin at noon. All family are invited to attend. For more information, call 217-778-6445.

## FIREWORKS

Fireworks will be presented on Tuesday, July 4 after sunset on Fairgrounds St. The Adair County Fiscal Court and the City of Columbia are joined by several sponsors to host the event. Fireworks will be provided by Casey Creek Pyrotechnics. They can be viewed from Lindsey Wilson College

and open areas on Fairgrounds St. The former fair-ground property will be sealed off for the public.

## SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION FAIR

The Adair County Health Department will be having a back to school immunization fair on July 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will be offer immunizations by appointment for ages 4-17. Students entering 6th grade and those turning 16 will need updated immunizations prior to school starting. Contact the Adair County Health Department at 270-384-2286 to schedule an appointment.

## TRACTOR SHOW

The 33rd annual tractor show will be held **Tuesday, July 4** on East First St. between Court St. and N. Columbia Ave., in Campbellsville. The parade will be at 9 a.m. CDT and the show will begin at

## PUBLIC INVITED TO MEET WITH STATE TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

A meeting is being scheduled with the District 8 Highway Department to discuss traffic concerns in the city of Columbia and, specifically, those relative to the public square.

Mallory Frye, Planning Engineer, and Amanda Parmley, Traffic Engineer, with District 8 Transportation Cabinet Office will be in Columbia on Thursday, July 6, at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held in city hall.

The public is invited to attend and Mayor Pamela Hoots encourages anyone with comments or concerns to attend the meeting.



## Birthday Box

### June 29

Shirley Grider  
Aundria McQueary  
Addi Porter  
Mark Bright

### July 4

Ashley Stearnes  
Doug Janes  
Judy Hale

### June 30

Tammy Humphress  
Buddy Powell  
Mary Betty Helm  
Andrew Reliford

### July 5

John Janes  
Ashley England

### July 6

Jonathan Houk

### July 1

Casi Blair  
Byron Caldwell

### July 7

Shay Knifley

### July 2

Carri Peterson  
Brett Burton

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# EDITORIAL AND COMMENTS

## Truth will prevail.

*"For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed;  
neither hid that shall not be known."*  
**Luke 12:2**

Sharon Burton  
Publisher and Owner

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...That we may glorify the Father  
John 15:7-8 and John 14:12-14.

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## One Voice

Sharon Burton

## What service looks like

I was awake as the storm moved through our area late Sunday night and early Monday morning. As our electricity went off, I continued to listen to a scanner to hear communications between our emergency services.

As the storm raged, volunteers and county emergency officials were out monitoring their communities. As the severe storm passed on and the winds began to calm, the scanner traffic became hectic as workers everywhere were reporting downed electric lines and trees over roadways.

They weren't just reporting the problems, though. They were busy cutting up trees in the dark of the night, making sure travelers didn't drive into danger, and providing any other service that was needed. Local residents came out, too, cutting up trees so their neighbors could make it home from work or get out of their driveway. Many worked throughout the night and into the morning hours.

This is what service looks like. This is what it looks like when someone cares about their community.

As I sat through Tuesday night's fiscal court meeting, I didn't see the swarm that came to help out their community; I saw the raging storm. County Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant says he is trying to help the people of this county, but his harsh words and quick temper keep him from achieving good.

While the magistrates are not perfect, they appear to be trying to maintain some semblance of decency as Bryant rants and ridicules. Some of them lose their tempers, but they have yet to stoop so low as to belittle a member of the community the way Bryant did Tuesday night. A woman in the audience was kind; she did not provoke the wrath that was directed at her. Instead, she asked to speak and the judge gave her the floor only to verbally attack her.

I know the judge and the magistrates do not agree on a major issue. Bryant wants a 1 percent occupational tax and magistrates do not. I have been told magistrates were ready to fully support a .5 tax Tuesday night, but a vote never

As I sat through Tuesday night's fiscal court meeting, I didn't see the swarm that came to help out their community; I saw the raging storm.

happened. Instead, magistrate Daryl Flatt said magistrates only received copies of two proposals at 3 p.m. that day. The proposals were not in their original packet they receive prior to the meetings.

Bryant obviously thought magistrates could vote for a first reading anyway. They could change stuff later, he said.

Surely, we do not elect people so they can pass an ordinance that will take money out of the paychecks of everyone who works in the county without expecting them to know what the ordinance says.

Where was the emergency that they had to vote on an ordinance before they are given time to read it? I got a copy of the documents just before the meeting started. I tried to read the two ordinances as the meeting was being conducted, prior to the topic coming up on the agenda.

It's not Dr. Seuss.

As best as I could tell, one of the two documents contained a net profit tax in addition to the occupational tax. That means that all business entities would pay a tax on their net income and employees would pay on their paychecks. Both documents were entitled occupational tax and net profit tax. There was also a comment made during the meeting that there were some exceptions in one proposal that were not in the other. I'm still not sure what those are.

The court has never had a conversation about a net profit tax, yet there it was in the proposal. It wasn't in the one Bryant said he recommended, which Bryant said mir-

rors the city of Columbia's tax.

I can promise you one thing, if I were an elected official, I would not vote for any of it without time to read and question the documents. Anyone willing to do so does not care about my paycheck or yours.

While the discussion on the occupational tax started the contentious moments of the meeting, there was absolutely no reason for the meeting to become derailed as it was. Bryant ranted and rambled for long periods, even criticizing the mayor over a letter and accusing somebody of stealing money at the utility district. To say this was unprofessional and unrelated would be an understatement.

A little verbal sparring with magistrates is okay – and I mean a little and I mean sparring – intensely disagreeing is different that ranting and verbally attacking.

Even worse, however, was Bryant's comments about people in the community in general and specifically to a member of this community who did nothing but show him respect. He owes her an apology, but that won't undo the damage that was done in the minds of local residents who were ridiculed by the very man they elected to the county's top executive office.

While people may have a good laugh by watching videos of fiscal court meetings on the Community Voice Facebook page, I assure you none of this is a laughing matter. The humor ended months ago.

We are getting nowhere. We have become an embarrassment. I was literally sick to my stomach as I left Tuesday night's court meeting. How did we become this community?

We want to bring jobs to the county? Apparently, the judge thinks that is the number one thing. I wonder if those potential job providers like what they see here today?

Tax dollars will pay the county's bills, but they won't move this county forward. That happens when you have resources AND good leadership. Good leadership takes boldness, but it also takes the ability to get people to follow the vision. That won't happen here any time soon.

				4				
	6			2	5			
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	7							6
		9			2		7	
		1		6				
2			5	4				8
9					3			
	3			9			2	5

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## How to contact local officials

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Bowling Green office: 270-782-8303  
Website: paul.senate.gov

Sen. Mitch McConnell: 202-224-2541  
Email: senator@mcconnell.senate.gov  
Website: mcconnell.senate.gov

Rep. James Comer: 202-225-3115  
Tompkinsville Office  
Phone: 270-487-9509  
Toll Free Number: 1-800-328-5629

### Kentucky General Assembly

Sen. Max Wise  
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Email: max.wise@lrc.ky.gov

State Rep. Amy Neighbors  
Capitol: 502-564-8100  
Email: amy.neighbors@lrc.ky.gov

### Governor

Gov. Andy Beshear  
502-564-2611

### Adair County Fiscal Court

Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant  
270-384-4703  
Email: cje@adaircountyky.com

### Magistrates

District 1–Tony Denton: 270-634-3474  
District 2–Daryl Flatt: 270-634-1033  
District 3–Sammy Baker: 270-378-1536  
District 4–Chris Reeder: 270-634-0485  
District 5–Billy Coffey: 270-250-4449  
District 6–Mark Humphress: 270-789-8591  
District 7–Terry Hadley: 270-384-4083

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5	2	1	9	6	8	4	3	7
7	4	9	3	1	2	8	5	6
8	3	6	7	4	5	9	1	2
6	5	4	8	9	7	1	2	3
1	7	3	2	5	4	6	8	9
9	8	2	1	3	6	5	7	4
2	9	5	6	8	3	7	4	1
4	6	7	5	2	1	3	9	8
3	1	8	4	7	9	2	6	5

Level: Intermediate



# Plant tissue analysis to determine crop nutrient status



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Plant tissue analysis can be a useful tool to determine the nutrient status of crops during the growing season. Whether it is used to determine if nutrient deficiency is the cause of visual symptoms or to monitor the effectiveness of a fertility program, understanding the limitations of tissue analysis is important. Much like a picture, a plant tissue analysis captures a moment in time. Environmental factors such as excessive rain or the lack thereof can change the results over time. One must consider all possible factors that may be

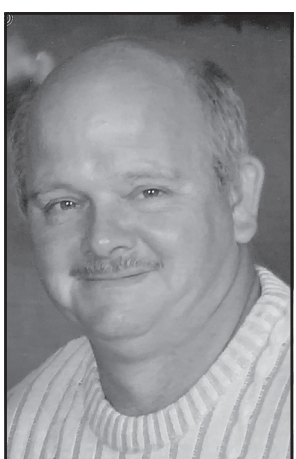
contributing to the symptoms or results received. A good practice is to always compare tissue analysis results with soil tests taken at the same time from the same locations. Soil test results can further explain nutrient deficiencies or point you toward environmental factors. Furthermore, while tissue analysis results may be suggestive of soil pH, they cannot determine the exact soil pH needed to make management decisions. Another good practice when using tissue sampling to determine the cause

of problems that may be occurring in a field is to collect plant and soil samples from both the good and bad areas of the field. Having samples from both areas can often pinpoint the exact nutrient causing the problem in the field. It's not uncommon for more than one nutrient to show up low in tissue results from bad areas. Having the results from the good area will allow you to identify the nutrient deficiency responsible for symptoms via a process of elimination. Analyzing roots prior to submitting tissue analysis

samples can sometimes save the time and cost associated with tissue sampling. Plants suffering from compaction will often show multiple nutrient deficiencies even when soil nutrient status is adequate. The Adair County Cooperative Extension Service can assist with tissue sampling and interpreting results. While plant tissue analysis does not remove the need for routine soil testing, it can serve as a great tool in aiding crop nutrient management decisions. For more information, contact us 270-384-2317.

## OBITUARIES

### Rufus Lowell Turner



Rufus Lowell 'Bill' Turner, 67, of Columbia, passed away Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at Greenhill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Greensburg. He was born on July 30, 1955 in Harlan County to the late Rufus and Carrie Miniard Turner. He was preceded

in death by his wife, Cathy Costello Turner, and two brothers, Coy Sr. and Neal Brent Turner. Mr. Turner was a member of the Bloomington Chapel Brethren in Christ Church and enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, cooking and spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Survivors include two daughters, Shelly Yarberry (Mike Schorman) and Christy Burton (Kevin) both of Columbia; eight grandchildren, Brooklynn Willis (K.C.), Kaitlynn Burton, Keaton Burton, Braxleigh Burton, Laynie Burton, Jeremy Burton (Brittany), Marcus Yarberry and Gracie Schorman;

five great-grandchildren, Rylee Turner Willis, Danny Willis, Izzy Burton, Dallas Burton and Livy Burton; seven siblings, Diana Joseph of Columbia, Christine Harris of Mt. Vernon, Lana Turner, Roy Turner, Troy Turner (Crystal), Charlie Turner (Janet) and Rachel Keith (Vernon) all of Columbia; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Friday, June 23, 2023 at Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home with Bro. Ralph Foster and Bro. Terry England officiating and burial in the Bearwallow Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jeremy Burton, Kevin Burton, Coy Turner, James Walker, Mike Schorman and K.C. Willis.



Jesus said,  
“Blessed are those who  
mourn for they shall be  
comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

### George 'Stevie' Winfrey



George 'Stevie' Winfrey, 66, of Louisville, went to his heavenly home on Monday, June 19, 2023. Born into a dairy farming family in Crocus, George spent his childhood milk-

ing and caring for cows, harvesting tobacco and helping with the myriad of tasks required to maintain a farm. His grandparents and aunts lived just across the road. He fondly remembered their community get-togethers, visits from his uncles and cousins and his grandmother's apple hand pies. When he wasn't with the Winfreys, he was in Springfield visiting his mother's family, his MaAnn and Daddy John. He grew up surrounded by love. George was an avid reader and musician. After graduating from Russell County High School, he went on to college as a

music major. He joined the Eastern Kentucky University Phi Beta Sigma fraternity in 1977, gaining brothers he kept for life. He enlisted in the Army before completing his undergraduate degree, but later earned a business degree at McKendree. He went on to get a graduate degree in management from Troy University. As a solider, George served in the Adjutant General's Corps. He used that experience when he transitioned to his civilian career as a human resource professional. Most of his career was spent in the trucking and telecommunications industries.

George was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in 2020. He resigned himself to professional retirement in 2021 as the disease was visibly impacting his gait, coordination and energy. His last role was at Charter Communications (Spectrum) where he loved to greet the employees and meet with them where they worked. The last years of his life were difficult as ALS slowly stole his independence. He was a man of faith; Bible study and prayer kept his spirit strong. Messages, calls and visits from friends and family were also a great consolation to him, as were pots of chili and slices of

apple or rhubarb pie. Those close to George will remember him for his love of the UK Wildcats, the Minnesota Vikings (and any team that beat Green Bay), Steely Dan, comics (Marvel over DC), anime, cooking and good wine, running and gym time, basketball and football, all the Star Treks and Old Forester. He is preceded in death by his father, William Thomas Winfrey. George leaves to mourn his mother, Mary Florence Winfrey; his wife, Michelle Rogers-Winfrey; his son, Travis Winfrey, Dillon Winfrey and Joshua Winfrey; his daughters, Ryan

Winfrey (Kendrick) and Anna Winfrey; and his granddaughter, Charlotte Rose Johnson. He also leaves behind his siter, Anna Maria Franklin; his brothers, Vincent Winfrey (Avis) and Mark Winfrey; his aunts, Harlene Harwell and Cynthia Bowling; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Visitation will be held today, Thursday, June 29, 2023 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1000 N. Beckley Station Rd., Louisville, from 9 a.m. until time of Mass at 10 a.m. This obituary information is a courtesy of Grissom-Martin Funeral Home.



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The Adair County Community Voice publishes all grand jury indictments, and drug and alcohol related traffic, misdemeanors, felonies, circuit-criminal cases and shock probations. The year on each charge is listed in Circuit and District Court is listed in been made, contact our parenthesis after all of the office at 270-384-9454.

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**YARD SALE:** A yard sale will be held July 1st, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 2218 Cane Valley Rd. Items include primitive home decor, women's and children's clothing, willow tree figurines, and much more!

**MULTI-PARTY YARD SALE:** A yard sale will be held Saturday, July 1st, from 7 a.m. - ? at 710 Glenmary Dr. Clothes, toys, miscellaneous.

**ESTATE SALE:** Estate sale at 133 HorntownLn., Russell Springs. July 7-8 starting at 7 a.m.

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# New state laws take effect this week

FRANKFORT – New laws related to child abuse, drugs, gambling, mental health, gender services, education and dozens of other topics are set to take effect on Thursday after receiving a nod from the Kentucky General Assembly earlier this year.

State lawmakers passed more than 170 bills during the 2023 legislative session, and the Kentucky Constitution states that new laws take effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns, making June 29 the effective date for most measures.

The only exceptions are bills that have special effective dates, are general appropriation measures, or include emergency clauses that make them effective immediately upon becoming law.

That means that, among many changes to state law this week, people convicted of murdering children will face tougher penalties, operators of gray machines could be subject to fines, certain workforce training programs will qualify for state scholarships, and wellness programs will provide more confidentiality for doctors and police.

**Here's a look at some of the measures taking effect on Thursday:**

**Child Abuse:** Senate Bill 229 seeks to ensure that law enforcement, social services and other authorities are properly notified and are communicating with each other in cases of child abuse. It also requires agencies under investigation to

cooperate with authorities.

**Child Murder:** House Bill 249 makes the intentional killing of a child under age 12 an aggravating circumstance. That ensures that a person who is guilty of killing a child would either be subject to life in prison without parole or the death penalty.

**Delta-8 THC:** House Bill 544 directs the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services to develop regulations related to delta-8 THC by Aug. 1. That includes regulations on product testing, packaging and labeling, along with prohibitions that prevent anyone under 21 from buying or possessing delta-8 products. While the bill technically takes effect on Thursday, Kentuckians will not see many changes until the cabinet's regulations are finalized and implemented.

**DUI Restitution:** Senate Bill 268 allows courts to order restitution for children whose parents are killed or permanently disabled by an intoxicated driver.

**ESG Investing:** House Bill 236 requires that the state's public pension investments be based on financial risks and returns and not on environmental, social and governance factors, commonly known as ESG.

**Fentanyl Test Strips:** House Bill 353 removes fentanyl test strips from state prohibitions on drug paraphernalia unless the strips are used in the manufacture or selling of the drug.

**Gender and Sexuality:** Senate Bill 150 is a wide-ranging bill focused on health services and

school policies related to gender and human sexuality. Many provisions in the bill took effect immediately, including the portions on school policies. However, the June 29 effective date applies to a section of the bill that bans puberty blockers, hormones and gender-related surgeries for minors.

**Gray Machines:** House Bill 594 clarifies that certain gambling machines, often called "gray machines" or "skill games," are illegal in Kentucky. The devices are called gray machines because they have operated in a gray area in the state's gambling laws while growing more prevalent at gas stations and convenience stores over the past two years. Under HB 594, anyone who manages or owns the machines could be subject to a \$25,000 fine per device.

**Hazing:** Senate Bill 9, known as "Lofton's Law," elevates reckless or dangerous acts of hazing to a crime. First-degree hazing will qualify as a Class D felony, while second-degree hazing will be a Class A misdemeanor.

**Incest:** House Bill 78 more specifically defines Kentucky's incest laws by prohibiting a person from having sexual intercourse with his or her parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, great-grandparent, great-grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother, sister, first cousin, ancestor or descendant.

**Juvenile Detention:** House Bill 3 requires that juveniles charged with a violent felony

offense be detained up to 48 hours pending a detention hearing with a judge, beginning July 1, 2024. The bill also seeks to improve parental accountability, expand mental health interventions and enhance options for restorative justice. Other provisions provide funds toward the reopening the Jefferson County Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

**KEES for Workforce Training:** Senate Bill 54 allows students to use a Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship to attend certain proprietary school programs and workforce training programs that are focused on high-demand work sectors. Students could also use KEES funds at an eligible college of art and design.

**Motor Vehicle Racing:** Senate Bill 96 sets up a framework for local governments to grant permits for motor vehicle racing events as long as certain conditions are met on insurance, security and emergency services. It also allows local governments to temporarily close roadways and waive traffic regulations for the events.

**Physician Wellness:** Senate Bill 12 allows physicians to participate in wellness and career fatigue programs without disclosing their participation to employers. Supporters say it will help physicians deal with job-related burnout without fear of retaliation.

**Police Wellness:** House Bill 207 allows law enforcement agencies to provide confidential wellness programs to

support employee mental health. Specifically, it shields records of a wellness program from subpoenas and open records requests.

**Postpartum Depression:** Senate Bill 135 calls on the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services to create a panel focused on perinatal mental health disorders and provide related information and assessment tools online.

**Religious Freedom in Schools:** House Bill 547 codifies religious freedoms for public school teachers, faculty and staff, including the right to engage in religious expression and prayer during breaks and to display religious items in personal spaces.

**Sex Offenders:** Senate Bill 80 prohibits registered sex offenders from loitering or operating a mobile business within 1,000 feet of schools, daycares, and public playgrounds or swimming pools. One section of this bill related to sex offender residences does not take effect until next year.

**Sports Wagering:** House Bill 551 creates a structure to legalize, regulate and tax sports wagering in Kentucky under the auspices of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Only licensed tracks will be permitted to obtain a sports wagering license, and the bill sets up a fund to address problem gambling. It also prohibits minors from placing wagers. While the bill technically takes effect on Thursday, Kentuckians will not see many changes until the racing commission finalizes

and implements regulations related to sports wagering.

**Student Discipline:** Under House Bill 538, school boards are required to adopt policies related to expelling students who pose a threat to the safety and well-being of others and disciplining students who have physically assaulted, battered or abused personnel or other students off school property if the incident is likely to disrupt the educational process. HB 538 also provides more flexibility to place students into alternative learning programs.

**Teacher Shortages:** House Bill 319 aims to ease teacher shortages by cementing Kentucky's place in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. The compact seeks to ease licensing barriers for teachers moving into the state. HB 319 also requires the Kentucky Department of Education to establish a statewide job posting system.

**Tracking Devices:** Senate Bill 199 outlaws, with some exceptions, the installation of tracking devices on motor vehicles without the consent of the vehicle owner or lessee.

Learn more about the Kentucky General Assembly by visiting the legislature's webpage. Kentuckians can research bills and resolutions from the 2023 session.

Citizens may also share their views by calling the General Assembly's toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181.



Trees blocked Fairgrounds St. as travelers headed to work Monday morning. Trees and power lines were down throughout the city and county.

## Severe weather leaves thousands without power

FROM PAGE 1

damage on Greensburg Rd. at the county line, Milltown, Bliss Rd., Melson Ridge, Sparksville, Chance, Montpelier, and inside the city limits.

As soon as the storm passed, local emergency crews and individuals were out clearing trees from roadways and reporting downed power lines. Emergency 911 took multiple calls of power lines on fire.

Emergency Management Director Mike Keltner reported that, as of 3 a.m. Monday, efforts of road crews, fire departments, law enforcement, emergency management and citizens had cleared over 75 trees from roadways. The work continued on throughout the morning as well.

Some residents reported trees on their homes but there have been no reports of injuries. Residents on Weed-Keltner

Rd. lost several farm buildings.

Electric providers went to work immediately but due to the multiple trees blocking some access and the number of damaged areas, it took some time to get everything restored, Keltner said.

Many phone lines were also temporarily down, including non-emergency lines at 911 and city and county offices.

By Sharon Burton  
snburton@adairvoice.com

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