

Paramedic commits suicide ahead of Supreme Court hearing

BY GRAT GERSTNER
OLDHAM ERA EDITOR

Though the Kentucky Supreme Court had scheduled to hear oral arguments from a lawsuit between two former Henry County EMS employees and family of the late Charles “Luke” Hinkel, the hearing has been put on hold due to the death of paramedic Sgt. Christopher Stone.

A Dec. 9 court order states that a “joint emergency motion to reschedule oral argument was filed due to the death of Appellant Christopher Stone on [Nov.] 28 ... Oral argument shall be rescheduled by separate order ...”

Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS, where Stone had served as a firefighter since mid-2016, shared news of Stone’s death and condolences on Facebook on Dec. 5:

“Chris’ passion and dedication for service was steadfast even as he courageously fought his own career-long battle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a struggle that many first responders face in silence. Chris did not remain quiet about his struggles ...

“With support from his family, crew, and service dogs, Chris was able to work several

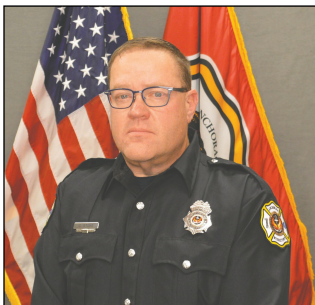


Photo courtesy of Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS
CHRISTOPHER STONE

more years while championing the cause of improved awareness and availability of mental health training, treatment, and support for members of the fire service & EMS community.

“It is impossible to count the number of lives Chris was instrumental in saving, both in the field and through his advocacy work. Ultimately, despite his ongoing efforts to seek and engage in functional treatments, Sergeant Stone tragically ended his life in suicide.

“We mourn this profound loss and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who served alongside him ... This tragedy is a solemn reminder of the heavy duty and unseen bur-

dens our first responders must carry ...”

The post also shared that a memorial service for Stone is scheduled in his hometown, Springfield, Ohio, at North Hampton Community Church on Dec. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. “All are welcome to attend,” the post says.

In a statement to the Era, Kimberly Hinkel-Browning — Hinkel’s ex-wife and mother to his sons who originally filed the lawsuit — said: “I am at a loss for words and can only extend my deepest condolences to Paramedic Stone’s family ...

“I speak from knowing what an emotional toll it has taken on me and my children over the years and how our emotions have been again heightened with our court hearing ... Two families are grieving and forever changed.”

As previously reported, the lawsuit stems from a 2017 incident where paramedic Christopher Stone and EMT Kristian Brock were dispatched to Hinkel’s residence on Elm Street in Eminence in response to a call of Hinkel having heart attack symptoms.

Stone and Brock had difficulty locating Hinkel’s residence and later had to meet

with another first responder on their way to the hospital due to their ambulance’s defibrillator failing. Once at the hospital, Hinkel was pronounced dead despite resuscitation attempts.

About a year after Hinkel’s death, his family filed a lawsuit against Henry County EMS, then Henry County Judge Executive John L. Brent, and EMS Director Paige Lucas as well as Stone and Brock.

As the lawsuit progressed over the years, the county, its agencies and employees were dropped from the suit due to being granted sovereign and qualified official immunity — laws that shield government entities and officials from certain liability lawsuits.

In October 2022, Vice Chief Regional Circuit Court Judge Jerry D. Crosby II denied a motion for summary judgment to grant Brock and Stone fully qualified immunity from punitive damages for Hinkel’s death.

The case then proceeded to trial and, by Nov. 1, 2022, the jury was deadlocked.

Legal representatives for Stone and Brock filed an appeal on Nov. 2, 2022, for Crosby’s decision to deny the first responders’ qualified immunity.

Voter registration continues to rise

More than 5,000 Kentuckians Register in November

FRANKFORT — Secretary of State Michael Adams announced that voter registration continued to grow in November, despite no state elections in the off-year.

“Despite the exhaustion many voters now feel with this era of politics, that has not stopped them from registering to vote in significant numbers, even in a year when we don’t vote,” Adams said.

In November, 3,748 voters were removed: 2,982 who were deceased, 385 felony convicts, 259 who moved out of state, 65 adjudged mentally incompetent, 26 who voluntarily de-registered, 19 duplicate registrations, and 12 non-citizens.

Republican registration constitutes 48% of the electorate, with 1,595,408 voters. Republican registration grew by 2,412 voters, a .15% increase. Democratic registration accounts for 41% of the electorate, with 1,379,958 voters. Democratic registration fell by 1,914, a .14% decrease. There are 371,955 voters registered under other political affiliations (mostly independent), making up 11% of the electorate. “Other” registration rose by 1,209, a .33% increase.

FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

Property owners in the Bedford and Milton city limits, are exempt from the subscription fees due to an agreement by both city governments to support the fire departments in lieu-tenants of the fees.

In other firefighting news, McCoy noted that the annual Shop with a Hero raised and spent \$13,022 to help 50 Trimble County children have a better Christmas with approximately \$250 spent per child. He thanks community volunteers for assisting with the shopping trip to La Grange Walmart.

In other reports to Trimble County Fiscal Court, the Trimble County Animal Shelter will be establishing two “blessing boxes” in the county to assist pet owners who may need help with pet supplies. The shelter most regularly uses Pedigree dog food to provide consistent nutrition for dogs and avoid some of the physical problems that can occur among pets with frequent changes to their food. Since the shelter does not currently accept cats, there also will be cat food available.

Locations for the two blessing boxes will be at New Life Church on the courthouse square, and at Milton City Hall. Food will be in portioned zippered plastic bags and those needing assistance are urged to take only for an immediate need, to leave some food for others.

Shelter Director Heather Chatham also announced that a “Feed the Pups” event will take place 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 23 at the shelter. Visitors are welcome to attend and interact with the dogs.

Trimble County Park Director Amanda Evans reported that the 4-H building at the park will receive a \$5,000 facelift. She said the building is a revenue-

generator, and the work will add value for users by providing upkeep and upgrades to the facility.

“It’s important we present a facility they will enjoy using,” she said. “The rental fee of \$50 is not going to be raised because of this project.”

The project not only includes general maintenance, but new cabinets, counter tops, paint, building insulation and an energy thermostat. The project should be completed by beginning of the summer season and labor will be done by park and road department employees with materials being the only additional cost.

In another report, Planning and Zoning Administrator Zoe Kemper noted there are quite a few instances where there is a lack of knowledge or understanding concerning the county’s requirements for building permits.

She urged anyone planning a project to check the county’s website under Planning and Zoning or call her office at 502-255-7196 ext. 800 for questions and clarifications.

In other business, a group of local residents reported that a committee has been formed to organize a day of celebration in conjunction with the America 250 Commemoration. The group was requesting to be added to the county’s insurance coverage for the day of the event, scheduled for June 27, 2026 on the courthouse square.

The event, which will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States, will feature family-oriented activities that are still be determined but may include a pie and ice cream social, musical presentations, historical activities, children’s and family games, and more.

Anyone interested in serving on the planning committee is urged to e-mail cdwarrick@gmail.com to volunteer.

hold the festivities at the Trimble County Courthouse Square.

The committee planning and overseeing the event will hold its first meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at the library. Anyone interested in serving on the planning committee is urged to e-mail cdwarrick@gmail.com to volunteer or attend the meeting.

BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

presentation to the board concerning the America 250 Commemoration that will take place in Trimble County on June 27, 2026. The board approved the use of a school gymnasium for the event in case of inclement weather, but the primary plan is to

LEGAL NOTICE

November 2025 Probate
Estate to be Administrated: Name/Address Fiduciary: Date of Appt: Claims to be Filed: Atty of Fiduciary
Marie R Garrett
Dwight M Garrett, 4244 Hwy 389, Turners Station, KY 40075
11/19/25
5/19/26
Hon. Ruth H. Baxter
Crawford & Baxter PSC
PO Box 353
Carrollton, KY 41008

LEGAL NOTICE

December 2025 Guardianship Probate Notice
Guardianship-Guardian Appointed
ADMINISTRATION has been granted to the following:
Mary Elisabeth Stewart, 402 Powell Hill Rd, Milton, KY 40045, having been appointed Guardian on December 9, 2025 in the Guardianship of Lyric E Kuntz, 402 Powell Hill Rd, Milton, KY 40045. Attorney Sean M. Adams, Crawford & Baxter, P.S.C., P.O. Box 353, Carrollton, KY 41008

LEGAL NOTICE

December Probate Notice
ADMINISTRATION has been granted to the following:
LESA MILLER, 6023 COTTAGE LN, CRESTWOOD, KY 40014, having been appointed EXECUTOR on 12-09-25 in the Estate of THELMA KAY BARNES, 9704 HWY 421 N, MILTON, KY 40045, DECEASED. Attorney CRYSTAL L HEINZ, 1318 HWY 421 N, P.O. BOX 252, BEDFORD, KY 40006.

CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE MUST BE FILED BY CREDITOR WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY.

LEGAL NOTICE

December Probate Notice
ADMINISTRATION has been granted to the following:
TRACEY HOWERTON and JULIE HOWERTON, 462 BRAY RIDGE RD, BEDFORD, KY 40006, having been appointed TRUSTEES UNDER WILL on 12-09-25 in the Estate of TAMI ADAMSKI, 184 AGIN WAY, MILTON, KY 40045, DECEASED. Attorney Michael S. Dunaway, P.O. Box 274, Bedford, KY 40006.

CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE MUST BE FILED BY CREDITOR WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY.

ADMINISTRATION has been granted to the following:
PAMELA HAYNES, 64 OGDEN MOSELY RD, BEDFORD, KY 40006, having been appointed Executor on 12-02-2025 in the Estate of EVELYN LOUISE WINGHAM, 64 OGDEN MOSELY RD, BEDFORD, KY 40006, DECEASED. Attorney Michael S. Dunaway, P.O. Box 274, Bedford, KY 40006.

CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE MUST BE FILED BY CREDITOR WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY.

KRISTEN O’NEILL, 75 NOAHS LANE, BEDFORD, KY 40006, having been appointed Executor on 12-02-2025 in the Estate of MICHAEL W. GARDNER, 2697 BELLS RIDGE RD, BEDFORD, KY 40006, DECEASED. Attorney Ruth H. Baxter, Crawford & Baxter, PSC, P.O. Box 353, Carrollton, KY 41008.

CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE MUST BE FILED BY CREDITOR WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY.

The case was deemed a mistrial two days later due to the deadlocked jury.

In March 2024, the Kentucky Court of Appeals issued an opinion agreeing with Crosby in denying the pair’s immunity.

Brock and Stone’s legal representatives then filed for the case to be heard by the Kentucky Supreme Court, which was granted in August 2024.

Oral arguments from both parties were scheduled to be heard on Dec. 10. The oral argument has yet to be rescheduled as of press time.

The Hinkel family started an ongoing petition titled “Mandate the recording of Kentucky Board of EMS Hearings – Luke’s law” on change.org.

The petition serves as a “vital call to action to rectify systemic issues within Kentucky’s EMS framework ... [to] help prevent another family from suffering ...” the petitioners state on the website.

As of press time, it has 155 verified signatures.

Look for updates on the Brock v. Hinkel Supreme Court case in upcoming editions of the Local.



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF MILTON, KENTUCKY
Ordinance Number 4, Series 2025

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO 815 KAR 7:120 KENTUCKY BUILDING CODE AND 815 KAR 7:125 KENTUCKY RESIDENTIAL CODE, AS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(1) requires that all buildings constructed in the City of Milton, Kentucky, be built in compliance with the uniform state building code as adopted by the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction; and

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(1) requires the City of Milton, Kentucky, to provide for plan review, inspection and code enforcement services to enforce the uniform state building code as to those buildings within the City’s enforcement responsibility as set forth in KRS 198B.060(2); and

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(1) permits the City of Milton to elect whether permits, inspections, and certificates of occupancy shall be required for single family dwellings constructed within the City; and

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(11) requires, as part of the City of Milton’s building code enforcement program, that the City employ or contract for electrical inspection services; and

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(1) and 815 KAR 7:070 require a certified building inspector and other code enforcement personnel as necessary for inspection and code enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, KRS 198B.060(18) authorizes each local government to establish a schedule of fees which are designed to cover the cost of the service performed but not to exceed such cost;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Milton, Kentucky, as follows:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF THE KENTUCKY BUILDING CODE

(a) The Kentucky Building Code and Kentucky Residential Code, as promulgated in 815 KAR 7:120 and 815 KAR 7:125, respectively, by the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, are hereby adopted as if set out at length herein.

(b) A copy of the Kentucky Building Code and Kentucky Residential Code is on file in the office of the City Clerk, and the Clerk shall at all times keep a copy of said codes for reference.

(c) A copy of this Ordinance shall be transmitted to the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION 2. DESIGNATED ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The contracted building and electrical inspector(s) shall be designated as the local enforcement agent/agency of the Kentucky Building Code and Kentucky Residential Code. All required building code inspections shall be performed by persons certified by the Kentucky Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All required electrical inspections shall be performed by persons certified by the Kentucky Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as an electrical inspector.

SECTION 3. BUILDING INSPECTION PROGRAM

(a) Pursuant to KRS 198B.060(8), a building inspection program is hereby established in the City of Milton, Kentucky and shall apply to all buildings subject to 815 KAR 7:120 and the Kentucky Building Code. Subject to the exception set forth in subsection (b) of this section, said program shall also apply to all buildings subject to 815 KAR 7:120 and the Kentucky Residential Code.

(b) Under the City’s building inspection program, no permits, inspections, or certificates of occupancy shall be required for single family dwellings or additions and improvements thereto except for electrical permits and inspections as required by the Kentucky Residential Code.

SECTION 4. FEES

The fees applicable to the City’s building inspection program shall be as follows:
(a) Building permits and inspections

The fee for building permits shall be \$25, made payable to the City of Milton. Fees for building inspections shall be as follows:

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION COST PER REQUIRED INSPECTION
Residential \$100
Commercial \$150
Multifamily \$150 (Foundation inspection) \$75 per unit (Other required inspections)

Building inspection fees shall be paid directly to the contracted building inspector.
(b) Electrical permits and inspections

The fees for electrical permits shall be \$25, made payable to the City of Milton. Fees for electrical inspections shall be as follows:

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION COST
Residential
Commercial (including Multifamily
1.5% of the cost of the electrical work contract for all inspections

Electrical inspection fees shall be paid directly to the contracted electrical inspector.

SECTION 5. INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES REPEALED.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force when passed, published and recorded according to law.

Introduced and given a first reading on the 13th day of November, 2025. Given a second reading and approved on the 11th day of December, 2025.

/s/Denny Jackson
Denny Jackson, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Angela Dunaway
Angela Dunaway, City Clerk

(Seal)