

REVERSAL

Continued from 1A

In the screenshots, Coffman asked Hackley about those procedures, specifically referencing Kentucky Revised Statute 83A.040(9). Hackley responded that he was traveling and would review his ethical obligations and the procedures before speaking with her the following week.

A subsequent message, shown at 2:14 p.m. Oct. 15, relayed what Hackley described as a resignation statement from Douglas.

“Having now served as Mayor for 18 years I am regretfully submitting my resignation as Mayor due to Health concerns,” the message attributed to Douglas stated.

The message specified an effective time of 4 p.m. Oct. 15.

When Coffman asked what would happen next, Hackley responded that the council would select an interim mayor. He later said he considered the resignation official because he had received both a telephone call and a text from Douglas.

“I consider this official, as I received both a phone call and a text from Jim,” Hackley wrote in the exchange Coffman shared.

Coffman questioned whether the text satisfied the requirements for a resignation. She told Hackley that the Kentucky League of Cities had advised her that Douglas

needed to submit a signed written resignation.

Hackley subsequently wrote that he had forwarded the resignation text to the city clerk and explained that the message could be typed or handwritten, signed by Douglas and delivered to the clerk.

In a message sent at 4:46 p.m., Coffman said the council had not received a signed resignation as of 4:43 p.m. She asked Hackley to confirm in writing whether the city considered the text sufficient under Kentucky law.

Hackley later responded that he expected the letter to be circulated the next day and suggested Coffman contact the clerk about communications with Douglas.

According to Coffman’s public statement, the situation changed again that evening.

“Later that evening, I received another text stating that Mayor Douglas was withdrawing his resignation,” she wrote. “The city attorney’s response was, ‘Oh well.’”

Kentucky law requires a written resignation to be tendered to the city’s legislative body. It permits submission by email when the resignation comes from the official’s email address and includes the official’s handwritten signature. A resignation takes effect at the next regular or special meeting occurring on or after the specified resignation date. If no date is specified, it

takes effect at the first such meeting on or after receipt.

The removal provision Coffman referenced allows an elected city official, except in cities of the first class, to be removed for misconduct, incapacity or willful neglect in performing official duties. Removal requires a unanimous vote of the legislative body, excluding any member whose removal is being considered. The official must be afforded a full public hearing and may appeal a removal to circuit court.

Coffman said she had contacted both the Kentucky League of Cities legal team and the Kentucky attorney general’s office for guidance on how to proceed.

“If he declines, that does not mean the council has no options,” she wrote of her resignation request. “A legal process exists, and I intend to follow it.”

Her statement also raised concerns about public access to city government. Coffman said City Hall had operated with unusual hours and closed doors, and that residents had reported difficulty reaching the city clerk by telephone and email.

She said residents should have reasonable access to their local government, particularly during tax season and while significant city business is being conducted.

The dispute over Dou-

glas’ future in office follows the circulation of the recording shared on Facebook by Junction City resident Hannah Lashay Marquez on Oct. 9.

As previously reported by The Advocate-Messenger, the footage shows a ceiling while capturing a conversation between two men. A voice identified as Douglas appears to use a racial slur in reference to Parks.

In an Oct. 10 statement posted on the city’s Facebook page, Douglas acknowledged that the underlying conversation occurred but said the offensive language had been inserted into the recording.

“This recording has been deliberately tampered with to insert a vile word I have never used,” Douglas said in that statement.

The city characterized the recording’s circulation as a politically motivated effort to damage Douglas’ reputation ahead of the municipal election.

Coffman had previously condemned the alleged language and called for answers. Her Oct. 16 letter went further, directly requesting that Douglas leave office.

“My intention is not to create further division or hostility,” she wrote. “Rather, I am seeking what I believe is the most responsible course of action for Junction City and the people we were elected to serve.”

BOYLE

Continued from 1A

schools.

Kentucky’s overall ratings run from blue, the highest, through green, yellow, orange and red. They reflect current performance and change from the previous year across several indicators, including test scores, school climate and safety, and English learner progress. High school ratings also include graduation and postsecondary readiness.

The reading and math percentages below represent students included in each school’s accountability results who scored proficient or distinguished, the two highest achievement levels. Comparisons are with the 2024-25 school year.

Woodlawn Elementary remained blue and posted the highest reading and math proficiency rates among Boyle County Schools’ three elementary schools. Reading held at 75%, while math declined two percentage points, from 77% to 75%.

Perryville Elementary moved from blue to green. Its reading proficiency rate decreased from 71% to 66%, while math fell from 74% to 68%. The six-point math decrease was the largest decline in that measure among the Boyle district’s five rated schools.

Junction City Elementary remained green. Reading declined from 67% to 62%, and math fell from 64% to 59%, a decrease of five percentage points in each subject.

Boyle County Middle School retained its green rating. Reading slipped from 63% to 62%, while math decreased from 57% to 54%. Within the reading results, the share scoring distinguished increased from 30% to 34%.

Boyle County High School remained blue. Reading declined from 63% to 62%, while math increased from 58% to 60%. It was the only one of the Boyle district’s five rated schools to improve its combined proficient and distinguished percentage in math.

At the Boyle district level, the elementary and high school ratings remained blue, and the

middle school rating remained green. Across its elementary schools, reading proficiency decreased from 72% to 69%, while math fell from 72% to 68%.

In Danville Independent Schools, Danville High School moved from green to yellow despite gains in reading and math. Reading proficiency increased from 49% to 57%, and math rose from 41% to 46%. Those gains do not determine the overall color by themselves because other indicators and year-to-year changes also contribute to the rating.

John W. Bate Middle School remained yellow. Reading proficiency increased from 48% to 53%, while math declined from 39% to 35%.

Edna L. Toliver Intermediate School remained orange. Reading proficiency rose from 36% to 41%, and math increased from 30% to 31%. Toliver serves grades two through five.

Toliver remains classified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, with students with disabilities

identified as the reason on Kentucky’s 2026-27 roster.

No school in the Boyle County school district appears on the state’s current Targeted Support and Improvement or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement rosters. Those federal designations address performance among particular student groups and are separate from the overall color ratings.

The high schools also reported graduation results. Boyle County High’s four-year graduation rate was 97.6%, and its five-year rate was 99.1%. Danville High’s rates were 93.4% and 95.6%, respectively. The four-year and five-year figures represent different student cohorts; Kentucky averages the two rates for accountability.

The Kentucky Department of Education said the release is the last under the current assessment and accountability system. Changes approved by lawmakers take effect for the 2026-27 school year, with different calculations and indicators affecting future comparisons.

WEST

Continued from 1A

officials feared another winter with the existing roof could result in serious damage to the building’s interior.

The roof is not the only recent improvement at West T. Hill.

The theater also completed renovations to its

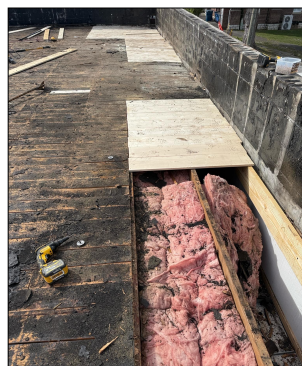


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Work continues on the West T. Hill Community Theatre roof replacement. booth space, a project that had been

discussed for approximately a decade but remained out of reach because funding was unavailable.

Community partners helped make that renovation possible, according to Marlowe.

The projects represent significant improvements to the theater’s building, with the booth renovation

addressing a longstanding need inside the facility and the roof replacement aimed at protecting the building from further water damage.

While the roof project has faced repeated delays, Marlowe said the theater was waiting for an updated start date following the latest weather setback.

WITCHES

Continued from 1A

serving visitors. The evening also included themed drink specials and a Witches Contest featuring prizes for best overall costume, best cackle, and best wart.

This year’s event also introduced Danville Live, a new live entertainment effort organized by KA Studios. The inaugural performance was held at Weisiger Park outside the courthouse from 6 to 9 p.m.

Konstantin Alexander, founder of KA Studios, opened the series with his own music project and a full band. The performance featured Alex Riegelman and Stetson Walker, who traveled from Austin, Texas, along with musicians from Kentucky.

The show blended familiar songs with original material influenced by Americana, folk, and rock. KA Studios provided the live entertainment, sound, stage lighting, and production coordination with support from the city and chamber.

For Alexander, the performance represented an early step toward becoming part of Danville’s arts community after recently relocating to Kentucky.

Originally from Los Angeles, Alexander moved to Danville from Austin after spending more than 20 years performing, recording, and working in music.

Family played a major role in bringing him to Boyle County. His wife, Krista, is from Danville, and the couple wanted their children to grow up near family. Krista has also entered the local arts community by opening Bluegrass Dance Company on North Third Street.

Alexander said the reception he received during his first months in Kentucky convinced him there was an opportunity to contribute to Danville’s existing arts community.

“This is a town that loves music and art,” Alexander said.

Through KA Studios, Alexander works in several areas of the music industry, including recording and production, artist development, booking, live entertainment and event production.

His goal is to work with

musicians at different stages of the creative process, whether that means developing a song, recording a project, assembling a band or producing a live performance. He also hopes to build relationships with local businesses and community organizations to create additional opportunities for musicians.

Alexander said he has also partnered with a Kentucky business owner on additional plans involving music in Danville, though details had not yet been announced. He described Danville Live as the beginning of what he hopes will become a larger contribution to the local music scene.

No additional Danville Live dates had been confirmed at the time, with much of the remaining downtown calendar focused on holiday and Christmas events. Alexander said plans were being developed to make Danville Live an ongoing part of downtown beginning next year.

The Witches Night performance also began a stretch of four consecutive nights of music for Alexander, Riegelman and Walker.

Following Witches Night, the trio was scheduled to perform a more intimate show Oct. 16 at Main Branch Pizzeria, followed by an Oct. 17 performance at the Heritage Hospice Gala in Lancaster. They were also scheduled to appear Oct. 18 at The Nook, where each musician would have a featured set consisting primarily of original music.

Alexander said he wants to connect with local artists, venues and businesses interested in collaborating on future projects. More information about KA Studios is available at KASTudiosX.com, while Alexander’s music can be found at KonstantinAlexander.com.

Looking beyond the first Danville Live event, Alexander said he hopes the initiative can create more opportunities for live music while eventually showcasing additional artists in downtown Danville.

“Danville Live is just the beginning of what I hope to contribute here,” Alexander said.



ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Bidding begins to close Tuesday, November 3 @ 6:30pm

GORGEOUS 2 BD / 2 BA HOME

IN MCDOWELL ESTATES | 55+ COMMUNITY

128 Kendall Dr., Danville, KY



CONVENIENT LOW MAINTENANCE LIVING!

• Attached 2-Car Garage • Low HOA Fee - Just \$137/Month

• HOA Includes Lawn Care, Landscaping & Snow Removal

10% Buyer's Premium, Willie Baker - CAI, AMM

www.BidBaker.com | 859-854-0307