

Boyle to take on Covington Catholic in playoffs **Page 9A**

The Advocate Messenger

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Junction City residents question mayor, seek records

By Christopher Brown
Bluegrass News Media

JUNCTION CITY, Ky. — The Junction City Council met Thursday, Nov. 12, for the first time since a recording that purportedly captured Mayor Jim Douglas using a racial slur circulated widely online. Residents called for Douglas to resign and pressed city officials about unanswered open records requests and the appointment of a temporary city clerk.

Douglas acknowledged during the meeting that it was his voice on the recording and said the audio had been altered. The crowd at City Hall approached the building's posted capacity of 50 people.

Tensions began before the meeting was called to order.

In a video Junction City resident Hannah Marquez posted to Facebook, police officer Ben Rowe, a former police chief, explained why signs limiting the building's occupancy to 50 people had been posted on the doors.

Marquez, who first posted the recording of Douglas the previous month and has pressed city officials for answers, asked whether the city would use the fire department building to accommodate an overflow crowd.

"Why would we use that?" Rowe asked.

"Because the city is required ..." Marquez began before Rowe interrupted her.

"No, we're not going to use that," Rowe said, raising his voice. "This building right here has a capacity, and there's only one way out of here."

When Marquez asked why he was raising his voice, Rowe replied, "Yeah, because you're running your mouth, OK? You don't know what you're talking about. You don't know what you're talking about, so don't question me." He then walked away.

Douglas presided over the meeting. Council members Mary Hurst, Vicki Bowling, Brittany Coffman and David Stevens attended. Council members Jackie Antle and Bill McCowan were absent.

City Attorney John Hackley and Talitha West, whom Douglas later identified as the temporary city clerk, also attended.

An early disagreement centered on a resolution about the city's participation in a local ethics board.

Douglas asked for a motion to approve or reject the resolution. Coffman asked whether the council had discussed it at the October meeting, which she missed because of a death in her family.

Douglas said he could not remember. Stevens said the council had discussed the resolution at a previous meeting.

A resident asked Douglas to explain what the resolution was about.

"It was taken care of last month," Douglas replied, raising his voice.

When the resident asked why the council was considering it again, Douglas replied, "I guess that's none of your concern. Who are you?"

The woman identified herself as a Junction City resident and

See **JUNCTION**, 2A



KENTUCKY BLACK CAUCUS OF L.E.O

Members of the Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials gather during a recent meeting.

Atkins elected president of statewide caucus

Danville mayor chosen to lead Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — Danville Mayor James H. Atkins has been elected president of the Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a statewide organization that brings together Black elected officials and community members.

The City of Danville announced Atkins' selection following the caucus's election of new officers and board members.

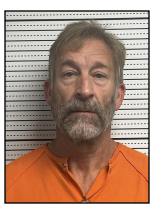
The Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, also known as KBC-LEO, provides a forum for Black elected officials and community members to share ideas, experiences, and knowledge. The organization said its work is aimed at educating members and communities while advancing effective local leadership across Kentucky.

Atkins will lead a group of officers representing communities across the state.

See **ATKINS**, 2A

Man arrested after U.S. 127 pursuit

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger



Kevin James Keller

DANVILLE, Ky. — A traffic stop on the U.S. 127 Bypass turned into a police pursuit Nov. 6 before a man was arrested in the parking lot of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Danville.

Kevin James Keller, 59, was charged with second-

See **MAN**, 4A



CENTRE COLLEGE

Centre College students participate in a workshop during the annual Building Bridges and Community Day.

Centre expands Building Bridges event

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — Centre College students, faculty and staff came together for more than 25 workshops, discussions and activities during the college's annual Building Bridges and Community Day.

Now in its ninth year, the event was expanded from a half-

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