

AD Barnhart steps away from lucrative UK post after governor complains

By McKenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

University of Kentucky Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart has decided not to take a \$950,000 a year job that would begin after his June 30 retirement, UK President Eli Capilouto announced on Thursday. “Mitch Barnhart came to me earlier this week to share his concern that the discussion surrounding his future role leading our sports workforce initiative has become a distraction from the work of our university, Capilouto announced in his statement. Mitch and his family care deeply about this institutin and our state, and they want the focus to return to the work that matters most for our students and the Commonwealth.”

Barnhart will instead retire on June 30 without becoming the head of the Sports Workforce Initiative at UK. He had already signed a contract for the new position but Capilouto said he and Barnhart would work out new terms for his departure.

“The compensation associated with his departure will be supported by private funds — not athletic funds, not funds that would go toward NIL opportunities or university funds — that I will raise,” Capilouto said. “Mitch’s impact on this university has been profound, and I am grateful for his decades of leadership and service.”

The lucrative job, which was created for Barnhart, caused a furor around Kentucky with complaints coming from UK boosters



University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto listens to Gov. Andy Beshear’s State of the Commonwealth address at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, Jan. 7, 2026.

and others. On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear joined in, saying he was concerned about UK’s decisions in the Barnhart matter and the university’s selection of a new dean for the law school.

Barnhart said work had begun on the new initiative, “but recently it has become apparent that now is not the right time and we would never stand in the way of what we deem best. The world of sports is dynamic and ever-changing. It is my hope that this initiative will continue in the future.”

Last month, Brett Setzer, a prominent football booster, called on UK to reverse the decision on Barnhart’s new job, saying it was “deeply misguided.” He criticized UK’s reversal on the job’s funding

source; at first officials said it would come out of the general fund, and later that the athletics department would pay for it.

In a social media post on Tuesday, Beshear had said he was concerned about “the creation of a new \$1 million job that has no defined duties.”

College of Law dean The governor’s statements also attacked the hiring of new UK Law School Dean Gregory Van Tatenhove, saying the “new dean of law was the only candidate not recommended by law school faculty.”

Republicans, including House Speaker David Osborne and Attorney General Russell Coleman, responded to Beshear by praising

Tatenhove’s record.

Tatenhove said that his role as a federal judge requires “that I stay out of partisan politics” while speaking to reporters Thursday afternoon with UK Provost Robert DiPaola.

“And I’ve adhered to that carefully,” he continued. “I adhered to it during this search process. And that important value does not end now. Frankly, it’ll be part of my deanship. I don’t think deans ought to be viewed as partisan. They speak for the university community, the College of Law community, which includes folks from a lot of different backgrounds. So my goal is to build relationships with everybody, so I’m

See AD, 9A

Second Chance Month recognized in ceremonial signing

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

BURGIN, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear recognized Second Chance Month in the state by ceremoniously signing House Bill 5, which provides the framework to create Kentucky’s first reentry campus, focused on increasing public safety and boosting the state’s workforce.

Second Chance Month brings communities and organizations together throughout the nation to raise awareness of barriers that inmates face upon reentering society. Kentucky is committed to increasing public safety and reducing crime, which is why the state has seen recidivism rates decrease for two years in a row. Monday’s event symbolizes Team Kentucky’s commitment to moving the commonwealth forward.

“In Kentucky, we believe in the importance of second chances, and that’s evident in the legislation we’re signing today which will establish our commonwealth as a national model for public safety,” Beshear said. “Together we’re building a safer New Kentucky Home by improving reentry outcomes and helping people get good-paying jobs – because it’s the right thing to do.”

The reentry campus will be operated by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) on the grounds of Northpoint Training Center in Burgin. Once constructed, it will provide up to 400 inmates each year with targeted vocational technical education

programs and intensive reentry services.

“KCTCS is the commonwealth’s affordable entry point to higher education and leading workforce provider. Through HB 5, we’ll be able to accelerate our work in providing training that leads to a job for our fair-chance population,” said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles. “I want to thank Gov. Beshear and Secretary Jackson for their partnership, and Rep. Decker, Sen. Storm and their co-sponsors for their leadership in the General Assembly. One of the best predictors for decreasing recidivism is providing access to gainful employment. Economic development is our guide star, and this is one more way we’re helping Kentucky meet its workforce needs.”

The program will require inmates from across Kentucky’s state prisons to qualify and apply for participation and to maintain good behavior and success to remain in the program. Participating inmates will be enrolled as students in KCTCS and will receive vocational training in industries that support Kentucky’s booming economy. The facility’s intensive reentry services will prepare inmates for success in their jobs and communities upon release.

HB 5, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Decker, R-Waddy, received bipartisan support at each stage of the legislative process, clearing both the House and Senate unanimously.

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Public Notices

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Housing Authority of Nicholasville, Kentucky, is seeking proposals from qualified firms for property, general liability, workers compensation, auto, cyber, criminal and public officials’ liability insurance for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2026. Proposal documents may be obtained beginning April 9, 2026, at 601 Broadway Street (859-885-4324) Monday – Friday from 8:00am until 4:00pm. The Authority’s single-source contact in the above matters is: Ms. Sandra Horton Executive Director Nicholasville Housing Authority 601 Broadway Nicholasville, KY 40356 nicholasvilleha@windstream.net

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2026 RFP/INSURANCE

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Jessamine County Fire District is seeking nominees for one (1) citizen elect position to the Board of Trustees. In accordance with KRS Chapter 75.031, the interested person(s) shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, attained the age of eighteen, are property owners who own real or personal property which is subject to fire protection tax pursuant to KRS 75.040, who personally reside in the district, and are not active firefighters. This position shall be elected by the property owners of the district subject to fire protection tax pursuant to KRS 75.040 and shall have attained the age of eighteen. Nominees shall return a letter of interest to the Secretary of the Board, Jon Sallee, no later than 4:00pm on Friday, May 8th, 2026. Letters may be dropped off or mailed to the Jessamine County Fire District at 1310 South Main Street in Nicholasville, KY 40356. Elections will be conducted in accordance with KRS 75.031 on Saturday, June 27th, 2026.

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 16, 23 and 30, 2026 ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Jessamine County Fiscal Court on April 21, 2026 enacted an ordinance, the full text of which is available for public inspection in the office of the Jessamine County Clerk, Jessamine County Courthouse, Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356. The Ordinance by title and summary is as follows: An Ordinance relating to: Planning and Zoning Zone Map Amendment of 29.33 Acres zoned A-1 to I-1 submitted by SDP Properties, LLC for property located at 2100 Shun Pike.

JESSAMINE COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 30, 2026 ORDINANCE 4.21.26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPERTY SALE

The Jessamine County Board of Education will receive sealed proposals from qualified parties to purchase certain real property consisting of 31 acres of real property located at 939 Union Mill Road, Nicholasville, KY until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at its office address shown

Public Notices

below. Required RFP-SPB02FY26 bid packets may be obtained by contacting Kim Flynn - Purchasing Supervisor, Jessamine County Board of Education, 871 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356 (859) 885-4179 ext 3023 kim.flynn@jessamine.kyschools.us

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21, 2026 RFP/SPB02FY26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice Request for Proposals Architectural Services

The Jessamine County Board of Education will receive sealed proposals at its office address shown below for **Architectural Services** until Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Opening of proposals to immediately follow. Required bid forms and project scope may be obtained by contacting Matthew Simpson, Director of Operations, Jessamine County Board of Education, 871 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356; (859) 885-4179 ext. 3034.

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 30 and May 7, 2026 RFP/ARCHITECTURAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Jessamine County Board of Elections will hold a meeting on May 5, 2026, at 10:00A.M. in the Jessamine County Clerk’s Office, 101 North Main Street, Nicholasville, KY 40356.

Johnny M. Collier, CJC
Jessamine County Clerk

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 30, 2026 MEETING 5.5.26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Nicholasville Board of Adjustment will meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026 in the Community Room of the Nicholasville Police Station, 717 North Main Street, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

Conditional Use Permit 1060 Elizabeth Street, Suite 6. Conditional Use Permit to operate a fitness and sports training facility that also provides wellness services for youth and adults in an I-1 Light Industrial District. Requested by Randy Raglin c/o In Flight Training, Nicholasville, KY. 129 Keene Crossing. Conditional Use Permit (Home Occupation) to operate an in-home child care business for up to five unrelated children. Requested by Sherika Blanc, Nicholasville, KY. Dimensional Variance 301 West Oak Street. Dimensional Variances to:

A) to construct a 20’ x 30’ detached garage that would be less than the required 30’ from the front build line and less than the required 6’ from the rear property line; B) to place a 10’ x 16’ shed less than 6’ from the side property line; and the combined square footage of both detached structures would exceed the 650 sq. ft. allowed per ordinance. Requested by William and Tracy Gatlliff, Nicholasville, KY. 932 South Main Street. Dimensional Variance to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages to the customers of the nail salon located less than the required 100’ from the residential zone. Requested by Lush Nails & Bar, Nicholasville, KY. 132 Locust Heights. Dimensional Variance to construct a detached garage that would be larger than the allowed 650 sq. ft. and to allow the existing two detached structures to remain. Requested by Randy David, Nicholasville, KY. 165 Gainsway Drive. Dimensional Variance to allow a 6’ privacy fence placed less than the required 12.5’ from the inside edge of the sidewalk. Requested by Amanda Grace Davis, Nicholasville, KY. 213 Brome Drive. Dimensional Variance to allow the proposed 6’ privacy fence to remain less than the required 15’ from the inside edge of the sidewalk. Requested by Michael Bredensteiner, Nicholasville, KY. 690 Keene Centre Drive. Dimensional Variance to allow LED tube borders to outline the building instead of as prohibited per ordinance. Requested by Cattleman’s Roadhouse, Louisville, KY. 641 Keene Centre Drive. Dimensional Variance to allow a monument sign to be less than the required 5’ from the property line right-of-way. Requested by Keene 169, LLC, Lexington, KY.

Public Notices

Request for Proposals Architectural Services

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Appeals Boone Development Appeals the Notice of January 22, 2026. Via Vitae Appeals the Notice of January 22, 2026. Annual review of previously approved Conditional Use Permits.

Alex Lyttle, Chairman of Nicholasville Board of Adjustment

Jessamine Journal: Apr. 30, 2026 MEETING 5.11.26

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