

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC. FOR )  
ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC ) Case No. 2023-00297  
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO BID ON )  
A GAS DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISE IN THE )  
CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE CITY OF )  
RACELAND, KENTUCKY. )

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APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

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The petition of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia") respectfully states:

(A) That applicant is engaged in the business of furnishing natural gas services to the public in certain counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to authority granted by the Commission.

(B) That applicant's full name and post office address, email address and fax number is:

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.  
2001 Mercer Road  
P.O. Box 14241  
Lexington, KY 40512-4241  
[pscmalcky@nisource.com](mailto:pscmalcky@nisource.com)  
FAX: (859)288-0258

(C) That Columbia's Articles of Incorporation previously have been filed with the Commission in Case No. 2021-00183 and are incorporated herein by reference.

(D) That Columbia is furnishing gas distribution service in the franchise area as of the date of the filing of this Application.

(E) Attached hereto as Attachment A are the Special Council Meeting Minutes of the August 22, 2023 City of Raceland, Kentucky ("Raceland"). Said Minutes reflect the decision of Raceland to advertise for bids for a natural gas franchise. Said advertisement was by legal notice published in the Greenup Gazette on August 31, 2023 and attached hereto as Attachment B.

(F) The need and demand for gas distribution service within the corporation limits of Raceland is shown by the fact that Columbia serves approximately 714 customers in the City at the present time. There exists a public necessity for adequate service of natural gas to the citizens of Raceland, Kentucky.

(G) Columbia desires to acquire said franchise for gas distribution service in Raceland and submit a bid pursuant to Raceland's published legal notice. The deadline for receipt of bids has been established as October 6, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**WHEREFORE**, Columbia respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission make its order issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity that authorizes Columbia to acquire a gas distribution franchise from Raceland, for the reasons described herein.

Dated at Columbus, Ohio, this 22nd day of September 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

**COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

By: /s/ John R. Ryan  
John R. Ryan  
Senior Counsel  
290 W. Nationwide Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 285-2220  
johnryan@nisource.com

Attorney for  
**COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Special Council Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023  
City of Raceland, Kentucky**

City of Raceland  
Special Council Meeting Minutes  
August 22, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mayor Eddie Cumpton at 7:00PM.

Council present were Bill Bare, Ann Catlin, Stephanie Blevins Cook, Carlos Holbrook, Wayne Tackett, and Tony Wilson.

Motion by Tony Wilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie Blevins Cook to allow for Non-exclusive and Exclusive Franchise Fees go out for bid. All council voted yes, motion passed.

Motion by Tony Wilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carlos Holbrook to go into executive session at 7:07PM on possible litigation. All council voted yes, motion passed.

Motion by Tony Wilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carlos Holbrook to come out of executive session at 7:20PM with no action taken. All council voted yes, motion passed.

Motion by Tony Wilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Bare to accept the garbage bid from Prichard. Council who voted yes were Tony Wilson, Bill Bare, Stephanie Blevins Cook, and Wayne Tackett. Council who voted no were Ann Catlin and Carlos Holbrook.

Motion by Stephanie Blevins Cook and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Wilson to surplus the garbage truck. Council who voted yes were Stephanie Blevins Cook, Tony Wilson, Bill Bare, Wayne Tackett, and Tony Wilson. Ann Catlin voted no.

Motion by Tony Wilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carlos Holbrook to adjourn the meeting at 7:25PM. All council voted yes. Meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eddie Cumpton, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzie M. Gibeaut, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTACHMENT B**

*Greenup Gazette*

**August 31, 2023**

# Public notices / Community

## Tri-State scriptwriter's show going on road

IRONTON - Ohio University Southern hosted the inaugural Culture and Heritage Festival in June, which featured a theatrical performance created by Ironton resident Belinda Brown. And now her show is going on the road.

"Lives and hearts were touched," said Brown. "So much so there have been requests for an encore performance from those who attended and those who were not able to attend the first performance."

"Heritage: A Celebration of Historical Legacies" was written and directed by Brown and featured actors from the tri-state area. It was created as part of the Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tourism Initiative, celebrating the history of the Underground Railroad in Appalachian communities. The performance was a tribute to African Americans who have made contributions to our country.

"We're bringing some inspiring characters to life," said Brown. "Our whole goal is to educate, enlighten and inspire. The characters are African American, but everybody can see themselves in these people."

One of the characters highlighted in the performance will be Harriett Tubman.

"She's one of my favorites, I've read 50,000 things about her. But doing research, I learned more," Brown added. "I didn't know that she was a suffragette, she fought for women's right to vote. She was a veteran. She was the first woman to lead an expedition and be a spy in the Union Army. She led so many people to freedom, she is just an inspiration."

In addition to well-known historical figures, local figures will also be highlighted.

"It's not just people that you might've seen on TV or read in a book. That's your neighbor up there, your



The cast of the June show are set to perform again on Sept. 2 in Ironton.

cousin...

"If they can do it, you can too," said Brown. "We're trying to put pride in our people and in our community, to inspire us to plant the seeds and let them grow."

There will be an encore performance of the production at Ohio University Southern on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m., as well as at University of Rio Grande on Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. as part of their annual

Emancipation Day Celebration.

"To have the positive feedback from the community and the full support of Ohio University Southern is truly a great blessing," said Brown.

"We look forward to bringing our performance once again to Ohio University Southern and other venues who have reached out to us."

For more information, contact Robert Pleasant at [pleasantr@ohio.edu](mailto:pleasantr@ohio.edu).

## Pandemic brought big absenteeism rate

By Al Cross

Kentucky Health News  
LEXINGTON

Twenty-eight percent of students in Kentucky schools were chronically absent from classes during the last academic year, compared to 18 percent in the 2018-19 school year, according to a national study done at Stanford University with the help of The Associated Press.

But Kentucky's increase was less than the national increase, so much that its figure is now about the national average instead of above it.

Kentucky's rise of 10 percentage points was an increase of 56 percent. Nationally in 2018-19, 14.8 percent of students were chronically absent from school; in 2021-22, it was 28.3 percent. That increase of 13.5 percentage points was a rise of 91 percent from the last year before the pandemic.

"The large and broad increases in chronic absenteeism suggest many students are failing to re-engage in schooling as in-person instruction returned," wrote Thomas Dee, the Stanford education professor who con-

ducted the study.

"The data from 40 states and Washington, D.C., provides the most comprehensive accounting of absenteeism nationwide," AP reports. However, Dee's statistical analyses of the data were unable to find a pattern that explained the wide differences.

Dee said he tested found little if any correlation between chronic-absenteeism growth and a state's infection rate, its classroom masking policies, enrollment losses or differences in how "chronic absenteeism" is defined. Kentucky defines it as missing 10% or more of the year for any reason.

Kentucky's chronic-absentee rate in 2018-19 was higher than the national average. Last year, it was about the same as the national average. (The report gave rates in whole percentage points, not tenths of points.)

The Economist reports possible reasons for increased truancy: "Having experienced remote learning, some students—and perhaps their parents—no longer think it essential or even worthwhile to sit in a classroom. 'It's the same thing as in the workplace,' says a teacher in New Orleans. 'Once you've gone down to only being there two or three days a week, coming back all five is hard.' His classrooms are especially empty on Fridays, he says, so he avoids scheduling the most important lessons then. After the pandemic, people 'started catering to their mental-health needs,' says Tieshia Robinson, a principal at Chicago Collegiate, a public charter school in the city. For parents, that might mean allowing children who are unhappy at school to skip days. Pupils have also grown used to staying at home at the slightest sign of physical illness, says Greg Frostad

of New Mexico's education department."

The highest 2021-22 chronic-absentee rates, 49% and 48%, were found in Alaska and the District of Columbia, which also had the highest rates in 2018-19, 30% and 29%, respectively. The third-highest rate, 40%, was in New Mexico; that was more than double its 2018-19 rate of 18%. Arizona's rate also more than doubled, from 13% to 34%, the eighth highest in 2021-22.

Most of those leaders have high shares of minority populations. "The pandemic growth in chronic absenteeism exacerbated pre-existing inequalities," Dee writes, noting that the increases were larger "among economically disadvantaged students as well as Black students and Hispanic students."

Other states where the rate doubled or more than doubled were Washington, 15% to 33%; California, 12% to 30%; Mississippi, 13%

to 28%; Massachusetts, 13% to 28%; Texas, 11% to 26%; Iowa, 13% to 26%; and Connecticut, 10% to 24%. Dee reports that early figures for 2022-23 from Massachusetts and Connecticut show continued high absenteeism, and The Economist reports a like pattern in England and Australia.

### LAND FOR SALE

50 acres flat ground in Lewis County near Firebrick. Access off AA. House, garage, two wells on property. Call (74) 353-4280 or (740) 727-2530.

### Help Wanted

Helping Hands of Greenup County, Inc. seeking a part-time staff associate. The ability to work with the general public in a caring manner and maintain confidentiality is essential. High school diploma or GED required. Must be able to lift and carry 50 lbs. Must have driver's license and be insurable by Helping Hands automobile insurance carrier. Send resumes to: Executive Director, Helping Hands of Greenup County, PO Box 633, Greenup, KY 41144 by September 15, 2023. Please no phone calls.

### Call for Bids

The City of Raceland is now accepting bids for exclusive and non-exclusive franchise agreements within the city for the use of public streets, alleys, and other public grounds for cable television, internet, telephone, electric and natural gas services. All bids can be mailed or delivered to 711 Chinn Street, Raceland, Kentucky, 41169 c/o City Administrator Dustin Burchett or emailed to [dburchett@racelandky.org](mailto:dburchett@racelandky.org). All bids need to be submitted before 4pm on October 6th, 2023.

### City of South Shore Public Meeting Notice

The City of South Shore, Kentucky has applied to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority for multiple low interest loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, funded in part by a grant to Kentucky from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This includes the City of South Shore Water System Improvement Project, as well as the Emergency, Permanent River Crossing Interconnect to Portsmouth Ohio's water system amongst other related projects.

The City of South Shore will hold a public meeting on **Friday, September, 8 at 1:00 at the South Shore Municipal Building**. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the public to review and comment on the proposed activities, potential impacts, and project alternatives. Any relevant documents will be on file at the South Shore Municipal Building for citizen's review during regular business hours.

Published Aug. 31, 2023

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 65A.80(2) KRS 242.220, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes: The Greenup County Conservation District holds its regularly scheduled monthly board meetings at 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Financial information including budgets, our most recent audit, our last annual financial report, and a list of our Board of Supervisors can be obtained by a written request sent to our office at 287 Teague Drive Greenup, KY 41144. This advertisement was paid for by the Greenup County Conservation District using tax payer dollars in the amount of \$24.

Published August 31, 2023

### Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Bobby Hall, Greenup County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Pat Hieneman, Former Greenup County Clerk  
The Honorable Andrew Imel, Greenup County Clerk  
Members of the Greenup County Fiscal Court

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the former County Clerk of Greenup County, Kentucky, for the period January 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting  
In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former Greenup County Clerk for the period January 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles  
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the former Greenup County Clerk, as of August 31, 2022, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion  
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Program for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the former Greenup County Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles  
As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the former Greenup County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement  
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement  
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:  
• Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.  
• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.

• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the former Greenup County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.

• Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the former Greenup County Clerk's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards  
In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 7, 2023, on our consideration of the former Greenup County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the former Greenup County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts Frankfort, KY  
June 7, 2023

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website

Published August 31, 2023