

First responders stage mock disaster with message for Trimble students

BY KARLY CODE
THE TRIMBLE BANNER

Local first responders staged a mock disaster at the Trimble County High School on Friday, April 17, a day before the school's annual prom to emphasize the importance of not driving drunk on prom night and beyond.

Bedford Fire Chief/Trimble EMS Director Will McCoy, who organized and planned the event, explained, "This event ensures that the students of Trimble County High School are able to see the consequences of bad decisions involving alcohol and drugs, and hopefully we can prevent them from making those bad decisions."

Two cars were set up in the lower parking lot of the school, staged to look like a drunk driving accident. Trimble students played parts in the tragedy — three as injured passengers, one as a classmate who was dead on arrival, and one as the drunk driver who was administered a field sobriety test on site by responding police similar to a real crash.

Just like in a real fatal crash, Trimble Deputy Coroner Cody Killingsworth arrived on the scene to pronounce the victim dead and investigate the scene. Firefighters used the jaws of life to cut and tear off cars doors so EMS responders could safely access patients in the vehicle.

A medevac helicopter landed on the high school football field to transport a critical patient. Chief McCoy noted that helicopters can transport patients to trauma centers at either University of Louisville or University of Cincinnati hospitals within 15 minutes of taking flight in the county.

Trimble County Attorney Crystal Heinz was on hand to detail the possible charges the drunk driver could face, some of which carried jail sentences. She pointed out that even if the driver is under age 18, prosecutors could press for the



Karly Code

Local first responders conducted a mock disaster drill with students at Trimble County Junior/Senior High school Friday to emphasize the importance of not driving impaired on the school's upcoming prom night and beyond with several dozen students participating.



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Firefighters set up the Jaws of Life while Emergency Medical Technicians attend tend victims and prep equipment and School Resource Officer Lonnie Gullion interviews driver Caleb Patrick, a student, about a mock crash that saw fellow student Bailyn Vogt ejected through the windshield of the car. Under the drill Patrick was playing the role of a drunk driver and Vogt was a victim in his car who later was dead on arrival at the hospital.



Karly Code

Local firefighters, EMTs and a medevac helicopter crew all play their roles in last Friday's mock disaster drill at Trimble County High School. The pre-prom drill is held to reinforce the dangers of impaired driving — especially during the school's upcoming prom the next night.

driver to be charged as an adult, which would mean adult consequences and possibly 5 to 10 years of jail.

"You are in charge of your future. Please don't make such a senseless mistake," warned Heinz.

Trimble Sheriff's Deputy Lonnie Gullion also cautioned

about distracted driving, like texting while driving: "Looking down at your phone for two or three seconds, you can travel over 100 yards, which is the length of the football field, at speeds of 60 mph. Pay attention. You're looking out for not only what you're doing, but other drivers as well."

Every community member involved in the event hoped the onlooking juniors and seniors took the message to heart.

"I hope the kids learn something and take this as the real deal," said Billy Smith of C&J's Towing, which donated the cars for the exercise and then hauled them away after the event.

"Know what you're doing. Be smart drivers," said Kentucky State Trooper Tyler Shaw, public affairs officer for the Campbellsburg Post 5.

The event took a lot of effort and cooperation from multiple departments and community members. Superintendent Todd Neace said, "We're so grateful to have the support and resources of the community to come out and help us stress the importance of keeping everybody safe."

TRIMBLE

FROM PAGE A1

commended Trimble's teachers for their hard work and cooperation during the review process.

Welty noted the stress teachers and staff have been under for the past month while the state has conducted its review as well as the usual concerns about upcoming state testing, which takes place early next month.

"This hasn't been easy," said Welty.

"Teachers are stepping up to the plate," said Neace, referencing the numerous meetings and after-school targeting sessions teachers have attended during the process.

Additional funds from the state will be used to provide official training on the math curriculum used by the elementary schools. While the district has used the same curriculum in the past, no official training has been provided due to the expense of that option. That won't be the case this year.

The principals and Neace are optimistic of the changes that will happen at the schools.

"We're in a better place than we were," said Phillips.

"We are going to come out a stronger district," Neace noted.

In other business, the board also recognized two students and Junior-Senior media teacher Steve Gamble.

Jaycie Caldon, a junior, had designed a banner to represent Trimble County at the Kentucky School Board Association conference in February. Sub-

missions needed to represent the theme "Built to Last," and Caldon's design displayed Trimble employees in a building, with the Trimble Raiders mascot holding a golden hammer, reminiscent of Fix It Felix.

Lariah Lafferty, a senior, was recognized for having recently placed second in a regional Rotary speech contest. She recited her award-winning speech to the board at the meeting. "Serving not only brings kindness, but it brings real happiness to everyone involved. ... When you serve others, it changes the way to see the world," Lafferty said.

Gamble, who teaches media to junior high and senior high students, created a video and poster for the "You Belong! Attendance Matters" campaign hosted by the Student Technology Leadership Program and the Kentucky Department of Education.

Trimble placed in the top two of that contest which there will be a recognition ceremony on April 24.

Cindy Warrick attended the meeting to promote Trimble County's upcoming America 250 event, which will be held on June 27. Warrick emphasized volunteer opportunities that are available to high school students, including painting windows of local businesses and running games during the event.

She said the next America 250 organization meeting will be May 5 at 5:30 p.m.

There was no public comment during the meeting, and the board adjourned to hold a closed session. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

LOOKING

FROM PAGE A2

He's in the business of helping people. At least that's what Bob Scott says. "Young or old, rich or poor," Scott says, "if there's a need, I'm here to help."

Scott, in conjunction with several churches in Trimble County has started a busi-

ness — the business of helping people.

Celebrate

A reception in honor of Frances Colbert's 80th birthday will be held Sunday at Bedford Baptist Church.

Birth

Stephanie Ramsey and Billy Ashcraft are proud to announce the birth of their son, Dalton David Lee Ashcraft. He weighed 4 pounds, 3 ounces and was 17 inches in length.

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LEGAL NOTICE

ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report
The Honorable John D. Ogburn, Jr., Trimble County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Tina Browning, Former Trimble County Clerk
The Honorable Sarah A. Cull, Trimble County Clerk
Members of the Trimble 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 Trimble County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 Trimble County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws 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 Trimble County Clerk, as of December 31, 2024, 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* (GAS), 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 Trimble 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 Trimble 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.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the former Trimble County Clerk's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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 and GAS 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 and GAS, 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 Trimble 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 Trimble 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 February 3, 2026, on our consideration of the former Trimble 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 Trimble County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Ball
Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

February 3, 2026
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 at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.