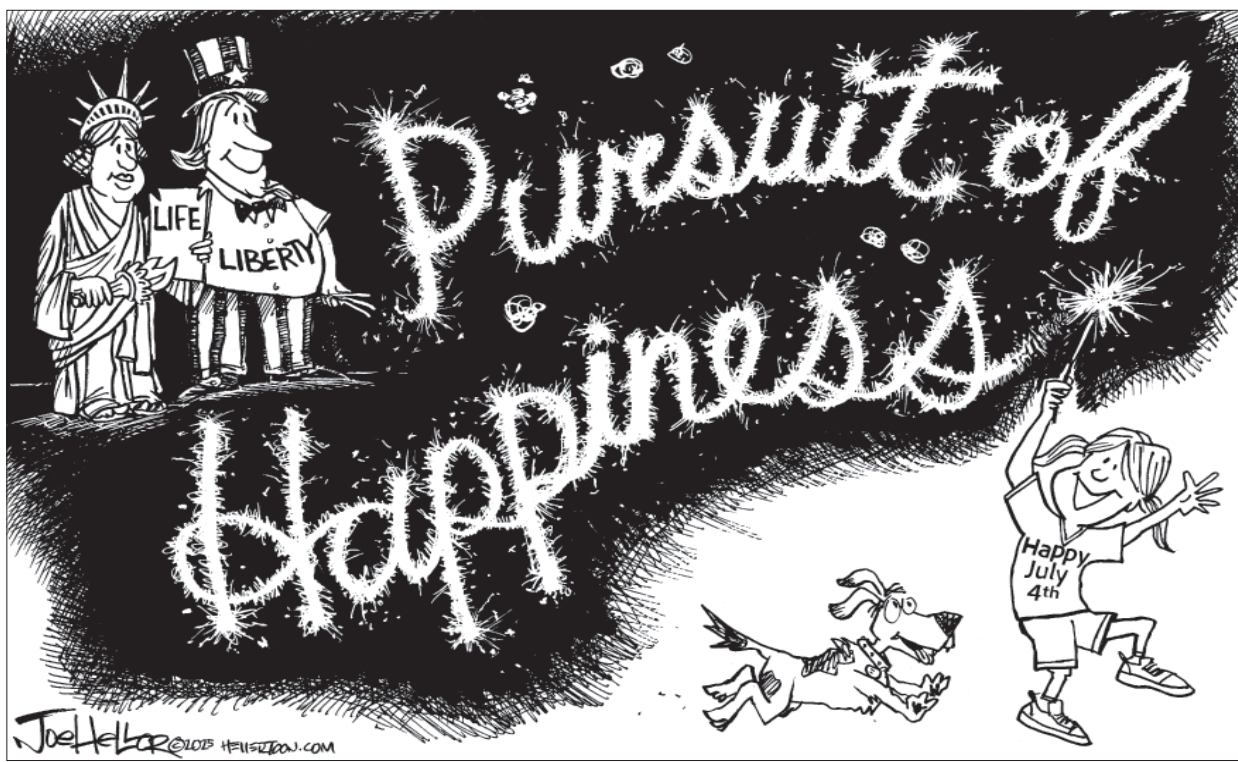


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OPINION

The opinions of writers on this page are not necessarily those of the newspaper, or management. We encourage our readers to share their views for publication. Thanks so much for choosing the Barren County Progress.

July 2, 2025



The Spirit of Independence lives on in Kentucky



Senator David Givens

Each year, as the Fourth of July approaches, we're reminded that Independence Day is about more than fireworks and backyard barbecues. It's a time to reflect on the values that gave birth to our nation and continue to shape it today: freedom, opportunity, and the belief that a better future is always within reach.

This Independence Day, we honor the country our Founding Fathers brought to life: one grounded in the belief that liberty, justice, and self-determination are worth fighting for. Their declaration was more than a rejection of a distant crown. It was a declaration of a new way of governing, where power rests with the people.

As we gather with family and friends, we celebrate not just the founders', but the lasting strength of the country they built. Still standing, still striving, and still guided by the ideals that lit the path to freedom, it's what built the American dream and it's what fuels the spirit of Kentucky communities every single day.

We see it in the young families working hard to give their children more than they had, in the small business owners who take risks and create jobs, and in the service members and veterans who continue to protect the freedoms we hold dear. These quiet, determined, and hopeful everyday efforts are what truly define our country.

The American dream has never promised perfection. What it promises is the freedom to try, to grow, and to build something better. It's a promise rooted in the belief that our future is not fixed. Our future is forged by each generation, one decision at a time.

Here in Kentucky, we carry that responsibility with pride. From the historic grounds of Camp Taylor to today's missions at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, our commonwealth has always stood in defense of that promise. Honoring that legacy means more than looking back, it means living up to the values we celebrate this time each year.

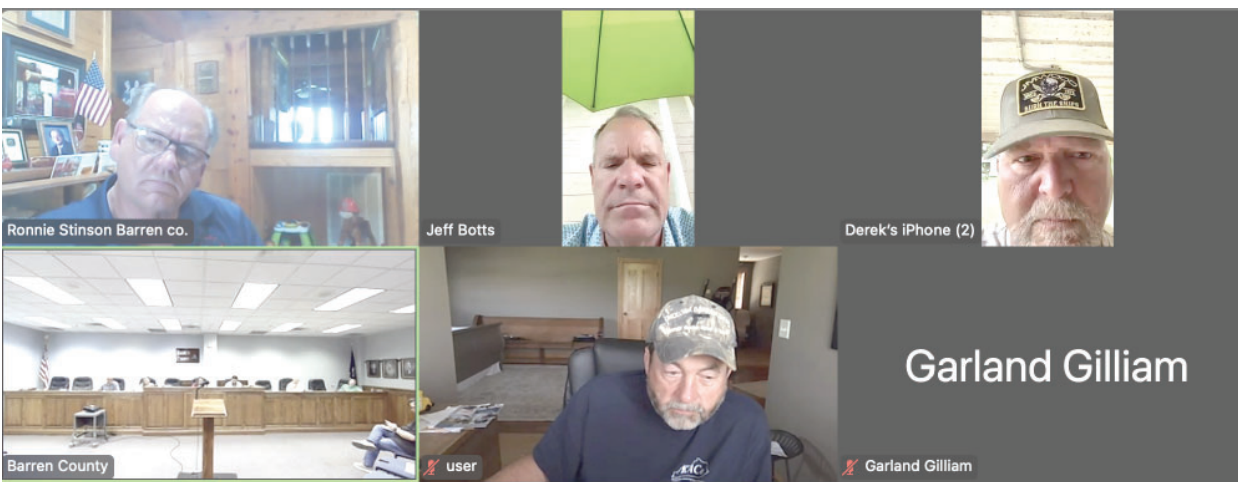
So as flags fly and families gather this Independence Day, take a moment to remember what the red, white, and blue truly celebrates: a nation that's still standing, a dream that's still alive, and people, right here in Kentucky and across this country, who still believe in the promise of America.

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Sen. David Givens, R-Greensburg, represents the 9th Senate District, including Barren, Edmondson, Green, and Hart Counties and northwestern Warren County. He serves in Senate majority leadership as Senate president pro tempore. He is a member of the Interim Joint Committees on Appropriations and Revenue, and Education. As a member of Senate majority leadership, he serves on the Legislative Research Commission.



FISCAL COURT BRIEFS



Allyson Dix Managing Editor

The Barren County Fiscal Court met twice within the last couple of weeks, with one meeting being special-called on Friday. The county rolled through several business items between the two sessions ranging from approving the public health tax rate, a three-county interlocal agreement, adopting next year's budget, and more.

On June 17, the second reading of the annual budget was approved for fiscal year 2025-2026. No discussion was had by the court on the budget in the last reading. The budget will be highlighted in a more detailed story at a later date.

On June 27, the court unanimously approved a resolution to adopting the same public health tax rate as last year at 2.5-cents of assessed valuation of all real property, and same for personal property and motor vehicle tax.

Changes to the county's administrative code, stemming from the county's Administrative and Budget Committee, were adopted in a second reading on June 27 relating mostly to employee hours worked and holiday pay, time cards, and adding the parks and rec and road departments to some of the regulations. For example, the road department was added with the already listed employees of law enforcement, fire protection, and emergen-

cy response to be able to accrue up to 480 hours of comp time.

Removed from the admin code was the allowance of an eight-hour paid discretionary holiday in an employee's birthday month. Also removed was holiday leave being included in overtime tabulation and "supervisory employees will not be subject to overtime pay for duty beyond the normal work week."

The first reading on the admin code was on June 17, where Magistrate Tim Durham voted against the changes stating, having received it the night prior to the meeting, some of it he agreed with, and some he did not. He voted in favor on the second reading.

Byrd also announced the rescheduling of the public meeting for the Wood Duck solar project planned for Barren County to July 15 at 5 p.m. in the Barren County Fiscal Courtroom; however, the meeting is being held by the Kentucky State Board of Electric Generation and Transmission siting board.

Three other stories are in print this week stemming from these meetings on the sports complex feasibility study, the relocating of graves in Cave City, and an interlocal agreement for an agricultural consortium.

The full meetings can be viewed on Barren County, Kentucky YouTube channel.

GLASGOW COUNCIL BRIEFS

Allyson Dix Managing Editor

The Glasgow City Council met in regular session on June 23. The following business items were approved:

- Second reading of a budget ordinance for the current fiscal year to receive a \$271,907.49 Glasgow Airport grant and transferring same to the airport; receiving \$2,000 from donations and transferring \$9,200 for a bit defender; \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated general fund to the unappropriated sanitation landfill to replace monies from an earlier transfer; and \$87,900 transferred for parts and repair

of equipment related to the landfill.

- Second reading of next year's annual fiscal budget, which was detailed in an earlier Barren County Progress publication;

- A joint resolution with Barren County allowing an amendment of an interlocal agreement for clarification of fee collections and permit software costs (Barren County Fiscal Court also approved same last week);

- A resolution allowing April Russell to apply for a grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for a spay/neuter grant through the Animal Control Advisory Board;

- First reading of an ordinance that will amend an existing ordinance pertaining to the compensation of both the mayor and city council members. The proposed ordinance, which was opposed by Councilman Freddie Norris in a 8-1 vote, is a change to language removing the actual pay amounts to the council must set the compensation rate for its members and the mayor no later than the first Monday in May in the year they are elected. The compensation, it proposes, cannot be changed during their terms in office. It does, however, give the City the right to adjust said compensation during the annual budgeting process, but no

more than the maximum cost of living adjustment set by the Department of Local Government each year.

Municipal orders were approved for the following appointments and re-appointments:

Joey Botts (Barren County Economic Authority as a city representative); Randy Gibbons, Thomas Grubbs, and Candy Wethington (Board of Adjustments); Sue Mutter (BRADD Aging Council); Sarah Young (Tourist/Convention Commission); Tim Gooden and Thomas Grubbs (Historic Preservation Commission); and Beth Hinkley (Tax Appeals Board/PVA).