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The Citizen-Times

OPINION

MAY 07, 2026

Legislative Update

REPRESENTATIVE SHAWN MCPHERSON

Session Results: House Agriculture Committee

Agriculture is woven into nearly every part of Kentucky life. It fuels a multi-billion-dollar economy, supports thousands of jobs, and anchors rural communities across the Commonwealth. Beyond its economic impact, agriculture shapes our daily lives—providing the food on our tables, the products we rely on, and the landscapes that define our state.

It is also deeply rooted in our history and culture, from family farms passed down through generations to traditions that continue to bring communities together. Because of that, the work of the House Agriculture Committee carries real weight. The policies it advances do not just affect farmers, they influence Kentucky's economy, food supply, and way of life.

This session, the committee took up that responsibility by moving forward a number of bills aimed at strengthening and supporting agriculture across the state, including:

HB 56 modernizes Department of Agriculture programs, strengthening oversight of amusement rides and attractions, improving licensing and enforcement processes, and eliminating unnecessary agricultural mandates.

HB 111 ensures that decisions regarding on-farm animal health care and production practices are made solely by the farmer or livestock or poultry owner, while allowing them the discretion to consult with a veterinarian or other professional.

HB 142 allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue five deer destruction permits to farmers and other landowners whose lands have been damaged by wildlife.

HB 281 streamlines how churches and nonprofits donate prepared food to homeless shelters and individuals displaced by natural disasters. The legislation removes barriers for churches and nonprofits like requiring the food be made in an industrial kitchen.

HB 571 requires the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to shield outdoor highway lighting to prevent spillover onto farmland and reduce its harmful effects on crops, livestock, and rural land use.

SB 5 grants local school districts more flexibility to purchase Kentucky-grown food for student meals without being subject to specific state procurement and bidding requirements.

SB 73 allows home-based producers to turn sell tallow-based cosmetics, expanding value-added markets while preserving health and safety standards.

SB 155 establishes a clear, structured framework to respond quickly and effectively to animal health emergencies, including disease outbreaks or other serious threats to livestock, poultry, and domesticated animals.

SB 199 amends Kentucky law to establish that an EPA-approved label for any registered pesticide product constitutes the full extent of a manufacturer's duty to warn users of potential

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YOUR KIDS MADE YOU BREAKFAST AND CARDS ALL BY HAND.

TO SAY THAT THEY LOVE YOU AND THAT YOU ARE GRAND.

'CAUSE YOU KNOW THAT WAS SPECIAL AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH...

TO PUT DOWN THEIR CELLPHONES TO MAKE ALL THAT STUFF.



I have had the privilege of taking part in proclamation ceremonies these past few weeks. During the Allen County Family Carnival held in the library quadrant last week, Judge Harper and I got the opportunity to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. I cannot imagine a greater cause than to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The Carnival was a wonderful event providing activities and information for families. It was sponsored by the Allen County Library, the Department for Community Based Services and Be the Change organization. We were both also able to attend a signing ceremony at the J.L. Turner Building recognizing May as Older American's Month in Scottsville and Allen County.

In the City Barn report, crews repaired sidewalks in front of the Rec Center and the Post Office and on Old Glasgow Road, formed concrete at the Belmark facility, N. Fourth and E. Poplar, put a sign up on Austin Lane, installed one water meter, performed two new water service taps, repaired one water meter set, repaired two water leaks, repaired gas valve on N. First, Peto tested fire hydrants, checked large gas meter pressures, stockpiled gravel at the barn, and picked up six loads of brush. In addition, crews continue working on the sprinkler system on the square and mowing and weed eating rights-of-way. Work has picked up at the Greystone Subdivision on Highway 231, with two gas services installed



and 12 more coming up.

In the City Transit report, Director Kerry Harwood reports that new cameras will be installed on the buses next week. This is a great step toward keeping passengers and drivers safe. A portable-type transit sign was damaged at Fourth and Elm, and crews will replace that sign with one fixed more securely. There were 762 rides in April. The Medical Center at Scottsville received a grant for a new shelter, and that will be a very nice addition for those who use that stop. Todd Bransford is stepping down as a driver. He has done a great job in that position. Thank you for your service, Todd. We will miss you.

I hope you are able to attend City Council meetings in person or watch them online. Several people are having trouble with sound on Facebook Live. I encourage you to go to our YouTube channel and watch the proceedings there. Last Monday, the Historic Preservation Commission presented its annual report. They are part of many great things happening in the city. I appreciate their persistence and applaud their success in seeking grant awards.

Another Jacksonian Festival is in the books. The scholarship it supports will be awarded soon. Thank you goes to Kortney Keen for all her organization and to her trusty sidekick, Lauren Cherry. It was a success with multiple vendors selling out despite the misty conditions. The Wall of Fame ceremony went well with Rogerlynn Briddon honored for her years of service to Scottsville. She will be greatly missed. It was a treat to attend the opening of the Dugas Park Bike Trail later in the day. I am more the leisurely stroll type, but I know that will add a whole new appeal for younger and more adventuresome folks.

On another note, I have been attending the Arts Council's Live at the Lyric musical series the past few months. Kentucky Just Us performed this past week. They were phenomenal. Sam Lock and the Red River Fiddlers are scheduled for May 16. If you aren't at the VFW, the Lyric is a great place to spend your Saturday night in Scottsville. I can probably be found at one or the other.

If you have an Android phone, you can now download the new City app. IOS users will be able to download soon. Subscribe to the Mayor's Circle newsletter on the city website.

I welcome your comments at david.burch@cityofscottsville.org. Keep up with Scottsville 24/7 on EarthCam and the Scottsville Advisory App.



BY JEFF JOBE COMMUNITY PUBLISHER

The Value of a Teacher



This week, communities across America recognize Teacher Appreciation Week, with Teacher Appreciation Day serving as a reminder of something most of us already know—few professions shape the future more than teaching.

Long after graduation caps are tossed and report cards are forgotten, most people can still name the teachers who changed their lives.

They remember the one who believed in them when they didn't believe in themselves.

The one who pushed them harder than they wanted to be pushed.

The one who showed patience when life outside the classroom made learning difficult.

Teaching has never been an easy

profession. Today's teachers carry responsibilities far beyond textbooks and lesson plans. They are educators, mentors, counselors, encouragers, and often a steady presence in the lives of children facing challenges many adults would struggle to handle.

And they do it in a world that continues to ask more of them.

Academic expectations have grown. Social pressures have changed. Technology has transformed the classroom. Yet through it all, teachers continue showing up—early mornings, late nights, extra hours, and often with little recognition for the sacrifices they make.

In small-town communities like ours, teachers are even more than educators.

They are neighbors. Church members. Coaches. Volunteers. Parents. Community leaders.

They invest in our children, but they also invest in our communities.

The truth is simple: Strong schools help build strong communities. And strong schools begin with strong teachers.

No, teachers cannot solve every problem facing education. They cannot fix every struggle a child carries into the classroom. But what they can do—and what they do every day—is create opportunity.

Opportunity to learn.

Opportunity to grow.

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