

Other views

The dove field is calling: National Hunting and Fishing Day

For generations, Kentuckians have spent time in the woods, fields, lakes and rivers. They have taught their children how to safely handle a fishing rod or firearm, where to find a good fishing hole, how to read the woods and, just as importantly, how to respect the land and wildlife around them. Hunting and fishing are more than hobbies in Kentucky, they are part of our heritage, contribute to our economy, and impact our quality of life.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is Saturday, September 26, 2026, a day set aside to celebrate traditions that are deeply woven into Kentucky’s way of life.

Our state is blessed with an incredible abundance of outdoor resources. From the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to the lakes and rivers of Western Kentucky, people come from across the Commonwealth and beyond to enjoy what our outdoors have to offer. Kentucky’s hunters and anglers play an important role in making that possible.

When someone buys a hunting or fishing license, those dollars do more than support a day in the woods or on the water. They help support conservation efforts that protect Kentucky’s fish, wildlife and natural resources. Wildlife-related outdoor activities contribute an estimated \$8.7 billion to Kentucky’s economy each year.

That economic impact reaches far beyond sporting goods stores. Hunters and anglers buy fuel, food, lodging, boats, equipment, and clothing. They visit restaurants, gas stations, outfitters, and other local businesses. In many of our smaller communities, those visitors provide an important boost to local businesses and help support jobs.

Hunting and fishing also play an important role in tourism. People travel to Kentucky to pursue deer, elk, turkey, and other game, or to fish our lakes and rivers. Our elk program, in particular, has become a draw for hunters from Kentucky and other states. When those visitors come to Kentucky, they bring their families, spend money in our communities and get a chance to see firsthand what makes our state special.

But the value of hunting and fishing cannot be measured only in dollars. There is something special about being outside, away from a screen and the noise of everyday life. It is time spent with family and friends. It is a grandfather taking a grandchild fishing for the first time. It is a parent teaching a child to appreciate wildlife. It is sitting quietly in the woods before sunrise or watching the water on a summer afternoon.

Those experiences are part of what makes Kentucky a great place to live. They also teach responsibility. Hunters and anglers understand that enjoying our natural resources comes with an obligation to protect them. In Kentucky, license fees and other contributions from people who participate in outdoor activities help fund conservation and habitat work across the state.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is a good opportunity to recognize the Kentuckians who have carried these traditions forward and the people working to make sure future generations can enjoy them, too.

Whether you are an experienced hunter or angler, someone who enjoys spending time outdoors or a parent looking for a new way to introduce your child to Kentucky’s natural beauty, there is something here for you.

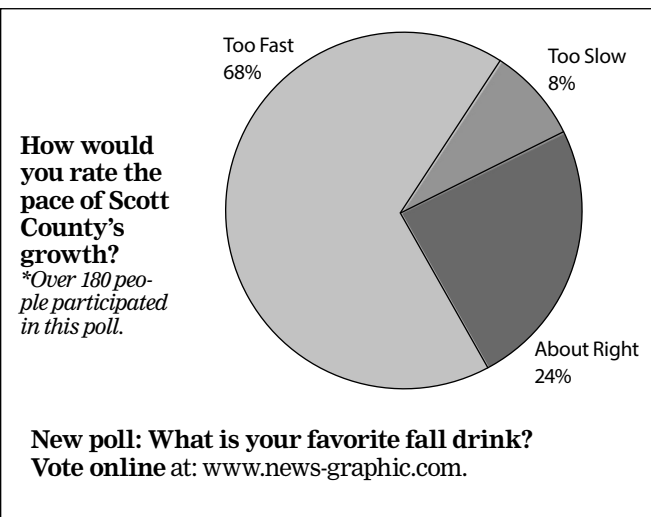
Our outdoors are one of Kentucky’s greatest assets. They support our economy, attract visitors, improve our quality of life, and connect generations of Kentuckians.

TONY HAMPTON represents the 62nd House District which includes parts of Scott County.



Tony Hampton
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State Representative

News-Graphic.com Online Poll



Corrections

Georgetown News-Graphic will be glad to correct any errors that appear in the newspaper or clarify any statements that are unclear. The correction or clarification will appear on Page 6. To request a correction or clarification, 502-863-1111 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and ask for Ashley McGee, or send an email to amcgee@news-graphic.com.



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Mike Scogin **Editor/Publisher**
Rick Hamilton **Press Foreman**
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Johnna Scogin **Marketing Director**
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Quote of the day:

‘Taxpayers invested in a local institution dedicated to preserving our history. I’m simply asking that institution to help preserve one of the most important pieces in history entrusted to it.’
Choctaw Academy property owner Chip Richardson, on the GSC Museum seeking to end preservation easement



GMWSS should address board members validity

The last city council meeting raised four important questions for the city. To start the meeting off, during public comments a citizen raised a question about two commissioners on the water board. It seems that the city’s ordinance regarding who is qualified to sit on the board, requires that all water board commissioners must be users of GMWSS water and be qualified to vote in the city. Well, it seems that, according to the citizen, two of the commissioners can’t vote in the city because they don’t live in the city.

Its an interesting observation that the water board needs to address and if there is truth to the issue of whether the two in question are qualified, the water board needs to inform the council. They can ask that the city ordinance be amended to allow at least two of the commissioners be citizens of the county, particularly since GMWSS now supplies water to numerous county locations including Stamping Ground. That would clearly make sense. And since there are 5 commissioners, giving two votes to county citizens would at least give a voice on the water board to those county residents. It will be interesting to see if the water board will address the issue or simply try to ignore it.

The second issue that was raised concerned data centers and where they should and can be located. Given the discussion at the council meeting, its clear that most on the council would like to ban them outright. They are looking at the recent action by the Woodford County Fiscal Court where they banned any data centers from locating in the County. There has been a lot of discussion recently concerning data centers and the problems that come with them. In

fact, our fiscal court is in the process of trying to get an ordinance in place that will not ban them in the county, but rather regulate them. However, as one council member pointed out, that in the past, our Planning and Zoning Commission has on numerous occasions ignored the desire of the council and granted numerous variances that allow construction in the city that the council feels is not in the best interests of the city.

Based on the concerns of the council, they asked P & Z, to bring back a draft that would simply ban any data centers from locating in the city limits. This request was met with some resistance from P & Z staff, who stated that they would prefer to regulate rather than out right ban data centers. It will be interesting to see what the P & Z staff bring back to the council.

Another issue that came up at the council meeting was their previous proposal to raise our property taxes. The ordinance was read at the last council meeting and this was the second reading of the ordinance. Some on the council pointed out that the proposed ordinance was more than the compensating rate allowed, and because it was raised to \$0.63 per \$100 property value the city had to hold a public hearing on the increase. What was surprising was that the council in an 8 – 0 vote refused to raise the property tax rate. Instead, the council asked that the rate be dropped back from the current rate of 0.62 to 0.61. However, apparently the mayor anticipated this action and had an ordinance prepared that reduced the rate.

So the first reading was at the September 14 meeting and a second reading will occur on Monday,

September 21st at a special called council meeting.

Given the history of this council, such decisive action was a shock, but perhaps the council was aided in making a decision by the fact that the Fiscal Court had already done the same thing. But then again, it is an election year and 7 of the 8 current council members are facing re-election with one council member running for mayor.

The last item that was raised concerns the city’s use of FLOCK cameras. As we all know they are at the very least controversial. While they are a very useful tool for our police department, many people feel that they are at the minimum a violation of privacy and overly intrusive. I think some on the council were surprised to hear that our GPD shares FLOCK camera information with other local enforcement agencies, state enforcement agencies and federal agencies. As is usual for this council, they want a community meeting to discuss with the citizens how we feel about FLOCK cameras. In addition, they want to study the issue more and take more time to decide what if any action they should take. Once again, we need to remember, it is an election year.

Part of what made this council meeting so very interesting is that the council was clearly interested in what we, the citizens of Georgetown, think is important. You know, data centers, FLOCK cameras, or taxes. There are times when we feel as though they really don’t care what we think or need nor do they want to hear our concerns as some on the council have said before. But this is an election year and we are less than 50 days away from voting. So if you ever wondered if your vote matters, take note. It really does.

PAT FOLEY is a former city attorney for Georgetown.



Pat Foley
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News-Graphic Columnist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor’s Note: Letters to the Editor are the expressed opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the News-Graphic.

Middle East conflict has chokehold on gas prices

To the Editor,
Current news about Yemen and the Red Sea is personal to me. I managed a company airline in Yanbu in 1985 and know the area. The Strait of Hormuz on the east of Saudi Arabia is largely blocked by the war with Iran. The Saudis always knew this was a possibility, so they built a pipeline from the oil fields in the east 600 miles to the port of Yanbu on their west coast, on the

Red Sea. They built large oil storage tanks in the mountains and a refinery with a port on the Red Sea coast south of Yanbu. The Red Sea is shallow with dangerous coral reefs, so I doubt if the port can handle large oil tankers. After loading with oil, most of the tankers go south in the Red Sea, through the Bab al Mandeb Straits to the world. Some, but not much, goes north through the Suez Canal. In the last few days, Houthis rebels (aligned with Iran) have overrun Yemen’s government forces (aligned with Saudi Arabia and the USA) and have captured the west coast of Yemen, including a small island. The Bab al Mandeb is 20 miles wide, even tighter than the 24 miles of the

Strait of Hormuz. The Houthis have attacked Saudi tankers (but only Saudi tankers) so Saudi oil is restricted both through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al Mandeb. Missiles have hit the oil pipeline near Yanbu. A big fire can be seen from space, and the pipeline has been shut down. Saudi oil is now restricted through the Strait of Hormuz, their east-west pipeline to Yanbu, and through the Red Sea to the Bab al Mandeb. Keeping Saudi Arabian oil off the market will keep world prices high and you won’t see our gasoline prices at the pump coming down for a long time.

Bruce Gordon
Georgetown

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