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NEWS

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SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Parker: SB 181 has good intent, but ramifications

By Mike Scogin

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Kentucky Senate Bill 181, the traceable communication legislation for educators, is well intended but brings with it a lot of unforeseen ramifications, said Billy Parker Jr., superintendent of Scott County Schools.

"I've got a lot of opinions about Senate Bill 181," Parker said. "I sup-

port its intentions, but it is capturing a lot of people it shouldn't."

Parker has reached out to Sen. Matt Nunn, R-Georgetown, to modify the bill to make it more manageable for school systems. Nunn has been cooperative and helpful Parker said, but there is little that can be done until the legislature is back in session.

"I understand the governor may hold a special session because of FEMA

funds (for tornado victims)," he said. "If so, I'm hoping we can get this on the agenda as well."

The new law is intended to prevent child sexual abuse by changing the way Kentucky public school employees communicate with students. The law eliminates untraceable communication between students and school employees by prohibiting communication through third party apps, social media and



Nunn



Parker

personal emails.

In an email, Nunn said Parker and Scott County were out front in identifying problems with Senate Bill 181.

"SB 181 was intended to protect children from

the rare but real cases of sexual grooming that occur through electronic communication by predators who gain access to children," said the senator. "It was not intended to hamper school districts or limit appropriate and necessary communication by trustworthy adults that makeup the vast majority of school employees and volunteers."

"The bill passed both chambers of the legisla-

ture 137-0 and was signed into law by the Governor. That unanimous support was due to the fact no stakeholders, including the associations that represent educators and administrators, foresaw these unintended consequences. Superintendent Parker first shared concerns about the implementation of SB 181 with me several weeks ago; he and Scott County Schools

See **SCS**, 12



SEVERAL PEOPLE LINED THE SIDEWALKS AROUND GALVIN'S AS PETA'S HELL ON WHEELS TRUCK CIRCLED THE BLOCK AROUND THE LOCAL RESTAURANT. JOSEPH HEBERT STOOD ON THE CORNER WITH A BUCKET OF CHICKEN FROM KFC.

NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

PETA brings 'Hell on Wheels,' community responds with protest

By James Scogin

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Galvin's on Main has faced challenges before, said restaurant co-owner Stephanie Jones, but nothing as bizarre as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) driving a "hyperrealistic chicken transport truck" around the downtown restaurant in protest of menu items.

"I thought it was a joke," she said. "Georgetown Police showed up

Friday morning to talk to Dan (Galvin) about the possibility of this protest."

After receiving notification from PETA Thursday, a day before the protest, and talking to police Friday Jones said it was decided to operate as normal.

"We were prepared as far as—I wasn't giving up any of my parking spots," she said. "We have so few of them for

this chicken thing to park there."

Employees were prepared to park in the spots around the restaurant, Jones said. But, the community rallied together to support the local restaurant.

"Before we could do that, our customers came early and they were parking there to take up the spots," she said. "The truck never did stop ever. They had to keep

moving."

Jones recognizes PETA has the right to protest, she said. But the turnout of customers in support of the restaurant was overwhelming. Some customers held protests of their own while eating buckets of KFC by the "Hell on Wheels" PETA truck.

"We were so, so busy," she said. "Everybody was so supportive. Really, at first I was put out (by the protest) about it like,

See **PROTEST**, 12

City, county eye allowing ATVs on roads

By Mike Scogin

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Both the Scott County Fiscal Court and the Georgetown City Council are reviewing whether to implement Senate Bill 63, which would allow street-legal special purpose vehicles to operate on highways under special circumstances.

Mark Smith, owner of MLS Powersports spoke to the city council last week encouraging the passage of legislation within Georgetown's city limits.

Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia composed one of two "hotbeds" for all-terrain vehicles in the nations, he said.

Because the fiscal court is also considering whether to allow such vehicles on its roadways, the city council should reach out because what one does will impact the other, said Council member Karen Tingle-Sames. If implemented,

restrictions such as using a helmet, rollbars and hours of usage could be considered, she said.

Council member Todd Stone, a former police officer, said he was against such vehicles, especially on roadways.

"Every day you hear of someone being killed with these vehicles,"

Stone said. "I'm against them."

Both legislative bodies agreed to study the issues. No action was taken.

Several new Kentucky laws have taken effect or will soon take effect in 2025.

These include changes to income tax, road funding, and electronic payments, as well as new regulations for schools, special purpose vehicles, and more. A key change is the reduction of the state income tax rate from 4 percent to 3.5 percent.

Here's a brief look at some of the new laws:

See **LAWS**, 12

'Every day you hear of someone being killed with these vehicles. I'm against them.'

Todd Stone
Council member

Coming up:
Property Transfers
Friday



Area deaths

Calvin Douglas Kidwell, 71
Wanda Martin Wells, 79

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