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Rand Paul talks about legislation

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
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U.S. Sen. Rand Paul joined Georgetown residents at a Central Kentucky Ag Credit (CKAC) Luncheon Friday.

Paul's appearance marked one week since the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into public law. He was one of only three Republican senators to vote against the law labeled One Big Beautiful Bill Act by President Trump, according to senate.gov.

"(President Trump) was not very happy that day," Paul said. "I wasn't supporting his bill."

The senator addressed the resulting tension between himself and President Trump.

"People sometimes ask, 'How is your relationship with the president?' I say, sometimes it's good, some days are better than others," he said.

The senator said he had mixed emotions about the bill.

"There were aspects of the bill that I liked," Paul said. "The expensing provision on taxes, I voted for that in 2017. It's the idea that you can immediately expense something."

The glaring issue with the policy bill, however,

See PAUL, 16

Water main burst

A water main burst Saturday evening around 6:50 at the intersection of Mulberry and East Jefferson with water sprays shooting up 40 ft. or more, aid witnesses. "It sounded like a loud pop," said Philip Lawler who lived nearby. Brittany Hill said, "There was a swoosh and then a few minutes later rocks started falling." The water main was installed in 1970, said Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer officials, and likely burst due to age. At least nine valves were closed off as GMWSS tried to bring it under control. After a few hours, only two houses were affected by the water cutoff. A video of the water main burst can be found on news-graphic.com or by scanning the QR above.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRITTANY HILL

SCAN ME
Scan this QR code with your smartphone to view a video of the burst.

Fiscal Court signs off on dam removal

By Jack Thomas
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Scott County Fiscal Court has approved a temporary access agreement, allowing Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (KFW) to remove the Great Crossing low-head dam "sometime this fall," Judge Executive Joe Pat Covington said.

The motion passed at Friday's meeting in a 5-1 vote among magistrates, Rob Jones of District 2 the only "no" vote. Dwayne Ellison of District 5 was unable to attend.

The dam's danger, specifically the broken boil unit, was the hot topic of discussion.

"As recently as two weeks ago, on a Sunday afternoon, we had a gentleman caught in the boil again," Covington said. "Very, very thankful that he was ejected from the boil before EMS could

get there.

"My concern is safety: safety for the public, but also safety for our first responders."

Local leaders understand that the dam's removal is a divided topic, KFW Director of Engineering, Infrastructure, and Technology Kevin Rexroat said.

"As the owner of an infrastructural resource like the low-head dam, we weigh, 'What are the benefits?' and 'What are the costs?'" Rexroat said. "With this one, all assessments lead to one outcome."

Removal of the dam will enhance the area, he said.

"This is the greatest enhancement," Rexroat said of the dam's removal. "We have an option to positively impact more than a five-mile run of river stretch toward Elkhorn Creek."

The cost of the project

'My concern is safety: safety for the public, but also safety for our first responders.'

Joe Pat Covington
SC Judge-Executive

See DAM, 8

Q-and-A about SB 181 from the lawmaker who sponsored it

By Lawrence Smith
Kentucky Today

Editor's Note: The following article is being reprinted with permission from Kentucky Today. The article is taken from a podcast that can be found on Kentucky Today's website at www.kentuckytoday.com. Kentucky Today is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

LOUISVILLE — Senate Bill 181, which was passed by the General Assembly in 2025 and signed into law by the governor, is designed to prevent the grooming of students for

potential abuse through the public schools.

The law limits private digital communication between public school teachers, staff and volunteers with students. They must use traceable communications platforms approved by the school district.

However, the law has led to questions regarding implementation, particularly related to student pastors and others who minister to public school students.



Tichenor

Below is a Q & A based on a Kentucky Today interview with Sen. Lindsey Tichenor, a Republican from Lagrange, who sponsored SB 181.

The questions and answers have been edited for clarity and brevity. The full interview is available on the Kentucky Today podcast.

Q: What led to this legislation and why is it necessary?

In 2025, I was approached by the Education Professional Standards Board and the Kentucky Dept. of Education to address the issue of grooming. I looked at a lot of data

that they have regarding educator sexual misconduct, as well as other cases within the school system that involve counseling, volunteers or coaches that keep popping up in the news. I decided the best move to make in order to address grooming was to go towards the access point.

A study by the Education Professional Standards Board determined, over a 5-year period, that in 70 percent of abuse cases, the access point was through technology and communications.

This bill is returning to what used to be the way

we communicated, bringing the parents into the conversation. We've seen technology advance so rapidly that almost every student has a phone in their hand. But we've not really been intentional about putting parameters in place to protect students from bad actors.

Q: The law requires private communication only through traceable platforms approved by the school district, correct?

Yes, absolutely. And it also allows for parents to opt in for other means of communication. If it's a teacher or volunteer

or coach that they are in communication with, parents can approve those communications.

Q: To whom does the law apply?

It applies to everybody who's in a position of authority within our school system, certified, non-certified staff, volunteers, extracurriculars, with coaching volunteers and coaching staff.

Q: Many churches have student pastors or ministry leaders who volunteer in public schools as club sponsors, coaches, etc. How does this bill af-

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Coming up:
Property transfers
Friday



Area deaths

Eloise Perry Stone, 91
Linda Kaye Tackett, 69
Margaret Johnson Warren, 83

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