



GEORGETOWN News Graphic

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New fire marshal named, first in SCFD history

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
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For the first time, a fire marshal has been named at Scott County Fire Department (SCFD).

Former Lieutenant Josh Cromer was officially promoted on Monday, July 21, and is looking forward to filling the role, he said.

“I’m excited to be the first one to do this,” Cromer said. “I think it’s

a huge step forward for this department.”

Personal interest inspired Cromer to go after the role, he said. “I enjoy figuring things out. So when I even got wind of this happening, I started going ahead and learning about inspections, investigations, and pre-planning. I sort of took that as my goal for the future.”

“I love public service,” Cromer said. “I’ve been doing public service pretty much my whole



life. I love putting puzzles together, so that’s part of the investigations that I love. I’ve always been that way.”

‘I love public service. I’ve been doing public service pretty much my whole life. I love putting puzzles together, so that’s part of the investigations that I love. I’ve always been that way.’

Josh Cromer
Fire Marshal

Given a number of certifications and experience, Cromer was uniquely qualified to be fire marshal, SCFD Chief

Ward said.

“He went above and beyond certification: Fire Inspector One, Fire Inspector Two, Arson One,

Two and Three,” Ward said. Sometimes when we promote people, if they don’t have certifications, we do have requirements, but ... you may not need this to apply, but you’ve got a year to get it. (Cromer)’s got them.

“I can’t be more proud of what he’s done in preparation for this, to where basically on day one, he’s going to hit the ground running.”

See **CROMER**, 12

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY



KENTUCKY LANTERN PHOTO BY DAVID STEPHENSON

Lucas Deaton and his daughter, Audrey, had the Kentucky Senate chamber to themselves when they visited the Capitol, June 25, 2025. The chamber had been emptied of its furnishings in preparation for a years-long Capitol renovation.

\$300 million on Capitol makeover, will take several years to complete

By Jack Brammer
Kentucky Lantern

FRANKFORT — Lucas Deaton of Walton, a lawyer for the Kentucky Bar Association, brought his 5-year-old daughter, Audrey, to see Kentucky’s grandest building — the state Capitol — before it closes to the public for several years.

A most lonely place greeted them on their Dads-Take-Daughters-to-Work outing on a hot day in early summer.

The famous statues of Lincoln and other Kentucky notables were there for the father and daughter to admire. So were the impressive dome and rotunda, along with the four-story building’s 70 iconic columns, sky lights and other striking architectural features and opulent decorative finishes.

But nearly gone from the Capitol were the hundreds of people who usually make it a most busy place.

The Capitol has not been

so desolate on a workday since before June 2, 1910, when Gov. Augustus Willson joined former governors, judges, generals, members of Congress and thousands of proud Kentuckians in grand ceremonies to open Kentucky’s new Capitol for business.

Soon there will be nobody working in the building except renovators and security.

For three years, per-

See **MAKEOVER**, 12

Legislature convenes in temporary quarters, no public galleries

By McKenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

The Kentucky General Assembly plans to convene in temporary chambers for at least the next three years while the Capitol undergoes extensive renovations.

During those years, there will be no public galleries where citizens can watch as the House and Senate debate and vote on new laws.

No rotunda where advocates and protesters can gather for rallies.

And less opportunity for citizens and lobbyists to personally interact with lawmakers in the halls.

People will be able to watch the legislature in session in real time from next door in the Capitol Annex via live streams of the proceedings.

But the setup leaves some Frankfort regulars concerned.

Amye Bensenhaver, co-director of the Kentucky Open Government

See **PUBLIC**, 4

GEORGETOWN CITY COUNCIL

\$307,714 in change orders for city hall rehab

By Mike Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
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The Georgetown City Council approved some \$307,714 in change orders for the City Hall renovation, during its July 14 regular meeting.

The change orders will be paid from an original \$745,000 contingency account, leaving \$467,326 in that account. Any funds remaining in the contingency account at the end of the project will be used for furniture and fixtures.

The change orders are necessary after substantial cracks were found in the third floor around the windows, and poor drainage issues were discovered beneath the sidewalk, said project manager Elizabeth Hunt of Codell Construction.

First reading of the Urban Backyard Chickens

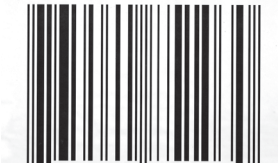
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Coming up:
Property Transfers
Friday



Area deaths
Mark A. Perry, 69

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