



GEORGETOWN News Graphic

TUESDAY August 26, 2025

Vol. 75, No. 68

\$1.50 single copy

NEWS-GRAPHIC.COM

Pleasant View Furniture
5895 US Hwy 68
Mayslick, KY 41055
www.amishheritagefurniture.com
(606) 763-9048
Outdoor Furniture, Cabins, & More

OLD KENTUCKY ROOFING
..& RESTORATION..
ASPHALT • SIDING • GUTTERS
FREE ESTIMATES
859-536-9859
OLDKYROOFING.COM

Ambassador of Japan visits Georgetown

By James Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
jscogin@news-graphic.com

National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS) held their annual network conference in Lexington Wednesday, Aug. 20 through Friday, Aug. 22, bringing people from all over the country to Central Kentucky. Ambassador of Japan to the United States, Shigeo Yamada visited Scott

County, along with a host of other NAJAS attendees.

The conference, hosted by Japan/America Society of Kentucky, brought together 35 of 41 member societies and leaders of other organizations to the Bluegrass state, according to a press release.

Societies within NAJAS have “grown up over a period of about 124 years,” said NAJAS Pres-

In the know

National Association of Japan America Societies network conference was held last week. **The conference brought** together 35 of 41 member societies and leaders from around the county.

ident Andrew Wylegala. NAJAS' Network Conference is meant to allow societies to come together to “share best practices and help one another in

solidarity,” Wylegala said. But, it is also to understand where the Japan-America relationship is going.

Shelley Theise-Warren and Alex Warren hosted NAJAS members at their home Thursday.

“It’s a culture builder to always have an opportunity for people to network,” Theise-Warren said. “The opportunity

See JAPAN, 12



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JAMES SCOGIN

Ambassador of Japan to the United States Shigeo Yamada and Alex Warren admire a bonsai tree.



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

The mural along South Hamilton Street is inspired by racehorse Rachel Alexandra, Pangburn said.

Mural honors legendary Kentucky Thoroughbred

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
jthomas@news-graphic.com

A new mural in downtown Georgetown was completed over the weekend, artist Alexandra Pangburn said.

Pangburn, a full-time artist from Lexington, started doing large-scale spray paint murals in 2018, she said.

“I’ve always loved art and always been into it, but I really love painting large-scale, and to be able to get the opportunity to paint in a public realm has been

really cool,” Pangburn said. “It’s really fun to connect with the community in that way. That’s probably my favorite part about it.”

After spending eight years in Denver, much of Pangburn’s work can be found in Colorado, she said, but she’s painted murals all over the United States.

“I have a lot of murals in Colorado, but I have a mural just outside of Atlanta, GA, in Chamblee,” Pangburn said. “Then, I’ve also painted



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

Artist Alexandra Pangburn painted final touches on the thoroughbred mural Friday, Aug. 22.

See MURAL, 12

GREAT CROSSING HIGH SCHOOL

Welding teacher prepares students for workforce

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
jthomas@news-graphic.com

Wylie Messer, Great Crossing High School (GCHS) welding teacher, is being nationally recognized in more ways than one.

Performance Racing Industry Magazine took an interest in Messer’s ideas on potential roles for high school students in the growing motorsport manufacturing industry, he said.

“I ended up writing an article for them on, more or less, bringing high school students into the fold, kind of trying to expand their horizons in the racing industry,” Messer said. “Personally, I think it’s super cool.”

Meanwhile, Messer is a top-50 candidate for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools award for teaching excellence, he said, an opportunity that could benefit himself and GCHS.

“They take career and tech teachers from across the country,” Messer said. “I wanna

say there’s 6,400 (total) applications.”

He’s also been locally celebrated, recently awarded teacher of the year at GCHS, he said.

“I got teacher of the year, like, the year COVID popped off, and I was like, ‘How do you teach welding, a hands-on class, from home?’” Messer said. “So, that

was neat, and it was cool that I got that.

“... I’ve gotten so many awards, and I’m not even trying,” he said. “I’m just doing my job.”

That job is to prepare the welders and manufacturers of the next generation, Messer said,

which he’s done in Scott County for seven years.

“I teach kids the basics, so how to read a tape measure, all the way up to how to build bridges,” he said.

By performing well in his classes, Messer’s students can leave GCHS workforce ready, he said.

“They can leave (GCHS) a fully-certified welder in Gas Metal Arc Welding

‘Billy Parker and I built this shop from the ground up, and we filled it with the best of the best seven years ago.’

Wylie Messer
GCHS Welding Teacher

See GCHS, 12

Special section:
Best of the Bluegrass
Next Tuesday



Area deaths

Judith Faye King, 80
Lavonne Carol Lyons, 62

Inside

Calendar5
Classifieds11
Comics8
News Digest3
Obituaries4
Opinion6
Sports9-10
Public Notice7



Insuring you since 1904.

Our agency offers coverage for home, auto, umbrella, business, commercial property, general liability, workers compensation, life, disability, boat, motorcycle, and rental property.

Chenault & Hoge *Auto-Owners*
The Insurance Store
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

312 East Main St. • ChenaultHoge.com
Call Nate Schwartz at 502-542-6800.