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# Broadband project now complete

**By Mike Scogin**  
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Scott County Judge-Executive Joe Pat Covington had a broad grin during the joint work session between the Scott County Fiscal Court and the Georgetown City Council.

The topic was affordable housing, but internet coverage surfaced during the discussions. “We have broadband,” Covington said with a smile. “We have broadband in Scott County.”

The project to bring internet service throughout Scott County took almost three years, but as of this week, an additional 5,100 homes and businesses in the county now have broadband service. The project was one of Covington’s first objectives when he was elected judge-executive.

“We are now one of the most connected communities in the

nation,” Covington said. “This has been a transformational effort on the part of the fiscal court and the community.”

“I truly did not understand the scale of what we were trying to do, and at times it was very frustrating. But it’s well worth the effort and the opportunities this has opened for everyone from students to businesses to families is tremendous.”

The project’s timeline was originally one year, but progress slowed because of the process to obtain pole permits. There were no clear procedures to obtain permits to use poles owned by different utilities such as Kentucky Utilities, Bluegrass Energy, Owen Electric and railroad companies. Covington appeared before the Kentucky General Assembly urging lawmakers to help develop a procedure to speed up the process.

Eventually, a process was developed and continues to be fine-tuned, which will help with similar projects

See **BROADBAND**, 12



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

Local leaders and over 20 Fish and Wildlife employees worked through rain Thursday morning along the bank of Elkhorn Creek to remove debris, including tires, concrete blocks, and trash. Cleanup operations will resume at a later date if crews do not complete their goal.

## KDFWR clean up following dam removal

**By Jack Thomas**  
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Local leaders and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) employees were at Great Crossing Park Thursday, Sept. 4 to remove trash and debris along the bank of Elkhorn Creek.

After the dam at Great Crossing Park was removed, reduced water levels revealed debris along the creek bank, KDFWR Commissioner Rich Storm said.

“You could see there’s trash (and) different

‘There’s probably a dump truck load of debris there, most of which would not be harmful for the stream. But, (cleanup efforts will) make this safer for people to navigate in, and just aesthetically make it look better.’

**Rich Storm**  
KDFWR Commissioner

things that floated downstream,” Storm said.

Dozens of old tires, concrete blocks, and a steel drum barrel had

all been found within the first hour of work Thursday, he said.

“We wanted to do our due diligence to come out today and finish the

job,” Storm said. “We’ve got a big job on our hands today, but a lot of good people, and it just shows how our staff and community leaders go the extra mile to get the job done.”

Crews planned to cover about a mile of banks along the stream, stretching from Great Crossing Park to Canewood Golf Course, he said.

“There’s probably a dump truck load of debris there, most of which would not be harmful for the stream,” Storm

See **DAM**, 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD FRIENDS FARM FACEBOOK PAGE

Little Silver Charm with Old Friends Farm founder Michael Blown.

## Old Friends ambassador ‘Little Silver Charm’ dies

**By Jack Thomas**  
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Old Friends’ “official spokeshorse” Little Silver Charm was put down Saturday, Aug. 30.

“We’re heartbroken to share that our farm mascot, Little Silver Charm, has succumbed to the infirmities of his ancient age, estimated between 38 and 40,” Old Friends Equestrian Center wrote in a Facebook post Saturday.

“The self-described busiest horse on the farm, Little Silver Charm handled all of his roles with style, wit, and, yes, charm. ... He is irreplaceable.”

Little Silver Charm, a miniature horse, was a fan-favorite among Old Friends visitors, said Michael Blown, Old Friends founder and owner of Little Silver Charm.

“People come, obviously, to see the superstars in the sport: the

Derby winners, Preakness winners, Breeders’ Cup winners,” Blown said. “But there’s certain people — a lot of kids, especially — that aren’t interested in horse racing at their age.”

“But they love Little Silver Charm, and he loved the kids.”

Following the announcement of Little Silver Charm’s passing, Blown and the rest of Old Friends have re-

See **FRIENDS**, 12

Coming up:  
GCH Heart Walk story  
Next week



**Area deaths**  
Donna Schindler, 79

**Inside**  
Calendar .....5  
Classifieds .....9  
Comics .....8  
News Digest .....3  
Obituaries .....4  
Opinion .....6  
Sports ..... 10-11  
Public Notice .....7



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