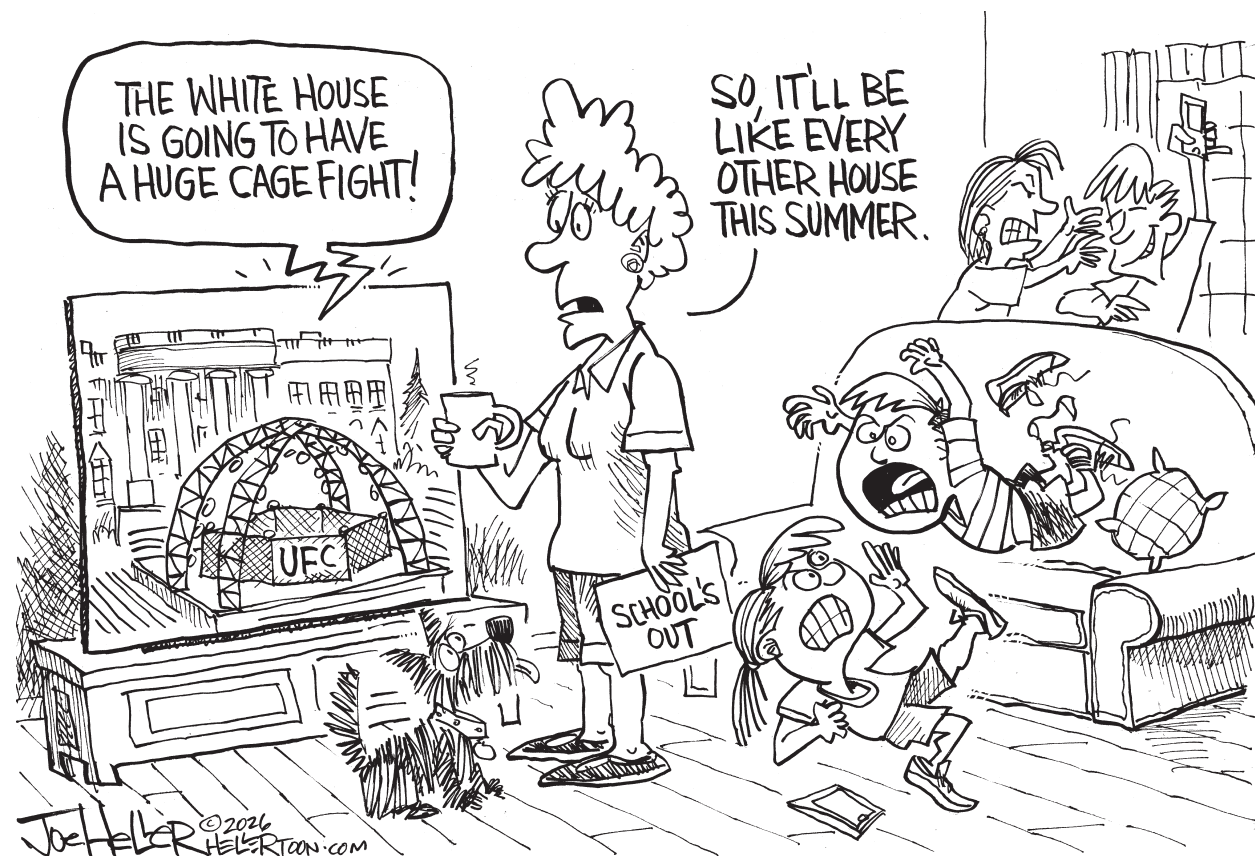


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The Times Journal

OPINION

June 4 2026



When Did It Happen?

By John Ferrucci

I don't remember it happening while we were playing stickball between the two Jewish cemeteries.

Or who could climb the highest tree down in the woods near that natural spring.

It was always so cold and refreshing, bending over, cupping our hands and bringing that cold, clear water to our mouths.

Never a care whether it was pure enough to drink.

It had to be, anyway.

It certainly quenched our thirst.

It didn't happen while we played tag in the

street.

Each time a car drove by, we all stepped to the side of the road, and then returned to our spots as it passed.

I don't recall it happening as we took our first driving lesson or started our first job.

It might have started happening as we started dating and falling in love with the girl down the street.

Maybe it was there at the birth of our first child.

Or of our second.

Or third.

I recall that it made me think about it while I was deployed overseas.

However, soon home again, and life began to settle into normalcy for an age.

I have to say, looking back over these decades, that maybe it was there all the time, but I chose not to let it in or be part of my life.

However, this morning I noticed something that caused me to stop and stare.

Could it be whose reflection is that that I'm looking at in the bathroom mirror?

Then I realized what I hadn't noticed all these years.

That slow creeping manifestation we call

aging.

That old man I was staring at was me!

I couldn't help but ask aloud, "When did I get this old?"

Well, I thought I'm still here, standing on my own.

I walk straight and tall, with no aids, maybe not as far as I once did, but far enough for as I wish to.

So, if one morning, as you start your day, brush your teeth and look into the mirror to comb your hair, don't worry about that older person who is staring back at you.

After all, they've been there all the time.

composition of your pasture by estimating the percentage of grasses, legumes and other species. Increasing the proportion of legumes like clover, alfalfa or lespedeza can improve pasture quality, soil fertility and animal nutrition. Plant diversity plays a key role in pasture resilience, helping fields withstand drought, grazing pressure and seasonal changes. Extension experts can guide producers in selecting and establishing the right forage mix for individual operations.

Also assess plant cover and look for bare spots or heavily grazed areas. These often occur under trees, near water sources or in high-traffic zones. Poor nutrient availability or overuse can lead to weed pressure in these areas. If weeds are a concern, the Extension office can recommend appropriate management strategies.

Be sure to inspect pasture infrastructure, including fencing and watering systems. Quality fencing helps manage grazing pressure and protect your investment. Reliable water access is also essential. Animals must have continuous access to fresh, clean water, especially during pasture restructuring or

rotational grazing.

New Extension tools like the Small Ruminant Pasture Condition Scorecard can help you systematically evaluate pasture health and identify areas for improvement. The scorecard includes indicators such as percentage of desirable plants, live plant cover, plant diversity, uniformity of grazing and browsing accessibility.

It's also important to inventory your pasture acres and livestock numbers to avoid overgrazing and maintain sustainable stocking rates.

While this process may seem overwhelming at first, pasture development is a gradual journey that unfolds over multiple seasons. Small, consistent improvements add up.

For personalized assistance in interpreting soil tests, identifying forage species and developing a pasture improvement plan tailored to your goals, contact your Russell County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agent.

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CITY OF RUSSELL SPRINGS, KENTUCKY ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE DISPLAY AND LOWERING OF FLAGS ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the City of Russell Springs desires to establish a consistent and respectful policy regarding the display and lowering of flags on City-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the United States Flag Code provides guidance, but not enforceable requirements, regarding the proper display of flags; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City to adopt a formal policy governing when and how flags shall be lowered to half-staff;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF RUSSELL SPRINGS, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish uniform guidelines for the display and lowering of flags on all City-owned property in order to ensure consistency, respect, and proper recognition of individuals and events

SECTION 2. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ORDERS

All flags displayed on City-owned property shall be lowered to half-staff in accordance with any official proclamation or order issued by the President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION 3. LOCAL AUTHORITY AND EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIREMENT

The Mayor of the City of Russell Springs shall have the authority to order the lowering of flags on City-owned property in accordance with this Ordinance. Any such action taken under local authority shall be made by written Executive Order, which shall specify the reason for lowering the flag, the locations affected, and the duration of the order.

The Executive Order shall be maintained as part of the official records of the City.

SECTION 4. ELIGIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES

Flags may be lowered to half-staff by Executive Order of the Mayor under the following circumstances:

- A. The death of a current elected official of the City of Russell Springs;
- B. The death of a former elected official of the City of Russell Springs;
- C. The death of a current City employee;
- D. The line-of-duty death of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical personnel, or other public safety official;
- E. A significant local, state, or national tragedy;
- F. Other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Mayor to honor or show respect.

SECTION 5. DURATION

Unless otherwise specified by federal or state order, the duration for lowering flags shall be as follows:

- A. Current elected officials or employees: from the date of death until sunset on the day of interment;
- B. Former elected officials: from the date of death until sunset on the day of interment, or as determined appropriate by the Mayor;
- C. Line-of-duty deaths: from the date of death until sunset on the day of interment;
- D. Other events: duration as determined by the Mayor in the Executive Order.

SECTION 6. LOCATION

This Ordinance shall apply to all flags displayed on City-owned property, including but not limited to:

- City Hall
- Fire Department facilities
- Police Department facilities
- City parks and other public facilities

SECTION 7. LIMITATIONS

The lowering of flags shall be reserved for circumstances of public significance as outlined in this Ordinance. Requests from private individuals or organizations that do not meet the criteria set forth herein shall not require action by the City.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED AND GIVEN FIRST READING: APRIL 30, 2026

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED: MAY 28, 2026

Signature
Eddie Thomas, Mayor

Attest:
Christopher Ramsey, City Clerk/Treasurer



EXTENSION NOTES

from Jonathan Oakes

Russell County Extension Office
Agriculture and Natural Resources
extension.mgcafe.uky.edu

Improving Pastures for Small Ruminants in Kentucky

Source: Regina Utz, Kenton County ANR Extension Agent; Taylor Graves, Washington County ANR Extension Agent; and Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist

As sheep and goat production continues to grow across Kentucky, more producers are looking for practical ways to improve their pastures. Well-managed forage systems not only reduce feed costs but also support healthier animals and more sustainable farms.

Developing a productive pasture system begins with a thorough evaluation of your pastures, farm and herd. Start by walking through your fields and taking photos of the

forages growing there. This hands-on observation helps you understand what plants are present and how well they are performing.

While walking, collect soil samples to determine nutrient levels. Your local Extension office can analyze these samples and provide a clear report with recommendations tailored to your farm.

Next, identify the desirable forages in your pasture by considering what your animals prefer to eat — goats often browse trees and shrubs, while sheep tend to favor grasses like fescue and legumes such as clovers. Note which forages are abundant and which are missing.

Evaluate the overall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your Letter to the Editor to
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russellcountynewspapers.com