

Notes to Consider...

Current Events: *State Legislature Report*
By G.S. Morris — 19 March 2018



On 6 March, we marked the swearing in of Kentucky State House District 89 Representative Robert Goforth after his crushing defeat of radical Democrat Kelly Smith in the 27 February Special Election. Congratulations, Rep. Goforth. The overwhelming majority of time and effort in this session of the state legislature has been spent on the state budget, particularly what actions to take in order to address the state's crippled state employee pension funds.

As of this writing, we still don't know what (if any) final actions the legislature will take on state pensions. The debate surrounding this issue has been very illuminating. As a retired teacher, when I've voiced the fact Gov. Bevin's proposals to shore up the program are realistic, some former colleagues have questioned my opinion given we're all, "In the same boat." I would suggest what boat one rides in has nothing to do with the truth. Defined benefit retirement plans (as we've covered here before) are going the way of the dodo bird. Such plans are imploding not just in Kentucky but nationwide. The simple fact is people live longer than they did in the past and that fact of nature has not been taken into account with defined benefit, public pension systems; this is a simple truth and the truth will stand when the world's on fire, as the old sage said.

In other significant measures, both the Kentucky Senate and Kentucky House of Representatives saw proclamations educating the public that local school boards in Kentucky already have the authority to arm select school personnel through the Protect Our Students and Teachers (POSTky.org) program under KRS 527.070(3)(f). In other words, administrators can no longer hide behind the old, "Our hands are tied," excuse. Call the Office of the Jackson County Schools Superintendent (606-287-7181); speak directly with your district's school board member; and talk with fellow parents in order to leverage action from the school's central office to make the POST program a reality in all of Jackson County's schools by the first day of the 2018-2019 School Year.

Next Week: Bigger Than Watergate

Shane Morris is a retired soldier and teacher. You may contact him at sgm11@yahoo.com

2018 Kentucky Trail Town Summit

Tuesday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 11, Registration: \$40
Morehead Convention Conference Center
111 E. First Street, Morehead, Kentucky 40351

Once a year the State puts on a summit for trail towns. This summit is great place to pick up knowledge of what has to be done to keep trail town status and to learn what other successful trail towns are doing. We need to have several from Jackson County and McKee to representatives us. If you need a ride let me know. Call me if you have questions.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

JUST A THOUGHT....As I drove to the grocery to get the fixings for my Easter meal I was blinded from seeing into my neighbor's empty pantry and from seeing their worry of how they would get their next meal. As I proudly bought my new Easter apparel without considering the cost, I was blinded from seeing how the family who sits behind me at church is financially struggling to buy simple necessities.

As I marched my children into church with their new frilly outfits with shoes to match, I was blinded from seeing how the children who sit across from them in Sunday School wore shoes two sizes too small because that's the best they could do.

As I laid down that night feeling blessed to have friends, family, and extra blessings of life, I was blinded from seeing the homeless shivering in the alleys, abused children crying in their beds, neglected seniors in their lonely chair, near-by struggling marriages, and the many tormented addicts.

As I woke the next morning, something strange had taken place. New life, new visions, new hope, new desires, and a new reason for living had been imparted into my heart. My blinded eyes had been opened to see the world as it truly is. The resurrection power of Jesus replaced my selfishness with Gods love for others. My tunnel vision had been expanded into an open display of a broken, hurting, hopeless, and confused generation of humanity.

The resurrection power of Jesus is hope, healing, mending, provision, the power to deliver and set free those who are oppressed, it's the power to impart joy, peace, stability, and security, that can't be found in worldly pursuits, the power to save souls, transform minds, and illuminate the way into eternal heaven. And last but not least, the power to open blinded eyes so His works on the cross will not be in vain.

KSP Post 11, London Announces Another Success at the 2018 Trooper Jason Vanhook Memorial Bass Tournament



London, Ky. (March 26, 2018) – Kentucky State Police Post 11, London is pleased to announce that the 2018 Trooper Jason Vanhook Memorial Bass Tournament was a success despite bad weather all day. It was held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Conley Bottom Resort Boat Ramp located at 270 Conley Bottom Road Monticello, KY. KSP Post 11 would like to congratulate Robert Purdy and Kent Lewis of Richmond, KY who took 1st place prize of \$800.00 cash with 5 fish caught, weighing in at 18.28 pounds.

Post 11 would like to thank all the sponsors who allowed the tournament to be a success: Auto Zone of London, Advance Auto Parts of London, Dog Patch Trading Post of London, Sun Auto Parts of Somerset, Burnside Bait & Tackle, London Bait & tackle and Fat Baby Customs of London.

Department to Test Experimental Fishing Tournament Rules

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 20, 2018) — The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will study the impact of allowing anglers participating in fishing tournaments to keep shorter bass in lakes with special regulations.

The three-year test is limited to two spring and two fall tournaments each year on Lake Cumberland and Cave Run Lake.

Under existing regulations, anglers at Cave Run Lake must release all largemouth bass between 13 to 16 inches, and all smallmouth bass shorter than 18 inches. Lake Cumberland has a 15-inch minimum size limit for largemouth bass and an 18-inch minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

During the assessment period, anglers participating in approved tournaments could keep any fish above the statewide size limit of 12 inches for either species of bass. The number of fish anglers can keep each day will not change.

The study will help fisheries biologists determine if these limited exceptions to the bass size limits will significantly affect the overall fishery in the lake.

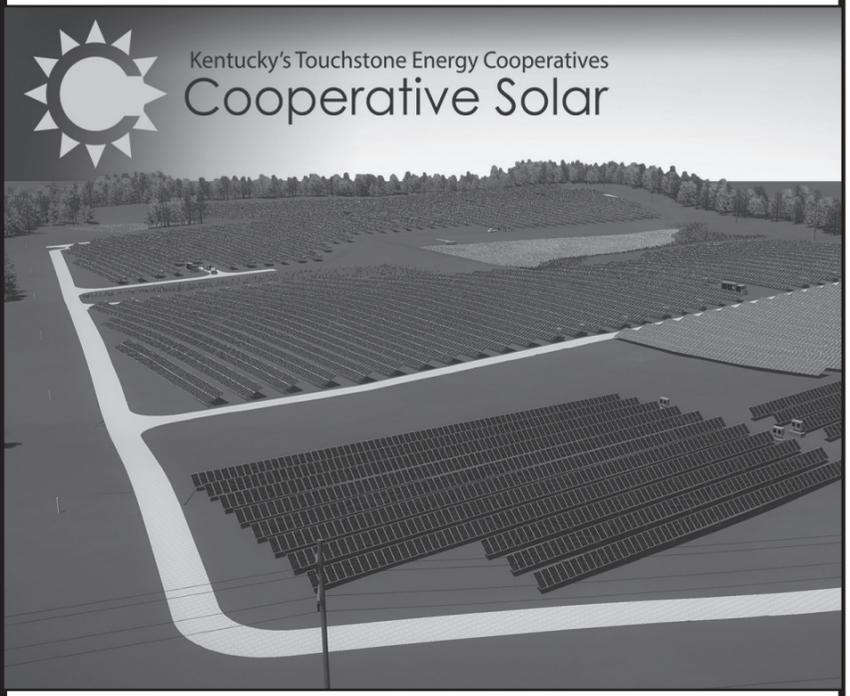
Tournament anglers release all bass after weighing and recording the fish. Participants take steps to keep fish alive during the tournament by using proper handling techniques and putting bass in livewells. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will not grant the tournament size limit exemption between June through September, when higher water temperatures can lead to greater fish mortality.

As part of the study, department fisheries biologists will monitor fish mortality throughout the tournament and for one week following release of the fish. The first test will occur with the FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) tournament set for April 12-15 at Lake Cumberland. The tournament, hosted by the Somerset Tourist and Convention Commission, will launch from General Burnside Island State Park.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officials have received numerous requests over the years to consider tournament exemptions, which some other states currently allow. Tournaments provide boosts to local economies and help grow Kentucky's tourism industry.

The department will reach out to different tournament groups to gauge their interest in the coming years. All participating tournaments must follow specific weigh-in and release requirements set by the department.

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