

Notes to Consider...

Special Report: Rep. Robert Goforth's Official Request for an Opinion of the Attorney General
By G.S. Morris — 18 February 2019



On the 15th of February at the state capitol in Frankfort, Rep. Goforth delivered to the Office of the Kentucky Attorney General an official request for an opinion. The question posed to the AG was as follows: "Are there are any legal, public 'Gun-Free' zones (with the sole exceptions of private or federally restricted property) in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and if so, what is the legal basis for their existence under state law?" I encourage my readers to research for themselves the cited text below which underpinned the AG opinion request. The Attorney General is constitutionally bound to provide an opinion to an individual or group with standing.

Bill of Rights Section 1, Article 7 of the Kentucky State Constitution is not unique in reminding the state legislature of the body's clearly limited authorities (see also Bill of Rights Sections 3, 7, and the clarion 26th):

*The right to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the State, subject to the power of the General Assembly to enact laws to prevent persons from carrying **concealed** weapons.*

The Kentucky General Assembly has no constitutional authority for banning the public carrying of weapons openly by law abiding citizens anywhere in the Commonwealth, as for example on public school property contained in KRS 527.070(1):

*A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property when he knowingly deposits, possesses, or carries, whether **openly** or **concealed**,...*

The Federal Gun-Free School Zones Act (18 U.S. C. 922(q)(2)(B)), does not apply to the possession of a firearm on school property:

(ii) if the individual possessing the firearm is licensed to do so by the State in which the school zone is located or a political subdivision of the State, and the law of the State or political subdivision requires that, before an individual obtains such a license, the law enforcement authorities of the State or political subdivision verify that the individual is qualified under law to receive the license;

In a constitutional republic, the state legislature has no authority to birth powers for another public entity which usurp the rights reserved solely to the People by the Constitution; therefore the power conferred in KRS 237.115(1) to public colleges, universities, or any postsecondary education facilities infringing upon the carrying of weapons openly by law abiding citizens is unconstitutional:

*Except as provided in KRS 527.020, nothing contained in KRS 237.110 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or prohibit **in any manner** the right of a college, university, or any postsecondary education facility, including technical schools and community colleges, to control the possession of deadly weapons on any property owned or controlled by them...*

No subordinate government entity (e.g., local governments, offices of public school superintendents, boards of education, site-based councils, university boards of regents, etc.) may supercede the state legislature's limited authority concerning only the **concealed** carry of weapons; or face legal and civil repercussions per KRS 65.870. KRS 65.870(7) shares the same fatal flaw as KRS 237.115(1).

KRS 527.070(1) and KRS 237.115(1) are in clear violation of Bill of Rights, Section 1, Article 1 of the Kentucky State Constitution by denying law abiding citizens:

*The right of enjoying and **defending** their lives and liberties.*

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

Kentucky Ranks Fifth on Annual School Breakfast Participation Scorecard

Berea, Kentucky, February 13, 2019 — More low-income children in Kentucky are starting their day with a healthy school breakfast. According to the School Breakfast Scorecard, released today by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC, a national anti-hunger advocacy group), 283,974 low-income children in Kentucky participated in the national School Breakfast Program on an average school day in 2017–2018, a 1.7 percent increase over the previous year. Kentucky ranks fifth in school breakfast participation among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"School breakfast means less hunger, better health, and improved educational outcomes for our children," said Kate McDonald, KY Kids Eat Coordinator at the Kentucky Association of Food Banks. "The many schools in our state that are offering breakfast at no charge to all students and serving breakfast after the bell are ensuring that children start the school day ready to learn. We strongly encourage other schools to follow their lead so that more children may benefit."

KY Kids Eat has set an ambitious but attainable goal of reaching 70 low-income children with school breakfast for every 100 receiving school lunch, and the report finds that 66 low-income children in Kentucky ate school breakfast for every 100 that received free or reduced-price school lunch during the 2017–2018 school year. This is above the national average of 57 low-income children eating school breakfast for every 100 who received school lunch in the 2016–2017 school year.

Kentucky's ranking can be attributed in large part to the widespread implementation of community eligibility, which allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students, and alternative breakfast models that move breakfast out of the cafeteria and after the first bell.

In partnership with the Dairy Alliance, KY Kids Eat is celebrating this success and the innovation of Kentucky schools at breakfast time. The Kentucky School Breakfast Challenge highlights leaders and their schools across the Commonwealth who go above and beyond to make breakfast happen for kids. Through February 22nd, anyone can nominate "breakfast champions" across the Commonwealth.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

(Dt. 11:18) God told His people to lay His words in their heart and soul, meaning to make room for them, let them be the root of their actions and reason for soul prosperity. He told them to bind His words for a sign upon their hand, so His direction and commands would be close and visible at all times. Finally, His words were to be frontlets between their eyes, so that His promises would stay distinctly in view and always present in their thoughts.

(Lk 1) Through an angel, God sent Mary only a few details about her present circumstance, beginning with this phrase 'blessed are you among women' Soon after, her life became complicated. She was a young virgin girl, singly chosen out to carry and deliver the Savior of the world. Her destiny with Joseph caused her to be loaded up and taken to a place of unfamiliarity where she was separated from her family and rejected and turned away from every decent place of residency. She ended up in a dark, cold, and smelly stable, built for an animal. There must have been some point during this ordeal that she wondered about those special words, "you are blessed among women", because it sure didn't look and feel that way. But it could have been those words that she pondered in her heart, meaning she remembered, thought upon on, and cherished them, to help her through her time of uncertainty.

In many situations, the words of God are the only hope and solid foundation to stand on. When nothing makes sense, looks right, or seems logical, faith in His words and promises will be incentive enough to trust Him anyway.

Yards to Paradise

We Need More Green Time (And Less Screen Time)

By Max Phelps

When I was young, parents would tell us "go outside and play". And the grownups would often work outside for a living, and even if not would have a garden and a yard to take care of. And there weren't computer screens nor smartphones to absorb so much of our time. The first newspaper compositions I composed for publication were completed first by careful longhand writing, then on a manual typewriter by the time I was a high school senior. (And transmitted with envelope and a postage stamp!) Yes, some things have become more convenient, and the explosion of knowledge is everywhere, but mentally and physically the lack of "green time" is taking it's toll on each of us individually and the world as a whole.

As the days grow longer and warmer, I encourage every reader to step outside more often. Consider your yard or your garden. And if you don't do those chores, or if you rent or live in an apartment, you can still go for a stroll or find a trail to hike or a public park to experience. For it will benefit you.

There's not time and space in this column to explain lengthy research on the subject, but it is proven in multiple studies I've seen over the years, that exposure to greenery and sounds of nature and certainly waterfalls or ocean waves, have a calming effect on the body. Lower blood pressure, and a more peaceful clearer mind results. In one particular study, a class was divided and one group of students sat inside all day and another group were taken on a nature walk, then the same exam was given to both sets of students. By now I am sure you guessed, the average scores were higher for the group that took the nature walk before test time.

Screen time in excess is harmful. Stress goes up, sleep may be deprived, personalities are affected, interactions in person with others become uncertain, and the eyes may be damaged. Those are just some of the negative affects which result from too much time at the computer, the phone screen or the television screen.

If it's not hurtful, why would the top computer and software developers in Silicone Valley not even allow their children to own a smartphone or portable computing device? No, they don't even have computers in some of the private schools they send their own children too. Think on that a minute.

Green time has been demonstrated to have a positive effect on everyone, but all the more on those with mental disorders and the "typical" prisoner (if there is such a thing as an typical inmate). Developmentally challenged students can benefit from a school garden experience. Governments may think they are getting free labor when they put prisoners on a work project, but the real beneficiary of some such projects is actually the prisoner. (Being crammed into a jailhouse with hundreds of other problem people is not the way to "correct" and get such a person prepared for being set free and expecting better behavior than before. Just the opposite...most become repeat offenders.)

Screen time can be wasted time. Playing video games will never get a child to the top of his or her class. Time on the computer researching for an assignment in class or at work, would be an example of profitably spent screen time. Children had chores of some type or another in the past. We may have more "fun" on the phone than raking leaves or dusting furniture, but chores are an important part of living life. If texting and games take up all the time, other skills are not learned.

When an evening on the smartphone or playing video games is the most fun our young people have—it is no wonder the world and it's occupants are getting more messed up day by day with the passage of time.

Planting some flowers, vegetables, trees, and taking care of them may not be the prescription for everyone's happiness and mental and physical well-being; but, more green time will do us all some good. Try it; even prove me wrong if you believe you can.

The author is a landscaper, among other things. Contact Max via rockcastles@gmail.com

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