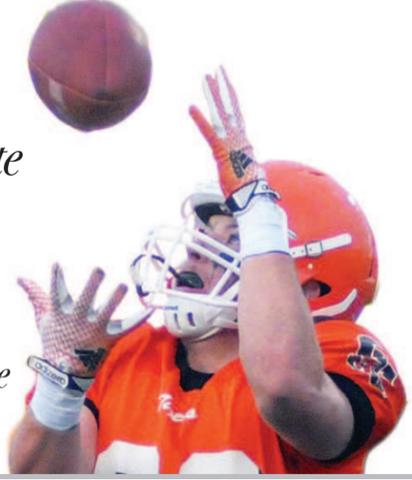




Fall preview: *Tigers hit gridiron for spring game, giving fans a taste of things to come.* **7A**

Charges filed: *Police say woman tried to get alleged rape victim to recant her story.* **12A**



Architect: Garth's facilities worst in county

By Dan Adkins
Georgetown News-Graphic

Garth Elementary School ranks lowest among Scott County's public schools in terms of the quality of its facilities, but that could be a good thing, an architect told a panel of local teachers, residents and officials Monday.

Mike Smith, an architect with Sherman Carter Barnhart architects of Lexington, told the

school district's Local Planning Committee (LPC) that conditions at Garth Elementary will help the school district quality for state funding for renovation efforts.

"A 4.56 is just about as bad as you can get," Smith told the LPC, referring to needs of Garth's physical plant.

Smith was referring to an assessment scale architects and engineers use to measure a school building's condition.

The scale goes from 1 – the best, largely reserved for one- to 10-year-old buildings – to 5.

Garth, the school district's oldest building, received a composite score of 4.56.

The scale is used to measure safety and code compliance; compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; site and exterior conditions; instructional areas; corridors and service

See **Facilities**, 12A

The rankings

Facility scores of Scott County Schools
(1 = best, 5 = worst)

Elkhorn Crossing	1.00
Lemons Mill Elementary	1.00
Royal Spring Middle	1.10
Scott County Preschool	1.26
Southern Elementary	1.36
Georgetown Middle*	1.81
Anne Mason Elementary	1.96
Stamping Ground Elementary	2.09

Scott County High*	2.77
Western Elementary	2.87
Eastern Elementary	3.24
Ninth Grade*	3.39
Northern Elementary	3.64
Scott County Middle	3.79
Garth Elementary	4.56

* denotes older schools that have received renovations

SOURCE: SHERMAN CARTER BARNHART ARCHITECTS

An emotional homecoming



NANCY ROYDEN - NEWS-GRAPHIC

Nathan Kovach cries Friday afternoon after seeing his father, Maj. Jonathan Kovach, for the first time in eight months. Currently serving in the military in Qatar, his visit was a surprise for Nathan and his sister, Ellie. The reunion took place during St. John Catholic School's recycle rally.

Father on leave from deployment surprises kids during school event

By Dan Adkins
Georgetown News-Graphic

Seven-year-old Nathan Kovach and his 4-year-old sister Ellie stared into the box, but there was no doubt: It was empty.

"It's empty?" said Alison Witagewski. "I guess I forgot to put the prize in it. But there it is."

When Nathan and Ellie turned and looked down the aisle of St. John Roman Catholic Church, a familiar face was looking back.

Major Jonathan "Jon" Kovach, their 38-year-old father, who just two days earlier had been in Qatar in the Middle East, two-thirds through a year-long deployment, stretched out his arms.

Nathan and Ellie were frozen.

So Kovach marched quickly to where they stood in front of the church's altar and scooped Nathan in one arm and reached for Ellie.

Kovach was the grand prize awarded Friday to his wife, Dana, Nathan and Ellie for their efforts to collect thousands upon thousands of glass bottles and aluminum cans in St. John School's recycling effort.

Of course, Dana was in on the surprise.

"I picked him up at the airport last night, after they were asleep," Dana said before the surprise was sprung on the kids in front of about 80 other students at the school.

But the planning had begun earlier – much earlier.

Kovach delayed taking a rest-and-recreation trip, missing Nathan's latest birthday.

Their son will have plenty of birthdays.

But today, Nathan Kovach takes his First Communion – and his devoutly Catholic parents wanted to see it together.

"Being Catholic, your First Communion is an important step in this process (of faith)," Jon Kovach

said.

Before and during most of the recycling event, Kovach was hidden in a room at the rear of the sanctuary. He peered through venetian blinds to watch the ceremony.

It marked his first full day being back home. In nine more days, he returns to Qatar.

Meanwhile, the folks at St. John were more than willing to help make this whole weekend special. Even though the box was empty.

'I picked him up at the airport last night, after they were asleep.'

Dana Kovach



NANCY ROYDEN - NEWS-GRAPHIC

Maj. Jonathan Kovach stands with his family, daughter Ellie; wife Dana and son, Nathan, inside St. John the Evangelist Church in Georgetown on Friday after being reunited with them during a recycle rally.

SUE JONES MURDER

Jefferson talking plea deal

By Dan Adkins
Georgetown News-Graphic

A woman charged in connection with the 2010 Sue Jones murder is negotiating a possible plea agreement with prosecutors, her attorney said Thursday.

"There are discussions (of a plea agreement with Ciji Jefferson) and we're still reviewing evidence," Lexington attorney Brent Cox said.

Cox confirmed he and Jefferson met with Commonwealth's Attorney Gordie Shaw's assistants on Tuesday.

Ciji L. Jefferson, 28, most recently of St. Cloud, Fla., was released into Kentucky State Police Det. Kevin Calhoun's custody by the Bourbon County Detention Center, where she is incarcerated, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to an agreed order.

The order, which was signed by Scott County Circuit Judge Paul Isaacs on April 16 – five days earlier – was seen and agreed to by Jefferson's public defender attorney Brent Cox and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Pat Molloy.

Shaw said he could neither confirm nor deny that negotiations are being conducted.

Jefferson is charged with complicity with second-degree burglary in the Feb. 4, 2010, death of Glenda Sue Jones, then 68, a retired Scott County school-bus driver.

Charged with murder, first-degree robbery and first-degree burglary in the case is Nicholas Aaron "Nic" Willinger, 30, of Lexington.

State police arrested Willinger on Jan. 31 at his mother's Lexington home. KSP detectives traveled that same day to St. Cloud, Fla., where they enlisted that city's police department to bring Jefferson in for questioning and a subsequent arrest on a fugitive warrant.

Arrest warrants for Willinger and Jefferson allege she told Willinger that Jones had money in her house and would be away from the house on Feb. 4, 2010. Jefferson lived in Sadieville at that time.

The warrants allege she went with him to the Jones house and waited in a car while he broke in, discovered Jones in bed at her home and beat her to death with a blunt object.

Jones' body was discovered later that day by her boyfriend.

Then-Scott County Sheriff Bobby Hammond asked state police to handle the investigation.

State police have remained close-mouthed about how they identified Willinger and Jefferson as suspects in the case.



Jefferson



Coming up:
Walk and talk
Tuesday



Area deaths

David Ray Norton, 66
Charles Junior Strong, 80

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