

Kimti, a 14-year-old snow leopard at the Louisville Zoo, has died, zoo officials announced Wednesday. PROVIDED BY THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

# Louisville Zoo announces death of snow leopard

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Kimti, a snow leopard and long-time resident at the Louisville Zoo has died, officials announced in a June 11 news re-

The 14-year-old male snow leopard was humanely euthanized by the zoo's veterinary team after determining it was the best course of action to reduce his suffering and allow for a peaceful death, spokesperson Kyle Shepherd said.

Kimti had received veterinary treatment for severe hip dysplasia and arthritis for several years leading up to his death, but his health deteriorated in recent weeks, leading to increased lethargy, mobility challenges and loss of appetite, Shepherd said.

Kimti was born with a condition known as coloboma, which effects both humans and animals. The condition caused his eyes to remain partially closed and compromised his vision.

"Despite this challenge, Kimti thrived

- often delighting guests and staff alike by playfully chasing golf carts and exploring the passages of Snow Leopard Pass," officials wrote in the release. "He will be deeply missed."

"Kimti was a wonderful ambassador who helped us educate guests about animals with special needs," Louisville Zoo Director Dan Maloney said. "Saying goodbye is never easy, and we know our community joins us in grieving this special cat. Thank you for loving Kimti as much as we did."

Two other snow leopards, female NeeCee and male Meru, remain at the zoo and can be viewed at the Snow Leopard Pass exhibit.

Snow leopards, which are native to Central Asia, are considered a "vulnerable" species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Scientists estimate the wild snow leopard population to be between 3,920-6,390, zoo offi-

Contact reporter Killian Baarlaer at kbaarlaer@gannett.com or @bkillian72 on X.

## NuLu

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residential units and 10% of the medium-term units rented for over six months — for a minimum of 39 units will have rents affordable to households earning less than 80% of area median income. For a family of four in Jefferson County, that comes out to \$77,300, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Of the project's total cost, about \$75.2 million would go toward public infrastructure improvements including utility work, streetscaping and sidewalks.

City officials acknowledged the private investment and development that's occurred in the NuLu district, just to the east of Louisville's Central Business District, but said "special circumstances" for this project, specifically additional power, sewer and water infrastructure needs, would "prevent its development without public assistance."

"These infrastructure improvements cannot reasonably be funded with private investment alone," reads the ordi-

The new ordinance seeks to create a new 30-year tax increment financing district - also known as a TIF district called the 700 East Main Street Development Area.

This incentive would give to the developer a portion of future gains in property tax revenues and occupational license fees created as a result of the development.

The city is proposing giving 80% of the difference between property taxes and license fees collected in a base year and in each subsequent year to the developer.

Up to \$33.3 million in property tax dollars would be greenlit for the TIF district along with up to \$6.1 million in occu-

pational withholding fees, for a total of \$39.45 million, according to Metro Council documents.

City government wouldn't release payments until at least \$200 million is invested in the project, according to the ordinance.

In addition to a local TIF, developers are also seeking a state tax incentive via the state's "signature projects" program, which requires a minimum capital investment of \$200 million.

The development area has a 2024 taxable assessment of just over \$7.5 million, generating about \$33,000 in property taxes for the city.

The development is anticipated to generate nearly \$129 million in direct local tax revenues and about \$65.8 million in direct state tax revenues, according to an analysis by Commonwealth Economics, a copy of which was not readily available.

Tied to the incentive is a memorandum of understanding between the developer and the NuLu Business Association in which the developer would give the association \$25,000, according to exhibits filed with the ordinance.

Zyyo bought the 2.5-acre property from Indianapolis-based Buckingham Co., in 2021 for just over \$7.5 million, the Courier Journal previously reported. The project was announced that year and secured key development plan approvals from the city in 2023.

The ordinance will first be considered by the Labor and Economic Development Committee of the Louisville Metro Council before heading to the full council

A public hearing on the proposed incentive, which is separate from the Metro Council process, is set for 6 p.m. June 16 at 444 S. Fifth St.

Reach growth and development reporter Matthew Glowicki at mglowicki@courier-journal.com or 502-582-

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**Veda Morgan** 

Louisville Courier Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

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When you reach out with ideas and concerns and interesting people we should write about, our work becomes a reflection of this community - and it can help make where we live a better

That's why we created the Courier Iournal mobile newsroom four vears ago. We wanted to be more accessible to people in the Louisville area. We wanted to meet with you in your neighborhoods and hear what you think we ought to be writing about. This year, the mobile newsroom will stop at five different public libraries. Our journalists will spend a week at each location.

We hope you will stop by.

We'll listen to anything you have to say, and hopefully we'll produce stories that shine a light on issues in your neighborhood and beyond.

Our first stop is the newly renovated and expanded Parkland Library at the corner of 28th Street and Virginia Avenue in west Louisville's Parkland neighborhood. We are excited about visiting this historic library that originally opened in 1908, was forced to close in 1986 because of budget cuts and had a grand reopening this year. We can't wait to hear about your neighborhood and whatever else is on your mind.

Please tell us about any meetings we should attend, civic groups we should contact or even any restaurants that serve as community gathering places.

We are giving away gift cards at each stop. So make sure to stop by to enter your name in a raffle to win. In Parkland, we will raffle off a \$50 gift card for Blak

We will be at the library branches from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. but will stay later upon request. Here's our schedule for the next five months:

#### St. Matthews, July 14-18

**Location:** St. Matthews Eline Li- vmorgan@courier-journal.com.

brary, 3940 Grandview Ave.

Iroquois, Aug. 18-22

**Location:** Iroquois Library, 601 W Woodlawn Ave.

Oldham County, Sept. 15-19

Location: Goshen Branch Library, 3000 Paramont Way

#### South Louisville, Oct. 20-24

Location: South Central Regional Library, 7300 Jefferson Blvd.

#### Look for these staff members on these days

Bailey Loosemore, government and accountability editor — Monday

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porter — Friday

Bailey Reed, opinion intern — Tuesday and Friday

Veda Morgan, Midwest opinion and engagement director - Monday and Wednesday

If you have any questions, comments or story ideas — or you'd like to write an opinion piece, please reach out to me at vmorgan@courier-journal.com. look forward to meeting you at the mobile newsroom and hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Veda Morgan is the Midwest opinion and engagement director. Reach her at

## **Monuments**

Continued from Page 1A

and economic security," it stated.

Asked about the legal opinion, White House spokesperson Harrison Fields cited, in a statement, the need to "liberate our federal lands and waters to oil, gas, coal, geothermal, and mineral leasing," Reuters reported.

#### Oil, gas, mining interests

By executive order, Trump previously directed the Department of the Interior to review oil, gas and mining on public land. In February, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum charged his staff with coming up with an action plan to reduce barriers and offer more land for oil and gas leasing.

The Trump administration asked the department to weigh in on whether the president could reverse Biden's January actions, which set aside the Chuckwalla National Monument, more 600,000 acres south of Joshua Tree National Park, and the Sáttítla Highlands National Monument, which protected 224,000 acres near the Oregon border.

The opinion concludes the Antiquities Act, established by Congress in 1906, allows the president to alter previous designations and decide that earlier national monuments, "either never were or no longer are deserving of the Act's protections." Previous presidents have diminished the acreage of monuments, but no president has ever abolished a monument, Reuters reported.

Trump, in his first term, reduced the size of two Utah monuments: Bears Ears in the southeastern part of the state by 85% and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument in south-central Utah by half. Biden restored both to their former

Trump also vowed to remove a ban on drilling in federally managed ocean waters. At a White House event in April, he announced he would open more than 400,000 square miles in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. The advocacy group Earthjustice filed suit over that decision in May.

#### How has the Act been used?

The Antiquities Act was the first law

to give legal protection to cultural and natural resources, addressing concerns at the time about the pillaging of native archaeological sites.

Eighteen presidents — nine Democrats and nine Republicans - have established or expanded more than 160 national monuments - including the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty according to a news release by a coalition of conservation groups.

U.S. states and Congress have previously argued to revoke or restrict the limits of the president's powers under the Antiquities Act, saying it was intended to be narrow in scope.

Opponents say it gives the federal government too much control over the resources within hundreds of thousands of acres of land and ocean and is sometimes inconsistent with other federal laws that require more public involvement. Trump has cited "burdensome and ideologically motivated regulations" that limit the use of the nation's natural resources.

Proponents say it allows presidents to move swiftly to protect vulnerable lands and waters, and it has broad public support due to the benefits of designating a site a monument.

#### What if Trump acts on the memo?

Conservation groups say millions of acres of federal lands with beautiful landscapes, protected Native American locations and resources, protected species and their habitats are at risk if Trump tries to shrink or remove national monuments. In early June, America the Beautiful for All and a coalition of national monuments supporters held rallies to honor and preserve the nation's monuments. June 8 was the 119th anniversary of the Antiquities Act.

The National Parks Conservation Association in February identified at least 13 national monuments that could be at risk of losing protection, including the nation's first, Devils Tower in Wyoming, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

The Wilderness Society has said a Trump executive order aimed at boosting the mining and processing of minerals, and expedited permitting, endangers monuments and "iconic landscapes" across the country.

Contributing: Reuters; Eve Chen, USA TODAY; Janet Wilson, Palm Springs Desert Sun

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