

Sportsplex plans in home stretch

Groundbreaking projected for early 2026

BY MATT JONES
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG The sports complex at Camp Landing is on track for a groundbreaking early next year.

“We want to build this thing one time,” Boyd County Judge-Executive Eric Chaney said.

Commissioner David Salisbury asked

Chaney for an update at the fiscal court meeting Tuesday.

“We are really excited about it,” Chaney said. “We are just finalizing a few details. It’ll be a big project, great for the community.”

Chaney said all the funding as been secured for the project.

“We are working on details on the interior

as well as the air dome itself,” Chaney said.

Chaney said the geotechnical surveys found the ground to be good for construction and the surveys have been completed.

“Everything is good, we are moving forward,” Chaney said.

“We are getting close.”

Chaney said the groundbreaking should happen in the first quarter of 2026 and construction will take roughly 35 weeks to complete.

Bridge closure a newt point

Salamanders habitat, replacement cost cited for making walking bridge

BY MATT JONES
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CATLETTSBURG A bridge at the end of Midland Trail in Boyd County is in the process of being made into a walking bridge.

During Tuesday’s Boyd County Fiscal Court Meeting, the court voted to close the bridge over Shopes Creek. The bridge is behind Meade Station.

“It’s \$100,000 to replace that bridge,” Eric

Chaney, judge-executive, said. “It doesn’t affect access. ... It won’t cut down on emergency service access.”

Chaney said the area is accessible from Shopes Creek Road and U.S. 60. The bridge is less than 500 feet from the intersection.

“It will be a walking bridge,” Chaney said.

Endangered salamanders have been found in the creek and the state recommended closure of the bridge instead of replacement.

“It’s government,” Chaney said. “We’ve got a bridge that needs to be taken care of, but we’ve got to worry about the salamanders underneath of it.”

“Salamanders?” Commissioner Jeremy Hol-

brook asked. “This is the first time I’ve heard salamanders in the court.”

“We could have this discussion for the next four hours and I’d continue to get more and more frustrated,” Chaney said. “I just don’t get it. It doesn’t make any sense to me. Sorry, little salamander.”

“They will run when you start working, I promise you,” Commissioner Randy Stapleton said.

“That’s big government. I don’t like big government,” Chaney said.

A report will be filed with the court. County Attorney Curtis Dotson said.

The bridge should be closed at the next court meeting on Jan 13.

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AARON SNYDER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

The Mill and Broadway Books is seen on Carter Avenue in Ashland.

Local restaurant announces it will close Dec. 31

BY LEE WARD
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND The Mill has announced it will close on Dec. 31.

Owner Mikal Clark opened the eatery nearly six years ago on Winchester Avenue. It later moved to 1624 Carter Ave., which has housed various restaurants for years.

The final day of operation will be Dec. 31.

Clark said nearly everyone who works there has found another job and that was a priority for her. They all will be able to stay at The Mill until it closes before starting their new jobs.

She said closing was a difficult decision.

“I’ve prayed over, cried over and thought about it for a long time. For nearly six years, I’ve poured my heart and soul into this place, into our employees, our guests, and this community that has become like family,” she said in her announcement of the closure on Facebook.

“It’s been the hardest and best thing I’ve ever done, and I wouldn’t trade a single moment of it.”

She said she plans to continue to cook.

“I will likely continue catering, especially until the baby comes,” she said, noting she is pregnant and due to deliver in April. “But no, I won’t reopen. This place took all of my time away from family and I’m ready for a new chapter.”

“I am very thankful for the years I had, but I feel very at peace with this decision. Ashland is not a place I would ever reopen in, and I will leave it at that,” she said.

Broadway Books, housed in the same building as The Mill, will remain open but owners are seeking a new location.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Boyd Beverage Center, Inc your local Beverage Store hereby declares its intention to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than 01/10/2025. The licensed premises will be located at 1530 Shopes Creek Rd, Ashland KY 41102. The Owner is Jay & Margaret Baker, 22029 Country Club Drive, Catlettsburg KY 41129. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort KY 40601, within (30) thirty days of the date of legal publication.

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