

Memories of Maggie's

I felt the sting of nostalgia recently as I passed by 15th Street, and noticed the McCleary building. What was once Ex-calibers became CJ Maggie's American Grill in 1998, a place I spent my younger years working, making memories, and getting to know the world.

We lost the beloved Ashland restaurant in October 2011, but those years left a mark on us that we'll always have the pleasure of sharing. These were the last years, the ones before everything went viral, before social media became our source for news, before the phones took over. Back when the wood-fired pizza oven stayed hot every night and served up one Buffalo Soldier pizza after another. CJ Maggie's invited us to eat bacon and cheddar fries cut in house, and to become famous crayon artists.

What was intended to bring us the nostalgic joy of childhood actually cultivated more nostalgia in the memories we have today; a slice of that peanut butter pie could just break my heart. Hopping around downtown between the News Stand, the Plaza Hotel, and CJ's was a chance to be seen from the balcony over Winchester Avenue, or to get a coffee from the Frame Up Gallery when it was open late.

Change is said to be the only constant, and I am discovering the truth of that as I reach another decade. Aging opens our eyes to what folks older than us face, the pinch of missing even more of the past, and the ache of remembering a world that doesn't exist anymore. One day we all had our last refill of chips and salsa at Fiesta Bravo, smoked our last ciga-

rettes after midnight at Katie's Corner, and cruised the strip in Iron-ton for one final lap.

If you find yourself pining for "the good old days" just remind yourself that we are living in some good old days now, we just don't know it yet. As much as patrons loved a Mushroom Cloud pizza, they also loved being known within the community of the long hallway bar, a hide-away from the rest of the world. And just like nothing can replace the familiarity of watching the day fade into night from the patio, no other fish sandwich will ever be quite as big as the Cod-zilla.

There is a place located directly above the center of Planet Earth that is still alive, that echoes in the hearts of Ashlanders today to the tune of a Bob Seger song heard over shouts and laughter. A place where the house-made margarita mix was no secret, the drama wasn't scarce, and the penalty of a harsh hangover was earned from having a good time. No one can sit down in Ashland and order the infamous alfredo pie ever again, or the zucchini strips, or the 40 miles of bad road nachos.

However, the dish of commonalty is served warm and can be shared forever. It is good for us to hold onto the truth that once upon a time within these city limits we all once sat together and shared kettle chips dunked in ranch dressing.

Chances are someone reading this remembers making ranch dressing in those giant containers we wrestled into the walk-in cooler. There was so much hard work put into running the place, I miss the camaraderie.

So raise the 22-ounce mug of Newcastle that

lives in your heart forever for a toast. Cheers to all of the twists and turns we live through, and for the 14 years we've had to reflect back on how lucky we once were to hope for a seat at the window table with our dearest friends. I hope you all have found a replacement comfort meal for the hand-battered chicken fingers dipped in honey mustard, and please remember, there is never a last call for rekindling connection.

SARAH JUSTICE is a guest columnist.



THE DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO
The old CJ Maggie's restaurant at 15th and Winchester Avenue in Ashland is pictured. It is now Fat Patty's.

RETIREMENT

- Are You Retiring Or Have You Retired?
- Want to Roll Over Your IRA or 401K and pay no taxes?
- Do You Have Funds That Are Not Working For You?
- Do You Need An Income Without Touching The Principle?

BE THE BOSS OF YOUR RETIREMENT, PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK FOR YOU WITH UP TO 8% INTEREST!

For a Personal & Confidential Appointment:
CALL JIM AT 606-683-2104
CELL: 859-948-4376
Email: gatesjimmie@yahoo.com

WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!
WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!
WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 180, 2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 13, SERIES OF 1939, WHICH PROHIBITED THE PRACTICE OF PALMISTRY, PHRENOLOGY, OR FORTUNE TELLING IN ANY WAY IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:
/s/SUSAN W. MADDIX
CITY CLERK

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
September 9, 2025

READOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
December 12, 2025

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the titles of Ordinance Nos. 164, 165, 166, 167 and 168, 2025 are true and accurate summaries of the contents of the ordinances prepared by the Legal Department of the City of Ashland, Kentucky, consisting of attorneys licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

/s/Andrew K. Wheeler
Corporation Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Andrew K. Wheeler this 25th day of November, 2025. My commission as a Notary Public will expire January 2, 2028.

/s/SAMANTHA A. SALYERS
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF KENTUCKY AT LARGE
ID# KYNP508

Published: December 26, 2025

SEBASTIAN M. JOY

Criminal Defense

DUI

WE WIN CASES!

606-739-4569

JoyLawOffice.com

Complimentary Wine Sampling

Breathe WINE & CULTURE CO.

- Fine Wine
- Craft Beer
- Charcuterie
- Gift Baskets
- Bistro
- Local Art Gallery

Small & Local Business Friendly

Woman Owned

Every Saturday 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Corner Of 4th Ave & 9th St
HUNTINGTON, WVA

THE DAILY Independent

BINGO!

Cover All The Numbers...

WIN \$1,000

1-19

TODAY'S NUMBER DRAWN

SPONSORED BY:

SANDY'S

RACING | GAMING

10775 US - 60
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY

WWW.SANDYSGAMING.COM

CUT OUT THIS BINGO BALL AND PASTE TO YOUR BINGO CARD!

5 WAYS TO WIN!

BINGO

FIRST DIAGONAL
JULIE HARRIS
WINS \$25.00

FIRST HORIZONTAL
CATHERINE ANDERSON
WINS \$25.00

FIRST HORIZONTAL
ARNOLD PATRICK
WINS \$50.00

FIRST HORIZONTAL
JULIE HARRIS
WINS \$50.00

FIRST TO COVERALL
WIN \$1,000.00
(Every Square)
(Winner TBD)

FUHRMANN ORCHARDS
WHEELERSBURG, OH

Apples
Apple Cider
Pumpkins
Gourds

Winter Squash
(740) 776-6406
MON-FRI 9am-6pm
and SAT 9am-4pm
510 HANGEN MORGAN RD.
WHEELERSBURG, OH 45694
OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS
www.fuhrmannorchards.com

Trinity Station

Retirement Community
The Area's Premier Continuing Care Retirement Community!

PERSONAL CARE ROOMS!

ASSISTED LIVING 1 BEDROOM AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE!

2121 ARGILLITE ROAD
FLATWOODS, KY
606.833.1111
TRINITYSTATION.COM

Champs Appliance Repair LLC

Float like a butterfly.
Sting like a bee.
Repair Appliance Affordably.

606.594.6548

NOW OFFERING Roadside Assistance & Mobile Tire Changing

WE WORK WITH ALL PASSENGER CARS & TRUCKS INCLUDING SEMI-TRUCKS & FARM EQUIPMENT

Anywhere In The Surrounding Tri-State Area!

Sargent's Wholesale Tires

606-325-2569 IN WESTWOOD
606-393-3110 IN ASHLAND

800 HOODS CREEK PIKE • ASHLAND
4560 13TH STREET • ASHLAND
1035 STATE RT. 7, 1947 • GRAYSON

WIN BIG!

AT SANDY'S RACING & GAMING

Grab a burger, sip your favorite drinks, and play for the biggest jackpots around.

SANDY'S

RACING | GAMING

10775 US-60
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY
SANDYSGAMING.COM

Must be 21+. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.