

# DOE site projects could bring 500 jobs, major economic growth

Economic report projects lasting impact of nuclear enrichment facilities

**BY BEN OVERBY**  
NEWS@MAYFIELD-MESSENGER.COM

Greater Paducah Economic Development, or GPED, delivered a presentation on recent projects at the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site to the McCracken County Fiscal Court during its Monday meeting at the county courthouse.

GPED President Bruce Wilcox presented the organization's quarterly report to the board. Among other ventures, he summarized recent developments with Global Laser Enrichment, or GLE, and General Matter's nuclear enrichment projects, as well as the federal site's selection for a potential artificial intelligence data center.

Wilcox said beyond the 140 full-time jobs the General Matter site is expected to produce, he anticipates the creation of an additional 170 induced and indirect employees from the site, contributing to an estimated recurring annual economic impact of \$71 million per year.

"General matter hopes to begin site work later this year, with construction to begin next year," Wilcox said. "They plan on constructing buildings that do not have nexus with radiological activities while they work on



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their NRC license application."

NRC refers to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which must license any company seeking to construct or operate commercial nuclear reactors and fuel cycle facilities.

Wilcox also shared information on GLE's status, saying the company plans to wait approximately 18 months to begin construction, when its NRC licensing is complete.

"They filed the second half of their NRC license application at the end of June," Wilcox said. "They filed the environmental piece back in December, just prior to Christmas, and they filed the safety portion

just at the end of June."

Wilcox said while numbers are not finalized for the GLE project, he anticipates an even greater economic impact for Paducah and McCracken County.

"General Matter is the largest investment in the history of western Kentucky, and Global Laser Enrichment, when it comes online, I anticipate it to be even larger," Wilcox said. "Like I mentioned, the recurring annual economic impact of General Matter's is about \$71 billion per year. While the numbers are not finalized on GLE yet, they're saying somewhere between 300 and 400 employees. We say 350 just for an average,

but that project could have as much of a recurring annual economic impact as \$175 million per year."

Wilcox also addressed the July announcement that the DOE Paducah Site was selected by the Department of Energy as one of four potential sites across the nation for high-powered AI data centers.

"What makes us uniquely situated to host such a large-scale project is the proximity of our electrical infrastructure," Wilcox said. "We have four generation and transmission companies that have transmission infrastructure on-site at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion site: Grid Alliance

or NextEra, TVA, Kentucky Utilities and Big Rivers Electric. We're also in the heart of the MISO, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Network, which makes it very favorable to pump additional electricity into the site."

Wilcox said MISO, a major electric grid operator spanning 15 states in the central United States, reports having approximately 200,000 megawatts of installed capacity and between 85,000 and 115,000 megawatts being utilized. Wilcox said the AI project is not yet guaranteed, and GPED will be working with the DOE in the coming months.

"We anticipate host-

ing an industry meeting within the next few months, then we will submit formal requests for proposals to prospective data centers and companies that have an interest in sitting a large-scale project here," Wilcox said. "I'll have more information on those projects as they progress in the coming months."

Additionally, the fiscal court approved a \$314,309.31 bid from Sportaflex to provide multipurpose fencing for the Paducah Sports Park. The fencing will be portable and used within different fields across the park, according to Community Development Project Manager Steve Ervin.

The court also approved the signing of a resolution between the Kentucky Department of Transportation and the McCracken County Road Department shifting responsibility for certain roads.

"We're going to be swapping, giving the state 10-and-a-half miles of high-volume connector roads that connect state road to state road, and we'll be accepting 4.3 miles of lower volume roads that really fit more into our system," McCracken County Road Engineer Randy Williams said.

Williams said the deal will be beneficial for both parties, saving the McCracken County Road Department from the cost of expensive maintenance on high-volume roads and creating more efficiency for both the state and the county.

## STRONGER

FROM PAGE A4

and we argue, just like any family does, but when it comes down to it, we rally around our own and we take care of each other. And that's a special thing about what we've got there."

DeBernardi told WPSD Sunday his experience has been very similar to Dew's.

"Living here my entire life, the people of Graves County and the people in Mayfield, as far as community, you're not going to find people that are any tougher and more resilient than our community," DeBernardi said. "We've been hit with a lot in the last few years.

We've always bounced back stronger and better. So it just really makes me proud to be from here... When tragedy strikes, you're not going to keep our communities down. We're going to rally behind each other and be there for one another."

It's that sense of community that both coaches are reminding their players of as they not only process what happened Friday night, but also move forward with the rest of the season.

"I do hope that our players understand this, that when something like that happens, it really puts life in perspective," Dew said. "We sit there, and I get it. Football is a vital part of our town. It is a vital part of our school.

It is, it is what we hang our hat on. It is what we do... But in the grand scheme of things, when it comes down to just life in general, it's just a part of it. And there's a lot of things that are way more important than that.

"Yes, it was a bad thing that happened, and I wish it wouldn't have, but again, this community and this team and this school, we're going to take that negative, we're going to turn it into a positive. We'll come out of this stronger than we were going into it."

"We have to be better [as a society]... We have to move forward [and] we have to continue to be there for one another," DeBernardi added. "There's

evil in the world, but there's also a lot of good in the world, and we've got to be the good. We've got to be there for one another. We've got to continue to live life the way that it needs to be lived. We've

got to continue to celebrate life. We still have a long season ahead of us, and I believe in what we teach our young men here, and I know that we're going to move forward and we're going to continue to grow as

a football program and football team."

Graves County will be at home Friday night as they host Paducah Tilghman for week 2 of the football season. Mayfield will travel to face Christian County.

## CITY OF WINGO 2024 DELINQUENT TAX BILLS

I, Lana Ward, City Clerk for the City of Wingo, Kentucky, do give notice that on September 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., I will at Wingo City Hall place for sale the tax claims for the year 2024 (which are lien against the real estate identified in said tax bills) for the following persons listed as delinquent, which claims when sold shall bear 6% interest from the date of issuance until collected.

Rebecca & Bradley Bruce (3)	105.81
Kimberley Ann Crawford	673.37
C.T. Hayes	224.46
Willie Mae Kelley	51.30
Delphine Kenley	288.59
Mark & Melanie Majors	12.83
P & W Rental Inc	1154.34
Jimmy & Terry Richards	513.04
Richard Sheridan	170.91
Julianne Smith	272.55
Shanna Tzita	513.04

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