

OBITUARIES,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

Patricia "Pat" Rutherford



TEXAS - Patricia "Pat" Rutherford, 78, Chandler, Texas, passed away peacefully June 2, 2026 at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler, Texas, after a well-fought five-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

She was born Patricia Poynter on April 30, 1948 in Cave City, to Schuyler and Harriett Poynter, where she was raised in a close-knit family of ten children. She graduated from Caverna High School with the Class of 1966, where she met the love of her life, Stanley W. Rutherford of nearby Horse Cave. They were voted Mr. and Miss Senior and Pat was voted Most Talented. Following high school, she studied at business college before the two married and began their life together.

Pat and Stan married in 1967, beginning a partnership that would span nearly 60 years. As the wife of a United States Army officer, she devoted herself wholeheartedly to her family as a homemaker and stay-at-home mother, raising their daughter, Heather, across numerous postings. Stan's final assignment brought the family to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., where he served until his retirement in 1992. She loved their military life filled with travel, experiencing new places, cultures, and people along the way. During their time in Northern Virginia, she began a new career, serving more than twelve years as Secretary at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

In March 2004, they retired and moved to Chandler, Texas, to be near their only daughter. She quickly became a cherished part of the community. She continued her life of faith and service as a member of Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, where she taught Vacation Bible School, served in the Women's ministry, sang in the Silver Notes Senior Choir, and was an active member of her Prayer Warriors Sunday School class.

She embraced life with warmth, sincerity, and a generous spirit. She found great joy in arts and crafts, music and dance, teaching children, and playing with her grand puppies. Above all, she cherished her family and her personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She was known for her faithfulness, her kind and compassionate nature, her gentle demeanor, and her servant's heart - qualities that touched everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Stanley Rutherford, Chandler, TX; her daughter, Heather Rutherford Mensch and husband Tom, Mt. Juliet, TN; her brother, Paul Richard Poynter and wife Jo Anne, Cave City; brother, Jerry Poynter and partner Maggie, Horse Cave; brother-in-law Randall Chapman, Cave City; brother-in-law, David Rutherford and wife Wanda, Cave City; sister-in-law, Linda Conner, Louisville and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Schuyler and Harriett Poynter; her brothers, Warren, William, J.V., Clarence, and Curtis Poynter; her sisters, Helen Byrd and Ruby Chapman; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lloyd Rutherford and wife Francis; and her brother-in-law, Leigh Conner.

A celebration of life service was held 2:00 pm Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, Tyler, Texas. A future celebration of life is being planned in Kentucky for relatives and friends who were unable to travel to Texas.

Donations be made to Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

OBITUARY POLICY: Obituaries must be submitted by a licensed funeral home or a copy of one previously published in order to be placed on the obituary page. Funeral providers determine the size and content of all obits provided to our newspaper and most others.

Lawsuit Challenges Cave City Data Center Moratorium

JEFF JOBE
COMMUNITY PUBLISHER

CAVE CITY — A lawsuit filed Monday in Barren Circuit Court is challenging Cave City's recently adopted one-year moratorium on data center development, alleging city officials violated state zoning laws and interfered with a development proposal that had already been submitted for review.

Kentucky Industrial Alliance, LLC (KIA) filed the complaint against the City of Cave City, the Cave City Council and the Joint City-County Planning Commission, seeking to have the moratorium declared invalid and unenforceable.

According to the lawsuit, KIA submitted a development plan on May 11 for property located at 2001 Doyle Avenue in Cave City. The filing states that Planning Director Kevin Myatt acknowledged receipt of the application in a letter dated May 13.

The complaint alleges the development plan was submitted before the city enacted its moratorium and therefore should be reviewed under the zoning regulations that existed at the time of filing.

Court records show the Joint City-County Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 30 regarding



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Barren County Planning and Zoning Director Kevin Myatt addresses members of the Cave City Council during the council meeting on Monday, June 8, in Cave City.

proposed data center regulations. The commission unanimously recommended zoning amendments that would have allowed data centers in Cave City's I-2 Heavy Industrial District while imposing restrictions, including requirements that facilities generate at least 50 percent of their own power, utilize self-contained cooling systems, and maintain setbacks from residential areas and property lines.

The lawsuit states Cave City Council considered those recommendations on May 11 but failed to approve the proposed text amendment. During that same meeting, Councilwoman Leticia Cline proposed a one-year moratorium on data center development, which was approved by a 4-1 vote. The moratorium subsequently received final approval during special meetings held May 18 and May 20.

KIA alleges the mor-

atorium was adopted without following procedures required under Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 100, including referral to the planning commission for review and a public hearing. The lawsuit further claims the moratorium was not properly published prior to adoption.

The complaint also contends the company made significant financial commitments based on existing zoning regulations. According to the filing, KIA purchased additional adjoining property at a cost of approximately \$2 million to support an option agreement with a developer interested in constructing a data center. The company states it also paid more than \$2,600 in development plan filing fees.

KIA argues the moratorium has caused immediate harm by preventing the Planning Commission from considering its

application and asks the court to issue an injunction blocking enforcement of the moratorium while the case proceeds.

Among the relief sought, KIA requests a declaration that the moratorium is unlawful. Alternatively, the company asks the court to require the Planning Commission to review its development plan under the zoning regulations that were in place before the moratorium was adopted.

The case was filed June 8 in Barren Circuit Court and had not yet been scheduled for a hearing as of press time.

Editor's Note: The lawsuit contains allegations made by the plaintiff. The defendants had not filed a response to the complaint at the time of publication, and the court has not ruled on the merits of the claims.

DATA CENTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

"Is our moratorium correct?" she asked. "It says it's invalid by this lawsuit that you just handed me. It also says on page 6 (that) the course of development when they purchased this property... the plaintiff entered into agreement for option of sale of this land for construction of a data center."

She then asked if anyone had signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

"It says it was already planned," she said, regarding the lawsuit. "This property was purchased for a data center two years ago. That's what this lawsuit states."

Bobby Richardson clarified that while he hadn't had a chance to read the document, what is said in a lawsuit is not necessarily factual.

"Allegations in a lawsuit are not to be deemed true," he explained.

Myatt further clarified that any development plan submitted became invalid on May 11, but also cautioned against the use of future discriminatory language.

Councilmember Denny

Doyle questioned if the exploratory process would really take the full year within the moratorium, and Myatt explained he believed so.

"I feel like if you're going to have adequate due process given for citizens to have actual review of facts that's available to them, I think you're looking at probably 6-9 months," Myatt explained.

Doyle then explained his economic approach for supporting a potential data center.

"I can understand people's concerns but when you tell us that they're taking agricultural land, these people bought this land and didn't want to farm on it, they wanted it re-zoned," said Doyle. "That land hasn't been used to grow anything on to eat for decades. The federal government paid the owners to grow grass on it and leave it growing. You people that don't know what has been going on here need to do some homework. That property was making nobody any money, and I have looked at the figures from these

data centers, and if one wanted to come here like they're wanting to come, the property taxes would disappear in this town. We would have more money. The schools would have more money that they know what to do with."

A citizen in attendance asked "At what cost to our children," a question which was echoed by Ford.

"I don't think anybody's arguing the fact that the land wasn't farmed," said Cline, who then circled back to the lawsuit, stating "It says here on page 10 that the plaintiff submitted a developmental plan to the joint commission."

"They submitted an application," corrected Myatt.

Richardson then requested that the council not discuss the lawsuit yet, and Hatcher suggested that discussion should cease until more facts are collected through public forums.

Myatt concluded by explaining that the ordinances being discussed are meant to be living

breathing documents, which change as communities change.

Additional New Business

20-year and 10-year members, Forrest Wise and David Rutherford, were reappointed to the County Zoning Board.

The Council also unanimously approved the renewal of the SRO contract with Caverna Schools, which covers 2 officers for the 2 campuses, at \$125,000 for the 172 day school year.

After discussions to amend and adopt the 2026-2027 budget, Cline asked how the \$155,000 police overtime budget compared to the previous year. Hatcher said he believed it to be similar, though officer numbers had temporarily shifted from 9 to 7. Cline also asked about Public Works increasing 21%.

The council approved the 03-300 Tap Grant for the 31W Sidewalk Project, and then entered into closed session regarding possible litigation involving a public agency.

The next meeting of the Cave City Council will be held on July 13.