

City considers moratorium on data center applications

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND Ashland’s city commission moved toward a temporary moratorium on data center applications.

They voted unanimously in favor on first reading during Thursday’s commission meeting.

City Attorney Andrew Wheeler said a 180-day moratorium would allow time for careful study and public discussion regarding data centers.

Lawrence County, Ohio, experienced a groundbreaking for a data center in December, prompting plenty of backlash in the community.

“While there has been growing interest in data center development across the tri-state region,

our current zoning ordinance does not specifically address this type of use,” Wheeler told The Daily Independent.

The moratorium would pause new applications while the planning commission thoroughly reviews the issue. The group would study best practices from other communities and develop recommendations for appropriate regulations, Wheeler said. Kentucky law requires any zoning regulation changes to be reviewed by the planning commission, including a public hearing and formal recommendation, according to Wheeler.

Once the planning commission completes its review, it would bring the recommendation to the city commission, who would make a decision at that point, “likely

later this summer,” the city attorney said. Second reading of the ordinance will take place later this month. The 180-day moratorium would be effective immediately.

“Data centers can have significant impacts on utilities, infrastructure, land use compatibility and long-term planning,” Wheeler said.

Wheeler said this approach aligns with ordinances legal counsel has observed from other Kentucky communities.

“It allows the city to be proactive and deliberate while ensuring any future decisions are based on sound planning, public input and compliance with state law,” Wheeler said.

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Wastewater treatment groundbreaking set

STAFF REPORT

ASHLAND A groundbreaking for Ashland’s mandated water resource recovery facility project is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 9 a.m. at

the Ashland Transportation Center.

Judy Construction Company will handle the wastewater treatment plant project — the largest in the city’s history. The city commission

approved a \$99.7 million contract between the city and Judy in October 2025.

Strand Associates, Inc., is the engineering consultant on the project. Judy is based in Cynthiana.

It provided the lowest of five bids.

Once it begins, the project will take about 42 months to complete.

The Ashland Transportation is at 99 15th Street.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deadline for beekeeping class nears

GREENUP

The Greenup County Beekeepers’ Association and the Greenup County Future Farmers of America will present their 10th annual beginner beekeeping school from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at Greenup County High School.

Cost is \$15 per person or family; a discount of \$5 is available with military ID.

A program for children 12 and younger will be available.

Raffle items will include a hive setup, two nucleus hives, tools and equipment.

Lunch will be provided.

RSVP is required by Monday. Call (606) 836-0201 or email carrie.davis@greenup.kyschools.us. The school is at 196 Musketeer Drive.

Fundraising pasta dinner set

ASHLAND

Summit Church of the Nazarene Legacy Youth will have a fundraising dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the church at 401 Ky. 716.

Cost is \$15 per single pasta plate and \$25 for a sampler plate which includes all three pastas. Meals also include garlic bread, homemade dessert and drink.

Dine in, to go and delivery will be available; diners are asked to RSVP to Beth or Bo Barber at (606) 465-4442 or (606) 922-1160.

Staff reports

One Rock the Country show canceled; Boyd County show still on

STAFF REPORTS

COALTON While Rock the Country will hit the Ashland area July 10 and 11 at Boyd County Fairgrounds, at least one stop has been canceled.

That stop is in Anderson County, South Caro-

lina. It was scheduled for July 25 and 26.

The festival in Ashland will include performances by Jelly Roll, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Brantley Gilbert, Riley Green, Gavin Adcock and Aaron Lewis, among others.

In the weeks leading up to the announcement of the cancellation, several artists removed themselves from the bill. Shinedown announced its withdrawal, stating its goal as a band is to unite audiences and they did

not feel participation aligned with that mission.

Additional artists including Creed, Ludacris, Morgan Wade and Carter Faith also were reported to have exited the lineup or were removed from promotional materials prior to the cancellation.

Anderson County officials acknowledged disappointment over the loss of the event, noting that prior Rock the Country festivals brought significant tourism and revenue to the region. County administrators said they were informed of the cancellation by festival organizers and that the decision was not made by the county itself.

Jenny Wiley: Frontier Heroine

Best known for his nonfiction work “Night Comes to the Cumberlands,” Harry M. Caudill also wrote fiction, including “Dark Hills to Westward: The Saga of Jenny Wiley,” first published in 1969 and recently reprinted in a new softback edition by the Jesse Stuart Foundation.

When Jenny was an old woman, a preacher sat down with her and wrote out her captivity story. Although Jenny may have embellished it many times, it is the only first-hand account we have, and it’s the primary source for Caudill’s novel.

Briefly, here is her story. Thomas and Jenny Wiley had pioneered land on Walker’s Creek in Bland County, Virginia. On October 1, 1789, while Thomas was away, a small band of Indians, seeking revenge for a recent defeat at the hands of white settlers, attacked the Wiley cabin and killed and scalped Jenny’s three older children and her brother. Jenny, seven months pregnant, was taken captive along with her baby son, Adam.

Then began a nightmare flight through the wilderness into the dark Kentucky hills to westward. Jenny’s only hope for survival was to keep pace with her captors. On the third day, a Cherokee Chief snatched the sick child from its horrified mother and smashed little Adam Wiley’s brains out against a tree. Evading rescue parties, the Indians moved northwest into the Big Sandy Valley

of Kentucky. Unable to cross the flood-swollen Ohio River, they retreated to a series of winter camps in present-day Carter, Lawrence, and Johnson counties.

With only a rock bluff for shelter, Jenny spent the winter laboring as a slave. She gave birth in a cave, but three months later the Indians killed and scalped the infant, after it failed to pass their test of courage. After almost a year in captivity, Jenny escaped, miraculously evading pursuit as she made her way to a small settlement at Harman’s Station on John’s Creek. Readers will thrill to the story of her escape and return to her husband.

Immediately upon its publication in 1969, “The Saga of Jenny Wiley” was hailed as a significant contribution to the body of literature and lore that surrounds this frontier heroine.

While reviewers praised “Jenny Wiley,” they also found fault with Caudill’s venture into historical fiction. Tom Bethell’s detailed and insightful review in The Mountain Eagle (Whitesburg, Kentucky) offered a middle-ground assessment: “The treatment of Indians weakens this book; but it still a first-rate piece of storytelling — occasionally in a class with Mark Twain and Kenneth Roberts and always unraveled with the kind of persistent enthusiasm that makes Harry Caudill well worth listening to, and well worth reading.”

Today’s readers, be forewarned. If you are looking for a “politically correct” version of race relations, you will not find it here. Like the great fire-side storytellers that Harry M. Caudill descended from and represented, he tells a searing story from the perspective of Jenny and her white contemporaries. Readers should keep in mind that Caudill did not write the book as an historian, but as a storyteller, and his goal was to tell Jenny’s story as she experienced it. This book contains descriptions of terrible violence, and I do not recommend it for children or the faint of heart.

The JSF has also published a children’s version of this story. “White Squaw: The True Story of Jennie Wiley” by Arville Wheeler is a 163-page illustrated book for readers in grades 6-8, but high school students and adults will enjoy it, too.

“Dark Hills to Westward: The Saga of Jenny Wiley,” “White Squaw,” and many other books about Kentucky’s and Appalachia’s pioneer heritage are available at the Jesse Stuart Foundation Bookstore in Ashland. For more information, contact the JSF at (606) 326-1667, email jsf@jsfbooks.com or visit the website jsfbooks.com.

DR. JAMES M. GIFFORD is the senior editor and CEO of the Jesse Stuart Foundation.



JIM GIFFORD

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for **Reroofing at Development KY 86-001** will be received by the Housing Authority of Lawrence County, 101 Gene Wilson Blvd., Louisa, Kentucky 41230 on **Friday, March 6, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** and then at said office of the Executive Director publicly opened and read aloud. Prior to the opening of the envelope, the names of all contractors listed shall be read aloud and incorporated into the bid.

The plans, specifications, and other contract documents may be examined at the following locations:

Cauthen & Associates, LLC
9047 Executive Park Dr., Suite 221
Knoxville, Tennessee 37923

Dodge Data & Analytics
Construct Connect
Builders Exchange of Kentucky
Lynn Imaging, Lexington, Kentucky
Contractors Association of West Virginia

Prospective bidders may obtain copies of the Contract Documents from Raylon Harness, **Cauthen & Associates, LLC, 9047 Executive Park Dr., Suite 221, Knoxville, TN 37923**. A deposit of \$200.00 is required for one set of Contract Documents. All bid deposit checks or drafts shall be made payable to Cauthen & Associates, LLC. Requirements for bid deposit refunds can be found in the expanded Advertisement for Bids bound within the Project Manual.

All bidders must be licensed Contractors as required by 815 KAR 8:010 of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations and as required by the local municipality. All bidders shall provide evidence of a license in the appropriate classification before a bid can be considered. Reference is made to the Instructions to Bidders for Contracts contained in the Project Manual for further bidding information.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Walk Through and Prebid Conference

At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, a prebid conference will be held at the administrative office of Housing Authority of Lawrence County, 101 Gene Wilson Blvd., Louisa, Kentucky, for the purpose of answering questions bidders may have and to consider any suggestions they may wish to make concerning the project. Immediately following the prebid conference, a walk-through of the project(s) will be held by the Owner. Although not mandatory, all contractors are recommended to attend this walk-through and prebid conference.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF LAWRENCE COUNTY
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