

Charlotte Daniel Queen
1946-2026

Charlotte Daniel Queen, 79, of Ashland, KY, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 19, at her home in Ashland, KY, with loved ones at her side. She was a longtime member of the Nazarene Church and attended Durbin Church of the Nazarene most recently. She retired from Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Russell, KY, where she worked as a shift leader in Patient Registration and Admissions. She also worked as a nurse aide at other local health-care facilities.

Charlotte was born September 30, 1946, in Ashland, KY, a daughter of the late Curt and Merle Sexton Davis. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husbands Robert N. Daniel and Carlos Queen, sisters Jeanne Elaine Davis (infant), Helen Davis Gamble, Sharon Davis, and Jennifer Davis Blankenship, and also a niece Kathy Sue Gussler, two brothers Curtis Timothy (infant) and Roger Darrel Daniels.

Charlotte is survived by her daughter Ginger (Keith) Smith, a granddaughter Michaela Danielle Swenson, a grandson Christopher Daniel Peters, a stepson Dale (Tonya) Queen,

nieces Kathy French, Karen Blair, Kim Sexton, Shannon Cordial, and Theresa Carey, nephews Kevin Gamble, Curtis Conner, Steven Conner, Keith Carver, Rodney Carver, Darrell Daniels, and Mark Daniels, and her close friends Masaru Williams, Janice Burke Gibson, Jimmy Daniels, and Rettie Skeens.

Charlotte loved God, church, life, family, and friends. Those were her hobbies. She loved taking care of and cooking for everyone and giving gifts to them. She was quite selfless, constantly asking each person how he or she was doing, but hardly ever talked about herself.

Services for Charlotte will be conducted Monday, July 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Lazear Funeral Home Chapel in Ashland by Pastor Victor Messer with burial to follow in Ashland Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Sunday, July 26, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friends may also call during that time.

Lazear Funeral Home is both honored and privileged to have been entrusted with the care of Mrs. Daniel Queen.



Paid obituaries are published as submitted to The Daily Independent

SERVICES

SATURDAY

Betty Ardell Simpkins, of Barboursville. A Memorial Mass will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 25, 2026, at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Ona, W.Va., by Father Bill Matheny. Wallace Funeral Home in Barboursville is assisting the family.

SUNDAY

Wirt Rexford Duff, of Louisville. Visitation will be held at Steen Funeral Home, 1501 Central Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky, on Sunday, July 26, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Burial will be on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Sunset Memorial Park, South Charleston, W.Va.

GAME

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The co-ed game will last seven innings, with mini games for fans between frames.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Singers for “The National Anthem,” “God Bless America” and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” will be Holly Forbes, Angela Linthicum and Celest Kouns.

A few more details are still being ironed out.

The players’ names were drawn from a hat to determine team and numbers.

The rosters

Stars (red)

- Manager: Jennifer Charles
- 1 Andrew Wheeler (city attorney)
 - 2 Rachael Turner (Greenup County HS assistant principal)
 - 3 Lorna Rose (*The Daily Independent*/local artist)
 - 4 John Valencourt (American Xplorers)
 - 5 Todd Borders (Borders Sporting Goods)
 - 6 Tyler Cantrell (Ash-

- land Fire Department)
- 7 Sasha Bush (Kentucky Farmers Bank/*Ashland Beacon*)
 - 8 Leah Cecil (Community Trust Bank)
 - 9 Colby Rice (Paramount Theater)
 - 10 Scott Ingram (Ashland softball coach)
 - 11 Alan “Corduroy” Brown (musician)
 - 12 Chad Cremer (Cintas)

Stripes (blue)

- Manager: Mayor Chuck Charles
- 1 Aaron Snyder (*The Daily Independent*)
 - 2 Tiffany Hays (Community Trust Bank)
 - 3 Mandy Kidwell (local business owner)
 - 4 Sean Murray (City of Ashland Parks)
 - 5 Faith Fountain (Ashland For Change/Face Painting by Faith)
 - 6 Dr. Jeremy Bonzo (UK King’s Daughters)
 - 7 Sasha Riley (UK King’s Daughters)
 - 8 Andrea Arnett (Community Hospice)
 - 9 Nick Lewis (Ashland Police Department)
 - 10 Cory Tharp (UK King’s Daughters)
 - 11 Scott Murphy (Ramey-Estep)
 - 12 Faith Wolfe (Russell Tourism)

Kentucky Humanities
presents Echoes of the Hills

SUBMITTED CONTENT

ASHLAND The Highlands DO!ze-um, together with Kentucky Humanities, will present Echoes of the Hills: Kentucky’s Traditional Music on Thursday, July 30, at 6 p.m. The event is presented by Dr. Ron Pen.

Kentucky has been justly celebrated for its contributions to country and bluegrass styles, but a diverse and vibrant range of earlier musical traditions made the hills and hollers echo with song and dance long before these popular styles came into being following World War II.

Ron Pen will explore Kentucky’s musical past through a talk illus-

trated by a PowerPoint presentation. A live musical performance of ballads, old-time fiddle and banjo dance tunes, dulcimer songs, and shape note hymnody will animate the history and context.

Dr. Pen is a professor emeritus of music at the University of Kentucky. He is a Founding Director of the John Jacob Niles Center for American Music. He served as Associate Director, Coordinator of the Division of Musicology and Ethnomusicology, and Director of Appalachian Studies at UK.

His research is focused on traditional Appalachian culture with several publications.

The Speakers Bureau, an exclusive presentation of Kentucky

Humanities, offers a group of the Commonwealth’s finest scholars, historians, writers and poets who put forth programs that celebrate the history, literature, and culture of Kentucky. For information about Kentucky Humanities’ programs and services, visit <https://www.kyhumanities.org/>.

This event is free to the public thanks to Our American Story: Kentucky Voices, a statewide program from Kentucky Humanities celebrating America 250. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. on July 30.

This program was funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities and the National Endowment for Humanities.

Two dead in flash floods caused by heavy
rain in West Virginia, governor’s office says

BUCKHANNON, W.Va.

(AP) Two people have died in flash floods caused by torrential rains in West Virginia this week, the governor’s office said Thursday.

An emailed statement from Lars Dalseide, communications director for Gov. Patrick Morrisey, did not provide details on where the bodies were found or how the people died. Their identities were not immediately released.

They are the first confirmed deaths from Tues-



AP PHOTO

An Aerial view shows extensive flooding in Buckhannon, W.Va., Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

day’s floods, when forecasters said up to 7 inches of rain fell. Morrisey said some places received 4.5 inches in 37 minutes.

Officials in north-central West Virginia have described the devastation as extensive.

Video and photos on

social media showed submerged vehicles in parking lots, including at a Walmart in Weston where muddy water surged into the store. Across a nearby highway, a hotel’s main floor was inundated. Dozens of people stuck in submerged vehicles throughout the region had to be rescued, and floodwaters initially cut off access to them in some areas.

This story corrects the day the deaths were announced to Thursday, not Wednesday.

ASHLAND

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Under the ordinance, any data center must be “conditional use” and in the I-2 (heavy industry) district. They would be prohibited outright in every other zoning district. They also must be 1,500 feet from residential zones.

Just with these two restrictions, that leaves 14 developable acres at the former AK Steel Coke Plant site and 20 acres on the old AK Ashland Works site. About 100 acres of the Ashland Works site is in Ashland.

Around 110 acres are considered Boyd County. The rest is in Russell, which is where Rubix Data Centers has proposed a 2-gigawatt data center.

In Ashland’s new zoning ordinance, gross floor area of buildings housing servers, data processing equipment or computer racks would not be permitted to exceed 50,000 square feet. Maximum building height is 45 feet. Noise level may not exceed 55 decibels at the property line.

“By law, we can’t prohibit a legal use of property; we can restrict the use, which is what this ordinance does,” commissioner Sonny Martin said. Martin pointed out no hyperscale data center operation will consider Ashland with these restrictions in place

“This is only a conditional use, which will require a public hearing, which will require the submission of all these materials that have been identified be included. The BZA (Board of Zoning Adjustment) can hire independent experts to review the material and make suggestions and amendments to the proposal.”

Utsinger and Pullem also outlined details in what site development plans must show, including proposed electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities.

Other potential issues such as light, traffic, heat and decommissioning are addressed in the ordinance.

“I appreciate the work that’s been done over months of preparing this ordinance,” Martin said. “I don’t think there’s any place in Kentucky that’s

done any better.”

Earlier in Thursday’s meeting, Claudia Burgess had implored the commission to do anything they could to nullify data centers.

“This is not a good thing,” Burgess said. “This is dog (expletive) coming.”

Burgess said she has traveled extensively over the years in her career.

“I will talk to people and ask them to give me one good thing about these AI centers,” she said. “Not one good thing comes out of their mouth.”

Bren Martin, of Russell, told the commission she appreciated their proactive, public approach in coming up with this ordinance.

Water capacity

In Ashland’s ordinance pertaining to data centers, the facilities must have a closed-loop cool-

ing system.

The city commission also approved a separate ordinance establishing water capacity management requirements for high water demand digital infrastructure facilities served by the City of Ashland water system.

The ordinance establishes an aggregate maximum authorized demand of two million gallons per day for such facilities. It also requires applicants to pay the costs associated with hydraulic modeling, engineering review, infrastructure improvements and other expenses incurred by the city in evaluating or accommodating extraordinary water demands.

The ordinance also creates application and approval procedures for temporary and permanent variances.

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