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Celebrating 157 years 1869-2026  
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## Fiscal Court passes resolution seeking a ban on data centers

BY SCOTT WHITE  
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

The Woodford County Fiscal Court unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission to enact the appropriate regulations or ordinance text amendment to outright and permanently prohibit data centers in Woodford County.

Magistrate Liles Taylor, who prepared the resolution and had discussions with Planning Director Steve Hunter, said Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift also supported the approach of a total data center ban.

At its meeting last week, the Versailles City Council passed a resolution enacting a moratorium on the approval or construction permitting of data centers until December 31 to allow the Planning Commission to study the issue of data centers and consider whether

or how to regulate them.

Following a question by Magistrate Darrell Varner related to the Planning Commission already working on this issue, Judge-Executive James Kay and Taylor pointed out that the Fiscal Court's resolution goes further than the one adopted by the Versailles City Council.

Kay added that Hunter had informed him that the Planning Commission was looking for direction from the county's legislative bodies (Fiscal Court and the two city councils) in making its recommendations, similar to the in-family conveyance process.

"This (resolution) helps speed (the regulation of data centers) up, to avoid the back and forth we experienced with the in-family," Kay said.

Magistrate Mary Ann Gill added that the Planning Commission was taking the regulation of data centers up at its next meeting, and it would be useful to attend.

County Attorney Alan George also pointed out that the resolution would not necessarily change what the Planning Commission is doing, given the processes involved, but the resolution does provide an alternative to what the Versailles City Council requested of it.

With the passage of the resolution, the issue has now been addressed by two of the county's three legislative bodies, with only the Midway City Council yet to formally act. If Vandegrift's position, communicated to Taylor, carries the day with the Midway City Council, then no data center can be built in Woodford County pending the requested action of the commission.

In a press release issued by Kay on Monday, June 22, he said "As Judge/Executive, my priority has always been to protect our farmland and maintain the character of our small, one high school community. Farmland is a finite. It's a precious resource. Once paved over, it is gone forever. Woodford County is committed to feeding a growing nation and building our growing cattle industry. Data centers do not align with our vision for Woodford County's future. . . . most proposed data centers demand significant amounts of land, resources and infrastructure. (Woodford County's) current infrastructure is simply not built to support the massive energy and water grid demands these facilities require."

Emergency water needs  
The Fiscal Court also unanimously passed a resolution creating a \$50,000 "water emergency" program to respond to events similar to what occurred in the South Woodford Water District on June 10-14. That emergency was created when construction crews breached water pipes, causing multiple boil water alerts due to the failure of the district to provide accurate water line maps prior to construction.

The program will be funded by a \$50,000 appropriation from the general fund and

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A TIME CAPSULE is being created by the Woodford County Fiscal Court, which will be filled with various items that help tell the story of Woodford County in 2026. Woodford Countians are asked to bring items for consideration to the sheriff's desk at the main Courthouse entrance before 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1. The time capsule, or barrel, will be dedicated at the Fourth of July Parade, and then opened in 50 years. This is the brainchild of Maintenance Department Director Rick Wade, who presented the barrel to the Fiscal Court at its meeting this past Tuesday. (Photo by Scott White)



THE DEMOLITION DERBY delivered big crashes and smoky finishes. The annual event remains one of the fair's most popular attractions. (Photo by Bill Caine)

## U.S. 60 improvement project public meeting on July 7

### Plan proposes changes to intersections

BY BOB VLACH  
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A public information meeting on July 7 will give people in the community an opportunity to review and provide input on alternatives being considered to improve safety and highway capacity on U.S. 60 East from Bluegrass Parkway to Pisgah Pike, according to a news release from the Kentucky Department of Highways.

The meeting on Tuesday, July 7, at King's Way Church on Lexington Road will take place from 5 to 7 p.m., according to the

news release.

"I'm really glad that they're doing a public hearing to get input from citizens," Woodford County Judge-Executive James Kay told the Sun.

The proposed additional lanes from Pisgah Pike to Bluegrass Parkway are needed, he said. He also pointed out other proposed improvements to U.S. 60 have changed since he advocated for the additional lanes as a state representative.

The proposed project, which is currently

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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS to U.S. 60 East (also known as Lexington Road) from the Huntertown Road to Bluegrass Parkway will be reviewed at a public information meeting conducted by the state Department of Highways on Tuesday, July 7, at King's Way Church, 4175 Lexington Road in Versailles. This aerial photograph, which shows that stretch of roadway between the Huntertown Road and Pisgah Pike intersections, was taken in February of this year. (Image provided by Woodford County GIS Director Kenneth Johns)

## Being principal allows Wilson 'to do more' for students at Safe Harbor Academy



KRISTIN WILSON, who spent 11 years at Woodford County High School before coming to Safe Harbor Academy last school year, is pictured with student Michael Begley. A graduate of WCHS, Wilson will be Safe Harbor's principal next school year. (File photo by Bob Vlach)

BY BOB VLACH  
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Students at Safe Harbor Academy will have a new principal when they return to school on Aug. 13.

Their former school counselor, Kristin Wilson, a graduate of Woodford County High School who is now their principal, told the Sun during an interview, "It was no surprise when the Lord was tugging at my heart saying, 'I want you to do more. I want you to do more.'"

Being principal at Safe Harbor will feel like coming home to Wilson because the alternative school program is moving to her old high school.

"I am so excited that these students get to experience what I experienced in those halls," she said.

Wilson's excited Safe Harbor students will now have a gym, cafeteria, library and outdoor spaces. "The possibilities are endless because we've expanded our space," she said.

Wilson, who was a counselor at WCHS for 11 years before becoming a counselor at Safe Harbor Academy last school year, said, "I wanted to see more of what education had

to offer."

She didn't know if Safe Harbor would be a good fit, but quickly realized, "I love the staff, and I love the students."

Wilson also didn't know Principal Logan Culbertson was being promoted to director of student services as part of a reorganization of Central Office in Woodford County Public Schools – or that she would be his successor.

Culbertson, who was principal at Safe Harbor for 12 years, said he's excited for the students and Wilson as they make the transition to a new learning environment because "she's a dynamic leader ... (who) understands and connects well with the why ... (and) her heart is in the right place. She's going to lead by example ... and she's always going to look to create opportunities for kids."

Wilson said her mission is to continue changing negative perceptions associated with Safe Harbor, which offers an alternative school setting for students.

"We don't have bad kids. Some make bad decisions like all of us, but others choose to be at Safe Harbor" because they want a smaller, non-traditional learning environ-

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### GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Friday, June 26, EDA at 8:30 a.m. (Zoom)