

Ashland man arrested for sex crime

STAFF REPORT

ASHLAND An Ashland man is facing a charge of possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under 12 as a result of Ashland Police executing a search warrant in an online child exploitation investigation.

Joshua Cline, 23, was arrested Wednesday.

APD's Special Operations Bureau, the APD Patrol Division, Kentucky State Police and Russell Police executed a search warrant following an "extensive investigation," according to an APD

Facebook post, "into the online distribution of child sexual abuse material."

APD said it would like to thank the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, KSP and Russell Police for assistance and collaboration throughout the case.

"Their combined efforts underscore the ongoing partnerships between local, state and federal agencies in the fight against crimes involving the exploitation of children," APD posted on Facebook.

The investigation remains active. Additional charges are anticipated, APD reported.

Community Care meeting open to all

BY LEE WARD
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND Songwriter James Taylor sang the lyrics "You've Got A Friend." Ashland Pride is making sure everyone in town knows they have a friend.

The organization is planning a Community Care meeting at 6 p.m. Nov. 19 at the main branch of the Boyd County Public Library.

Ashland Pride President Holly Blevins said it's not just for the LGBTQ-plus community.

"Basically, people can come and, if they had something weighing heavy on them, they can express it and find support from community members," Blevins said. "There's a lot of heaviness in the world right now and people are really isolated and we wanted to give people the chance to express their concerns."

The meeting is the first of its kind sponsored by Ashland Pride, so the way the group operates might change, depending on the needs of those who attend.

"If people are attune with it and we start doing them more often, we might see if we can get a mental health professional who can be there and help," Blevins said. "For now, it's just friends talking with friends."

She said snacks and drinks will be served

while participants share.

The idea for the get-together came from board members talking.

"We realized as much as we talk to each other about Pride business, we don't share the things that are weighing on us and wanted to create a space with that in mind," she said, noting a former board member, Desiree Layne, had read about such a space free of agenda.

Any kind of problem may be shared, she said, and it's not about solving problems as much as it is about sharing burdens.

What is discussed in the group will stay in the group, Blevins said of the informal meeting.

For those with mobility issues, Ashland Pride will provide a Zoom link on its Facebook page. Speaking during the meeting is not required; attendees are welcome to listen only.

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Tech the Town today at ACTC

STAFF REPORT

EASTPARK SOAR Innovation is partnering with Northeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to host Tech the Town today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ashland Community and Technical College's Technology Drive campus.

Tech the Town, in partnership with Code:You, is a community-focused mash-up event that combines SOAR Innovation's business ideation workshop with elements of a hackathon, according to a press release.

The event is designed for Eastern Kentucky

Main Street business owners who want to see everyday challenges as opportunities to create scalable, tech-enabled solutions, the release stated.

Tech the Town will help with the following: identify real operational challenges in businesses; learn structured ideation techniques from SOAR Innovation; collaborate with peers, developers, designers and students; envision scalable tech solutions beyond a business; and connect to SOAR Innovation's Tech and Tech-Enabled Founder Pathway for ongoing support.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Macedonia Jubilee Nov. 14

SOUTH POINT

A celebration of the restoration of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 14 at the church at 2237 County Road 120.

During the program, the Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tourism Initiative (AFHTI) will unveil an official marker recognizing the site's inclusion in the AFHTI. The Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tourism Initiative is a nine-county, three-state effort to locate and document Underground Railroad sites across the Tri-State region.

The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church is recognized by the National Park Service and is listed on the National Under-

ground Railroad Network to Freedom, underscoring its historical significance in the struggle for freedom and its enduring place in American history.

Hiring event for Green APU

ASHLAND

Green APU will have a hiring event on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Kentucky Career Center at 1844 Carter Ave. in Ashland.

Green APU, which has a facility in EastPark, is seeking the following: diesel mechanic supervisor; sales representative, office assistant — accounts payable and receivable, and basic mechanic technician assistant.

Reach the Kentucky Career Center at (606) 920-2024.

Staff reports

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order in Case No. 2025-00257 scheduling a public comment meeting to be held on November 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, at the Pike County Public Library District, 126 Lee Avenue, Rooms 306-307, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501, for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Power Company's application for adjustment of its electric rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case No. 2025-00257. Additional public meetings in Hazard and Ashland will be held in December 2025 and January 2026, and will be noticed separately in advance of those meetings.

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