



CAR STRIKES LA CROWD

A vehicle rammed into a crowd of people waiting to enter a performance venue.  
3A

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PossAbilities Expo



Bowling Green Fire Department firefighters show off one of their engines to families at the annual PossAbilities Expo.



James Heston, 5, of Franklin sits in the driver's seat of a Scott Waste truck at the annual PossAbilities Expo at the Knicely Conference Center on Saturday. The expo provides an opportunity for those with different abilities in the BRADD area to engage in fun, inclusive activities and games, gather information on available resources, attend educational sessions, receive free health screenings and more.



Elodie Taylor, 8, pulls herself up on the adaptive climbing wall at the annual PossAbilities Expo at the Knicely Conference Center on Saturday. Taylor lives with Spondylo-dysplastic Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (spEDS), a rare connective tissue disorder, and is believed to be the only patient her age with the disorder in the United States, according to her mother. View more photos online at bgddailynews.com.

PHOTOS BY GRACE MCDOWELL / Daily News

Elrod Road development moves ahead

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A proposal to build new houses on a roughly 13-acre tract in the Stagner Farms subdivision moved one step closer to reality after a vote Thursday by the City-County Planning Commission.

The commission approved an amendment of the Future Land Use Map for the affected area from Low Density Residential to Moderate Density Residential.

That amendment enables applicant Renee Isaacs of Stagner Farms to come back to the commission later to request a rezoning of the 13-acre parcel, which if approved would clear the way for a development on the land that would include up to 94 single-family detached houses.

The commission approved the FLUM amendment in a 9-1 vote, with commissioner Gayla Cissell voting in opposition.

Land designated Low Density Residential in the future land use map, which provides a road map of sorts for development in the county, is capped at 4.5 dwelling units per acre, whereas Moderate Density Residential allows for construction of up to 13 dwelling units per acre.

Attorney Chris Davenport, representing Stagner Farms, referred to the 13-acre plot as Stagner Two at Thursday's hearing, telling the commission the land was situated next to the 85-acre Stagner One property.

Though the land is situated off Elrod Road, Davenport said that, if developed, the homes on the 13-acre plot would not require any improvements to Elrod Road, because the homes would be accessed by streets

See ELROD, 3A

Lovers Lane turf fields pushed back after design delays

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Grass fields will remain at the Lovers Lane soccer complex for a little while longer after design delays and sinkhole events have pushed installation of turf fields from a planned summer 2025 deadline to a mid-fall date.

"The deliverables took just a little longer than expected," Mike Mitchum, parks and golf maintenance superintendent for Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, told the Daily News.

Lexington-based GRW Engineers, Inc. was secured by the city last November with a \$70,286 contract to complete engineering and design work for two turf soccer fields at the soccer complex, after city officials allocated \$2 million for the

project in its FY2025 budget.

Turf promises to cut down on the long-term maintenance needs required by natural grass fields. If maintained properly, turf fields can last as long as 10 years before needing replacement.

BGPR head Brent Belcher told the Daily News last June that the city spends several months doing repair work to the grass fields at the soccer complex. Along with reduced maintenance needs, Belcher credited growing demand for soccer fields as a reason for installing turf.

"We have this huge soccer demand coming in so a lot of different users want to use our facilities," Belcher said then. "So it just got to the point where this was the best answer to serve the public."



Avery Buser, a sophomore soccer player at Centre College, passes the ball to Hannah Carter, a junior soccer player at Morehead State, at the Lovers Lane Soccer Complex on Wednesday.

GRACE MCDOWELL / Daily News

Mitchum told the Daily News Friday that a combination of flooding at the soccer complex in April, the appearance of a roughly 30-foot deep sinkhole on field two and the sheer volume of work needed for the design phase pushed the process back.

The city now expects to receive bids on Aug. 1.

"... That kind of slowed the process some," Mitchum said. "(It's) like, 'well, we don't know that we're going to be able to hit our window now, because of this sinkhole.'

"We're not really that far behind our timeline, just somewhat," Mitchum said, adding that even with the delays the project is still expected to fall within the \$2 million allocation.

Fields one and three at the soccer complex have been chosen to receive turf. Mitchum said the plan is to secure a bid by the end of August and begin installation after the fall soccer season concludes at the complex in October.

Over 171,000 square feet of artificial turf will be installed on both fields

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