



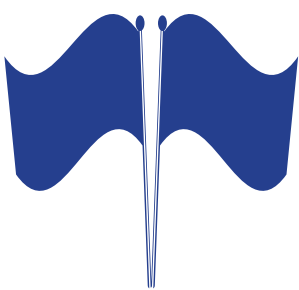
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Thursday, February 6, 2025

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\$1.00 (tax included)

Burgin Crowns Its Homecoming Royalty



The Harrodsburg Herald/Sam Warren

Cooper and Gant Named Burgin's Queen and King

On Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025 Burgin named Linzie Cooper and Benjamin Gant as their homecoming queen and king. Also pictured were the prince and princess Sawyer Mayes and Johnni Shannon.

School board reviews \$25.8 million draft budget

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The Mercer County Board of Education reviewed the draft budget for the 2025-2026 school year. At their first meeting of the year, Finance Officer Amber Minor took them through the first step in the school district's yearlong budget cycle.

Among the key take-aways, the draft budget projects total revenues of \$28.5 million, including a beginning balance of \$6 million, with no change in local general fund revenue, which is raised from taxes.

The draft budget projects total expenses of \$25.8 million, a \$106,413 increase compared to the fiscal year 2025 working budget. The budget includes a contingency of 10.75 percent as well as a step increase for salary and fringe expenses.

Minor noted her office had received notification about a potential shortfall in the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky funding program. SEEK provides funds to local school districts for transportation and special needs education. Minor told the board she had not received final numbers for SEEK, but speculated the transportation allocation would be under the initial projections. Minor said it's happened numerous times over the eight years she's been with the school district. Minor told the board that she didn't use the highest number when crafting the district's current budget.

"What does it mean for next year? I don't know," Minor said.

Minor said Kentucky Secretary of Education Jamie Link will ask the General Assembly to fund the shortfall. Minor said she included

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Anderson-Dean prepares for big 2025

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Anderson-Dean Community Park is getting ready for a big 2025. The Spring 2025 Baseball and Softball registrations are live online at andersondeancommunitypark.com. Registration for both leagues runs through Thursday, Feb. 20, with a skills day for the youth on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mercer County Sports Complex. Practice will start the first week in March.

Hiring season has begun at the park. They are taking applications for concession workers and lifeguard positions.

Applications are still available at the park office and must be returned by Sunday, Feb. 16, for consideration. The park is offering \$10 per hour for concessions workers and \$15 per hour for lifeguards. To qualify, concessions workers must be 14 years of age before Saturday, March 1, while lifeguards must be 15 before Thursday, May 1.

In addition, the park is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the annual Independence Day fireworks display.

The park board set to work drafting a budget for the new fiscal year at

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Learn how city government works on Feb. 17

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Learn how your local government is supposed to work on Monday, Feb. 17.

Representatives from the Kentucky League of Cities will present "Government 101," covering the basics of local city governance from 5 to 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Mercer County Senior High School (1124 Moberly Road).

At the Harrodsburg City Commission's regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 27,

City Attorney Norrie Currens said questions have been raised about the city government, and especially about the 2023 hiring of Stacey Maynard as the city's chief administrative officer.

"We follow what the law says," Currens explained Monday. She said the commission, which consists of the commissioners and the mayor—are considered a legislative body under state law. Currens said the city previously employed a chief

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Man indicted for New Year's chase

MERCER COUNTY INDICTMENTS

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A Danville man has been indicted for an incident leading to a high speed police pursuit on New Year's Day. According to a uniform citation, the incident began Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, at approximately 2 a.m., officers from the Harrodsburg Police Department stopped a 2014 Hyundai Accent on Ballard Street for having one operational taillight. Police identified the driver as Jesse Lewis Mayberry, 42, of Danville, who was traveling with two female passengers. Police "observed a strong odor of alcohol and marijuana emitting from the vehicle," according to the uniform citation.

When police attempted to detain Mayberry, he pushed the officer away, got back into the Hyundai and took off at "a high rate of speed," according to the uniform citation. Going east on Cane Run Street, Mayberry is alleged to have accelerated through the red light at the bypass and continued onto Burgin Road. The HPD offi-

cers terminated the pursuit at Buster Pike, but Mayberry's vehicle, the two female passengers and ultimately Mayberry were all located.

Last week, the Mercer Grand Jury indicted Mayberry for 1st degree fleeing or evading, a class C felony, and four class D felony counts of 1st degree wanton endangerment. Bail was set at \$10,000. Patrolman Hunter Kelly (Harrodsburg Police Department) testified.

The Mercer Grand Jury handed up indictments last week including rape, sexual abuse and theft by unlawful taking. All charges are merely allegations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt in a court of law.

RAPE

• Devangbhai Ashokbhai Patel, 37, of 1680 Danville Road, was indicted for 1st degree rape and 1st degree sodomy, both class B felonies. On our about Dec. 4, 2024, in Mercer County, Patel is alleged to have engaged in sexual intercourse and deviate sexual intercourse with the victim by forcible compulsion.

Bail was set at \$20,000. Patrolwoman Erin Rice (HPD) testified.

SEXUAL ABUSE

• James R. Tate, also known as Robbie Tate, 40, of 1350 North Loretto Road, Lebanon, was indicted for 1st degree sexual abuse, a class D felony. On or about Nov. 10, 2024, in Mercer County, Tate is alleged to have subjected a female, aged 15, to sexual contact. Bail was set at \$5,000. Patrolwoman Erin Rice (HPD) testified.

• Dejuan A. Pouncy, 38, of 353 York Street, was indicted for 1st degree sexual abuse, a class D felony; resisting arrest, a class A misdemeanor; and alcohol intoxication in public, a violation. All three offenses are alleged to have happened in Mercer County on or about Nov. 5, 2024. Bail was set at \$5,000 with no contact with the victim. Sgt. Rob Oney (HPD) testified.

THEFT BY UNLAWFUL TAKING

• Anthony T. Hurst, 52, of

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