



Sparrow Flies the Court

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Summer Water Safety

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\$1.00 (tax included)

Magic at Old Fort Harrod



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore

Magician Dave Cottrell Opens 41st Season of Picnic In The Park

Dave Cottrell, an illusionist and a musician, entered the crowd under the shade of the Osage orange tree Friday. Picnic in the Park continues Friday, June 13, with 18th century balladeer Jon Hagee who will perform at Old Fort Harrod State Park at noon. This weekend, the Settlement and Raid returns to Old Fort Harrod with a full re-enactment including settlers, natives, traders and living history on Saturday, June 14, and Sunday, June 15. For more information, call the park at 859-734-3314, email fortharrod@ky.gov or visit them on Facebook @ fortharrod.statepark. **Below left:** Collins Hockensmith is amazed by magician Dave Cottrell, who opened the 41st season of Picnic in the Park on Friday, June 5, at Old Fort Harrod State Park. **Below right:** former park director David Coleman enjoyed Friday's show with his grand daughter, Charlotte Coleman.



Nappy Roots headline Heart of Kentucky Juneteenth on June 21



Photo Submitted

Best-selling Southern hip-hop group Nappy Roots will headline the Fifth Annual Heart of Kentucky Juneteenth Celebration. They are scheduled to take the stage at West Lane Park on Saturday, June 21, at 9 p.m.

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The Fifth Annual Heart of Kentucky Juneteenth Celebra-

tion happens Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, at West Lane Park (345 West Lane).

Nappy Roots, the Southern-fried hip-hop group from Bowling Green, are the head-

liners. Best known for their hit songs "Po' Folks," "Awnaw," "Found' The Globe" and "Good Day," Nappy Roots

See Heart | 2A

Fiscal court approves \$64 million budget, including 2.9 percent raise

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The Mercer County Fiscal Court gave second reading to a budget with appropriations of more than \$64 million for the 2026 fiscal year, which starts July 1. The budget is a significant increase over the 2025 fiscal year of \$41 million and the 2024 budget of \$22 million.

At the fiscal court's regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, the magistrates also approved a salary schedule for the 2026 fiscal year, which includes a 2.9 percent salary increase for all county employees.

County officials have emphasized that a significant portion of the budget comprises funds allocated through the fiscal court, including \$11.8 million in state funding for the Wilkinson Farm Indus-

trial Park, which accounts for approximately 18.5 percent of the budget, according to county documents. Nearly a third of the entire budget—more than \$22.7 million—is for bonding and debt service on different projects.

In specific line items, a little over 50 percent of the budget—more than \$32 million—goes to the general fund, with a little over 19 percent—more than \$12.2 million—in payroll and net profit taxes.

In other business, the Mercer County Fiscal Court:

- Discussed disaster relief efforts. The fiscal court heard a presentation from Janell Dixon, a public affairs specialist with the US Small Business Administration.

"We're very thankful for the resources you're providing for community members,"

See Fiscal | 4A

City Commission approves higher utility rates

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The Harrodsburg City Commission gave second and final reading to ordinances authorizing sewer and water rate increases based on the consumer price index, as well as policies covering non-recurring charges, leak adjustments, leak checks and pool adjustments.

When the ordinances take effect on July 1, sewer rates will increase from \$17.44 to \$17.95 for the minimum charge of 250 cubic feet per month. The rate for up to 750 cubic feet per month will rise from \$7.12 to \$7.33 per 100 cubic feet. That's based on a 2.9 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index, as

reported by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The ordinance raises the water rates from \$14.44 to \$14.86 for the minimum charge of 250 cubic feet per month with the rate for up to 750 cubic feet per month going from \$5.48 to \$5.64 per 100 cubic feet.

For non-recurring charges, the ordinance amends language in the current policy, clarifying that the nonpayment charge for customers who use the North Mercer Water District is \$50, which is what the water district charges the City of Harrodsburg. The ordinance waives the \$40 meter test fee if the utility is found to be at fault and institutes a \$50

See City | 6A

Historical property owners to be notified of district guidelines

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Property owners in the South Main Street Historic District will soon receive notice from the Harrodsburg Architectural Preservation Commission detailing how

to apply for grants and tax credits, as well as the process for obtaining certificates of appropriateness for all alterations that result in changes to the exterior appearance of their properties.

According to the city's

See Historical | 3A

★ ★ ★ Family Firework Fellowship ★ ★ ★

JUNE 29 ★ 7-10 PM ★ Devine's Corn Maze ★ 623 Talmage-Mayo Rd

Free Event! Everyone is invited!

Sponsored by the Mercer Baptist Association