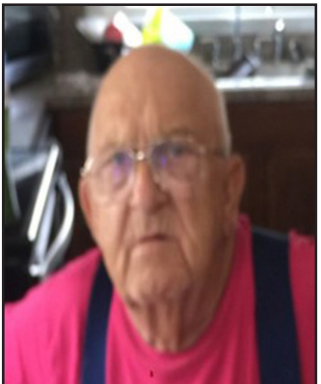


OBITUARIES




FONNIE BAKER
Fannie Baker, 81, husband of Darlene Moore Baker, died Thursday, July 24, 2025, at St. Joseph Hospital.
Born Nov. 2, 1943, in Mercer County, he was the son of the late Willie and Anna Byrd Carr Baker.
He was a retired truck driver, having worked at Harrod Transport, and was a Baptist.
Survivors in addition to his wife include: three sons, Tim (Tammy) Baker of Willisburg, Mike (Karen) Baker of Stanford and

Scottie (Sandra) Baker of Harrodsburg; one daughter, Lisa Baker of Willisburg; nine grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by five brothers, John, Maurice, Bobby, Cleo and Frog Baker, and four sisters, Barbara Green, Freda Briscoe, Helen Simpson and Annette Collier.
Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 30, at Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home with Derek Baker officiating. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.
Pallbearers were Tim Baker, Mike Baker, Scottie Baker, Art Baker, William Moore and David Sexton. The grandchildren served as honorary pallbearers.
Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the family at alexanderandroyalty.com.



KATHY BAUGH
Kathy Baugh, 67, of Harrodsburg, widow of Roy Baugh, died Sunday, July 27, 2025, at her home.
Born Sept. 28, 1957, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late Marion and Corene (Baker) Pittman.
She was a graduate of Mercer County High School, worked at Cricketeer and Keeneland in Lexington and was a member of the Willow Grove Baptist Church in Danville.
Survivors include: three daughters, Jodi (Ryan) Lane and Tara (Carla) Baugh both

of Harrodsburg and Misty (Michael) Hampton of Moreland; one son, Roy C. Baugh II of Harrodsburg; one sister, Linda (Roy) Cain of Cynthiana; two brothers, Marion (Jean) Pittman Jr. of Casey County and John (Tracey) Pittman of Harrodsburg and six grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by one brother, Steve Pittman.
Funeral services are today, Thursday, July 31, at 11 a.m. at the Willow Grove Baptist Church in Danville with Bro. Johnny Thompson officiating. Burial is in the Spring Hill Cemetery.
Pallbearers are John Pittman, Marion Pittman Jr., Roy Baugh II, Ryan Lane, Michael Hampton and John Howard. Honorary pallbearers are her nephews.
Memorial contributions are suggested to Willow Grove Baptist Church, 4306 Stanford Road, Danville, KY 40422.
Arrangements are en-

trusted to Sims Funeral Services of Harrodsburg.
Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the family at simsfuneralservices.com.

GEORGE VAUGHN
George Ray Vaughn, 57, died Thursday, July 24, 2025, at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.
Born April 17, 1968, in Harrodsburg, he was the son of Betty Steele of Harrodsburg and the late Morris Leo Vaughn Sr.
He was a self-employed mechanic.
Survivors in addition to his mother include: two daughters, Betty "B.J." Phillips of Burgin and Ashley Peach of Harrodsburg; one son, Beau Claunch of Harrodsburg; one brother, Scottie Joe (Jennifer) Vaughn Sr. of Harrodsburg; one sister, Michelle Vaughn of Lexington; one stepdaughter, Jessica Jewell of Harrodsburg; fiancée Tasha Hurst of Parksville; special friend Ralph Bays of Danville; and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by one son, Echo Vaughn, and one brother, Leo Vaughn Jr.
Memorial services will be held at a later date.
Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.
Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the family at alexanderandroyalty.com.

County

for the construction of any number of similar driers "on any sized piece of land."
Bault said generations of her family have farmed in Kentucky.
"Removing these protections is a recipe for resentment among the voters," she said.
The next speaker was Larry Austin, a designated safety coordinator with the Federal Aviation Administration and the former chief pilot for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
"How is safety going to be enhanced with this change?" Austin asked the fiscal court.
"Loud noise has been proven to create health problems," said Austin, including lack of sleep, which can lead to accidents and injury. Austin asked if all the neighbors had been informed of the regulation change. He called it "common courtesy" for the neighbor's welfare.
"Why is the new policy regulation needed?" Austin asked. "Is it based on safety or personal interest?"
"This has continued to be a debate on social media," said Amanda Gammon, who said she attended the meeting earlier this month when the magistrates gave first reading to the amendment. Gammon noted she was a landowner and resident but not a farmer.
"It's very easy to get caught up in the details of one specific situation," Gammon said. She

said the ordinance currently impacts the noise that occurs in the evening hours and lots of certain acreage.
"It's not going to end the debate," Gammon said.
She said residents need to understand the county's vision. Of the designated zoning areas in the county, she said agriculture is the most sensitive and easiest to sacrifice. Gammon said she is grateful for the court's support for farming. She said transparency of the fiscal court is of the utmost importance.
John Robinson said four generations of his family had been farming for the past 70 years.
"If you want to drive the farmers out of Mercer County, vote against it," Robinson said.
If enforced, Robinson, who called himself a full-time farmer, said the ordinance would stop farmers from working for eight hours a day. He noted "all the jobs created" for small businesses in the area.
"All money that is spent here in Mercer County," Robinson said. "All those businesses depend on us."
At their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 8, the magistrates gave second reading to the amendment. Magistrate Tim Darland said they received a message from a resident who said the zoning ordinance violated the Ken-

tucky Right to Farm Act.
The Right to Farm Act, which was initially enacted in 1980, provides no explicit protection for farmland, according to the University of Kentucky, but protects certain types of farm operations from nuisance suits when they impact neighboring property, for example through noise or pollution.
"We've got to do this," Magistrate Darland said.
"We've heard today from people for it and people against it," said Judge-Executive Sarah Steele, who recommended the court approve the amendment. Steele and Darland both noted that the amendment only applied to agriculturally zoned land.
"It's all A," Darland said, "it's only A."
Steele said they may need to potentially revisit things in the ordinance. Magistrate Kevin Hicks moved to pass the amendment, which was seconded by Magistrate Susan Barrington. The motion passed unanimously.
Fiscal Court Gets Broadband Update
On Tuesday, the Mercer County Fiscal Court received an update from Phillip Brown, director of government affairs for Kentucky for All Points Broadband, about the \$26 million project to deliver internet service to 3,332 unserved

houses and businesses.
Brown last appeared before the fiscal court in December 2024, when he informed them that All Points and the state had resolved their issues and the utility provider would begin design work and prepare for hanging fiber.
He said All Points had finalized and submitted the environmental review and were moving from high-level to field-level design, which included surveying the area. Brown said the next step is the field validation phase, in which construction drawings would be submitted to contractors. He said the provider had already met with the prime construction contractor and discussed the project. The contractor wants to attend a meeting with the fiscal court to talk about the permitting process, he said.
All Points would need to attach fiber optic cable to more than 5,000 poles spread across three different owners to connect the unserved areas of Mercer County, Brown said. He said they are taking a hard look to see if they can go underground rather than attach to poles. If All Points could reclaim time at roughly the exact cost by directional boring, that might be a better option than running cable, he said.
"Directional boring is not as deep," Brown explained. "We're not digging a whole

trench."
"We're going to maybe dogleg around that problem," Brown said. "We feel very good with where we are."
The project involves hanging 301 miles of cable to deliver reliable internet service. The state will contribute \$16 million towards the cost of the project, while All Points will contribute \$9.5 and the fiscal court is responsible for \$1.4 million.
All Points first approached the fiscal court about expanding internet service in Mercer County in March 2022. After receiving bids from All Points and AT&T, the fiscal court entered into a formal agreement with All Points in June 2022. There is also another project to connect every home in the nation, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. That program is making more than \$40 billion available to states. The Mercer County project is not part of that funding.
"There is a lot going on in broadband right now," Brown said.
Judge Steele said the coun-

ty road department is working with the construction company to identify rights-of-way.
The deadline is still Dec. 31, 2026. Asked when construction would start, Brown said, "Everything goes very quickly." He said he'd look into All Points' ballpark estimate and get back to the magistrates.
All Points also has a website for people with questions about the construction process. It's available at all-pointsbroadband.com/fiber-construction.
County Approves New Tax Rate
The magistrates adopted a new tax rate for real estate for the 2026 fiscal year. On Tuesday, the fiscal court voted unanimously to adopt the compensating rate of 11.6 per \$100 in assessed value. That is down from 12.1 per \$100, the rate the magistrates selected last year, which was down from 12.6 per \$100 for the year before.
The new rate is the com-

Four

launched Man on the Midway, a signature segment where he roamed the fairgrounds interviewing attendees and broadcasting their stories. He also brought the horse show to life for radio listeners, describing each horse and rider with vivid detail that made listeners feel like they were seated on the rail. Martin's legacy continues today, thanks to the efforts of fellow inductee Johnnie Slone.
Johnnie Slone, a former educator and longtime fair volunteer, has carried on Martin's vision for over 20 years as the voice of Man on the Midway. Known for his warmth and easy interviews, Slone has become a familiar sound during fair week. He has also

co-hosted live broadcasts of the horse show and pageants, all while enhancing WHBN's broadcast capabilities. Slone humbly credited the community and fellow volunteers for the fair's enduring success.
Gene Wright, now in his 25th year at Mercer County as the horse show organist, was recognized for his unmatched ability to capture the spirit of each class through music. From energizing a show-stopping pass to adding tenderness to a blue ribbon moment, Wright's intuitive playing has become the emotional thread of the Harrodsburg Horse Show. Already a member of the Kentucky State Fair World Championship Hall of Fame,

Wright's Hall of Fame induction cements his legacy in Mercer County as well.
Brad Noel, the man behind the scenes who makes the show run like clockwork, rounded out the night's honors. As horse show manager, Noel has transformed the event over the past two decades with his steady leadership, professionalism, and heartfelt commitment to the Saddlebred tradition. Beginning his career in the ring as a young 4-H member, Noel is now a cornerstone of the show's success, respected by trainers, judges and exhibitors alike.
The induction ceremony

drew a standing ovation from a packed crowd, many of whom have witnessed firsthand the contributions of these four individuals.
"These honorees are more than volunteers," said Fair Board President LeMayne Ellis. "They are the spirit of the fair, the reason we keep coming back year after year."
As the spotlight dimmed and the first class entered the ring, the legacy of Martin, Slone, Wright and Noel echoed through center ring, proof that tradition thrives not only through horses and ribbons, but through the people who make it all happen.

Federal

plaintiffs' claim of defamation against the City of Harrodsburg and the Board of Commissioners. When a court dismisses a claim with prejudice, the plaintiff is barred from bringing that claim in another court.
The city terminated Bottom and Steele in 2023, with the commission voting twice to discharge the firefighters.
At a special-called meeting in April 2023, the city commission unanimously voted to fire Bottom, who had been with the department three and a half years, and Steele, who had been with the department for more than 14 years. At that public hearing and subsequently in federal court, the

firefighters claimed they were terminated for organizing their department and speaking out on matters of public concern.
In a press release, the International Association of Fire Fighters hailed the judgment as "a major legal victory for firefighters and union rights."
"This verdict sends a clear message: workers have a fundamental right to union representation," said IAFF General President Edward Kelly. "This was a tremendous win for our members and families. President Steele and Secretary-Treasurer Bottom courageously stood up for what's right—and the IAFF proudly stood with them."
According to the IAFF

press release, the judgment revealed "a pattern of anti-union conduct" that culminated in "unlawful firings shortly after Steele and Bottom were elected to lead the newly chartered Local 5418."
The IAFF's General Counsel's Office led the legal effort on behalf of Bottom and Steele.
Asked for a response to the judgment, Harrodsburg City Attorney Norrie Currans offered the following statement: "The Harrodsburg City Commission would like to express our sincere respect for the jury's work and the responsibility they bore in reaching their verdict. The legal process is fundamental

to our justice system, and we respect their decision.
"At the same time, we know the facts upon which our decisions were based, what we stood for, and how we conducted ourselves. That integrity is something no verdict can erase."
The City of Harrodsburg has 30 days to file an appeal from the date of the final judgment. On Monday, Currans said no decision had been made on filing an appeal.
"We have to meet and discuss this with our outside counsel," Currans said. "We are still trying to process it."
Currans said she would be speaking with the city's outside counsel this week.

from 1A

PUBLIC NOTICE
The regular monthly board meeting of the Mercer County Sanitation District has been moved to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26th at 2:00 pm. For more information regarding the meeting please contact the Mercer County Sanitation District office at (859) 748-9654.

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