

# OBITUARIES



### MICHAEL BARNETT

Michael Lynn Barnett, 66, of Harrodsburg, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

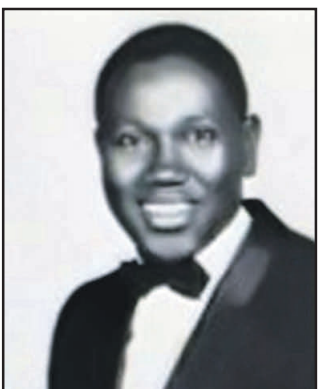
Born April 24, 1959, in Mercer County, he was the son of the late Earl R. and Helen Sallee Barnett Jr.

He was a graduate of Mercer County High School, a long-time employee of Corning, Inc. and a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include several cousins and extended family.

Funeral services were Friday, Dec. 12, at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home, Inc. Burial was in Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at [www.alexanderandroyalty.com](http://www.alexanderandroyalty.com).



### TRUMAN BARTLESON

Truman Bartleson Jr., 77, of Harrodsburg, husband of Doris (Dunn) Bartleson, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, in

Versailles.

Born April 26, 1948, in Harrodsburg, he was the son of the late Truman and Jennie (Smith) Bartleson Sr.

He was a 1966 graduate of Harrodsburg High School, where he was an avid athlete. From there, he went on to the Kentucky State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Education. He was a retired Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Transportation Right of Way Specialist after serving 28 years. Other memberships and organizations that he belonged to include: the KSU Alumni Association, Mercer County Democratic Board, Anderson-Dean Park Board, a member of the South District and Consolidated Baptist District and a member, deacon, trustee, treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent for the First Baptist Church on Broadway in Harrodsburg. Most recently, Truman served as a bus driver for the Harrodsburg Independent Schools and the Mercer County School District and was a former employee of the Mercer County Fair and Horse Show.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include: one daughter, Tasha Gayle (Gregory) Bradley of Louisville; two sons, Paul Anthony Bartleson of Louisville and Deshon (Nikki) Bartleson of Versailles; two sisters, Rena Mae Bartleson and Sharon Louise Bartleson, both of Harrodsburg; two brothers, George Edward Bartleson of California and Randall Lawrence (Judy) Bartleson of Harrodsburg; three grandchildren, Makayla Burns, Paul Aidan Bartleson and Grayson Bradley; and several nephews, nieces cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death

by two grandchildren, Cierra Bradley and Desha Bartleson, and one brother, Ernest Calvin Bartleson.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 15, at the First Baptist Church with Bro. Randall Bartleson officiating. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dante' Bartleson, Brian Bartleson, R.J. Bartleson, Ty Bartleson, Aidan Bartleson and Greg Bradley. Honorary pallbearers were James Thurman, Allen Jones, James Atkins and James Dunn.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at [www.simsfuneralservices.com](http://www.simsfuneralservices.com).

paid obit.



### JIMMIE BURRUS

Jimmie Gillis "Rainbow" Burrus, 92, of Nicholasville, widower of Della Rose (Lyons) Burrus, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, at his home.

Born March 31, 1933 in Mayo, he was the son of the late Raymond Mark and Hallie Mae (Jones) Burrus.

He was a graduate of West Side High School, owned a dry-cleaning service in Cleveland, Ohio, and Lexington and was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include: one daughter, Deborah Kay (Glenward) Hayden of Hillsborough, New Jersey; one son, James Kevin (Jillian) Burrus of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; two grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

nia; two grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Davis Burrus, and five sisters, Flossie Burrus, Edna Coates, Opal Sigar, Elizabeth Burrus and Alma Meaux.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Sims Funeral Services by Rev. Donald Wayne Smith. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Glenward Hayden, Julian Morgan, Cornelius Peery, Lester Patton Jr., Raymond Patton, Tyrone Patton and Randy Sigar.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Central Kentucky Salvation Army at [easternusa.salvationarmy.org](http://easternusa.salvationarmy.org) or 736 West Main Street, Lexington, KY 40508 - Attn: Development Office, noted "In memory of Jimmie Burrus."

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at [www.simsfuneralservices.com](http://www.simsfuneralservices.com).



### GERALDINE CHAPMAN

Geraldine Chapman, 96, widow of Marion "Julian" Chapman, of Harrodsburg, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, at her home.

Born Dec. 24, 1928, in Jessamine County, she was the daughter of the late John and Pearl (Spurlock) Welch. She was a member of

Clover Bottom Baptist Church in Versailles and retired as the head cashier from State Bank.

Survivors include: one son, Donnie (Teresa) Chapman of Harrodsburg, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services are today Thursday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m., at Spring Hill Cemetery Pavilion with Doug Wesley officiating.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Heritage Hospice, P.O. Box 1213, Danville, KY 40423.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at [www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com](http://www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com).



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

A&T LLC dba C&T Food Mart hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than January 1, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 123 N Main Street, Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330. The sole owner and president is Ekambaram Elumalai, 508 Atlee Dr., Harrodsburg KY 40330. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

A&T LLC dba C&T Food Mart hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package and transitional license no later than January 1, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 123 N Main Street, Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330. The sole owner and president is Ekambaram Elumalai, 508 Atlee Dr., Harrodsburg KY 40330. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.



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Keeping your furnace running well can also help you save money on monthly heating costs. Anytime a component in your system isn't working well, your furnace must work harder to heat your home, and that will take more energy – which will result in higher heating bills. An annual inspection can help keep energy bills down; extend the life of your furnace; and keep your house (and your family) warm and toasty all winter long.

### Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of December 2, 2025, Mercer County Fire Protection District is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Mercer County Fire Protection District is Howard Fallis, who may be reached at (859) 265-7549 and/or 859 VANARSDALL RD HARRODSBURG, KY 40330. The last known Board Members are: Stephen Bailey, Bill Lilley, Howard Fallis, Charles Bugg, Johnny Bailey, Gil Hayslett, J. D. Case. The district was noncompliant with FY2025 - Budget Amendments, FY2026 - Registration, FY2026 - Registration Fee, FY2026 - Budget Estimates, FY2025 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2016 - Annual Audit, FY2017 - Annual Audit, FY2018 - Annual Audit, FY2019 - Annual Audit, FY2020 - Annual Audit, F. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

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# Nominations open for Governor's Service Awards until Jan. 6, 2026

The commonwealth is accepting nominations for the Governor's Service Awards, which honor extraordinary Kentuckians whose dedicated service is improving the lives of others.

Nominations are open to all Kentuckians through Jan. 6, 2026, and must be submitted using the online form. More information is available on Serve Kentucky's website: [serve.ky.gov](http://serve.ky.gov).

Nominators are encouraged to provide detailed examples of service activities, impact, leadership and community outcomes. A statewide panel will review all submissions, and selected honorees will be recognized at a ceremony in Frankfort in April.

This is the 30th year for the service awards, which recognize the contributions

of Kentuckians to their fellow citizens. Each year, a special ceremony is held to publicly honor the recipients and others who have given to their communities through volunteering and service without expectation of reward or commendation.

"My faith teaches me that we should care for our neighbors, and this event is a meaningful reminder of how Team Kentucky works to lift each other up," Gov. Andy Beshear said in a press release. "If you know of selfless individuals or organizations whose dedication has strengthened your community, please take a moment to nominate them and help ensure their efforts are recognized."

The Governor's Service Awards recognize outstanding contributions across a

wide range of categories, including individual volunteers, youth, AmeriCorps members, nonprofits, volunteer groups, veteran volunteers, faith-based organizations and businesses that champion community service. Nominations may highlight service in areas such as education, public health, food security, disaster response, social supports, community revitalization, nonprofit leadership and more.

Serve Kentucky Executive Director Joe Bringardner said the state service commission advocates for and helps support effective volunteer program management, administers Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs and recognizes volunteer service across the state through its annual Gover-

nor's Service Awards. Working together—through communication, cooperation and collaboration—volunteers can improve their own lives as well as the lives of others in their communities.

Serve Kentucky administers AmeriCorps State programs and promotes volunteerism across the commonwealth. The organization supports initiatives in education, public health, disaster services, food security, environmental stewardship and community strengthening. To learn more or get involved visit [serve.ky.gov](http://serve.ky.gov).

Information on how the state is working to improve the lives and health of our people is available at CHFS.ky.gov. Follow the cabinet on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.

# Kynect open enrollment: what to know for 2026

The Open Enrollment period for plan year 2026 opened Nov. 1, 2025, and runs through Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026.

Applicants must enroll for kynect health coverage by Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, to have coverage start on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

For applicants who enroll from Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, through Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, their coverage will start on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026.

If you qualify, you can enroll in Medicaid or KCHIP anytime.

For plan year 2025 Qualified Health Plans, you can enroll if you have certain life events like losing coverage or a change in your household size.

The federal government may still be shutdown, but Kentucky's kynect Marketplace is open. Open enrollment is now live for Qualified Health Plans, even if Congress still hasn't taken action on the enhanced ACA tax credits. Without those cred-

its, many Kentucky families will be shopping for coverage without a clear picture of what their premiums will cost come January. We've heard most enrollees are facing at least a \$100 per month increase between 2025 and 2026, with some seeing far steeper hikes. A family of four earning \$130,000 could pay \$12,000 more next year, but a 60-year-old couple with \$85,000 income would face a \$24,000 jump. Why? Loss of enhanced credits disproportionately affects middle-income households and older consumers.

Extending the enhanced tax credits would dramatically reduce or eliminate these projected price increases. This is why advocates have begged Congress to take action before now. Their delayed decision-making has meant missed opportunities to stabilize premiums, protect access, and prevent coverage losses. Over 80 percent of kynect enrollees receive some part of these subsidies. If Congress does

not act, they are creating a major affordability crisis that was entirely avoidable months ago. So what can Kentuckians do to protect themselves and their health coverage for 2026?

**Shop Around.** In past years, many Kentuckians simply rolled over their same plan to the next coverage year. But between the largest ever year-to-year premium increases and the expiration of enhanced tax credits, premium costs could look very different in 2026, even if income and coverage stay the same. This year it's essential to review your options on [kynect.ky.gov](http://kynect.ky.gov) and choose the best currently available. Don't get trapped in an unaffordable plan or drop care.

**Trade Down.** Consumers may be able to survive the increases by "trading down" between the Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories. The problem is this downgrade can be a double-edged sword.

For consumers, moving to a cheaper plan comes with less comprehensive coverage and higher out-of-pocket costs. For the marketplace, healthier people moving to less expensive plans means the risk pool worsens and insurers are more likely to raise premiums even further.

**Stay Covered.** It seems whatever Congress does (or doesn't do), healthcare costs continue to climb. Middle-class families are being asked to shoulder more financial burden at a time of rising prices and economic instability, and lawmakers will eventually have to answer for their actions in this moment. For now, KY families have to focus on staying insured in 2026. Higher premiums are painful, but the risks of going without coverage in the current environment—delayed care, medical debt, and health emergencies—are far, far worse. Need help? Find a local kynector can help you compare options and enroll at [kynect.ky.gov/benefits](http://kynect.ky.gov/benefits).