

OBITUARIES

**WILLIAM JARVIS JR.**

William Henry Jarvis Jr., 69, of Danville, husband of Stephanie (Miller) Jarvis, died Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at his home.

Born June 6, 1956, in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was the son of the late William Henry and Mary (Cravens) Jarvis Sr.

He was a self-employed mechanic and was of the Christian faith.

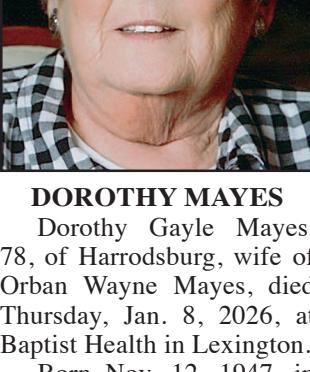
Survivors, in addition to his wife, include: one daughter, Keri (Chris Lindsey) Jarvis; one son, Cody Jarvis; one sister, Carolyn Ormes all of Ohio; one brother, Richard Jarvis of Boston, Mass. and one grandchild.

He was preceded in death by seven brothers, Jim Jarvis, John Jarvis, Lewis Jarvis, Chuck Abrams, Art Abrams, Ron Jarvis and Roger Jarvis and two sisters, Mary Rhoads and Debbie Howard.

Memorial services are today, Thursday, Jan. 15, from 4-6 p.m. at Sims Funeral Services.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Heritage Hospice at 120 Enterprise Drive, Danville, KY 40422.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.simsfuneralservices.com

**DOROTHY MAYES**

Dorothy Gayle Mayes, 78, of Harrodsburg, wife of Orban Wayne Mayes, died Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at Baptist Health in Lexington.

Born Nov. 12, 1947, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late James H. and the late Ola Mae (Rhinehart) Huffman.

She is a member of Corbinville Christian Church and was a administration clerk for Mercer County Health Department for many years.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include: two sons, Chris Mayes (Daphine) and Jarrod (Andrea Kidd) Mayes all of Richmond; two brothers, Bob Huffman of Salvisa and Paul Huffman of Harrodsburg; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 12, at Ransdell Funeral Chapel with Terry Morrison officiating. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105.

Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com

DANNA MCGINNIS

Danna McGinnis, 50, of Danville, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at home.

Born April 25, 1975, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late David and Shirley (Phillips) Mayes.

She was employed at North Point Training Center in Burgin.

Survivors include: one daughter, Peyton (Blake) Brown of Harrodsburg; two sons, Zach (Elizabeth) Carrico of Shelbyville and Dalton (Kaelie) Carrico of Harrodsburg; two sisters, Lisa Jo Mayes of Danville and Wendy Bradshaw of Perryville; one brother, Wesley Mayes of Penn.; and six grandchildren.

No services have been scheduled at this time.

Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com.

DAVID PRICE SR.

David C. Price Sr., 82, died Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at his residence.

Born Nov. 20, 1943, in Burgin, he was the son of the late John Ben Price Sr. and Edna Beatrice Riley Price.

He was a retired tool and die maker from Hill Tool & Die and attended Salt River Baptist Church.

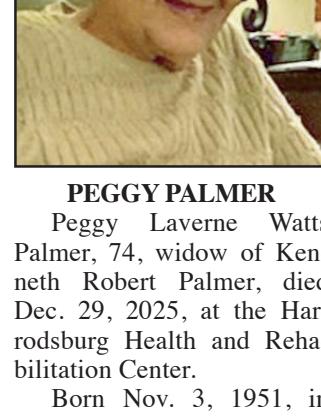
Survivors include: one son, David (Jeni) Price II of Harrodsburg; one daughter, April Derringer of Mercer County; one brother, Glen (Carol) Price of Casey County; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and his loving dog, Angel.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Donna Jean Price and four brothers, Gary Michael Price, Ronald Price, James Robert Price and John Ben Price Jr.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home with Bro. Rick Bolton officiating.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Heritage Hospice, P.O. Box 1213, Danville, KY 40422.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.

**PEGGY PALMER**

Peggy Laverne Watts Palmer, 74, widow of Kenneth Robert Palmer, died Dec. 29, 2025, at the Harrodsburg Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Born Nov. 3, 1951, in Casey County, she was the daughter of the late Daniel H. and Nan Irene Bugg Watts.

She was a Baptist by faith and had attended Shawnee Run Baptist Church. She was a former employee of the Harrodsburg Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Survivors include: one son-in-law, Gilbert Sanders of Harrodsburg; two brothers, Harvey "Buddy" (Helen "Georgie" Kirchner) Watts of Bardstown and Norman Watts of Texas, two step grandchildren and caretaker, Lisa Gilbert of Harrodsburg.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Julie Ann Sanders and several siblings.

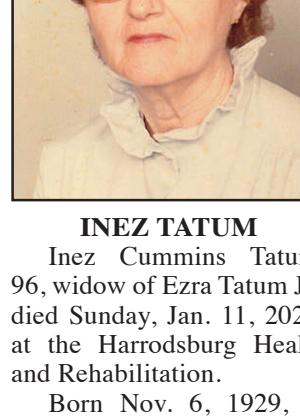
Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, in the Fellowship Hall at the United Presbyterian Church, with Rev. John White officiating. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery on Monday, Jan. 19.

Visitation 2 p.m. until the hour of service at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Mercer County Animal Shelter, 896 Moberly Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home, Inc. and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.

**INEZ TATUM**

Inez Cummins Tatum, 96, widow of Ezra Tatum Jr., died Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at the Harrodsburg Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Born Nov. 6, 1929, in Mercer County, she was the daughter of the late Henry Milton Cummins and Martha Ann Powell Cummins.

She was a homemaker, worked on her family farm and was a member of Deep Creek Baptist Church.

Survivors include: one son, Henry Esker (J.J.) Tatum of Harrodsburg and one sister, Jane Coulter of Harrodsburg.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry Cummins and Billy Cummins.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home with Bro. Nelson Reynolds officiating. Burial will be in Deep Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Gary Best, Jerry Best, Jake Best, Luke Best, Layne Hume, and Jeff Coulter.

Visitation 10 a.m. the hour of service at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.

Shelter

Hurst was initially hired by the county in September 2024 and became the full-time animal control officer in June. He was recognized by the fiscal court in October for handling a local homeowner's deceased pet when the homeowner was out.

The magistrates voted to hire Cody Stump as Hurst's replacement as animal control officer, effective Jan. 5, at \$20 an hour.

Cutts replaced Amber Sweetman as the director of the animal shelter. Sweetman was terminated in October 2025, while she was still in the probationary period.

Sweetman formally appealed her termination. At a special-called meeting in November, she challenged the accuracy of the information the court had used in her termination.

She said the allegations against her were never properly investigated and asked to be reinstated.

"I did what was best for the animals," Sweetman said.

After she finished, the fiscal court went into executive session, but no action was taken. County officials declined to discuss Sweetman's termination with the Harrodsburg Herald.

The magistrates voted to hire Sweetman initially as

a part-time animal shelter attendant in November of last year.

In May 2025, they voted to hire Sweetman as interim animal control director.

In October, the fiscal court voted to terminate Sweetman with immediate effect.

They also subsequently voted to change the animal shelter's Facebook page to informational-only.

Fiscal Court Hears Citizens' Data Center Concerns

The Mercer County Fiscal Court heard citizen comments about the possibility of a large-scale data center in the community.

Citizens who did not get a chance to speak at last week's meeting of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission addressed the fiscal court at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Laura Gilbert Duhamel spoke for herself and Jane Royalty Gilbert, who both live on Handy Pike. Duhamel passed out information for magistrates. She said she is concerned about the possible impact a data center could have on their neighborhood.

"This area is zoned A-1 agriculture," Duhamel told the magistrates. She said visitors

come to Mercer County to get away from the city.

"They come here for our rural charm and small town atmosphere," Duhamel said.

That rural charm could be endangered by a data center, which she called "a monstrosity of asphalt, concrete and never-ending noise."

She said county taxpayers would incur costs to support the data center.

"Please conserve and preserve our rural community," Duhamel said.

Betty Dean said a data center was inconsistent with adopted land-use policies, especially with land zoned for agriculture. Dean said there was an alternative at the Wilkinson Farm megasite, which is now known as the Bluegrass Innovation Gateway.

She was concerned with the possibility of rezoning agricultural land to allow a data center to be built.

"We would be allowing that kind of heavy industrial usage on prime, prime farmland," Dean said.

According to Kylie Donnelly, acting director of planning and zoning, no one has applied to build a data center anywhere in Mercer County.

"I have it on good authority

See Shelter 6A

from 1A

Residents

The adjusted deadline for the two-percent discount expired Dec. 31, 2025. The deadline for the face value amount expires Jan. 31, 2026.

Other deadlines:

- Five-percent penalty: Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, 2026.
- 21 percent penalty: March 1, 2026, through May 15, 2026.

An additional penalty applies for payments made after May 15, 2026.

At the close of business on May 15, tax bills are transferred from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office to the Mercer County Clerk's Office. Under state law, unpaid tax bills will become a certificate of delinquency and create a lien against the property. Interest begins to accrue on the total due at the rate of 1 percent per month. A 10 percent county clerk fee and a 20 percent county attorney fee are also added to the total due, according to the Kentucky Department of Revenue's website. The county attorney is required to send a notice to the delinquent taxpayers and, if necessary, another notice. Delinquent taxpayers can enter into installment payment plans with the county attorney, according to the state.

Beginning in mid-July, county clerks offer the certificates of delinquency for sale to third-party purchasers. These sales run through the latter part of October, with the majority occurring from mid-July through the end of August, according to the state. The specifics about each county's sale, along with a listing of each certificate of delinquency, are required to be advertised in the local newspaper at least 30 days prior to the tax sale date. The certificates of delinquency are also listed on the county clerk's website at least 30 days prior to the sale.

If a certificate of delinquency is sold to a third-party purchaser, the property owner must then work with the third party to arrange for payment of the delinquency. There will be substantial additional fees applied to the total due by the third-party purchaser. An installment payment plan can be requested of a third-party purchaser.

County Clerk Chris Horn said his office is working with the state on delinquent taxes. At the Mercer County Fiscal Court's regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13, Horn said he hopes to hold one sale for delinquent taxes this year.

At Tuesday's meeting, the fiscal court approved the

county clerk's \$6.5 million budget for 2026 as well as the clerk's 2026 salary cap.

The magistrates also approved the \$1.8 million budget for the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 2026, as well as the 2026 salary cap for the sheriff's office and the

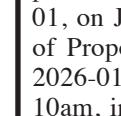
state advancement. Brooke Williams of the MCSO said they added items to cover the costs of school tax collection and inmate transport. Because of the effort to recall the school tax last year, county officials say it will take longer to collect it.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mercer County Fiscal Court had first reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2024-05, Amendment No. 2026-01, on January 13, 2026. Second reading and adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 2024-05, Amendment No. 2026-01, will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 10am, in the Mercer County Fiscal Courtroom. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the county judge/executive during normal business hours.

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