

OBITUARIES



JUDY HENSELMAN

Judith Sharion "Judy" Henselman, 83, wife of Ralph Henselman Jr., of Harrodsburg, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026 at her home.

Born Sept. 25, 1942, in Fleming County, she was the daughter of the late Beryle Dean and Edith (Black) Filson.

She was a financial officer and registrar of the Donovan Program at the University of Kentucky.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include: one son, Brian Henselman of Austin, Texas; one daughter, Karrie DeBlauw of Arlington Heights, Ill.; two brothers, Jerry Filson, Samuel Filson; one sister, Marla Moore and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Bobbie Joan West Vardaman.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Mt. Pleasant Church, with Derek Baker officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery.

Visitation 5-7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

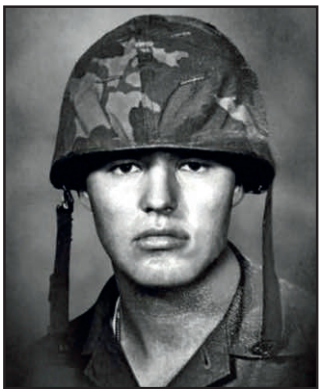
Pallbearers will be Brian Henselman, Benjamin Henselman, Joshua Henselman, Eddie Horn, Randy Horn and Raymond Sullivan. Honorary pallbearers will

be Dennis Curtsinger, Mike Goodlett, Rodney Thompson, Bobby Gene Sallee, Tony Pinkston, Ricky Catlett and Loren Kaenzig.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Mt. Pleasant Church, 446 Mt Pleasant Rd, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

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



GARY GOODAKER

Gary Radford Goodaker, 78, husband of Dianne McCrystal Goodaker, of Lake Charles, LA., formerly of Danville, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026.

Born on Dec. 5, 1947, in Princeton, he was the son of the late Mary Loreite McConnell Goodaker and James "Ted" Russell Goodaker.

He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Lake Charles, La.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include: one son, Thomas Anthony (Delaina) Goodaker; one daughter, Ann Marie (Ken) Farque; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Roland

"Toby" Anthony Goodaker.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 2, at Johnson Funeral Home in Lake Charles, La., with Father Page officiating.



JANE HOWARD

Jane (Hoskins) Howard, 89, wife of Earl Howard, formerly of Harrodsburg, died Feb. 7, at her residence.

Born on Oct. 28, 1936, in Big Creek, she was the daughter of the late Jeff and Pearl (Hacker) Hoskins.

She was a business owner.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include: one son, Ronald Howard of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; one daughter, Elaine (David) Edwards of Lee's Summit, Mo.; one sister, Anna (Ronny) Ball; one brother, Kenny (Linda) Hoskins; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Robert Hoskins, Woodrow Hoskins, Luther Hoskins and Carl Hoskins and one sister, Hazel Spicer Marcum.

Funeral services are today, Thursday, Feb. 12, at 12 p.m., at the London Funeral Home. Burial is in the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East in Hyden.

Visitation from 10:30 a.m. until the hour of service.

Arrangements by London Funeral Home.

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



HATTIE MCMURRY

Hattie Pearl Claunch McMurry, 86, widow of Charles E. McMurry Jr. of Harrodsburg, passed peacefully into her heavenly home on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at Morning Pointe of Danville.

Born Sept. 2, 1939, in Danville, she was the daughter of the late Tom and Mae (Claunch) Claunch.

She was a member of Bruner's Chapel Church and attended Carpenter's Christian Church, was a registration coordinator for West Lane Head Start, worked at Cricketer, worked as a Mercer Elementary librarian and volunteered at James B. Haggins Memorial Hospital.

Hattie Pearl enjoyed going to yard sales, socializing and exercising with friends and playing the piano and organ. Before her husband Charles passed away, they enjoyed traveling to Amish Country and serving alongside him at Pioneer Baptist as the organist while he was the song leader. Their home was often filled with the sound of hymns as they practiced side by side. A woman of grace

and quiet strength, Hattie Pearl was known for her dignity, kindness and gentle wit.

Survivors include: two daughters, Lesa (Billy Mac) Gritton of Harrodsburg and Lana (Kevin) Short of Nicholasville; seven grandchildren, Stephen Coslow, Kristyna (Zac) Lewis, Adrianna (Brian) Devine, Brennan (Sydney) Short, Justin (Jennifer) Short, Ryan (Brenna) Short and Sarah Gritton; 10 great-grandchildren, Lane Royalty, Lochlan and Ramsey Pearl Lewis, Tinley Devine, Trinity Chenault, Maren Short, Adalyn and Alaina Short, Walker and Franklin Short; two nieces, Barbara Raisor and Kendra Claunch; one nephew, Bruce Catlett; three great-nieces; Scarlett Ingram, Jennifer Wilson and Julie Raisor and one sister-in-law, Beverly Claunch.

She was preceded in death

by her parents, Tom and Mae Claunch, two brothers, Jackie Claunch and Marvin Claunch; one sister, B Catlett, and one nephew, Larry Claunch.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 9, at Ransdell Funeral Chapel, with Greg Warren officiating. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Stephen Coslow, Brennan Short, Justin Short, Ryan Short, Lane Royalty and Lochlan Lewis.

Memorial contributions are suggested to KHAKY Kidney Health Alliance of Kentucky, 1517 Nicholasville Rd, UNIT 203, Lexington, KY 40503.

Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

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

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Thank You

The family of Melissa Votaw would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, donations and food sent to the family during this time.

The Votaw, Perkins
and Brogle Families

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mercer County Fiscal Court had first reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-02, relating to the annual budget and amendment on 2/10/26, and will have Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-02, relating to the annual budget and amendment, whereas Mercer County has realized unbudgeted receipts from Reimbursements, Insurance Proceeds, BGADD Grant, and AOC Special Projects, the budget for FY 25-26 is amended to increase the receipts of the General, Road, and LGEA Funds by \$148,803.43, will be held 2/24/26 at 10am at the Mercer County Courthouse. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID MERCER COUNTY FISCAL COURT

The Mercer County Fiscal Court invites bidders to submit bids for **Sealed Bid for New Replacement Roof** for the Mercer County Courthouse, located at 207 W. Lexington St., Harrodsburg, KY. Sealed bids will be accepted through Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10 a.m. Bids will be opened publicly during the Fiscal Court Meeting on February 24, 2026 at 10 a.m., located at 207 W. Lexington St., Harrodsburg, KY.

For information, please contact Missey Ellis, Fiscal Court Clerk, at 859-734-6300.

Sealed bids must be returned by mail or hand delivered to the Mercer Co. Judge Executive's office at 207 W. Lexington St., Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

The Mercer County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

ADVANCED

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African

Organizers describe the gala as an opportunity to honor African American heritage in Mercer County while bringing the community together in a meaningful and festive setting.

This year's gala will feature a silent auction, a keynote address by William Taylor, who is a trailblazer in Central Kentucky broadcasting and the founder of Black American Communications and WVBA, the region's first minority-owned public radio station. Through his leadership, Taylor created a platform dedicated to community voices, cultural awareness and public

service, helping to amplify perspectives that had long been underrepresented in local media. His work with WVBA expanded access to public radio programming while promoting education, civic engagement and African American history. Taylor's legacy continues to influence Central Kentucky media through his commitment to inclusive storytelling and community-centered broadcasting.

The evening will also include the inaugural presentation of the Willie Monzo "Jack Rabbit" Bottoms Black Horseman Award. Bottoms was a

respected Harrodsburg horse trainer whose skill, work ethic and deep connection to the roadster horse industry left a lasting mark on the local community. Known for his dedication to the care and training of horses, Bottoms built a reputation for excellence and perseverance during a time when opportunities in the industry were often limited. His legacy is remembered not only for his contributions to the breed, but also for paving the way for future generations and inspiring pride in Harrodsburg's rich African American history. The award is being introduced to

recognize individuals who have made a lasting impact through leadership, service and dedication to the community.

Dinner for the evening will be catered by Reginald Pullums Catering. Guests are encouraged to dress in semi-formal attire, with African attire welcomed and requested as part of the celebration.

Tickets for the gala are \$25, with the last day to purchase tickets set for Saturday, Feb. 14. Tickets may be purchased by contacting any of the following organizers or locations: Ruth

See African | 6A

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following births are recorded at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville:

- Jan. 2, a son, Ruben Angel Martinez Gonzalez, born to Juana Gonzalez Cano and Juventino Martinez Garcia of Harrodsburg;

- Jan. 2, two sons, Sawyer Lane and Emerson Wade Mattingly-Lyons, born to Madelyn Mattingly of Lebanon;

- Jan. 4, a daughter, Lillian Kate Brown, born to Lesley and Noah Brown of Hustonville;

- Jan. 6, a daughter, Oak-

lynn Rae Denson, born to Hollie Saylor and Donald Denson of Danville;

- Jan. 9, a daughter, Caroline Lee Grigsby, born to Lindsey and Alex Grigsby of Hustonville;

- Jan. 16, a daughter, Elena Lucia-Mae Martinez, born to Samantha and Raul

Martinez of Waynesburg;

- Jan. 18, a daughter, Ryleigh Michelle Curtsinger, born to Danielle Nicole and Christopher Edward Curtsinger of Stanford;

- Jan. 3, a daughter, Ayla Tracy Mae Johnson, born to Auburn Giles and Thomas Johnson of Danville;

- Jan. 20, a son, Isaac Owen Buntain, born to Kelsey Gaddis and Hunter Buntain of Harrodsburg;

- Jan. 21, a daughter, Joselynn Darlene McGrath, born to Kelsey Hash and Jason McGrath of Liberty;

- Jan. 22, twin sons, Princeton and Kingston Welch, born to Chasity Johnson of Danville.



Photo Submitted

Winnie the Pooh and Friends Hit the Stage at Ragged Edge Community Theatre

Poor Winnie the Pooh (Lincoln Wilson) is being pulled in two directions as Rabbit (Boone Logan) and Kanga (Mabel Harris) both try to un-wedge him from Rabbit's doorway in Ragged Edge Community Theatre's production of Winnie the Pooh, opening Friday, Feb. 20. The production run Feb. 20-22 and Feb. 27 - Mar. 1. Friday and Saturday evening shows begin at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved by visiting raggededgetheatre.org or by calling 859-734-2389.

PUBLIC NOTICE: SPECIAL MEETING ON PROPOSED DATA CENTERS

When: Wednesday, February 18 at 5:00 p.m. Where: The Stable, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Harrodsburg

Mercer County residents are encouraged to attend an upcoming special meeting addressing proposed data center development and its potential impact on land use, taxes, and local water and electric infrastructure.

WE ARE MERCER COUNTY, Inc., who have deeply expressed interest in the community, hope you will attend as we make our voices heard.