

OBITUARIES



TRULA ARNETT
Trula Gayle (Fain) Arnett, 77, of Harrodsburg, wife of Ernest Junior Arnett, died Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville.

Born May 4, 1948, in Loyall, she was the daughter of the late Ermal and Zolema (Howard) Fain.

She was a Loyall High School graduate, employed by Harrodsburg Kroger, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill and the Mercer County Schools and was a member of Carpenter's Christian Church.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include: one son, Ernie Tyrone Arnett; one daughter, Sue McGrath, one granddaughter, Amber McGrath and two great-grandchildren all of Harrodsburg.

Funeral services were

held Friday, March 13, with Brother Greg Warren officiating.

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



TARA BARKER
Tara Savannah Barker died Monday, March 9, 2026.

Born March 8, 2002, in Lexington, she was the daughter of Dwayne Chris Barker and the late Rebecca Sue Howard.

She attended a Brighter Choice Adult Day Training in Danville.

Survivors, in addition to her father, include: one brother, Michael Royce Barker of Lexington; one half-sister, Amanda Brooke Williams of Lexington; parental grandmother, Patricia Ann Scott of Harrison Town-

ship, Mich.; guardian, Terina Kaye Mitchell of Danville; caregiver, Amber Nicole Ray of Harrodsburg and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents D.H. and Irene Howard of Lexington.

Graveside services were held Monday, March 16, at Bluegrass Memorial Gardens in Nicholasville.

Arrangements by Milward Funeral Services-Southland in Lexington.



SUSAN KING

Susan Charnell Frances King, 81, wife of Robert "Wayne" King, of Lawrenceburg, died Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Born March 4, 1948, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late Charles

O. and Thelma (Sacra) Nichols.

She was a accountant for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and was a member of Lawrenceburg Church of Christ.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include: one son, Michael Wayne (Tammy) King of Lawrenceburg; one brother, B. Tom Nichols of Harrodsburg and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be planned for a later date.

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



ALEXANDER MARTINEZ

Alexander Mark Martinez, 65, husband of Lynn Martinez, died Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the

Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Born Dec. 5, 1960, in Manhattan, NY, he was the son of the late Alfred Jesus and Elizabeth Elaine Walters Martinez.

He was a graduate of Boce's Culinary School, served as a volunteer firefighter in Long Island and was a member of Burgin Christian Church.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include: two daughters, Jennifer (Joseph Monroe) Martinez of Burgin and Courtney (Shannon Borens) Martinez of Danville; two sons, Michael Pelz of Nashville, Tenn. and Stuart (Rebecca) Martinez of Colorado Springs, Co.; two sisters, Elizabeth (Edmund) Cabrera of Brooksville, Fla. and Trish (Mike) Schultz of Fort Wayne, Ind.; four brothers, Alfred Martin and David (Terri) Martinez both of Spring Hill, Fla., Eric Martinez of Summerville, SC and John (Tiss) Webb of London; 12 grandchildren;

two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Donna McGee Martinez.

Funeral services were held Sunday, March 15, at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

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

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Tourist

tourist commission agreed to pay \$17,500 to Core Distinction Group. On its website, the firm bills itself as "specializing in hotel feasibility studies and lodging market analysis."

"This is less than what we thought," said board member Kristen Flick.

The original cost projections for the study were \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Gray said representatives from one lodging chain had made several visits to the area and seemed "very, very eager." While the commissioners hope the study will convince someone to invest in Mercer County, it's not a done deal.

"They performed one 10 years ago, but the hotel never came," Gray told the board.

Still, he said it was good practice to include a feasibility study—for lodging as well as for restaurants—in the budget every three years.

Even if the lodging chain Gray mentioned chose not to open a location in Mercer County, the tourist commission could still use the study with multiple parties.

Gray said the tourist commission would be working with Greyson Evans, executive director of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority.

According to their website, Core Distinction Group delivers hotel market feasibility studies designed to help developers, investors, cities, towns, villages and counties determine whether local lodging demand can support a new hotel, and what type, size and positioning makes the most business sense, according to the firm's website.

The study takes approximately 30 days to complete and could be finished as early as April 29.

Board member Leigh Lopez moved to pay for the study from the infrastructure line item.

"I think it would be beneficial to us and the town," Lopez said.

In other business, the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission:

- Welcomed their newest member, Tim Kazimer,

who was appointed by the Mercer County Fiscal Court to replace Tia King Taylor as lodging representative on the tourist commission board of directors. Kazimer's term will expire June 30, 2026.

"I'm very excited to be part of the crew," Kazimer said.

Kazimer resigned from the commission at the end of 2023. He and his wife, former Harrodsburg City Commissioner Jennifer Kazimer, opened the Kentucky Fudge Company in 2006. Today they own Sitbe Cider-Hard Cider House, Tasting Room and Pub. Kazimer, who joined the board in 2018, served as chairman of the board of directors of the tourist commission from 2021 until 2023.

Kazimer's tenure on the board was marked by significant changes, including a complete overhaul of board membership and staffing, as well as changes in how the tourist commission collected restaurant and lodging taxes.

At Wednesday's meeting, the board also elected Kristen Flick as the new treasurer.

- Heard an update on delinquent accounts. Gray said they had received an inquiry about filing an open records request to identify local businesses that were collecting restaurant and lodging taxes from consumers but failing to remit them to the tourist commission.

"We can't name them," Gray said. He said there was a legal question whether it was subject to an open records request. Gray said the commission's attorney needed to research the subject.

Assistant Director Connor Souder said the commission is owed more than \$20,000 from two local businesses. One is notoriously late, Souder said, while the other was involved in an ownership change.

The tourist commission sends out letters to local businesses on the first Friday of the month. If an entity has failed to pay the taxes they collected for three months, the commission's lawyer sends them a letter. If the entity still fails to make pay-

ment, it's referred to County Attorney Ted Dean.

"It's going to be impossible to get 100 percent every month," Gray said.

He said the commission can only do so much.

"We don't have the authority to shut down a business," Gray said.

It was suggested that the tourist commission take delinquent accounts to small claims court.

"We can look at that," Gray said. He said he would invite Norrie Currens, the commission's attorney, to their April meeting to discuss their options.

Souder said he was looking at LocalGov.org, a digital platform that handles local taxes and licensing.

Souder said LocalGov.org partners with numerous states, which allows them to cross-reference state and local reports. The platform charges \$12,000 a year. He said a representative from the platform could make a presentation at an upcoming commission meeting.

"I think this is something we should do for next year's budget," Souder said.

He said LocalGov.org could eliminate a lot of problems the tourist commission was having.

"I think it ends up paying for itself," Souder said.

Board member John Holiday suggested offsetting the platform's cost by charging tenants at the Diamond Point Welcome Center, which the tourist commission owns and rents.

Gray said the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority is funded through the City of Harrodsburg and Mercer County. He said the city and county both wrote letters asking the tourist commission to stop charging the industrial development authority rent.

"Is that necessarily what we are supposed to do?" Holiday said. "Let's at least get a legal opinion."

"It might not be wise to get an opinion from someone who represents us and the city," Holiday said.

Norrie Currens, who represents the tourist commission, is also the Harrodsburg

City Attorney.

- Discussed the downtown flowers. The tourist commission received a \$43,000 bid from Devine Creations Landscape Management in Harrodsburg to maintain the flowers, but it does not include the flowers. "Hellfire and brimstone," said board member Jay Anderson.

The bid covers two men watering the flowers twice a day with fertilizers and pesticides. Currently, the City of Harrodsburg is paying overtime for workers to come in on weekends. At the meeting, it was said that the city spends approximately \$11,000 a year in weekend pay and overtime to water the flowers once a day.

"I know it's high," Gray said. "If you all want to stay with the city, I understand."

The tourist commission gives the city \$32,500 for beautification and allocates another \$12,000, which pays for the flowers each year.

"We pretty much handle all beautification now," Gray said.

Anderson has admitted he is not a fan of the flowers downtown.

"Nobody's coming to Harrodsburg for the flowers, but if you're here, you do notice them," Anderson said.

Pemberton of Lexington, which has handled the flowers in the past, gave a quote of \$8,500. The commission received no other bids.

The commission took no further action on the flowers, which Gray said should be up by May.

- Discussed the Main Street lot next to Olde Town Park, which the tourist commission owns. Souder suggested installing a new, more visible sign on the lot, and Gray showed the board members an artificial intelligence rendering of what it could look like. The commission will solicit bids.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission will meet again on Wednesday, April 8, at 9 a.m. at Diamond Point Welcome Center (488 Price Avenue). For more information, visit their website at visitharrodsburgky.com.

HHS

ditions developed and why they remain an important part of Kentucky's cultural identity.

Organizers say the program offers an opportunity for community members to experience both the stories and the sounds that shaped the region.

"Programs like this help us connect the past to the present," organizers noted. "Traditional music is an important part of Kentucky's heritage, and events like this allow people to hear and experience the music the way it was meant to be shared."

The event also supports

the mission of the Harrodsburg Historical Society, which works to preserve and interpret the history of Mercer County and share it with the community through educational programs, exhibits and historical research.

Guests are invited to attend for an evening of live

storytelling, music and local history, followed by a conversation with the presenter.

Admission is free, but tickets are required to ensure seating. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact the Harrodsburg Historical Society at 859-325-9028 or harrodsburghistorical.org/events.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Jody's Spirits LLC dba Jody's Spirits hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a Quota Retail Package no later than March 19, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 102 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, Kentucky 40310. The sole owner and member is Jody Langston, 225 Curdsville Road, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITIONS

The Mercer County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a **Part-Time Transport Officer**

Applications are being accepted for a Part-Time Transport Officer. A complete list of qualifications and job description are available upon request at the Mercer County Judge Executive's Office. Applications are being accepted through March 25, 2026 at 4:00pm. Applications should be delivered to Mercer County Fiscal Court, Human Resources, Samantha Peyton at 207 W. Lexington Street, Harrodsburg or submitted online at <https://mercercounty.ky.gov/departments/Pages/Human-Resources.aspx>

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