

# Board

from 1A

said Bobby Upchurch, the chairman of the board of adjustments.

Presenting the staff findings, Executive Director Kylie Donnally said the Harrodsburg City Commission had amended local ordinances to allow event venues in industrial zones. Donnally said the area is full of other commercial operations, and the event space would be compatible with the area's evolving character. She said it should the permit should be granted with conditions, including limits on food service, annual inspections and no music festivals or concerts.

The applicant agreed with the conditions, and the permit was unanimously approved.

In other business, the Harrodsburg—Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals:

- Approved a variance requested by Cristina and Erick Rodriguez for the property located at 168 Patterson Lane.

The applicants requested a variance of 143.01 feet from 250 feet to 106.99 feet on the minimum road frontage requirement for a proposed division of the property they already own. The property is zoned A-1 (Agricultural).

Cristina Rodriguez said they are subdividing the property into two five-acre tracts located at the end of Patterson Lane. Rodriguez said available road frontage is limited. Both lots would utilize one driveway.

David Walker, who owns the property that adjoins Rodriguez's, objected.

"You don't have the road frontage," Walker said.

"I don't want it, I guess that's what I'm saying," he told the board.

Walker said the Rodriguezes had been told that his driveway was part of their drive, but it is not. However, the couple does have access to Patterson Drive. Board attorney Henry Smith asked if not using the driveway would end his concerns.

"No," Walker said. He said there had never been two dwellings on the property.

"We're not going to touch his road at all," Rodriguez said. She said the existing driveway was used by the mail carrier and snow-

plow to turn around.

"We're going to use what we're already using," she said.

Rodriguez said her mother and brother will live in the new house.

"We want to live there for a very long time," she said, and possibly leave it to their children.

Donnally noted it was an in-family conveyance to a disabled family member. She said the applicants were only asking for one variance. She noted there was one other nonconforming property in the area. She said both tracts have plenty of acreage, and the board had approved similar requests in the past.

"I believe this should be granted," Donnally said.

"We have the legal ability to allow her to put this in," Upchurch said.

Another resident, Mark Darnell, also spoke.

"These are both my neighbors," Darnell said. "I see both of their points."

Darnell said the land had originally belonged to his father. He said Rodriguez was lied to by the realtor who sold her the property.

"It was misrepresented," he said. "She spent all this money on two houses, and it's not legal."

Upchurch said it would be possible for the applicants to build the house without coming before the board.

"Even if this isn't allowed today, they could position themselves to build a private road, which would be allowed," Upchurch said. Even if the board denied the applicants' request, they could still build the second home.

"It would slow up the process by a few months, but it wouldn't change the outcome," Upchurch said. He said the simplest approach is to do what the applicant was asking.

"If there are loopholes in the law, why do we have them?" Walker asked.

"If it's not possible, we're probably going to sell it," Rodriguez said.

Upchurch said his only problem was that approving the variance would make the original lot nonconforming. He said they've always required the original lot to be conforming.

However, Smith said it

had happened at least once before the way the applicant was asking.

"Once you've set a precedent, it's hard to say you're not going to follow that precedent without a higher court swooping in to say you can't do that," Upchurch said.

The chairman also noted there was no survey stamp.

"They can't make a severance without a proper survey," he said. "They would need a survey that could be filed."

Upchurch said the survey has not been stamped and is not legal for land transfer. He said the applicant would have to provide a legal survey showing the driveway and a 15-foot easement.

Board member Jonathan Elliott moved to approve the variance with the condition of a proper survey being performed. His motion passed unanimously.

"Thank you for your time and service to the community," Rodriguez said.

- Approved a conditional use permit for the construction of a single-family dwelling located between 542 and 552 Cogar Avenue in Harrodsburg. The property is zoned 1-1 (Light Industrial).

"I just want to build a house on it," said Art Baker, the applicant. "There are houses on both sides of it."

The Harrodsburg City Commission recently amended zoning ordinances to allow residential units in industrial zones. The property is located at the start of the industrial zone, next to high-density zoning.

Donnally noted that the lot is not sized for industrial use and said the provided plan would comply with setback requirements. She recommended approval with conditions. The board voted unanimously to approve the permit. If the property goes vacant for a year, the permit would be void.

"You got it," Upchurch told Baker. "Get your building permit and go to work."

- Postponed a conditional use permit requested by Daynabrook Farmhouse LLC to operate a short-term rental at 615 Beaumont Avenue in Harrodsburg.

The Harrodsburg—Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals will meet next on Friday, April 24, at 8:15 a.m.

# OBITUARIES



## BOBBY NEWTON

Bobby Newton, 63, husband of Debbie Newton, died Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at his home.

He was the son of the late Burl and Linda "Judy" Newton of Clementsville.

He was a carpenter.

Survivors in addition to his wife include: one son, Kris (Chelsea Dean) Newton; one brother, Jimmy (Vicky) Newton; twin sister, Barb (Eric) Rohe; two additional sisters, Brenda Goins and Lisa (Frank) Stedam; one grandson, Arthur Thomas Newton; and his dog, Hooch.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Gary Newton.

Funeral services were Saturday, March 28, at Sims Funeral Services with Brother Bob Logue officiating. Burial was in St. Bernard Catholic Church in Clementsville with prayer led by Danny Clements.

Pallbearers were Greg Farmer, Bryan Rohe, Justin Rohe, Tyler Newton, Patrick Newton, Bryan Moore and R.T. Dean III. Honorary pallbearers were Colton Stedam, Jimmy Preston, Charles Miracle and Bob Spears.

Born on Dec. 20, 1940, in Cumberland, she was the daughter of the late Samuel Lawson Furgason and Jo Frances (Steely) Furgason.


She was a 1959 graduate of Cumberland High School, attended Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University and Cumberland College in Williamsburg, where she earned her bachelor's degree, taught school in Louisville, Carrollton and Waco, Texas, cofounded and served on the board of the Kentucky Arabian Horse Association, trained and showed Australian Shepherd dogs, served as program coordinator for PUP Dog Therapy Program at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, was a member of the Centex Kennel Club, the WAG Dog Agility Group, and the Heart of Texas Australian Shepherd Club and member of Fairview Baptist Church in Valley Mills, Texas.

Survivors include: one

daughter, Anne (Tobin) Slaughter; one son, Russell Harper; one sister, Nell Higgins; one brother, Samuel Furgason; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m., Monday, April 6, at the East Hickman Baptist Church in Lexington.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Humane Society of Central Oregon, 61170 SE 27th St, Bend, OR 97702 or www.hsco.org.



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**In compliance with KRS §83A.060**, On March 9, 2026, the City of Harrodsburg Board of Commissioners approved Ordinance 2026-04 – an ordinance updating the compensation-classification plan for the City of Harrodsburg. The full text of the ordinance can be found at <https://www.harrodsburgky.gov>

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mercer County Fiscal Court had first reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-03, relating to the annual budget and amendment on 3/31/26, and will have Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-03, relating to the annual budget and amendment, whereas Mercer County has realized unbudgeted receipts from County Clerk excess fees, Insurance proceeds, and FEMA reimbursements, the budget for FY 25-26 is amended to increase the receipts of the General and Road Funds by \$401,592.24, will be held 4/14/26 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.



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### INVITATION TO BID

The City of Harrodsburg is seeking sealed bids for weed eating and mowing at Spring Hill Cemetery, 529 N. Greenville Street. Bids should quote mowing on an as needed basis and weed eating every two weeks. Bids should be submitted on a per unit cost for each service performed. Interested parties should stop by the Cemetery Office for additional information on qualifications and expectations.

Bids must be submitted to Harrodsburg City Hall, 208 South Main Street, Harrodsburg, KY 40330, or via email to [smaynard@harrodsburgky.gov](mailto:smaynard@harrodsburgky.gov) no later than 4pm Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Bids will be opened in the conference room on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 8:30am. The bid award will be announced at the Harrodsburg City Commission meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026 at noon. The City of Harrodsburg reserves the right to waive formalities and reject any and all bids or to accept other than the lowest bid evaluated if deemed in the best interest of the City.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS**

A public hearing will be held by Mercer County at the courthouse on April 14, 2026 at 10 am for the purpose of obtaining citizen comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds.

All interested persons in Mercer County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments, should call the office of the County Judge/Executive at (859)734-6300 by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, so arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

# Drug

from 1A

la term for Drug, Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts, provide treatment-focused supervision for people whose criminal behavior is closely tied to substance use disorders or serious mental illness. Participants must complete intensive treatment programs, frequent drug testing and close court supervision designed to address the root causes of their offenses.

While Drug Court was implemented in 1996, it did not begin locally until March 2022, when Circuit Judge Jeff Dotson was appointed to the bench after 19 years at the district court.

Judge Dotson, who passed away suddenly in 2024 at the age of 59, presided over the Mercer and Boyle County Drug Court's first graduation in February of that year, presenting diplomas to the program's first graduates, Stephanie Burton and Hannah Lawson.

Drug Court is available to individuals charged with drug use or nonviolent drug-related crime. According to [kycourts.gov](http://kycourts.gov), it combines close court supervision and treatment with other services to "break the cycle of substance abuse and crime."

The program uses a team approach that involves collaboration among local judges, court staff, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment professionals, law enforcement officers and other community agencies. Drug

Court staff work closely with treatment providers and other community resources to offer a comprehensive approach to recovery and help participants regain control of their lives.

Participants are required to take part in mental health sessions, self-help groups and frequent urine screening. They also must obtain employment. The felony program lasts a minimum of 18 months and the misdemeanor program lasts a minimum of 15 months. Those who successfully complete the program may have their charges dismissed through diversion or be granted conditional discharge through probation.

According to the AOC, Kentucky's Specialty Courts have produced measurable, life-changing outcomes for thousands of participants since 2019, based on the most current data available through August 2025. The programs have helped 5,110 individuals secure employment, including 1,621 who earned promotions. Another 555 participants achieved educational goals, while 1,621 improved their housing stability. Participants also obtained 2,025 driver's licenses, removing a major barrier to employment and independence and the programs supported the birth of 404 drug-free babies.

Over a five-year span, participants paid more than

\$5.4 million in child support, restitution and other court-related obligations, supporting families, compensating victims and ensuring court-ordered financial responsibilities are met.

Drug courts operate in all 120 Kentucky counties and currently serve approximately 2,500 active participants who are considered high risk and high need due to substance use disorders. Mental Health Courts operate in 17 counties, serving 270 participants with serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders. In addition, Veterans Treatment Courts operate in eight counties, serving 92 military veterans and service members facing similar challenges, according to the AOC.

Specialty Courts also provide a lower-cost alternative to incarceration. In Kentucky, the average annual cost to incarcerate one person is about \$16,060, or roughly \$44 per day, according to the Vera Institute of Justice. By comparison, the average annual cost for a Specialty Court participant is about \$6,507, or roughly \$18 per day. Program outcomes also show recidivism rates below the statewide average.

Lawmakers are expected to finalize the state budget on or before April 1, leaving a narrow window for changes to the Judicial Branch budget bill.



## BECKY TAYLOR

Rebecca "Becky" Ann Taylor, 85, widow of Bobby Carroll Taylor, of Harrodsburg, died Friday, March 27, 2026, at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Born March 29, 1940, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late Carroll Pearce and Thelma (McAnly) Brown.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church, was a retired teacher with the Fayette County School Systems, after retirement worked for State and Whitaker Bank and raised American Saddlebred horses.

Survivors include: one daughter, Karen Taylor of Lexington; one sister, Patricia (Bob) Holland; one brother, Bill (Mary Ann) Brown; one brother-in-law, Donald Eugene "Gene" Taylor; one grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Arthur Carroll Brown.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 1, at the Ransdell Funeral Chapel, with Matthew Robbins officiating. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bill Brown, Greg Leffingwell, Tony Bohannon, Don Allen, Jon Holland and Taylor Johnson.

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



## JOANN UPTMOR

JoAnn Furgason Uptmor, 85, widow of Weldon Uptmor, died Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at her home in Bend, Oregon.