

Mercer student Logan Yates earns prestigious Bradley Award nomination

April Ellis
Herald Staff



LOGAN YATES

Mercer County Senior High School student Logan Yates recently took center stage among some of the region's most talented young performers after earning a nomination for Best Actor in a Leading Role at the Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA) Bradley Awards.

Yates was one of only four students nominated in the highly competitive category, recognizing outstanding lead performances in high school musical theater productions across Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The nomination placed Yates among an elite group of student actors invited to participate in the Bradley Awards weekend at Louisville's historic Brown Theatre. Throughout the week-

excellence in high school musical theater and serve as the region's official qualifying program for the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, better known as the Jimmy Awards. The program was created to recognize young artists, promote theater arts education and provide students with opportunities to perform on a larger stage.

Named in honor of Bradley Broecker, whose work helped bring touring Broadway productions to Kentucky and Southern Indiana, the awards are often compared to the Tony Awards for high school theater students. Participating schools receive evaluations from theater professionals, and nominees are selected across categories ranging from acting and technical theater to overall production excellence.

For Yates, the nomina-

tion was an opportunity to showcase his talents alongside some of the region's best young performers. As one of four finalists for Best Actor in a Leading Role, he spent the weekend rehearsing and preparing for the awards performance at the Brown Theatre.

Yates' nomination also spotlights Mercer County Senior High School's growing theater program and its commitment to the performing arts. Being recognized among the top student performers in Kentucky and Southern Indiana is a significant achievement and reflects the dedication and talent that continue to emerge from the school's stage productions.

Yates is the son of James Michael and Ashley Yates and is attending the University of Louisville in the fall.



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore

Getting Shady At Picnic In The Park

Above: Kash Cocanougher and Levi Lenington were chilling out in the Osage orange tree at the Picnic In The Park at Old Fort Harrod State Park on Friday, June 12. Picnic In The Park continues Friday, June 19, with 18th century balladeer Jon Hagee. For more information, call the park at 859-734-3314 or visit their Facebook page @fortharrod.statepark.

Tourist

from 4A

Given Anderson's professed opposition to downtown flowers.

"You want some more trees and flowers?" asked chairwoman Nikki Elliott.

"They have some use," Anderson said.

Anderson and board member John Holiday moved to approve the budget, which was unanimously approved.

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

- Discussed the feasibility study. In March, the commission agreed to pay \$17,500 to Core Distinction Group to conduct a lodging feasibility study. Assistant Director Connor Souder said Core Distinction Group had recommended a 65 to 75-room midscale-to-upper-scale hotel. The firm released a 154-page document that included projected tax increases and an economic study.

Souder told the board the conversations about opening a new lodging establishment in Mercer County had "heated up quite a bit" with at least three entities asking about the study. Souder said Core Distinction Group had created a pro forma report for the brand that had

originally requested the feasibility study. He said the firm would also provide another pro forma report.

"This group has been awesome to work with," Souder said. He said the report described Mercer County as being "primed for growth."

Souder said they had shown the researchers a few sites, but the study wouldn't specify an exact address for the proposed new establishment.

"The numbers are kind of staggering," Souder said.

- Discussed the Lawn on Main. At the beginning of June, the tourist commission announced the lot next to Olde Town Park will serve "as a place to relax, connect, and enjoy all that downtown has to offer, featuring food trucks, live music, lawn games, outdoor seating, community events, and more."

The tourist commission is modeling the Lawn on Main after "the Lot" Shelbyville's new food truck park.

Gray said they are getting a lot of excitement about the announcement. Last week, he said electricians and landscapers had been working on the site, including wiring the park

for sound. The park discussed the possibility of installing speakers along Main Street.

"We're ready to rock," Gray said.

He said they still have to install electricity, speakers and pour concrete. Gray said they hope to install shades before Oktoberfest.

- Hired Joseph Gabbard to serve as the commission's new attorney at a rate of \$360 an hour. Gabbard is an attorney with Stoll, Keenon, Ogden PLLC, who works out of the firm's Frankfort office. Gray told the board he'd solicited quotes and received three responses.

Last year, the tourist commission spent \$215 an hour. The board has retained a new attorney in the hope of finding a more efficient way to handle delinquent accounts. Some establishments charge customers the restaurant and room tax but do not pass it along to the tourist commission.

"We've been after some people to tie up their loose ends," Anderson said. "Now we can't help them do what we've asked them to do."

- Approved a slate of officers for the new fiscal year. Elliott will continue as chair,

while board member Leigh Lopez will serve as vice chairwoman and Anderson has been named treasurer. The board will not appoint a secretary and a staff member will handle meeting minutes.

- Renewed employee health insurance for the upcoming fiscal year. Gray told the board the insurance rate went up by four percent.

"I'd be thrilled about four percent," said board member Stacey Maynard, who also serves as chief administrative officer for the City of Harrodsburg. Maynard said the city's health insurance went up 49 percent this year.

"That may change next year," Gray said.

- Said farewell to Connor Souder, who was attending his last board meeting as assistant director and sports director, and welcomed Emily Sue Watts, who is serving as the tourist commission's new downtown ambassador.

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

City

from 3A

writing that I will not sell the property or build more than 37 houses," Langston said. She said she wanted to provide housing to the younger generation. She said they were single-family homes priced from \$250,000 to \$275,000, as her goal.

"I don't want houses that can be blown away by the wind," Langston said. She said she wanted solidly built homes that owners can upgrade later on. Langston said there would also be a homeowners' association.

Councilman McCoy asked if the city had any mechanism for including its input.

"You would need planning and zoning to regulate any use of land," Wood said.

Councilman Hensley wondered whether the city's existing tax structure could cover everything after it was transferred to the city. Keebortz said the city does have private drives in Burgin, which the owners are responsible for maintaining.

"We would not have to take care of it," Keebortz said.

The city would take over trash collection.

Langston expressed regret for selling the land fronting her property. She said she should have placed deed restrictions on the land.

"I regret it badly," Langston said. She said she thought the property would be developed for single-family housing.

"It seems like we're anticipating the development of that property," McCoy said. "I'd like to see that. I'd like to know what you're writing in. I'd prefer to have a known quantity."

Referring to the deed restrictions, McCoy said,

"Let's see what we're discussing."

Langston said she wouldn't have the deeds until after the property is developed.

"What's your next step?" Councilman Dunn asked.

Langston said they need the annexation first. Then they'd have to connect to water and sewer.

"It's a long road," Langston said. She said she would come to them for approval before each step.

"When I'm finished, I want something really nice for the community," Langston said.

After a vote on Councilwoman Wofford's motion to not annex the property, the council approved Dunn's motion to table the annexation vote until the next council meeting to gather more information.

In other business, the Burgin City Council:

- Opened bids for the new city hall. The city received three bids for the project: Couples Construction for \$857,000, Wilson Williams Construction for \$636,000 and A Cut Above the Rest Excavating, which provided several options ranging from \$448,000 to \$760,000.

"Those are our three bids," Mayor Keebortz said.

Councilwoman Wofford moved to table taking any action until they had reviewed all the information. Her motion passed unanimously.

- Reappointed the code enforcement board. The council approved board members John Stamps to a one-year term, Jason Cochran to a two-year term and Cherish Moore to a three-year term. Their terms start immediately.

- Received an update on Burgin's efforts to alle-

viated flooding from Mayor Keebortz. Keebortz said that archaeologists have not found any artifacts, so the project can continue. He said the city is still looking for a solution for the unknown property to determine who it belongs to and get an easement. Keebortz said he hopes to resolve the issue within the next week or so.

Wood said he contacted Monty Rhody of Rhody Engineering in Lawrenceburg to determine the property lines

and plan their next step.

The mayor said their intention is to make a move without someone making a counter-move.

The next regular meeting of the Burgin City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Burgin City Hall (117 South Maple Street, Burgin). Keep abreast of events and watch city council meetings at the City of Burgin's Facebook page, @burgin117.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KRS.424.130 (b)

MAP AMENDMENT – ZONE CHANGE

A Public Hearing will be held **Thursday, July 2nd, 2026 at 5:00PM** upstairs in the City Hall Meeting Room at 109 Short Street during the regular meeting of the Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission.

Zone Change 26-02 – A 2.914-acre tract proposed for rezoning from R-3 to B-3, identified as PVA Parcel No. 079.00-00016.00 on Chimney Rock Road in Mercer County, KY. The property is owned by Paul Barnes.

Zone Change 26-03 – A 1.51-acre tract proposed for rezoning from R-1 to B-2, identified as PVA Parcel No. 100.12-03025.00 on College Street in Harrodsburg, KY. The property is owned by Richard Reed, Tiffany Zammit, and Stuart & Janice Martt.

Inquiries, comments or questions can be made in person:

Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission
109 Short Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-734-6066

Bobby Upchurch, Chairman

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