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Burgin goes back to school



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore

Students Return To Burgin Independent

Allison Bruce, an elementary instructional assistant at Burgin Independent School, oversees students enjoying breakfast at the first day of the 2026-2027 school year on Tuesday, Aug. 4. For more pictures from Burgin's first day back in school, turn to page 2A.



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore
Jacob Sanche was happy to pose on his first day back in school.



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore
Amira Smith was waiting for the first day of school to begin Tuesday.

Mercer indictments include drug trafficking, gun charges, menacing

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The Grand Jury handed up indictments last Tuesday, July 21, on charges including drug trafficking, handgun possession and menacing police.

DRUG CHARGES

• Charles L. Richardson, 60, of 202 East Office Street, is accused of 1st degree of trafficking in fentanyl, a class C felony. On or about Dec. 13, 2025, in Mercer County, the defendant is accused of knowingly and unlawfully trafficking in a controlled substance, according to the indictment. Richardson is being charged as a 1st degree persistent felony offender because he has been convicted of two or more prior felonies, with each felony having a term of imprisonment of one or more years. Bail was set at \$20,000 cash.

Patrolman Michael Shepersen (Harrodsburg Police Department) testified for the commonwealth.

• Roy L. Nelson, 41, of 978 Mundy's Landing Road, is accused of 1st degree of possession of methamphetamine, a class D felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia (glass pipes and plastic baggies), a class A misdemeanor. Both offenses are alleged to have occurred on or about April 18, 2026, in Mercer County, according to the indictment. Bail was set at \$5,000. Patrolman D. Pusey (HPD) testified for the commonwealth.

• Dustin B. Gilpin, 28, of 170 Johnson Branch Road, Parksville, is accused of 1st degree of possession of

methamphetamine, a class D felony, and no operators/moped license, a class B misdemeanor. Both offenses are alleged to have happened on or about May 16, 2026, in Mercer County, according to the indictment. Bail was set at \$5,000. Dep. Michael Shewmaker (Mercer County Sheriff's Office) presented for Dep. Drew Raisor (MCSO).

• Aaron Nichols, of 321 Edgewood Drive, Nicholasville, is accused of 1st degree of possession of methamphetamine, a class D felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia (needles), a class A misdemeanor. Both offenses are alleged to have occurred on or about May 14, 2026, in Mercer County, according to the indictment. Bail was set at \$5,000. Patrolman Michael

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Planning commission gives first reading to data center ordinance

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The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission has given first reading to a text amendment to zoning ordinances concerning data centers.

To a chorus of boos from the crowd, the planning and zoning commission unanimously approved the text amendment at a public meeting on Thursday, July 30, at the Campbellsville University Harrodsburg Campus gymnasium.

The meeting continued from last week's. The commission heard no more input from the public, not counting the cries of "Sell out!" that came from the crowd, many of whom were holding "NO DATA CENTER" signs.

At the resumption of the meeting, Chairman Bobby Upchurch thanked everyone for their participation over the past seven or eight months.

Next, the commission's attorney, Henry Smith, reviewed changes that had been made to the draft since last week's meeting, including provisions that the developer will be responsible for the cost of new vehicles and

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Mercer Board of Education proposes new tax rates

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The Mercer County Board of Education has proposed lower tax rates.

At a special-called meeting on Friday, July 31, the school board unanimously approved proposing a general fund tax levy of 69.9 cents on real property, which is 0.6 cents lower than the prior year, and 70.5 cents on personal property, which is 1.4 cents lower than the prior year, according to information provided by

Chief Finance Officer Amber Minor.

The board will vote on the proposed tax rates at its next regular meeting.

It is the second year in a row that taxpayers have had two rates for both real estate and personal property. According to Minor, last year's rates of 70.5 cents for real property and 71.9 cents for personal property garnered \$12,260,304.71 in revenue.

The proposed tax rates on real and personal property are projected to generate

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127 Yard Sale returns Aug. 6

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Look out for bargain hunters, the 127 Yard Sale returns Thursday, Aug. 6, and runs sunup to sundown through Sunday, Aug. 9, although many individual sales may observe different hours.

While there will be sales practically everywhere in Mercer County, the biggest will be at the Smock Farm (3580

Louisville Road) where more than 80 vendors are expected to have their wares on display. The Smock family has been participating in the 127 Yard Sale for more than two decades, and their event has grown to be one of the largest in Kentucky.

Billed as the longest yard sale in the world, the 127 Yard Sale spans 690 miles, beginning just north of Addison, Michigan, and ending in

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