



Titans Soccer Makes School History with Trip to 2A State Tournament

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\$1.00 (tax included)

Strong Women and Southern Grit

‘STEEL MAGNOLIAS’ TAKES THE STAGE AT RAGGED EDGE COMMUNITY THEATRE



Uiser (Stephanie Zebosky) spills some dirt while Clairee (Jennifer Lucas) looks properly mortified.

Photo Submitted

Ragged Edge Community Theatre will bring a story of friendship, family, laughter and resilience to the stage this fall with its production of Robert Harling’s beloved comedy-drama *Steel Magnolias*.

Performances are sched-

uled Sept. 25 through Oct. 4, with Friday and Saturday performances beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.

Set in a small-town beauty salon in Louisiana, *Steel Magnolias* follows six unforgettable Southern

women through the joys, challenges and sorrows of their lives over the course of several years. Filled with humor and lively conversation, the play also explores the bonds of friendship and

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Mike Jones named one of three finalists for 2026 Farmer of the Year

Mike Jones of Mercer County is one of three finalists for the Kentucky Farm Bureau’s 2026 Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast at the Kentucky State Fair on Aug. 27. The winner will be announced Oct. 12 and then recognized during the organization’s annual meeting in Louisville in December.

According to a press release, the annual program recognizes an individual for outstanding agricultural operations, as well as service and leadership on and off the farm.

Jones and the other two finalists, Terry Brown of Hopkins County and Steve

Rogers of Hardin County, were recognized during the Kentucky Farm Bureau’s Country Ham Breakfast at the Kentucky State Fair on Aug. 27. The winner will be announced Oct. 12 and then recognized during the organization’s annual meeting in Louisville in December.

Mike Jones and his wife, Debbie, raise beef cattle, hay, burley tobacco, pigs and meat goats on 433 acres near Salvisa. The couple started

22 years ago on a 137-acre hill farm and now work two farms, including a 116-acre place at Munday’s Landing.

“My wife grew up on a 350-acre dairy farm, where she played an active role in milking 65 Holstein cows twice daily,” Jones said. “When we purchased our first farm, her experience proved invaluable.”

The family raised tobacco on the farm’s bottomland in

See Mike | 2A

Candidate forums planned ahead of general election

Mercer County voters will have several opportunities to hear directly from candidates seeking local, judicial and state offices during a series of candidate forums planned for October at Campbellsville University-Harrodsburg.

The forums will be held Oct. 5, 6 and 8, at the Campbellsville University Gymnasium, 772 University Drive.

The first forum will be

held Monday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. Candidates for 2nd District magistrate, Mercer County judge-executive, Mercer County sheriff, 50th Judicial District judge, Circuit Division 1 circuit judge and state representative for the 55th District have been invited to participate.

Candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and answer ques-

tions submitted by students from Burgin Independent and Mercer County schools and approved by the chairs of the Mercer County Democratic and Republican parties.

A second forum will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 6:30 p.m. Candidates for Harrodsburg City Commission and Mercer County Board of

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Burgin gives first reading to re-entering planning and zoning

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The City of Burgin took a step towards reentering county-wide planning and zoning in a typically dramatic style, with a tie-breaking vote from Mayor Joe Monroe. The council also couldn’t vote on a controversial annexation after a council member walked out, ending the meeting.

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Burgin City Council gave first reading to an interlocal agree-

ment to give the friendly little city seats on both the planning and zoning commission and the board of adjustments and appeals.

The Mercer County Fiscal Court and the Burgin City Council gave first reading to the ordinance earlier that Tuesday, while the Harrodsburg City Commission gave first reading at their meeting on Monday, Sept. 5. All three elected bodies must give second readings to the interlocal agreement, which must also be approved by the Kentucky

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City votes on new tax rate on Thursday, Sept. 17

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The Harrodsburg City Commission will hold a public hearing on the tax rate on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 9 a.m. at City Hall.

At a special-called meeting on Monday, Aug. 31, the commissioners gave first reading to an ordinance setting the tax rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year at .063 per \$100 of assessed value for real and personal property, the same rate set last year.

Because of rising assess-

ments, the tax rate will increase anticipated revenue to the city by about \$23,562. Officials say the rate, if adopted, reflects the four-percent revenue increase allowed under state law.

The commission will also give a second reading to an ordinance keeping the city’s tax rate for motor vehicles and watercraft unchanged at 0.23 cents per \$100 in assessed value.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Harrodsburg City Commission authorized paying \$610,000 to purchase a 2014 ladder truck with 30,000

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Tourist commission votes to install turf baseball fields at Anderson-Dean

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The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission is moving forward with its plans for Anderson-Dean Community Park, including a major investment in the baseball fields and adding staff.

At its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9, the board of directors approved a \$374,000 bid from Vescio Sports Fields to install two turf baseball fields. The

commission will make a \$100,000 down payment and borrow the rest. Altogether, the project will cost \$450,000 with the contingency.

Chase Blain, Anderson-Dean’s new operations director, said turf’s advantage over natural grass was flexibility.

“You can basically play any age group,” Blain said Wednesday. If it rains, softball teams currently have nowhere to go. Blain said

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