

Mercer Band faced tough competition at Estill Tournament

Ben Sears
Contributing Writer

The chill finally arrived in the Bluegrass State this past weekend, and it felt even cooler as Mercer County Band arrived at Estill County High School in Irvine. They were there this past Saturday for the 5th Annual Estill County Engineers Tournament of Champions. Mercer Band had attended this contest three times before and always done well.

Mercer Band entered the day knowing 18 bands were performing. There were six AAA bands total, so they split them into AAA-1 and AAA-2. Mercer was in AAA-1. Mercer's competition that day was Boyle County and South Laurel. They performed at 2 p.m., and it was the first time they had performed their entire show, start to finish, at a

contest. The group hadn't competed in three weeks, and they had plenty of time to rehearse and learn their new drill and music. They polished and perfected it and laid it out the night before at the Mercer vs. Casey homecoming football game, in front of a home crowd. Now it was their chance to compete. It was the last regular contest before KMEA State Championship weekends approached the following two weekends. This was their chance to perform and see how they stacked up against the competition.

The group put on a great show, with only a few small individual issues, but they faced tougher competition. Bands that they had beaten earlier in the season returned and won captions over Mercer. It wasn't that Mercer wasn't good, but everyone was good. Judging

can vary a lot from judge to judge and weekend to weekend. It is all based on unbiased professional opinion based on very specific captions like best music, best visual, best guard, and so on. At the end of the preliminary contest, Mercer placed third in their group of three and fifth among all six 3A bands. They advanced to the top-10 finals that evening. In the finals, they had one more chance to perform and make the needed corrections to place higher. Their second show was good, but the cold weather made a few things more difficult. Overall, Mercer finished ninth in the top 10 out of 18 for the day. Mercer knows what to build on and practices every weekday until the end of October. This Saturday is the KMEA East and West Station Quarter-Finals, or as we call them, regionals. Mercer Band will trav-

el back to Garrard County High School to compete in AAA East against bands in our class, including Bourbon, Boyle, Garrard, Beechwood, and many others. If Mercer can make it into the top six this Saturday, they will advance to the KMEA State Semi-Finals on Oct. 31. The AAA Semi-Finals will be at Franklin-Simpson High School early that morning and the top six out of that contest will compete at KMEA State Finals at Western Kentucky University.

Erica Ashford leads Mercer County Band, with help from Alex Smith and Jeremy Ellis. The drum major is Reagan Sims. Band Booster officers are Rebecca Winburn (President), Ben Sears and Mike Sims (Vice Pres), Cassie Shirley (Secretary) and Chad Winburn (Treasurer).



Mercer Band Media

The seniors and drum major accepting the top 10 trophy Saturday evening at finals. Front row, left to right, posing with an Estill County band member, Lauren Waters, Kara Gabhart, Reagan Sims, Tabitha Grant, Lillie Pessish, back row, Matthew Clark, Will Dean and JC Hernandez.

Be sure to come out and support the band! A huge thanks to all the band boosters, parents, family, friends and community members who have helped our band, supported our band, and cheered for our band! We thank you! The road to state finals has begun!

Jaguars



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
Senior Tanner Ison chased down the ball in the Titans match up versus East Jessamine in the 46th District Tournament Tuesday, Oct. 13.

39'. The Titans had an early



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
Junior Dylan Coslow battled for the ball in Mercer loss to East Jessamine in the 46th District Tournament Tuesday, Oct. 13.

XC



The Harrodsburg Herald/Myron Ellis
Titan Benjamin Higgs ran for the Titans at the Woodford Invitational finishing with a time of 23:02.

Foster (23:43) and Julia Hart (25:06) and Senior Seanna Hodge (26:46) were all top fifty runners.

The Titans' next race is the KHSAA Region 5 Class 2A on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Wyatt Bloyd, 21:24; 65th, Benjamin Higgs, 23:02; 73rd, Stephen Serrano, 23:57; 78th, Dillon Patton, 24:29.

Mercer Girls Results
Results are listed by place, athlete and time:

13th, Dez Thomas, 22:48; 17th, Trinity Drew, 23:39; 19th, Addyson Foster, 23:42; 31st, Julia Hart, 25:06; 45th, Seanna Hodge, 26:46; 50th, Layla Nowlin, 28:03; 58th, Abigail Woods, 30:49.

Mercer Boys Results
Results are listed by place, athlete and time:
7th, Ashton Butler, 18:15; 8th, Brycen Jones 18:22; 27th, Caleb Reedy, 20:05; 29th, Hagan Lay, 20:07; 49th,

from 1B

corner kick in the second half, and Johnson was able to get a header, but it went over the goal, 41'. East Jessamine put the final goal of the game in to go up 0-3, 45'. Dunn had a shot on goal saved by the Jaguars keeper, and on the other end East Jessamine put a shot over the Titans' goal, 50'. Bennett made a nice move to get in the box, but couldn't come away with a shot, and Dunn tried to work the ball down the goal line, and it went out of bounds, 53'. Conduit had a nice save in the box on a shot from East Jessamine, 60'. The Jaguars keeper came out of the goal to make a stop, and East Jessamine put a shot wide of the goal, 65'.

The coaching staff for the Titans received a yellow card after expressing some frustration over a non-call from the refs, 70'. The East Jessamine keeper collided with his teammate and was down for some time before exiting the game, 73'. Dunn tested the new Jaguars goalie with a shot on goal that was saved, 75'. In the final five minutes, East Jessamine received a yellow card and Mercer subbed in all their seniors to finish out the game.

The Titans never found momentum and had chances on set plays, but one goal could have flipped the game. Mercer ends its season 8-6-2 with a first-round exit from the 46th District tournament.



YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR PLAYERS, CHEERLEADERS AND COACHES!

(formerly Future Titans League)

Divisions Include:

- Grades 1 & 2
- Grades 3 & 4
- Grades 5 & 6

Dates to Remember

- Registration Closes — Nov. 9
- Evaluations — Sunday, Nov. 15
- Practices Begin — After Thanksgiving Week
- Games Begin — January 2027



Scan to register

For questions email
ChaseBlainADCP@gmail.com

CITY OF BURGIN ORDINANCE NO. 2026-10-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BURGIN, KY, ADOPTING AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR 2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to KRS Chapter 92 and 132, the City of Burgin, Kentucky (the “City”), is authorized and empowered to adopt the Mercer County ad valorem assessment valuation for City tax purposes, to fix the tax levy date and delinquency date, to add to the levy, and to collect said taxes;

NOW THEREFORE, for the purpose of raising revenues to provide for all general operation and obligations of the City of Burgin, Kentucky, be it ordained by the City of Burgin, Kentucky, as follows:

SECTION I

A. The City has adopted the Mercer County Property Valuation Administrator’s assessments of property situated within the City of Burgin, Kentucky.

B. January 1, 2026, is the assessment date for all real property subject to city taxation within the boundaries of Burgin, Kentucky, and such assessments are adopted as the City assessments for the City ad valorem taxes for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

C. Pursuant to KRS 92.280, an ad valorem tax upon all real and tangible properties subject to taxation by the City and assessed or to be assessed for taxes for general municipal purposes for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, is hereby levied and fixed per \$100 of assessed valuation at the rates of:

Real Property	.159
Personal Property	.136
Motor Vehicles	.200

D. The foregoing ad valorem taxes are levied for the said calendar year on each \$100 of assessed value of all motor vehicles subject to taxation and all land, improvements, personal property in the City held or owned by every person, firm, company, or corporation, in his, her, their, or its right, or as fiduciary, guardian, trustee, or agent, subject to municipal taxation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and, specifically, under KRS Chapter 92 and other applicable chapters of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

E. The City Clerk for the City of Burgin, Kentucky, shall collect ad valorem taxes, except for ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, and, by October 19, 2026, shall mail bills for taxes due to all owners of property subject to municipal taxation.

F. It is hereby established, and tax bills shall so provide, that ad valorem taxes, except for ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, are due in full on or before January 18, 2027. Any taxes paid in full on or before November 19, 2026, shall have two percent (2%) deducted from the bill as a discount. Any taxes remaining unpaid on January 19, 2027, shall have a penalty added of five percent (5%) of the tax bill. Any taxes remaining unpaid on February 19, 2027, shall have a penalty added of ten percent (10%) of the tax bill.

G. Any tax bill, except for ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, that is not paid in full on or before January 18, 2027, shall be delinquent and shall continually accrue interest at a rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum until paid in full.

H. Ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles shall be collected by the Mercer County Clerk pursuant to KRS 134.800, shall be-

come due and delinquent in accordance with KRS 134.810, and shall be subject to the penalties and interest set forth in KRS 134.810.

SECTION II

A. All tax bills, except for ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, shall be mailed initially by the City Clerk and shall thereafter be rebilled at times directed by the Mayor and City Council.

B. All tax bills, except for ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, shall be paid at Burgin City Hall, located at 117 Maple Street, Burgin, Kentucky 40310, during regular business hours or mailed to Burgin City Hall.

C. Payments by mail shall be considered received on the date the mailing is postmarked by the United States Postal Service or other mail carrier service.

D. Payments shall be made by cash, check, or credit card.

E. Ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles shall be collected by the Mercer County Clerk pursuant to KRS 134.800 *et seq.*

SECTION III

The City of Burgin, Kentucky, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorneys’ fees and other costs incurred by it in collecting delinquent taxes owed pursuant to this ordinance.

SECTION IV

This ordinance shall take effect from and after publication as provided by law.

SECTION V

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed. The provisions of this ordinance are severable, and should any Court determine that any provision of this ordinance is unlawful, then the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall continue in operation.

SECTION VI

Pursuant to KRS 83A.060(7), this ordinance is enacted as an emergency ordinance. The City finds and declares that an emergency exists because any further delay in enacting this ordinance would delay the mailing of ad valorem tax bills and cause undue economic hardship to property owners.

Approved: Mayor Joseph Monroe, Oct. 13, 2026
Attest: City Clerk Angela Stewart, Oct. 13, 2026