Obituaries



JOE GILBERT

Robert Joseph "Joe" Gilbert, 63, of Harrodsburg, died Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026, in Harrodsburg.

Born Dec. 17, 1962, in Danville, he was the son of the late Cecil Evans and Thelma Marie Peters Gilbert.

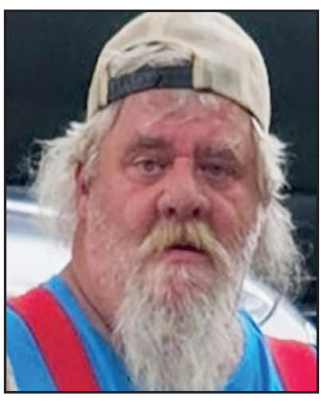
He was a former ATS employee and was a member of Abundant Life Worship Center.

Survivors include: one son, Joey (Lorie) Miller of Danville; one daughter, Samantha (Zachary Maggard) Holt of Science Hill; fiance, Jamie Byrd; ex-wife, Beverly Gilbert; the mother of his children, Rita Gilbert; one brother, Danny Wayne (Kim) Gilbert of Nicholasville; one sister, Helen (the late Eddie) Collins of Harrodsburg; one step son, Steve (Crystal) Cooper of Somerset; one step daughter, Amanda (Josh Buford) Parsons of Harrodsburg; three half brothers, Leroy (Cheryl) Hardin of Junction City, Toby Hardin of Junction City and Cecil (Lisa) Hardin; six grandchildren; nine step grandchildren and 10 step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Roy Gilbert.

Private visitation will be held at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home Inc. and Cremation Services.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.



JAMES GULLETT

James Gullett, 57, widower of Jackie Gullett, died Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Born Oct. 26, 1969, in Harrodsburg he was the son of the late Theresa Marcum Sparks and the late Jerry Douglas and Margaret Freeman Gullett.

Survivors include: two sons, Lonnie Sparks and Tony Sparks; two daughters, Christina Sparks and Tabitha Sparks; one brother, Jerry (Amanda) Gullett; three sisters, Stephanie Brown, Jennifer (Danny) Dunn and Tonya (Mark) Francis; two special nephews, Jared (Alexis) Gullett and Jerry Michael Gullett Jr.; two grandchildren and several other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Renee Gullett, Julie Lambert and Mary Rameraz.

Graveside services will be held 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 30, 2026, at Ebenezer Church of Christ Cemetery.

Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home, Inc. and Cremation Services in charge of arrangements.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.



MARY HAYGOOD

Mary D. Harris Haygood, 90, widow of Frederick Haygood, of Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly of Harrodsburg, died Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at her home.

Born Aug. 12, 1936, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late Margaret and Cogar Harris.

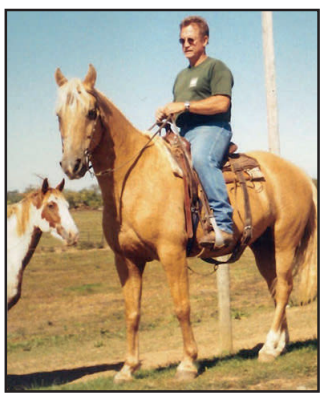
She attended West Side School and graduated Bate High School in Danville, retired from Cincinnati Public Schools and was a longtime member of Historic St. Peters AME Church.

Survivors include: two daughters, Angela Parks of Harrodsburg and Victoria (Damon) Dicks of Cincinnati; two sons, Douglas Haygood of Cincinnati and Dexter Haygood of Harrodsburg; three brothers, John (Mary Elizabeth) Harris, Robert (Gwendolyn) Harris and her twin, Andy Harris; one sister, Martha Sanders of Louisville; one sister-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Harris; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by six brothers Matthew, Jaycee, Henry Allen, Madison Earl (Bernice) and William (Elizabeth) Harris, one sister-in-law, Charlotte Harris and one brother-in-law, Charles Sanders.

Memorial services will be held 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 28, at the Historical St. Peters AME Church. Repast will follow the service at the Mercer County Senior Citizens Center.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Historic St. Peters AME Church, Building Fund, 225 W. Lexington Street, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.



LAWRENCE PURVIS

Lawrence C. Purvis, Jr., 79, died Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at his daughter's home.

Born Feb. 17, 1947, in Frankfort, he was the son of the late Lawrence C. Purvis, Sr. and Anna Lizzie Wise Purvis.

He was a member of Peaks Mill Baptist Church and retired after 38 years from the Sylvania Lamp Plant in Versailles and was a farmer.

Survivors include: two daughters, Rebecca Mechelle Purvis of Harrodsburg and Bethany (Robby) Lynn Mattingly of Lawrenceburg; one son, Bryan Scott Purvis of Frankfort; one sister, Marcella McGill of Frankfort; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Gerald Dean Purvis and one sister, Carolyn Cline

Memorial services were held Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, at the Peaks Mills Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the U.K. Markey Cancer Foundation, 115 Waller Ave. Suite 204, Lexington, KY 40503.

Arrangements by Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.ritchieandpeach.com.



LUANN YEAGER

Lucille Ann "Luann" Yeager, 90, of Harrodsburg, widow of Ralph M. Rigsby and Larry Yeager, died Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, at her home.

Born June 12, 1936, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late William Shelton and Celia (Corman) Hahn.

She was a homemaker and was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include: one son, William "Billy" Rigsby of Lexington; one brother, Robert "Bob" Hahn of Lexington; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the at www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com.

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cies in certified local governments to support facade improvements to historic buildings. Once Bluegrass ADD, which is serving as the administrator, receives the funding, grants would also be available to Burgin and other areas in Mercer County.

On Monday, House noted it was a non-matching grant program which is designed to fund what she called brick-and-mortar projects.

"We're going to see real work on historical buildings in this community," House told the commissioners.

She said they were still waiting on details from the federal government.

House attributed getting the grant to Harrodsburg's status as a certified local government, in which House played a key role in acquiring.

House told the commission that the city had also received a grant from the park service to redo the historic design guidelines. She said the Architectural Preservation Commission partnered with the James Harrod Trust to secure the necessary matching funds. House said a consultant has returned the new guidelines to them after several public meetings.

"We will start after the first of the year working through that document," House told the commissioners Monday.

The guidelines must be approved by both the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission and the Harrodsburg City Commission.

House also told the commissioners that she hopes to hold a dedication ceremony for a new bronze historical marker at the former Harrodsburg Armory next Veterans Day. The plaque must be manufactured in a foundry. When they finally receive it, House said they hope to involve surviving families in the dedication ceremony.

The armory—one of eight armories built by the Works Progress Administration from 1941 to 1942, according to the Kentucky Heritage Council website—is the home of the Harrodsburg Tankers. On Monday, Mayor Bob Williams suggested holding the ceremony as part of next year's Ruck March, which honors the Tankers.

Tentative Date Set for Town Hall Meeting

A tentative date has been set for the town hall to discuss the ordinance which would allow for the construction of a single hyperscale data center. Mayor Bob Williams said the tentative date is Thursday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Stables (560 Linden Avenue). Because of the holidays, Williams said they are still working out details.

Following state law, the mayor said they would notify the public of any changes by posting a notice at the meeting site and online.

"Keep an eye on the Facebook page," Williams said.

In October, the commission approved a zoning ordinance amendment which would allow a single hyperscale data center to be built after the Mercer County Fiscal Court sent it back to the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission, which had drafted it after a series of public meetings.

In other business, the Harrodsburg City Commission:

• Heard a proposal by Harrodsburg Fire Chief Jamie Keebortz to take personnel from Station 2—which is located on U.S. 127—and move them back to Station 1 on Broadway. Keebortz said Station 2 will still be used to house equipment.

Keebortz said he would like AmeriPro, which handles emergency medical services in Mercer County, to move out of Station 1.

The chief was asked why he wanted to consolidate operations at Station 1.

"We are currently sitting at 16 employees," Keebortz said. He said they have five people on each shift to man four apparatus split between two stations.

"One truck has to sit and wait until the other shows up," Keebortz told the commissioners. "Time matters."

By consolidating his crew at one station, he said, it would ensure everyone arrived at the same time.

"Our services are better utilized if we all arrive at the same time," Keebortz said.

Commissioner Charlie Mattingly objected, citing the same reason the city used when it originally split operations. If there was a train, the fire department could be delayed in responding to a call.

"You couldn't get back across the tracks," Mattingly said.

"We have a way around the tracks," Keebortz said. He said his crew recently had to deal with a stopped train. The chief said housing his personnel at one station would help with unit cohesion. Keebortz said he had spoken with AmeriPro and said they were positive about having all their personnel at one station as well

"If I can get everybody under the same roof and we can get all our apparatus there at one time, I feel that would be better," the chief said.

Chief Administrative Officer Stacey Maynard said she's spoken with Mercer County Judge-Executive Sarah Steele about it. Maynard said they would have to renegotiate the agreement with AmeriPro.

"From a financial perspective, they should be paying rent," Maynard said.

While she didn't think the city would see a significant decrease in expenses, she didn't see any reason they couldn't do it.

"It's all doable," Maynard said.

"If we were to approve it, how quickly would it happen?" Mayor Williams asked.

"The boys are watching," Keebortz said. "They would probably move in 10 minutes."

Mayor Williams said he shared Commissioner Mattingly's concerns, but proposed a six-month trial in which they'd track response times compared with having personnel in two different locations.

"Let us mull over this," Williams said, noting the commissioners had just received the proposal. The mayor said they would discuss the best course of action.

• Approved street closures for two events. The commission approved closing Main Street from Short Street to just past the Office Street intersection, and West Office Street from just before the Main Street intersection to East Office just past the Harrodsburg Christian Church on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the Santa Shuffle Ice Skating Rink.

They also approved closures for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day march on Monday, Jan. 18, 2027, starting at 10:45 a.m. Street closures will include Chiles Street from the Harrodsburg Baptist Church garage to Lexington Street, and from Lexington Street to Main Street and Main Street back to the Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

"We have really tried to expand our march," said Chris Walker, a member of the MLK Day planning committee. Breakfast will be served starting at 10 a.m. with the commemorative march scheduled to start 10:45 a.m.

• Awarded the gas franchise to Atmos Energy, which will pay 3 percent of gross revenue per year for 20 years.

• Approved surplussing a 1999 Ford Mustang which the Harrodsburg Police Department obtained through a drug dealer. The city will sell the car on govdeals.com.

Learned the flashing lights on Moberly Road should be operative soon. Commissioner Marvin "Bubby" Isham said the manufacturer had sent them the wrong cable. Isham said it would take 10 minutes to finally start the lights once they receive the correct cable.

The next regular meeting of the Harrodsburg City Commission is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14, at noon at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street).

INVITATION TO BID

The city of Harrodsburg Fire Department is accepting sealed bids for battery over hydraulic extrication tools. Bid specifications can be picked up at Harrodsburg City Hall, 208 S. Main St. Harrodsburg, KY 40330 or at Fire Station 1 located at 125 W. Broadway St., Harrodsburg, KY 40330. Bids need to be turned in to the city clerk no later than December 10, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. EST

Bids will be opened December 10, 2026 at 12:30 P.M. EST in the conference room at City Hall. Bids will be awarded at the Harrodsburg City Commission meeting on December 14, 2026. Meeting begins at 12:00 P.M. EST.

The city reserves the right to waive formalities and reject any and all bids or to accept other than the lowest evaluated bid if deemed in the best interest of the city.

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