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OBITUARIES

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www.murrayledger.com

email: obits@murrayledger.com

Edna Ruth Futrell Butler

Edna Ruth (Futrell) Butler, 85, of Murray, Kentucky, went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at Spring Creek Health Care in Murray.

Born in Calloway County on Oct. 28, 1940, she was the only child of Robert Alexander Futrell and Irene (McDaniel) Futrell.

She proudly graduated from Murray High School with the Class of 1959 and then married the love of her life, Jerry Don Butler, on Dec. 16, 1961. Together they welcomed a precious daughter, Andrea Renee, on May 24, 1966, and Edna embraced her calling as a devoted wife and mother.

She also dedicated her

life to serving the Lord through Spring Creek Baptist Church in Almo. There she taught herself to play the piano, served as a Sunday school teacher, and dedicated many years as both a member and director of the WMU. She was also instrumental in sharing Christ's love through the children's puppet ministry, touching the lives of countless young hearts.

In addition to her daughter, Andrea Renee Butler, who passed away Aug. 2, 1983, she was also preceded in death by her parents; her grandparents, Robert



Lee and Effie Mae (Scott) Futrell, and Ed and Eula (Wallace) McDaniel; and her parents-in-law, Carmon and Margrie Butler.

Edna is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Jerry Don Butler of Murray; her brother-in-law, Rickey Dale (Kathy) Butler of Hazel; a niece, Tina Butler (Barry) Ward of Hazel; and nephews, Craig (Kim) Butler of Owensboro and Michael (Jennifer) Butler of Murray. She will also be dearly missed by several great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, friends, and church family.

The funeral service will

be at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 18, 2026, in the chapel of Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with James Stom and Doug Sanders officiating. Burial will follow in Spring Creek Cemetery, Almo. Visitation will be after 10 a.m. until the service hour Saturday, July 18, 2026, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Spring Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Billy Pyle, 394 Lovers Lane, Benton, KY 42025.

Online condolences may be left at www.blalockcolemanfuneralhome.com.

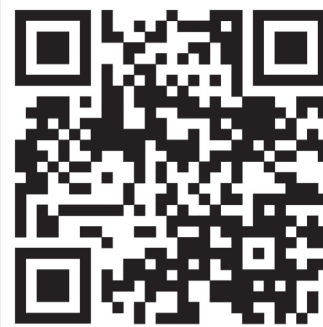
Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Eldridge 'Harold' Swift

Eldridge "Harold" Swift, 85, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Friday, July 17, 2026, at his daughter's home in Magnolia, Texas.

Arrangements are incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

To read all local obits, visit our website!



HAWKINS TEAGUE / Ledger & Times

Terry McCreary speaks to Murray City Council members Thursday about his concerns about data centers during a public hearing for a proposed ordinance that would set regulations for the facilities.

Council From front

Resources Council before being reviewed and revised by the Murray Planning Commission following public input on June 9.

During the City Council's regular monthly meeting on June 11, members passed a one-week moratorium on data center applications to give the Planning Commission time to consider the input from the public hearing, and commissioners then forwarded another revised ordinance on June 16. The council's first reading of the ordinance took place during a special-called June 18 meeting.

"That is the ordinance that the hearing will be held concerning tonight," Rogers said.

Rogers said he appointed a committee consisting of council members, City Attorney Warren Hopkins and planning staff "to review the ordinance, to consider all the

input that has been given, and to bring back an ordinance for a future reading." Five people addressed the council during Thursday's hearing, with speakers largely urging city officials to strengthen the proposed regulations or delay adoption while additional revisions are made.

Tara Lynn Kallaher, a Murray resident who identified herself as an expert in liability risk transfer and risk management, urged council members to incorporate mandatory risk management requirements directly into the ordinance rather than relying on conditions attached to individual conditional use permits.

"These protections should be in the ordinance itself, rather than leaving them to the individualized conditional use permit process," Kallaher said. "Annual reviews are no substitute for clear binding

requirements that apply automatically."

She said she had submitted written recommendations to the city, stating they were intentionally drafted to withstand potential legal challenges.

"If these gaps (in the current ordinance draft) remain open, costs of any incidents and lawsuits will fall on the city residents and taxpayers, not the operator," Kallaher said.

Brandy Valentine of Henry, Tennessee, asked the council to postpone adopting the ordinance, saying she believes the current draft contains significant flaws. Valentine criticized several provisions in the proposed ordinance, including allowable slopes for development, setbacks from residential areas and sinkholes, generator regulations and water management standards. She argued stricter limitations would discourage large-scale data center projects from locating in the area.

"We need more time," Valentine said. "The current draft contains severe, dangerous structural flaws that leave (Murray) completely unprotected."

Ken Wolf of Murray thanked city officials for studying the issue and said the discussion should extend beyond environmental concerns to include data privacy. He encouraged city officials to ask prospective developers how information collected and stored at facilities would be used.

"I'm very impressed with the thoroughness of the council and the folks I've just heard today, too," Wolf said.

"I appreciate the thoughtfulness. This is a very serious issue, and the main issues that I've heard discussed and read about are air, water and energy. There's a fourth one that hasn't been discussed ... I think you've taken the bull by the horns in even addressing data centers, but we need to remember the key word is 'data.'"

"Aside from the water, air, and social and political implications of these things, we need to remember the data that's being collected. It started 30 years ago with AI, artificial intelligence, and with computers generally. People in this country and all over the country now are invading our privacy to a great extent, and I don't think the data centers should do anything to contribute to that."

Terry McCreary of Murray cited headlines involving lawsuits and disputes over data centers in other states, including complaints about noise, permitting and water pollution. He urged the city to consider a complete moratorium on data centers similar to one he said had been adopted in Oklahoma.

"I think it's very apparent that a multi-billion-dollar company that comes in and builds a data center is going to do what it ... pleases, regardless of any contracts, any paper that you happen to have, and I think you really ought to consider that before you even think about allowing a data center."

Ron Hargrove of Murray questioned how many local jobs a data center would create and expressed concerns about noise, chemicals, water use and electricity demand.

"I think it's all those together (that would create) a very adverse condition for the residents of Murray, Kentucky," Hargrove said.

In other business before the hearing, the council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing Rogers to apply for a Kentucky Office of Homeland Security grant of up to \$100,000 for communications equipment for the Murray Fire Department. City Administrator Jim Osborne said the grant requires no local matching funds.

"We haven't received the grant," Osborne noted. "It's just simply a resolution authorizing us to apply."

The council also unanimously awarded a contract for five water system improvement projects to low bidder D-Port in the amount of \$460,336. Projects Manager Marisa Stewart said the projects include replacing water lines on Story, Seventh, 10th, 11th and 13th streets. When asked by Councilman Danny Hudseph why D-Port's bid was significantly lower than the other three bids, Stewart said the company frequently uses boring methods instead of open-cut trenching.

"We've worked with them a couple of times now, and they actually come in low because they bore a lot of their lines," Stewart said. "So they don't have to open trench and pave, close down streets and all that."

All council members attended Thursday's meeting except Terry Strieter and Monty McCuiston. The council's next regular meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Aug. 13. ■

Theft From front

allegedly knowingly kept the package and deprived its owner of the property.

Van Lawson, 37, of Murray, was charged with theft of mail matter (Class D felony) and lodged in the Callo-

way County Jail.

CCSO encourages anyone who witnesses unusual or suspected criminal activity to call 270-753-3151 or email ccsso.office@callkyso.com.

Individuals facing criminal charges are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. ■