

Fiscal

from 1A

member of the group told the fiscal court. “We will never forget you.”

In other business, the Mercer County Fiscal Court:

Approved the resignation of Mercer County Jailer Bret “Chambo” Chamberlain, effective Friday, July 17. In his letter of resignation, Chamberlain, who had not filed to run for reelection in this year’s general election, said he had been injured in May 2025, and he would not be able to return to his duty in any capacity. In this letter, Chamberlain said he had served as the Mercer County Jailer for nearly 12 years and had worked for the Kentucky Department of Corrections for nearly 37 years.

“We wish him well,” Judge Steele said Tuesday.

Steele appointed Dep. Garland Christopher to fill out Chamberlain’s term as jailer through Dec. 31. Christopher, who was sworn in Tuesday with his family beside him, will take office July 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Christopher won the Republican primary for Mercer County jailer earlier this year. He will still be on the ballot in November.

“Garland has helped me survive the last year,” Steele said Tuesday. “Thank you all for getting us through that.”

The magistrates also appointed Christopher to the jailer’s duties as provided under state law, including 40 hours of training.

“We’re losing one of our biggest assets,” said Sheriff Ernie Kelty. “I can replace the position, but I cannot replace Garland.”

Christopher has served as the sheriff’s office code enforcement officer. He has also assisted Kelty in directing traffic at Mercer County schools. Kelty said Volunteer Dep. Chuck Bugg would help out, but he’s informed the district about handling school traffic, which will be complicated not only by Christopher’s absence but by the opening of the new elemen-

tary school.

“That is going to be a problem that we’ve got to work on,” Kelty said.

In addition to replacing the ordinance officer, the sheriff’s office is also looking to fill two bailiff positions.

- Made personnel moves. The magistrates voted to hire Joseph Mattingly and Nicholas Wilson for the road department at \$16.50 an hour, effective July 20.

- Made appointments. The magistrates authorized Lisa Keller to switch positions on the Mercer County Ethics Board with Austin Cocanougher. Keller will move to an alternate role, while Cocanougher will serve as secretary and a full-time member. Cocanougher’s term expires Jan. 31, 2030, while Keller’s term will expire Jan. 31, 2027.

- Approved the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office second quarter report and tax settlement. Magistrates Julie Popplewell and Susan

Barrington were selected to approve and accept the report.

- Heard an update from Mercer County Fire Chief David Goodlett, who told the fiscal court the new officers for the Mercer County Fire Protection District’s board of directors are Chairman Steven Bailey, Vice Chairman Bill Elliott, Treasurer J.D. Case and Secretary Monty Kelly.

- Approved an agreement between the county and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways for \$610,000 in Local Assistance Road Program funds.

Mercer County will host an open house at the new animal shelter (896 Moberly Road) on Saturday, July 18,

starting at 2 p.m. The new director, Lisa Coleman, will be on hand, as will representatives from the Mercer County Humane Society and Puppy-love Ky. Tours of the new facility will take place every 30 minutes.

The next meeting of the Mercer County Fiscal Court will be Tuesday, July 28, at 10 a.m. at the Mercer County Fiscal Courthouse (207 West Lexington Street). For more information, visit mercercounty.ky.gov.



Happy 70th Birthday
Marsha Baby!
Love, Blair

Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education or 504 Services 2026-2027

The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts keep educational records in a secure location in each school and Board office.

The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts obtain written consent from a parent or eligible student (age 18 or who is attending a postsecondary institution), before disclosing personally identifiable information to an entity or individual not authorized to receive it under FERPA.

For students who have been determined eligible for Special Education, educational records will be destroyed at the request of the parents when they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts may destroy the educational records of a child without parent request seven years after they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. Parents are advised that data contained in the records may later be needed for Social Security benefits or other purposes. The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts may retain, for an indefinite period of time, a record of the student’s name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Children eligible for Special Education include those children with disabilities who have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, emotional-behavior disability, hearing impairment, mental disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment and who because of such an impairment need Special Education services.

Children eligible for 504 services include those children in a public elementary and secondary education program who have a current physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some major life activity, which causes the student’s ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited.

Children eligible for the State-Funded Preschool program include three- and four-year-old children identified with disabilities and four-year-old children who are at-risk, as defined by federal poverty levels up to 160%. Preschool children eligible for special education must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) instead of a 504 plan to receive State-Funded Preschool program services.

The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts have an ongoing “Child Find” system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

Both district’s “Child Find” system includes children with disabilities attending private or home schools within the school district boundaries who may need special education services.

The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parents of the child.

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number(s) of the parents or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education or 504 services are needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts collect the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education or 504 services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts, who may have a disability and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please call or send the information to:

Mercer County Schools

Attn: Emily Pittman
Director of Special Education
Section 504 Coordinator
530 Perryville Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-733-7000

Burgin Independent Schools

Attn: Shanna Hale
Director of Special Education
Section 504 Coordinator
140 Danville Rd., PO Box B
Burgin, KY 40310
859-748-4000

If you know of a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call or send the information to:

Mercer County Schools

Attn: Emily Pittman
Director of Special Education
Section 504 Coordinator
530 Perryville Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
859-733-7000

Burgin Independent Schools

Attn: Shanna Hale
Director of Special Education
Section 504 Coordinator
140 Danville Rd., PO Box B
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“Child Find” activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. Any information the District collects through “Child Find” is maintained confidentially.

Written Policies and Procedures have been developed which describe the District’s requirements regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and “Child Find” activities. There are copies in the Principal’s office of each school, and in the Board of Education office. Copies of these Policies and Procedures may be obtained by contacting each District’s Central Office.

The Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts provide public notices in the native language or other mode of communication of the various populations in the geographical boundaries of the District to the extent feasible.

If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner or mode of communication, please contact the Director of Special Education or the Section 504 Coordinator at the address or phone number listed above for the Burgin Independent and Mercer County School Districts.

Hburg

from 1A

rens said. She said state law gives certain requirements to the city. She said Burgin has to comply with state law and give the City of Harrodsburg 14 days’ notice of the annexation of land with Harrodsburg infrastructure.

“They have not provided us with any notice,” Currans said. “We have some grave concerns with what is happening over there.”

In addition, Harrodsburg has an easement on the farm that the main waterline runs through, Currans said.

Harrodsburg also provides Burgin with drinking water. Currans said Harrodsburg’s water contract with Burgin expired in 2024. Since then, they’ve been operating month to month. That contract requires Harrodsburg to provide Burgin with water for industrial use. There is no limit on that amount of water. At Monday’s meeting, Currans asked the Harrodsburg City Commission to authorize her to draft an objection to the annexation and to authorize Mayor Bob Williams to sign it.

Currans said once the objection has been submitted, they would attempt to draft an

interlocal agreement between the two cities.

On Monday, Harrodsburg city officials expressed concern about the possibility of a hyperscale data center in Burgin. Especially one that used Harrodsburg water to operate.

“Somebody uses that much water,” Harrodsburg Commissioner Marvin “Bubby” Isham said. “It could break the City of Harrodsburg quickly.”

Another issue was the rights Harrodsburg granted to farm owners who gave the city easements to locate city infrastructure on their property, dating back to 1956. Commissioner Isham said Harrodsburg had lost a lawsuit over those rights.

Mayor Williams said the agreement was initially to secure an easement for Harrodsburg to run a waterline. Each farm was provided with a tap every 2,000 feet.

“When it was raw water, it was fine,” Mayor Williams said. “When we started sending treated water, it became a little bit more usable.”

The original rate has been in place since 1956. Williams said they’ve had issues in the past with overuse of treated water.

“Right now we’ve got enough to address,” Williams said.

Currans said the city has considered rerouting the waterline, but the project would cost \$30 million.

“The annexation procedure that they failed to follow is the basis of our objection,” Currans said. “If they go forward and we don’t do anything, we’re going to waive our rights.”

Noting that Burgin at the time of the meeting did not have a mayor, Currans said she would hand-deliver it to the Burgin city clerk and place it in the mailbox for the Burgin City Council members.

The Harrodsburg City Commission voted unanimously to object to the annexation.

“We’ve got to do what’s best for the City of Harrodsburg,” Mayor Williams said.

The next scheduled meeting of the Harrodsburg City Commission will be Monday, July 27, at noon at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street). A calendar with meeting dates and other information is available online at harrodsburgky.gov.

from 1A

Burgin

Here are the properties Burgin is in the process of annexing, listed by PVA number, address, size and owner.

- PVA 073.00-00007.00, a 48-acre farm located at 1594 Shakertown Road and owned by John Zac and Andrea W. Gross.

- PVA 067.00-00025.01, an 80-acre farm located at 690 Handy Pike owned by Bruce W. and Charissa Wade

- PVA 067.00-00033.00, a 110-acre farm on Maude Lane owned by the Roy Thomas Vanarsdall Revocable Trust

- PVA 073.00-00003.00, a 42.53-acre farm on Handy Pike owned by Dun Romin Inc.

- PVA 067.00-00050.00, a 99.13-acre farm on Handy Pike owned by AFI-006 LLC.

- PVA 067.00-00032.00, a 68.85-acre farm located at 394 Handy Pike owned by Jerry and Connie Shepherd.

- PVA 073.00-00003.01, a two-acre lot located on Bailey Pike owned by Sue

Mahaffey.

- PVA 067.00-00030.00, a 220.87-acre farm located at 231 Bailey Pike owned by AFI-006 LLC.

- PVA 073.00-00002.00, a 33-acre farm located on Bailey Pike owned by Dun Romin Inc.

- PVA 067.00-00031.00, a 233.8-acre farm located on Handy Pike owned by AFI-006 LLC.

The Harrodsburg Herald also confirmed one of the parties involved in planning the data center.

“We can confirm that Panattoni Data Centers is under contract to purchase the property and is evaluating the development of a data center campus,” said a spokesperson for Panattoni Data Centers via email. “The project is in the early stages and we are working with local officials as Panattoni moves through our evaluation of the site.

“As the project moves forward, we look forward to working closely with the community, local leaders

and other stakeholders,” the spokesperson wrote. “Much of the work to date has focused on technical planning and due diligence to determine possible development, but we’re approaching a stage where we can begin sharing more information, answering questions, and listening to community feedback. We’re committed to being a transparent and collaborative partner throughout the process.”

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission has released the second draft of a proposed ordinance dealing with data centers. The commission set a date for the public meeting on the proposed data center ordinance at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, at the Campbellsville University Harrodsburg Campus gymnasium.

Readers can find the draft online at harrodsburgherald.com and on the Mercer County Fiscal Court’s website.

from 4A

Mayor

sary to provide workers’ compensation coverage for city employees.

- Approved John Owens, doing business as D1 Academy, to continue renting space at the former Harrodsburg armory building through July 31 for \$500. Mayor Williams said Owens plans to be out of the building by July 31.

- Appointed Will McGinnis to be the Mercer County Ethics Board to replace Jason Tyler.

Announced that the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development

Authority will host a stakeholder breakfast at the Bluegrass Innovation Gateway (BIG) site on Thursday, July 16, starting at 8:30 a.m. The industrial development authority will offer tours of the site. At Monday’s meeting, Greyson Evans, executive director of the industrial development authority, said Mercer County had been ranked sixth in the nation for economic development by Site Selection magazine.

“We’re very, very excited,” Evans told the commis-

sion. “It’s getting noticed by national publications.”

“That’s something to be proud of,” Mayor Williams said.

“Obviously, they don’t see Facebook,” joked Commissioner Jack Coleman.

The next scheduled meeting of the Harrodsburg City Commission will be Monday, July 27, at noon at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street). A calendar with meeting dates and other information is available online at harrodsburgky.gov.