

Fiscal

possible impact on the rural community.

“I’d like to go ahead and move to deny it and return it to the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission,” Steele said.

Magistrate Tim Darland seconded Steele’s motion. Before the vote, Magistrates Susan Barrington and Kevin Hicks also spoke.

Barrington said she represents district four. “My duty is to my constituents,” she said. Barrington said the community’s economy and identity are based on what she called “beautiful farmland,” as well as tourism, citing Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Herrington Lake, and the Kentucky River.

“What district four is facing is unprecedented,” Barrington said. The magistrate said the district is being threatened by a “monstrous hyper-scale data center” which she said would result in the total destruction of topsoil. Noting there has been fierce opposition to the data center.

“This is all about the principle of the thing,” Barrington said. “Not the best thing, the right thing.”

She said the text amendment created an I-T zone that would accommodate a hyper-scale data center. Listing her concerns—power consumption, water consumption, land with multiyear construction, constant operation with constant light and noise—she said she was worried about the project’s impact on Shaker Village and several lakeside subdivisions.

Barrington also said technology could make the data center obsolete before construction is completed.

“District four would be stuck with a monstrosity,” Barrington said.

She said all data centers, regardless of size, should be

prohibited in Mercer County, earning applause.

Magistrate Hicks decried the rancor generated by the topic, including death threats and charges that elected officials were in cahoots with data center developers.

“Mercer County, we are better than that,” Hicks said. “God expects better than that.” “We don’t feel like this furthers our county right now,” Hicks said.

“Lighten up,” he exhorted the crowd. “God expects it.”

Fiscal Court Left In Dark On Broadband Project

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Mercer County Fiscal Court revealed that progress on the \$26 million project to deliver internet service to 3,332 unserved houses and businesses appears to have stopped.

In 2023, the fiscal court committed \$1.5 million towards the project, which includes a minimum contribution of \$12.4 million from All Points Broadband, while the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s contribution would be \$14.5 million.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Judge-Executive Sarah Steele said the contract is supposed to end at the end of this year. Steele said the contractor, Congruex, is no longer working for All Points.

She said Congruex had finished its part of the contract, including cleanup.

“We’re getting no updates,” Steele said. She said the fiscal court had two points of contact with All Points, but there has been no response

“We have no new information,” Steele said.

The judge said the Kentucky Office of Broadband had no further information beyond revealing that All Points filed for an extension.

“It has been extended to June 2027,” Steele said, and

she felt they would not be done by then.

Magistrate Tim Darland said he can understand delays, but not the lack of information.

“They could answer the phone,” Darland said.

Magistrate Stephen “Pete” Elliott said All Points has not provided monthly updates as they promised.

Steele said most of the work has been concentrated in Salvisa, including Bohon, Hopewell and Bondville Roads.

“They have laid the fiber in those areas,” Steele said.

If the contract expires without the work being completed, they will need to see what they can do. Steele said the grant money received for the broadband expansion was specific to All Points.

“That grant money is gone,” the judge said.

Fiscal Court Awards Bids for Roney Road and Oregon Road projects

On Tuesday, the Mercer County Fiscal Court awarded bids for Roney Road and Oregon Road projects. Flooding in June damaged both roads. Officials hope the federal government will reimburse the county.

The fiscal court awarded the contract to rebuild the concrete bridge on Roney Road to EH Construction and Firm Foundation, who bid \$66,444.

The court also awarded the contract to replace the washed-out section of Oregon Road to GeoStabilization International, which bid \$1,239,250. The storm-damaged section of Oregon Road has been shut down since June.

Two companies bid for the work at Roney Road, but only one company bid for the Oregon Road project.

“We asked several companies to come,” Judge-Executive Sarah Steele said Tuesday.

“There are not a lot of companies that do this.”

Judge Steele said the county has enough money in reserve to complete the projects, but they’re hoping for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She said they do not expect to receive the reimbursement this year. She said they could move forward on completion and filing for reimbursement.

Road Department Director Todd Palmer said it would take up to eight weeks to complete the Oregon Road project, which does not include black-topping.

On Tuesday, the fiscal court also gave first reading to a budget amendment related to road repairs on Jackson Pike.

In other business, the Mercer County Fiscal Court:

Gave second reading to an interlocal agreement giving Burgin seats on both the planning and zoning commission and the board of adjustments and appeals. Once approved, the planning and zoning commission will become the Harrodsburg-Burgin-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission and expand to 11 members. The county would appoint five members, Harrodsburg four, and Burgin two.

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals would become the Harrodsburg-Burgin-Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals and expand to seven members, with the county and Harrodsburg appointing three and Burgin appointing one.

The jurisdiction of both boards would include all the unincorporated land in Mercer County as well as all land within the corporate limits of Harrodsburg and Burgin

• Approved two projects the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission is planning for Anderson-Dean

Community Park, including a \$450,000 project to install two turf baseball fields and another project to create a one-acre dog park. The tourist commission will pay for the turf field project, which it will take over operations for on Oct. 1, while the dog park will be mainly funded through a sponsorship from Community Trust Bank.

The fiscal court, which co-owns the park with the City of Harrodsburg, must approve any projects above \$25,000.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Daarik Gray, executive director of the tourist commission, introduced Evan Teague, the new maintenance director at Anderson-Dean. Gray told the magistrates that the tourist commission would have other projects at Anderson-Dean for the county to approve.

• Made personnel moves.

The fiscal court voted to accept the resignation of animal control center attendant Marty Hurst, whose last day will be Sunday, Oct. 4. They also voted to hire Elijah Norton as full-time animal control center attendant at \$20 an hour effective Monday, Oct. 5. Norton’s former county posi-

tion as part-time solid waste position will be posted. The magistrates also approved the county official training incentive.

• Approved applying for the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Deceased Animal Removal Program.

• Gave second reading to a zone change: for a 1.240-acre tract from A-1 to A-3. The property is located at 1015 Lexington Road in Mercer County and owned by the Mercer County Cooperative Extension District Board.

• Received the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office 2024 Tax Settlement, including a \$443.62 settlement check that was presented to the county.

• Received presentations from the Mercer County Senior Citizens—now the Mercer County Activity Center—and AmeriPro EMS.

The next regular meeting of the Mercer County Fiscal Court is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. at the Mercer County Fiscal Court-house (207 West Lexington Street). For more information, visit mercercounty.ky.gov.

Judge

3rd-degree fleeing or evading police and failure to report an accident in excess of \$500. The charges stem from his involvement in the fatal July 4 boating collision on Herrington Lake. He also faces two lawsuits, including one focused on property transfers between Casey and his brother after the accident.

Casey’s attorney, Brandon Marshall, entered a plea of not guilty on his client’s behalf in Mercer District Court on Sept. 2. Marshall also asked for a reduction in Casey’s \$1 million bond, citing his client’s lack of criminal history.

The court held an hour-long hearing Wednesday, Sept. 23, to consider the motion. According to WKYT, Casey’s attorneys argued that his family and business connections here in Harrodsburg would motivate him to comply with the terms of home incarceration if released.

Casey’s mother, Lynette Casey, said she would hold her son accountable.

“It would be in his best interest to follow whatever rules that are laid out. He will do that and I will make sure he does,” Lynette Casey said, according to WKYT.

Prosecutors said Casey’s actions on the night of the July 4 collision should keep his bond at \$1 million. One witness, a law enforcement officer, testified Casey left the scene of the crash. Christian Cornett, the officer with a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife who took Casey into custody, said the defendant fled to avoid being found drunk.

“At that point we didn’t know Mr. Casey had gone to or where he was. No one knew...he had jumped off the golf cart,” Cornett testified, according to WKYT.

Casey was located by the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office later that night and turned over to the KFW.

According to WKYT, Cornett read part of one of Casey Cody’s messages in court: “In case sh** hits the fan, and I am incapacitated. A list of people who got

big money and cash readily accessible. You didn’t make that cut, sorry, and laughy face. But under it is a list of OGs who got my back, the type that, like it, would need to kill someone, no questions asked.”

Casey is being charged for his role in an Independence Day collision on Herrington Lake between the wake boat he was operating and a pontoon boat operated by Alex Svintozelskiy, 58, of Nicholasville.

One passenger on the pontoon, Nazar Svintozelskiy, 25, of Nicholasville, was ejected into the water in the collision, according to the KFW. Nazar Svintozelskiy’s body was recovered two days later.

Casey was indicted by the Mercer County Grand Jury on Aug. 18, and taken into custody by Cornett, according to the uniform citation.

He also faces at least two lawsuits filed by Antonina Svintozelskaya, Andrew Fomin and Lina Fomin in Mercer Circuit Court.

In the first suit, Casey is being sued for negligence, gross negligence and failure to render aid.

The plaintiffs, the parents of the minor children who were on board the pontoon boat on Herrington Lake on July 4, are asking for damages related to the collision.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs say Casey was operating a 2017 Axis watercraft with an outboard Monsoon engine on Herrington Lake.

In the moments leading up to the collision, the plaintiffs say Casey operated his watercraft in “a reckless and dangerous manner by driving at an excessive rate of speed, performing repeated ‘donuts’ and other erratic maneuvers” while in close proximity to other boaters during a busy holiday weekend.

The plaintiffs are accusing Casey of accelerating his watercraft as he “approached the plaintiffs’ stationary pontoon boat.”

“Several of the plaintiffs saw the oncoming boat and

waved and screamed to get his attention,” the lawsuit says.

The plaintiffs say Casey’s watercraft “violently struck plaintiffs’ pontoon boat head-on, causing catastrophic damage to the pontoon boat,”

Another lawsuit filed by the same plaintiffs against Casey and his brother, Jesse Casey, accuses Casey of transferring several vehicles to his brother on July 10, just days after the collision. The plaintiffs claim the transfers were made without receiving fair value and were intended to hinder, delay or defraud victims seeking compensation through the courts.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs argue several factors point to fraudulent transfers, including that the assets were transferred to a relative, that Casey allegedly retained control of the assets and that the transfers occurred after litigation

was threatened or pending. The lawsuit also alleges the transfers left Casey insolvent or otherwise unable to satisfy potential judgments.

The plaintiffs are accusing defendants of fraudulent asset transfers, voidable transfer—actual fraud (two counts) and civil conspiracy, and are asking for avoidance of all transfers between defendants, an injunction against further disposition by defendant

The plaintiffs are asking the court to attach transferred assets or other property, to appoint a receiver over the assets if necessary and for a money judgment against Jesse Casey for the fair market value of the transferred assets, plus any and all other relief.

A separate lawsuit involving Nazar Svintozelskiy and his father, Alex, who was seriously injured, is pending, according to media reports.

from 1A

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications) Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: The Harrodsburg Herald

2. Publication Number: 0 2 3 6 1 2 0

3. Filing Date: 09-25-2026

4. Issue Frequency: Weekly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 52

6. Annual Subscription Price: 40.00, \$3.25, 67.50

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 131 N. Chiles St., P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): Same

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): April M. Ellis, P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, KY 40330 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Robert Moore, P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, KY 40330 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): April M. Ellis, P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.): Full Name Complete Mailing Address Myron & April Ellis 357 Runyon Rd, Harrodsburg, KY 40330 Tim & Donna Murphy 863 Roanoke Dr., Harrodsburg, KY 40330

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: [X] None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one): [X] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months [] Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (see instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: The Harrodsburg Herald

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09-17-2026

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 1852 1800

b. Paid Circulation (By Mail): (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 200 174 (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 488 488 (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: 403 414 (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): None None

c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 1090 1076

d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 6 6 (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 3 3 (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): None None (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): None None

e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)): 9 9

f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 1099 1085

g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page 43)): 753 715

h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 1852 1800

i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): 99.18% 99.18%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Paid Electronic Copies: 250 265

b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 1340 1341

c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 1349 1350

d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100): 99.33% 99.33%

[X] I certify that 90% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: [X] If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10-1-2026 issue of this publication. [] Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: April M. Ellis Publisher Date: 09-25-26

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MERCER CO. TAXPAYERS NOTICE

The 2026 County tax bills are now due and payable. If you have not received your bill, please contact the Sheriff’s Office at 859-734-4221. When mailing in your payment, please include your copy of the tax bill or put the bill number on your check. If you wish a receipt returned to you, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

NOTICE – THIS YEAR THE TAX BILLS WILL NOT BE ON YELLOW POST CARDS. THEY WILL BE ON WHITE POST CARDS WITH A YELLOW STRIP ACROSS THE FRONT. PLEASE DON’T MISTAKE THEM FOR JUNK MAIL

2% Discount – OCTOBER 1 THRU NOVEMBER 1, 2026
Face Amount – NOVEMBER 2 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2026
5% Penalty – JANUARY 1 THRU JANUARY 31, 2027
10% Penalty + 10% Add-on – FEBRUARY 1 THRU APRIL 15, 2027

Payments made during the 10% penalty period, Feb. 1 thru April 15, are subject to an additional 10% add-on sheriff’s fee. Under provisions of House Bill 262, the Sheriff’s Office will be required to transfer all unpaid tax bills to the County Clerk’s Office at the close of business on April 15, 2027. The County Clerk will then add on additional fees and interest.

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ERNIE KELTY - SHERIFF OF MERCER COUNTY