

OBITUARY

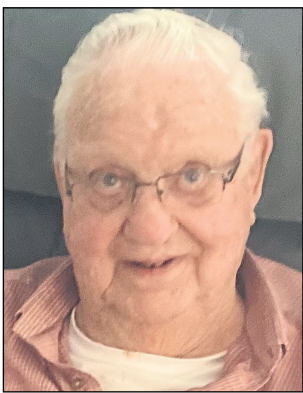
Donald Dean Adams, 89

BALLARDSVILLE — Donald Dean Adams, age 89, of Ballardsville, Ky. passed away peacefully with his family by his side at home on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2026.

He was born to the late Joel and Viola (Ellis) Adams on Aug. 14, 1937, in Shelbyville, Ky.

Don started work as a truck driver picking bulk milk from local dairies in Oldham and Henry counties. He switched to hauling gravel from Joe Clark Quarry, Liter's Quarry and Rogers Quarry. He proudly incorporated Don Adams Trucking in 1997. He enjoyed tinkering on anything with an engine, especially old tractors, his high lift and his trucks. He commented just last week if he could get to the shop where he would work on his old Mack.

He served 10 years as a Magistrate of Oldham



County.

He was a member of Ballardsville Baptist Church from the 1950s.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Doris (Gill) Adams; brothers, Harold and Ted; and sister, Marvis.

Left to cherish the memory of Don are his sons, Larry Adams (Cindy) and Dan Adams (Cheryl); four grandchildren, Christopher Adams, Meghan Lee (Jeremy), Katie Spence (Mitch) and

Jacob Adams (Kayla); four great-grandchildren, Jackson Lee, Madelyn Lee, Harrison Adams and Levi Adams; extended family and friends.

A celebration of Don's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home in La Grange with burial to follow in Valley of Rest Cemetery in La Grange. Visitation will be held on Thursday evening from 4 – 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Don and Doris were avid supports of the Crusade for Children as they hosted the yearly kick off to the Crusade at their truck shop for the past 30 years. In lieu of flowers, we ask you to make a contribution to the Crusade for Children.



Council approves property tax cut

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

LA GRANGE — The La Grange City Council approved a cut in its property tax rates for this year at their Sept. 3 special-called meeting.

As previously reported, the council held a first reading of their tax rates on Aug. 3, but later conducted a new first reading at an Aug. 25 special-called meeting, proposing the rates on real estate and personal property to be both set at 18.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The city's tax rates last year were 19.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value of real property, and 26.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value of personal property. The new rates are a 4.7% and 31.32% decrease, respectively.

The council conducted a public hearing before taking the final vote on the new rates, but no one came forward to speak for or against the lowered rates.

Finance Director Cindy Alvano told the council at their Aug. 25 meeting that the

new rate will still net the city \$3,934 more in revenue than last year, which she said will keep the city within their budget guidelines.

Though the rates have been lowered, La Grange residents may not see their city tax bill decrease if their property was assessed and determined to be worth more than last year.

The window for La Grange residents to pay their tax bills begins Sept. 15. Those who pay by Oct. 15 will receive a 2% discount, and bills left unpaid after Nov. 15 will be deemed delinquent and have a 10% penalty.

Bills left unpaid after the start of the new year will additionally have a 1% interest added for each month the bill is unpaid. The city also has the authority to place liens on properties.

The La Grange City Council's next meeting is scheduled after press time on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. — a day later than usual due to Labor Day. The council's next regularly-scheduled meeting thereafter is set for Oct. 5.

Grand Jury indicts 3; fleeing police, assault among charges

BY ERA STAFF

The Oldham Grand Jury indicted three people last month, with charges including fleeing or evading police, assault and sexual assault.

Ahmar L. Dale, 24, is charged with first-degree fleeing or evading police by motor vehicle, a class C felony; first-degree wanton endangerment, a class D felony; failure to wear a seat belt; disregarding a stop sign; reckless driving; and with being a second-degree persistent felony offender.

According to a police citation, Dale passed by a stationary police cruiser while traveling south on I-71 at approximately 8:06 p.m. on May 13.

Though he was following the flow of traffic, police say he

“looked directly at” the police cruiser, which allowed the officer to see that he was not wearing a seatbelt.

Dale allegedly “immediately accelerated at a dangerous speed” after passing the cruiser, “aggressively passing other motorists in an unsafe manner ... in the emergency lane and running people off the roadway” before the officer turned on his emergency lights, according to the citation.

After the officer turned on his emergency lights, Dale allegedly “continued to accelerate,” with estimated speeds of “in excess of 100 mph in heavy traffic.”

According to the citation, Dale made “an abrupt exit” at Exit 17, failing to stop at the stop sign headed onto Highway 146, where he later pulled over and came to

a stop.

After removing Dale and the passenger from the vehicle, police conducted a probable-case search “based on the smell of marijuana,” finding a “small plastic bag that is known as packaging for marijuana,” the citation reads.

Police say that Dale told them “his cruise control on his rental car was malfunctioning, causing him to accelerate at excess dangerous speeds.”

Both Dale and his passenger were arrested and transported to the Oldham County Detention Center, where Dale is being held on a \$5,000 cash bond. Dale has not been given any scheduled court dates as of press time.

Also indicted was Eric D. Brown, who is charged with first-

degree sexual assault, a class D felony; intimidating a participant in a legal process, a class D felony; and first-degree persistent felony offender.

According to his indictment,

Brown allegedly “subjected another person to sexual contact by forcible compulsion” and “influenced or attempted to influence the testimony of a legal participant” via physical force or threat of physical force “on or about” May 31.

The 33-year-old pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on Aug. 27 and has a pretrial conference scheduled for Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. He is currently being held at the Oldham County Detention Center on a \$100,000 cash bond.

Also indicted was Denneill White Jr., who is charged with second-degree assault, a class C felony; and first-degree promoting contraband, a class D felony.

According to his indictment, White allegedly “intentionally caused physical injury to another person ... by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument” and “knowingly made, possessed or obtained dangerous contraband” while in the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex.

The 18-year-old is being held at the Green River Correctional Complex on a \$50,000 cash bond. He pleaded not guilty to his charges during his arraignment on Aug. 27, and now has a pre-trial conference scheduled for Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.



Ahmar L. Dale



Eric D. Brown



Denneill White Jr.

COURT

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Voegele then proposed changes to the existing regulations, including the removal of all references to the words “large” and “hyperscale” as well as adding a maximum power capacity of 10 megawatts — effectively making the regulations a ban on all hyperscale data center projects.

Voegele also proposed that the maximum square footage allowed for data centers classified as “medium” be increased to 110,000 square feet, and that all property owners within 1,000 feet of any proposed data center project property be notified of the project's neighborhood meeting two weeks in advance.

When brought to a vote, the changes passed unanimously.

The court plans to conduct its public hearing and final vote on the regulations during its Oct. 6 meeting.

Later, during the court's public comment period, resident Don Erler mentioned concern over the 90-day deadline that most recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission have, as outlined in state law.

Specifically, the Kentucky Revised Statutes 100.211(8) states: “The fiscal court or legislative body shall take final action upon a proposed zoning map amendment within ninety (90) days of the date upon which the planning commission takes its final action upon such proposal.”

Though 90 days from the Planning and Zoning Commission's June 23 recommendation would create a Sept. 21 deadline, County Attorney D. Berry Baxter said that the law only applies to zoning

Chief Financial Officer Stan Clark said that the rate was the same as last year's, but that it is expected to produce \$341,000 more in revenue than last year's total of over \$8.3 million. \$219,000 in revenue is expected to come from new properties, according to Clark.

changes, not changes to the county's zoning regulations:

“I've spoken again with the zoning lawyer in Northern Kentucky ... he revised his opinion to me and told me he does not believe it to be a problem. I again checked with KACo [the Kentucky Association of Counties] and they concur in that opinion.”

When asked if a special-called meeting could be held to ensure the regulations are voted on without legal question, Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer explained that state law requires notice of the public hearing to be published in the Era two weeks prior.

Even if the court were to publish notice in the Sept. 10 and Sept. 17 editions of the Era, the notice would not have run for an entire two weeks by the Sept. 21 deadline.

TAX RATE

In other news, the court approved its property tax rate for the current fiscal year at 8.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Chief Financial Officer Stan Clark said that the rate was the same as last year's, but that it is expected to produce \$341,000 more in revenue than last year's total of over \$8.3 million. \$219,000 in revenue is expected to come from new properties, according to Clark.

The court's compensating rate — the rate that would produce the same amount of revenue as last year excluding revenue

from new properties — is 8.5 cents per \$100.

Clark said that the extra revenue will mainly be used for “operating expenses, such as our increased cost of law enforcement and 911 wages and retirement.”

After Woosley asked Clark why the court should not adopt the compensating rate, Clark said that the compensating rate “would decrease revenue” and it would “basically make the assumption that inflation doesn't exist.”

“To lower that rate now would put a hardship on the budget,” said Magistrate Chris Haunz. “... We've had increases in [in expenses for] all of our public safety — dispatch and the police department — to keep up with our neighbors so our people don't leave us and go someplace else ...”

“We've had 8.7 for I think quite a few years,” said Voegele. “Everybody would like a tax decrease, but putting a few hundred thousand dollars over 25,000 households or something — it's a small amount per individual circumstance ...”

When brought to a vote, the rate was passed 8-1 with Woosley opposed.

OTHER COURT ACTIONS

The court also approved the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's plans to resurface rural-secondary roads during the current fiscal year.

KYTC District 5 Planning Section Supervisor Tom Hall explained that the roads that the cabinet

maintains are classified in three categories: primary roads, like interstates; secondary roads, like Highway 146 or Highway 53; and rural secondary roads or “farm to market roads” like Highway 2856, also known as Old Moody Lane.

Last year, the program paved Highway 393 from Highway 1818 to Highway 22; Highway 3223, also known as Old Sligo Road, from Highway 53 to Ballard School Road; and Highway 524 from Highway 42 to near Smith Lane — about \$500,000 worth of paving, according to Hall.

This year, the program has \$664,680 from the Office of Rural and Municipal Aid, but \$109,000 is dedicated to pay off the deficit from last year. After carveouts for routine maintenance, only \$229,535 is left for resurfacing.

Hall said that the District 5 office determined that Old Moody Lane from near Ring Road to Highway 53, is the road most needing attention and expects the work to cost \$251,000 — causing an estimated \$21,000 deficit to be paid next year.

Though the court approved the program and the plans, a discussion regarding semi trucks parking along I-71, especially near the closed rest areas near Exit 14, was spurred by Magistrate Kevin Jeffries.

Transportation Engineer Supervisor Tony Harrod said that the cabinet put up “no truck parking” signs, but that semi trucks are still parking there. Crews have come to pick up trash left by the drivers, however.

“I think we've done about all we can do as far as the highway department to try to deter people from parking there,” Harrod said. “I stopped one day and there was a truck

driver right in front of the no parking message board ... and he said, “Sir, there's no place to park at the truck stops' ...”

As to when the rest areas will open again, Harrod said “it's going to be a while before it's open, realistically, just because all of the work that needs to be done ...”

The court also opened bids for a drainage improvement project on Hayfield Way near Prospect. The lowest bid was \$73,666 from Transamerica Railroad Consulting, followed by a \$82,250 bid from SOKY Elite Contractors. A bid will be selected at the court's next meeting.

The court also conducted a first reading on a zoning change for .75 acres of an already approved subdivision dubbed “Paramont Estates” off of Highway 42 near Highway 1793.

The sliver of the subdivision involved in the request currently has conservation district zoning, and developers are requesting it to be changed to residential zoning.

The portion of the property involved in the request currently has conservation district zoning. Further details will be discussed at the court's next meeting, where the court

is expected to take a final vote on the matter.

The court also heard an update to the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which Regional Planner and GIS Specialist Ryan Lloyd explained is required by FEMA to be eligible for FEMA-sponsored funding.

The court also approved an over \$1 million budget amendment, allowing Pillar — a nonprofit largely aimed at housing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities — to receive a Community Block Development Grant for its proposed apartment complex for its clients.

The court also approved the release of a \$104,700 and \$58,900 erosion control surety for sections six and seven of the Brentwood subdivision in Crestwood, respectively, now that the sections have been complete to county erosion standards.

The court also approved the hiring of Tracy Thompson as a building monitor and the reappointment of Jim Zimmerman to the Police Merit Board for a term expiring Sept. 6, 2030.

The Oldham County Fiscal Court's next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 15 at 2 p.m.

The Oldham Era

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