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Harlan County in business in 2025

BY JOE ASHER
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With 2025 already under way for over a month, the question of what direction Harlan County businesses and industry are expecting to take throughout 2025 and beyond is ready to be addressed. Harlan County Judge-Executive Dan Mosley sat down for

an interview recently, discussing various aspects of Harlan County's outlook in areas such as the coal industry, internet connectivity and more. Mosley stated there are multiple areas to consider when looking toward Harlan County's future. "You look at a variety of things that go into this," Mosley said. "When somebody says 'how's the

county doing,' I say well, we're always trying to find ways to create more economic opportunities for people, how to recruit more jobs, how to improve the quality of living, how do we get the kids more things to do to make living here more attractive." Mosley mentioned there were some layoffs in Harlan County last year related to the coal industry. "I'm hopeful the new admin-

istration in Washington D.C. will alleviate some regulatory red tape where it will help coal mining companies," Mosley said. "Coal is going to be a part of our energy landscape for decades to come, and we've still got it right here in these hills and we need to mine it." According to Mosley, while coal is not doing as well as it was at the industry's peak, it is still vi-

able. He explained revenue from the coal industry filters down into other areas of Harlan County's economic structure. "I feel like that will improve as we move forward," Mosley said. Harlan County has already had some obstacles in 2025, including water outage issues in the Black Mountain Utility District.

See **BUSINESS**, on 2



Harlan ARH Hospital (File photo)

Harlan ARH to cease labor and delivery services

BY JOE ASHER
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Harlan ARH Hospital has announced that it will no longer provide labor and delivery services at the hospital, effective Friday, Feb. 28. According to a press release from ARH, this decision was made following careful consideration and is the result of a steady and significant decline in demand for labor and delivery services at Harlan ARH over the past several years. "While the hospital will close its

labor and delivery unit at the end of the month, the OB Department at the ARH Daniel Boone Clinic will remain open through April 30 with physicians Mimi Boggs, MD, and Osama Amro, MD, providing care and assisting patients with determining a new location for delivery and if necessary, a new provider to continue their care," states the release. Harlan County Judge-Executive Dan Mosley took to his social media outlet to address the matter. "While I greatly appreciate the

healthcare services that ARH provides in our community as a citizen, county official, and patient, plus the hundreds of jobs the company provides for the citizens of Harlan County," Mosley said. "I am incredibly saddened, disappointed, and frankly infuriated by the corporate decision to close the labor and delivery department at Harlan ARH at the end of February, as well as end OB services at the Daniel Boone Clinic in April, as publicly announced Tuesday."

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Tourism increase on the horizon

BY JOE ASHER
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The tourism industry has been at the forefront for Harlan County for some time, and 2025 looks to be no different with new events and attractions set to join the county's tourism picture. Harlan County Judge-Executive Dan Mosley talked about Harlan County's tourism aspirations for 2025 during a recent interview. "The Outdoor Recreation Board that manages the Black Mountain Thunder Zip Line and the Black Mountain Off Road Adventure Area has planned more events," Mosley said. "They had more events in 2024 than they had in 2023, and they're hoping to have more events in 2025, that helps bring people

See **TOURISM**, on 2

County School Board members take oath

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The Harlan County Board of Education held their first meeting of 2025 recently, kicking the year off by administering the oath of office to several members of the board, including two returning members and one new addition to the panel. Board members Gary Farmer, Hiam Fields, and new board member Keri Stevens took the oath of office before the meeting began. Shortly after calling the meeting to order, Superintendent Brent Roark opened the floor to nomination for board chairman. "We have to do this each year," Roark said. "The floor is open for nominations for board chairman. Previous chairman Gary Farmer was nominated by board member Wallace Napier and seconded by board member Scott Sherman. No other nominations were made. "I'll proceed to the vote for Gary Farmer for Board Chairman," Roark stated. The board voted unanimously in favor of Farmer

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"In the mountains, storytelling is truly an art form, and as much recreation as communication."
— Maxine Cheshire

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