



Harlan Enterprise

Issue 20, Volume 126

Breaking news at harlanenterprise.net

WEDNESDAY MAY 21, 2025 • \$1

Severe weather leaves fatalities, damage across Kentucky

BY JOE ASHER

joe.asher@harlanenterprise.net

Kentucky suffered damage throughout the state due to severe weather including heavy rain, hail, and tornados from late Friday (May 16) until early Saturday morning, with Laurel County suffering high levels of damage and multiple fatalities. Harlan County was spared the worst of the severe weather, reporting no serious injuries. However, there were power outages throughout the county.

Governor Andy Beshear reported on Sunday, May 18, that 19 Kentuckians were killed because of the severe weather.

"We have lost 19 people to this weather event, each one a child of God who will be missed by their families," Beshear stated on his Facebook account. "Please keep praying for them, the 10 individuals being treated at UK Hospital and for everyone affected by these storms."

Harlan County Judge-Executive Dan Mosley addressed the severe weather

over the weekend, including widespread power outages in Harlan County.

"We were very fortunate to miss the brunt of this storm," Mosley stated via social media. "The tornado that tracked from Missouri, across Kentucky, through Pulaski, Laurel, and then into Clay and Leslie, lost the rotation signature as it hit the Leslie/Perry line."

According to Mosley, on Saturday morning approximately 16 percent of Harlan County was without electricity.

This amounted to 3,300 customers without power. There were additionally two trees reported down on county roads as of Saturday morning.

Mosley provided an update on Sunday, May 18, stating at that time power had been restored to all but approximately 240 customers.

"The electric utility crews have done a remarkable job getting power restored,"

See **WEATHER**, on 2



Harlan Mayor Joe Meadors goes over an amendment to the city's tourism ordinance during a recent Harlan City Council meeting. (Photo by Joe Asher)

Harlan council talks projects, stalker

BY JOE ASHER

joe.asher@harlanenterprise.net

The Harlan City Council met in regular session recently, discussing city business including a sewer project, damage to the Coal Miners Memorial, and an unclothed man walking through Harlan.

Mayor Joe Meadors called the meeting to order and brought the panel up to speed on an ongoing sewer project.

"Phase one of the sewer project, the digging and laying of the line from the Huff addition all the way down to the old sewer plant will be officially over by Friday (May, 16)," Meadors said. "We'll have the close out documents next week, we'll pay them, and it came in a little under bid, so what money we saved off that we're going to put to the phase II, which is the lift station at Rio Vista. That's the one we really need."

Meadors reminded the council that the lift station failed in February.

"We had a big blowout," Meadors said. "We've done about all we can do with it, so it's not going to be too soon to get that finished."

Meadors also talked about a recent occurrence involving an unclothed man which caught the attention of many in Harlan.

"I guess you all know about the stalker last week," Meadors said.

Meadors explained Harlan City Police Chief Winston Yeary advised the individual previously had an altercation with a Harlan City Police Officer.

"We were aware of him," Meadors said. "But, when we went out to get him, he took off into the woods."

Meadors explained it was raining and chilly, so the individual was not expected to stay in the woods an extended period of time.

"We knew he'd come out," Meadors said. "Later that afternoon, we got a call from Woodland Hills saying 'your guy just walked out of the mountains here, come and get him.' He gave himself up."

Meadors told the council when asked why he did it, the individual stated because he was intoxicated.

"Nothing happens in this community that should surprise you," Meadors said.

A council member inquired about the status of the Coal Miners Monument located on the Harlan County Courthouse lawn which had recently been damaged when a vehicle struck it.

See **COUNCIL**, on 2

Long awaited road repairs approved for bypass

BY JOE ASHER

joe.asher@harlanenterprise.net

The Harlan City Council was advised during the panel's regular May meeting that long-awaited road repairs to the bypass (US 421) have been approved by the state, though it may be some time before the project begins.

City of Harlan Mayor Joe Meadors informed the council of the status of the project midway through the meeting.

"I will share some good news with you," Meadors said. "It's not

official yet, but they have awarded the bid for the resurfacing of the bypass to Mountain Enterprises."

Meadors explained the project will be extensive.

"It's not going to be just a resurfacing," Meadors said. "They're going to dig it completely up. They're going to go all the way to the base and replace the base and build up."

According to Meadors, the job is larger than originally planned.

"It was supposed to be about a \$1.5 million project," Meadors said. "It's going to be about \$5 to \$6 million now."

Meadors noted more than repaving is required.

"You can't continue just putting new blacktop down," Meadors said. "What's underneath is bad, too. So, they're going to go all the way down to the base and replace it."

The project is not expected to begin immediately.

"The engineer in Manchester told me he thought it was doubtful they would get to this project (soon), but they will definitely be done next year," Meadors said.

See **ROAD**, on 2

SKCTC names Dr. Lee Harrison as president

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Following a national search, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System has named Andrea "Lee" Harrison, Ed.D., as the next president of Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College. A longtime advocate for the Appalachian region, Dr. Harrison will officially step into the role on July 1.

For the past year, Harrison has served as SKCTC's chief advancement officer and dean of advancement and public relations, where she leads

institutional fundraising, strategic communications, community engagement, and manages a grant portfolio totaling \$11 million. She also serves as executive director of the Southeast Education Foundation.

"I'm excited to announce Dr. Harrison's selection. She brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing the Appalachian region, along with a strong commitment and appreciation for its rich culture," said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles. "Her proven leadership will be a tremendous asset as we continue to expand

educational access, workforce training and economic development throughout the region."

Before joining SKCTC, Harrison spent more than two decades at Milligan University in various executive and academic roles, including vice president for enrollment and marketing and associate professor of communications. She has also worked in enrollment strategy and marketing for colleges and universities across multiple states.

See **HARRISON**, on 2



Dr. Andrea "Lee" Harrison has been appointed president of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, effective July 1. (Photo submitted)

Index

- News 2
- Puzzles 5
- Classifieds 7
- Sports 8

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

— Maxine Cheshire

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What's your take on today's news? Go to harlandaily.com and visit us on Facebook to share your thoughts.

