

County hears BMUD assessment plan

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan County Fiscal Court heard a report concerning the Black Mountain Utility District from a representative of the Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) during the court's regular June meeting.

Harlan County Judge-Executive called Joe Burns of KRWA to speak to the magistrates shortly after calling the meeting to order.

"Before I turn the floor over to Joe (Burns) I just want to say a couple of things about Kentucky Rural Water Association," Mosley said. "They are the experts in rural water administration in this state. They are around the clock, through the year, whether that is during good times or bad. We mainly hear about them during the bad times because they are here to help water districts and guide them through difficult challenges when there are major breaks and water outages."

According to Mosley, KRWA has assisted Harlan County during previous water issues.

"They were a big help both in the January water outage that occurred and the May water outage in the Wallins area," Mosley said. "They've been a big help to us through many outages."

Mosley mentioned KRWA has helped with water issues in all three of his terms in office.

"They were here at the court meeting last month," Mosley said. "We had asked during the disaster for KRWA to do an assessment of the entire BMUD operation. That has begun. Joe is here today to talk about the assessment."

Mosley added a mapping project is included in the assessment.

Burns advised the problems being experienced at BMUD are not unique.

"This is throughout the state at various levels, if not the nation," Burns said. "It's aging infrastructure. A lot of times that is compounded by not having enough money."

Burns pointed out that BMUD has been consistently understaffed. He explained this creates a situation where personnel can only react to issues as they occur. He also mentioned boards and councils often keep rates too low leading to funding issues with water systems.

"Boards - and not just (water) districts, city councils and such - want to do the best for their customers," Burns said. "One of those things is to maintain rates, make things affordable. That comes around to bite you in the butt in the long run."

Burns provided an example of an-

other county where he was asked to do a rate assessment. That assessment found a 75 percent increase in rates was needed to properly fund the water system.

"This is across the nation," Burns said. "It's not just this one instance alone."

Burns said the first action needed to find a solution for BMUD's issues is mapping the system.

"Some data collection has already been done," Burns said. "It's the mapping that's going to drive this assessment."

Burns explained personnel will evaluate every piece of critical infrastructure and map the location. He explained an assessment will be prepared after completion.

"I would say by October we will have everything ready, and I'll be glad to come back and present those findings," Burns said.

Following further discussion, Mosley mentioned that the size of BMUD can cause maintaining the system to be difficult.

"You think about how long it takes to drive from Big Laurel to Holmes Mill or from Totz to Molus," Mosley said. "This is an enormous district."

Burns noted water systems in southeast Kentucky face additional challenges due to the mountainous terrain.

Obituaries

Obituaries are placed online at HarlanEnterprise.net on a timely basis, as they are received. Review current listings, archives or place an obituary at HarlanEnterprise.net/category/obituaries

Deadline for print publication:

Wednesday publication deadlines Tuesday, 10 am EST

DEATH NOTICES

Phyllis Mitchell Gross, 80, of Harlan, died June 27, 2025.

Donald Lee Bennett, 73, of Somerset, formerly of Harlan Co., died June 26, 2025.

George Grubbs, 75, of Cawood, died June 24, 2025.

John E. Carroll, 63, of Cawood, died June 17, 2025.

Nick Lynn Duncan, 72, of Wallins, died June 28, 2025.

Roger "Runt" Lee Pace, Jr., 48, of Grays Knob, died June 29, 2025.

Measles outbreak moves from Woodford to Fayette

BY TOM LATEK

Kentucky Today

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDHP) announced Monday a measles outbreak first reported in Woodford County has spread to neighboring Fayette County and health officials are working to identify other people who may have been exposed.

There are currently five measles cases in Kentucky, four of which are connected to the same outbreak. One of the cases, located in Todd County, appears to be unrelated to the Woodford County and Fayette County cases.

These cases are occurring amid global outbreaks of measles, including in Mexico and Canada, and the largest outbreak of measles in the United States since measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported more than 1,200 cases this year, including several large outbreaks in other states.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can cause serious health complications, especially in young children. Early symptoms begin 8 to 12 days after exposure, including high fever, cough, runny nose and red or watery eyes. The characteristic measles rash typically appears three to five days after symptoms begin, usually on the face before spreading down to the rest of the body.

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources game wardens will be increasing patrols across the state to help keep Kentucky's waterways safe over the upcoming Independence Day holiday.

This increased effort is held in conjunction with "Operation Dry Water," a heightened awareness and enforcement campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of boating under the influence (BUI). The campaign facilitates a national focus on BUI detection and enforcement, aiming to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities around the July 4 holiday each year.

"Vessel operators decide whether to drink alcohol and boat under the influence, and many times the decision to do so has deadly results," said Maj. David Marques, assistant director of Law Enforcement for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Our game wardens will be out on the water throughout the holiday to observe for those who may show impairment not just from alcohol but from drugs as well."

Alcohol and drugs can affect judgment, balance, vision and reaction time for boat operators and passengers alike. Environmental stressors such as sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion may intensify the side effects of alcohol, drugs and some medications, and may increase fatigue.

Nationwide in 2024, more than 7,000 officers from 485

local, state and federal agencies participated in "Operation Dry Water." Over the three-day, heightened BUI awareness and enforcement weekend, law enforcement officers contacted 296,190 boaters, made 584 BUI arrests and issued 43,554 citations and warnings for safety violations.

Boaters can learn more about boating laws in the Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide, the regulations summary booklet, available online at fw.ky.gov and wherever licenses are sold, or at "Operation Dry Water."

For emergencies, dial 911. For non-emergency assistance call 800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378) or contact a local law enforcement agency or nearest Kentucky State Police post. Marine channel 16 can be used to contact a local marina.

"Operation Dry Water" is an annual effort coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement agencies.

County addresses paving needs

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan County Fiscal Court heard an update on time frames for various paving project during the panel's regular June meeting.

Harlan County Judge-Executive Dan Mosley advised the magistrates concerning when they may expect paving work to be done.

"You all have been anticipating the blacktop company to move into your districts to get resurfacing done," Mosley told the magistrates. "James (Magistrate James Howard) was the lucky one, this was the first district. They did pave two roads, Good Neighbor and Hale, before they had to leave the county because the plant they used had a malfunction, so they left the county to go work where a plant was running when the weather was good."

Mosley noted the weather has been in issue.

"The weather has not been so good here in the last month," Mosley said. "I was talking to a scheduler for the blacktop company today and he told me since the first of April - he keeps a calendar, and he marks

the days it has rained - He's up to about 24 days they've had rain since the first of April that has impacted their ability to do resurfacing."

Mosley noted that paving work cannot be done when it is raining or too cold.

"It makes it very difficult for the paving company to do the work they're doing," Mosley said. "They do have the plant situation taken care of. They are going to mobilize a commercial crew that is wrapping up some work in Pikeville...they also plan to mobilize the crew that you all are familiar with back here by

Thursday (June 19). By next week they anticipate having two asphalt crews in Harlan County to do county work."

Mosley pointed out plans could change for multiple reasons.

"He feels confident they will be able to get us done moving forward in a timely fashion," Mosley said. "Time will tell, let's just hope for sunny days and less rain."

Magistrate Paul Brown mentioned much of the resurfacing to be done had been previously scheduled to be completed last year.

"This is work that is already purchase ordered," Mosley said.



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