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Breaking news at harlanenterprise.net

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Back to school shopper to win prize

BY JOE ASHER

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The folks at Harlan Tourism are once again delivering an incentive for back-to-school shoppers to do their shopping in downtown Harlan. A prize of \$225 will be awarded to one downtown shopper via a drawing with shoppers getting

one chance for every \$25 spent in a downtown retail business from mid-July until mid-August.

Laura Adkisson, Downtown Development Director for Harlan Tourism, provided the details on the Shop Downtown Harlan for Back-to-School drawing during a recent interview.

“We feel like we have a great

selection of shops covering all sorts of needs in downtown Harlan,” Adkisson said. “We want to put shopping downtown at the forefront of folk’s minds as they’re looking at their back-to-school shopping.”

She pointed out that for many families, back to school shopping is one of the largest expenses.

“Their biggest shopping of the year happens for back to school and at Christmas,” Adkisson said. “We want to make sure our downtown businesses can benefit from that as much of that as possible.”

This is the second time Harlan Tourism has held the drawing.

“We started this campaign last year,” Adkisson said. “We

encourage people to shop in our downtown businesses, and of course downtown you can find everything from back-to-school clothing to band instruments, you can find spirit gear for Friday night games, and even a new set of tires to get you to and from campus.”

See **DRAWING**, on 2



New Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College president and CEO Lee Harrison spoke to the Harlan County Chamber of Commerce during the Chamber’s regular July meeting. (Photo by Joe Asher)

Chamber hears from new SKCTC president

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan County Chamber of Commerce heard an update on Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College from the school’s new president and CEO, Dr. Lee Harrison, during the Chambers regular meeting for July.

According to a press release, Harrison succeeds Interim President Dr. Patsy Jackson. Harrison, recently served as SKCTC’s Dean

of Advancement and Public Relations. She has over 25 years of experience in higher education administration.

Harrison spoke to the Chamber about the direction SKCTC plans to follow going forward as well as other aspects of the college’s work.

“Thank you all for inviting me to speak and welcoming me,” Harrison said. “I’m just here to serve the institution, and that’s how I see this role, as a role of servitude to the region as well as to our people and to our students.”

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Harrison explained what the role of SKCTC president entails.

“Really, bottom line, a president basically serves the other people in the institution and of the region, just helps them do the things they do better,” Harrison said.

Harrison added the role is to remove obstacles so others can do their jobs. She also gave a glimpse into the path that led her to Harlan County.

See **CHAMBER**, on 2

County school board approves Workbased Learning

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan County Schools Board of Education held a special called meeting recently to discuss a few topics requiring immediate attention, including the return of Workbased Learning to Harlan County High School and funding for school supplies.

Chairman Gary Farmer called the meeting to order.

The district’s Workbased Learning policy was addressed near the midpoint of the meeting.

Superintendent Brett Johnson brought the board up to speed.

“The high school has the desire to bring back what used to be called the CO-OP program, it’s called Workbased Learning now,” Johnson said. “They’ve got their guidelines and their framework together, and they just want to ask if you all would review it so they’re fine to implement that this fall.”

Johnson advised the board the program will be required to follow strict guidelines from the KDE (Kentucky Department of Education). He also explained the benefits of the program for students.

“It gives them the ability, if they can find a job that’s in their career pathway, to be able to leave school to be able to work that and gain work experience while also meeting graduation requirements,” Johnson said.

The board unanimously passed a motion approving the Workbased Learning policy.

The board also addressed a waiver request for a school media librarian.

“This item is for a media librarian at Cawood Elementary,” Johnson said. “The job was posted and there were no applicants.”

Johnson explained the waiver is necessary to broaden the scope of the search for a person to fill the position.

Farmer requested a motion to allow an applicant one year to seek the required certification. The motion was made by board member Hiram Fields and passed with no opposition.

The board heard a first reading of the policy for student welfare and wellness.

“That’s our normal student welfare and wellness policy,” Johnson said. “I think there have been just a couple of changes to adjust the policy to comply with current guidelines that have been handed down. This is just our annual approval of that policy.”

See **BOE**, on 2

Operation Summer Heat results in nearly 200 arrests

STAFF REPORT

Governor Andy Beshear and the Kentucky State Police announced 197 drug related arrests as a result of “Operation Summer Heat,” with four of those arrests occurring in the KSP Post 10, Harlan, area.

According to a press release, all 16 KSP posts participated in the operation.

“Every Kentuckian should be safe and feel safe, and no Kentucky family should feel the

pain of losing a loved one to addiction,” Gov. Beshear said. “Because of the Kentucky State Police, we are accomplishing both of these goals, and we are thankful for the agency’s dedication to every single one of our commonwealth’s communities.”

The release states Operation Summer Heat 2.0 resulted in approximately 197 arrests on 490 charges. Police seized 1,176 grams of cocaine, 3,002 grams of fentanyl, 6,046 grams of methamphetamine, 408 grams of heroin, 97 doses of hy-

drocodone, 600 fentanyl pills, 67 doses of hallucinogens and 127 oxycodone doses. Additionally, 82 firearms were confiscated along with \$181,381 in cash, stolen property totaling \$200,000 including one stolen vehicle. The drugs had an estimated street value in excess of \$640,000.

“This mission was about more than making arrests, it was about disrupting the criminal enterprises that threaten the safety and health of Kentuckians,” KSP Commissioner Phillip

Burnett Jr. said. “I am proud of our personnel, who worked tirelessly to take these dangerous drugs off the streets and who will continue working to keep every community safe.”

The investigation remains active, and more arrests are expected in the coming weeks.

In other police activity:

■ Robert Holbrook, 46, of Harlan, was arrested by the Harlan County Sheriff’s Office on July 10. He was charged with probation violation. Holbrook was lodged in the Harlan County

Detention Center;

■ Joyce Jones, 51, of Wallins, was arrested on July 10, by the Harlan County Sheriff’s Office. She was charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first-degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. Jones was lodged in the Harlan County Detention Center;

See **ARRESTS**, on 2

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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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