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Harlan Enterprise

Issue 33, Volume 126

Breaking news at harlanenterprise.net

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20, 2025 • \$1

2 killed in crash

STAFF REPORT

A two-vehicle crash at the intersection of US 119 and KY 421 on Wednesday, Aug. 13, left a man and woman deceased.

Franklin D. Saylor, Jr., of Baxter, and Phyllis Frazier, of New

Tazewell, TN, died as a result of the crash.

According to a news release from Kentucky State Police, at approximately 11:26 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 13, Kentucky State Police Post 10, Harlan, received a call regarding a two-vehicle fatal collision at the intersection of US 119 and US 42

in Harlan County.

Troopers responded to the scene and began an investigation.

The Harlan County Coroner's Office stated that Harlan County Deputy Coroner John Jones responded to the scene and pronounced the man and woman deceased at 12:24 p.m.

Another individual was transported from the scene to Harlan ARH hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash.

The roadway was shut down, and a detour set up. Motorists were directed to use KY 413 and KY 840 as alternate routes while detectives conducted

their investigation.

Kentucky State Police were assisted by the Harlan City Police Department, Harlan County Sheriff's Office, Sunshine Volunteer Fire Department, Harlan City Fire Department, Harlan County Rescue Squad, Lifeguard Ambulance, and the Harlan County Coroner's Office.

Harlan council addresses pump station, coal monument



A crew works to rebuild the coal monument near the Harlan County Courthouse (Photo by Joe Asher)

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan City Council held their regular meeting recently, discussing issues including work on a pump station in Rio Vista and the restoration of the coal monument in front of the Harlan County Courthouse.

Mayor Joe Meadors called the meeting to order and brought up an ongoing sewer project in the Rio Vista community.

"We have started on the Rio Vista pump station," Meadors said. "I don't anticipate any issues, they're a top-notch outfit. I think we're looking at perhaps Christmas or somewhere around there

and we'll be through, maybe a little sooner depending on the weather."

The council then turned their attention to the city's bills.

"You should have the bills in front of you," Meadors said. "We've had quite a few bills that we incurred."

See **MONUMENT**, on 2

3 face drug charges

BY JOE ASHER

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Three individuals are facing charges including drug trafficking after allegedly being found in possession of suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Vina Huff, 48, Robert Allen, 51, both of Evarts, and Wilburn Madon, 42, of Verda, were arrested by the Harlan County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 16.

According to a press release, Harlan County Sheriff's Deputies arrived at a residence in the Verda community on Friday, Aug. 15, to execute a search warrant. The search of the property located a large amount of suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia associated with drug trafficking, multiple firearms, and cash.

The case remains under investigation. Additional arrests are pending.

Huff was charged with trafficking in controlled substance (carfentanil of fentanyl derivatives), first-degree trafficking a controlled substance (methamphetamine), third-degree trafficking a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by convicted felon, and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. Huff was lodged in the Harlan County Detention Center.

See **ARRESTS**, on 2

City performs first reading of tax ordinance

BY JOE ASHER

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The Harlan City Council performed a first reading of the city's real property, personal property, and motor vehicle tax ordinance for 2025 during the council's regular August meeting.

City of Harlan Mayor Joe Meadors brought the matter to the council's attention early in the meeting.

"The other taxing authorities all over the county, their assessments went up," Meadors said. "The total assessments of real, personal and motor vehicle, ours did go up maybe \$300,000...the real property went up about \$700,000 or \$800,000 in the city. So, our tax rates last year were real property .460 cents (per \$100 of assessed value), personal property was .4879 cents (per \$100 of assessed value), and the motor vehicle was .32 cents (per \$100 of assessed value)."

See **TAX**, 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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