

Six HCHS students honored for selection to program

By Aaron Rowe
Harlan Enterprise

Harlan County Public Schools Superintendent Brett Johnson recognized six HCHS students for outstanding honors during the board of education meeting on Sept. 22. Five of those students — Riley Card, Gabriel Clay, Sebastian Mosley, Ethan Nichols, and Drew Sergeant—were graduates of the Kentucky Governor’s Scholars Program. Each of these students spent five weeks on one of three college campuses—Morehead State University, Centre College, or Murray State University — during the summer. While on campus, they were given the opportunity to attend lectures, gain hands-on learning experience, and meet other academically gifted students from across the state in a specific field of study. “Successful completion of the program helps pay for college at state universities and is an excellent resume builder for scholar-



Harlan County High School students, from left, Riley Card, Drew Sergeant, Ethan Nichols, Sebastian Mosley, Gabriel Clay and Caleb Couch accepted awards in recognition of their participation in the Kentucky Governor’s Scholars and Governor’s School for the Arts programs during Tuesday’s board of education meeting.

ships and college admissions,” said Johnson. “This is the first time I can remember . . . us having five recipients selected at one time. If we have had this many, it’s been a long time, which is a testament to our students’ hard work, their families and support staff, as well as our faculty.” Each of the students had the opportunity to take to the microphone

and share their experience in the program. “I’ve made plenty of friendships that will last a lifetime at Morehead. I’m forever grateful for the opportunities I got to grow and learn more at GSP,” said Card, whose focus area was theater arts. “This opportunity helped me grow into a better person by teaching me leadership, creativity and com-

munication skills that I can use later in life.” Clay, who studied modes of mathematical thinking on the Centre campus, likewise shared fond memories of his time at GSP, stating, “I had an amazing time — it’s a great opportunity for any rising seniors, and I highly recommend a lot of people to sign up for it.” Meanwhile, Mosley’s area of focus was business

accounting and entrepreneurship at Morehead, where he had the opportunity to hone his marketing skills by pitching a product to a mock panel. Nichols studied philosophy at Murray State, where he was exposed to an ideologically diverse body of students who each offered their own unique perspective. Nichols expressed his gratitude to God for the

opportunity to experience so many differing points of view. Sergeant, who attended Morehead State, emphasized the program’s importance in preparing students for the transition to college. Additionally, a sixth student — Caleb Couch — was chosen to participate in the Governor’s School for the Arts program at Northern Kentucky University. There, Couch was able to study classical technique, opera, and vocal musicianship. “GSA provides students with private instruction in a variety of musical genres . . . Students engage in private voice lessons and group ensembles with professional artists and faculty,” said Johnson. All six students received a plaque in recognition of their achievements. Johnson closed by saying the school board was “super proud” of each of these students and can’t wait to see what they accomplish in the future.

HHS homecoming candidates



The Harlan High School football homecoming was held Friday before the Dragons' game against Pineville. Senior homecoming candidates include, from left, front row: Emily Lane, Gracie Hensley, Jenna Nguyen, RyleeJo Aslinger, SarahKate Fisher and Natalee Taylor; back row: Abbiegail Elliott, Gwendolyn Toll, Addison Lemar, Roxie Petrey, Izabella Wagers, Hannah Bennett and Kaylen Robinson.



Harlan High School sophomore candidates include, from left, Christina Saylor, Addyson Davis, Elizabeth Ball, Taylor Glenn, Harmonee Mills and Tressa Phillips.



Harlan High School junior candidates include, from left, Gracie Saylor, Lacey Lemarr, Addison Campbell and Harper Carmical.



Harlan High School freshman candidates include, from left, Kaitlyn Miller, Blair Bryson, Cheyanne Childers, Ava Freeman and Rylie Griffith.

GILLIAM Continued from 1A

when we’ve had to do that a couple times, and it had to be done at one time and it had to be drastic,” said board chairman Gary Farmer. However, the situation is not all doom-and-gloom, as board members believe if they start taking preemptive measures now, they can take control of the situation before it snowballs into mass layoffs. Other items on the agenda were as follows: •Payment to DECO architects for HCHS roof project •BG 2 and 3 for HCHS project •Pay application 5 to Eskola, LLC for HCHS roof project •Approval of HCHS Talent Search trip to Harrogate, TN on Sept. 30, 2026 •Approval of HCHS FMD student trip to Gatlinburg, TN on Nov. 13, 2026 •Approval of Wallins Elementary School Beta Club trip to Harrogate, TN on Oct. 8, 2026 •Approval of Evarts Elementary School 8th Grade trip to West Chester, OH from May

- 25-27, 2026
- Approval of Black Mountain Elementary School trip to Harrogate, Tenn., on Sept. 29, 2026
 - Approval of HCHS band trip to Bristol, Tenn., on Oct. 3, 2026
 - Approval of HCHS FFA trip to Indianapolis from Oct. 21-23, 2026
 - Approval of HCHS volleyball team trip to Big Stone Gap, Va. [date unspecified]
 - Appalachian Education Service Agency subaward agreement
 - Permission to apply for grant
 - Commercial Bank credit card applications
 - School food service kettle and milk cooler bids
 - Rosspoint facility usage agreement for AAU basketball team
 - Evarts facility usage agreement for AAU team
 - School food service bid for new dish room at Rosspoint
 - Accepted recommendation to replace football field turf and associated draining/plumbing to DFP
 - Advertise for RFP for architectural firm for football field project

MOSLEY Continued from 1A

numbers in October. In other news, this year’s Halloween trick-or-treat hours were finalized. Falling in line with previous years’ schedules, children will be able to enjoy trick-or-treating throughout the county from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31. It should be noted that this is different from Harlan, which Mosley says will likely host trick-or-treating on Oct. 30 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., though this was not an official confirmation. Other items on the agenda were as follows: BMUD update

- Roads and bridges
- Treasurer’s monthly financial report
 - Reappointment of Dallas Gilbert and Burl Fee Jr. to the Harlan County Outdoor Recreation Authority Board to serve 4-year terms, expiring September 22, 2030
 - Approval of memorandums of agreement for opioid abatement with ARH, Harlan County Specialty Courts and the Harlan UNITE Coalition
 - Permission to advertise for propane fuel
 - Permission to surplus 2026 Peterbilt 567
 - To declare a public nuisance at the following three locations: 36 Grays Knob Lane, 65 Grays Knob Lane, and 15199 US 421

- Approval of audits for the fiscal court and sheriff’s department
- Approval of various bids and bid openings
- ASAP board recommendations for opioid settlement fund grant applications
- Reflect sheriff’s bond increase from \$300,000 to \$2,500,000, effective Oct. 1, 2026
- Approval of agreement with US Department of Agriculture through NRCS for streambank stabilization
- Approval of agreement with U.S. Department of Transportation FAA for a grant
- Approval of agreement for billing services for garbage between the

- Harlan County Fiscal Court and the City of Harlan
- Approval of contract with Backroads of Appalachia for FY-27 state funding
 - Approval of resolution of authority/approval for the Harlan County Fiscal Court to enter into and file a renewal application with DLG for Cumberland Hope Community (Recovery Kentucky) Project, FY-26program funds, amount \$200,000
 - Approve land usage agreement with New Life Church of Harlan



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This project is funded under a grant contract with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.