

Tornado touches down in Jackson Energy service territory

In the late-night hours on May 16, 2025, severe thunderstorms accompanied by high winds and tornadoes rolled across Kentucky causing extensive damage along its path. The deadly EF3 tornado devastated London-Laurel County with Jackson Energy's infrastructure taking a direct hit. A complete rebuild was necessary along a 6-mile stretch where poles and wires were completely destroyed. The extreme weather system left behind more than 13,000 Jackson Energy members without power. All Jackson Energy districts experienced disruption, with Laurel and Estill counties sustaining the most extensive damage.

Jackson Energy is so grateful to our membership for their continued encouragement and support. We were formed to bring power to the last mile and when storms, like the one this past weekend, interrupt our ability to do so, we are committed to doing whatever is needed to expedite power restoration.

More than 200 field personnel worked long hours in rough terrain and unimaginable circumstances to restore power, including mutual aid crews from multiple electric cooperatives from across Kentucky, contractor crews, and several right-of-way crews including:

- Fleming-Mason Energy
- North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC)
- Habersham EMC of Georgia
- Davis H. Elliot Company
- PraXel Line Services
- Kendall Vegetation Services
- Phillips Tree Experts

These crews were focused on the mission at-hand and

worked earnestly to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. More than 375 individual outage locations were restored, approximately 500 spans of wire repaired, and over 100 broken poles were replaced. In addition, numerous reports of wires down and trees on the lines - that were not related to Jackson Energy - were inspected and verified.

"At Jackson Energy, the safety of our members and employees is our number one priority. We appreciate the efforts of all our crews as they worked safely, yet diligently, to restore service to our members," said Carol Wright, President & CEO.

If you are experiencing a new power outage, members are encouraged to call the automated phone system at 800-262-7480 or report the outage through the SmartHub app.



LEGALS

Use QR Code to Search Kentucky Public Notices or go to kypublicnotice.com

Op-Ed: Why Cutting LIHEAP Is a Deadly Blow to Eastern Kentucky

By any measure, the economy of Eastern Kentucky and the wider Appalachian region is struggling. The collapse of the coal industry, the opioid crisis, and the recurring natural disasters have left scars that are slow to heal. Families and individual households trying to make ends meet rely on an array of federal assistance. Recently, there have been cuts or threats to these assistance programs, including a proposed total elimination of a vital energy assistance program that supports 6 million low-income households each year across the country.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is zeroed out in the proposed federal budget for the fiscal year that begins in September 2025. LIHEAP provides life-saving aid to millions of Americans by helping them afford their heating and cooling bills. For many, it is the difference between choosing food or heat, medicine or air conditioning. In 2024 alone, the program was utilized more than 219,000 times by Kentucky households. These are small disbursements - a max of \$250 per season - that function as safety nets for working families, elderly residents, and people with disabilities who are trying to survive on limited incomes in one of the most energy-burdened regions in the country.

Despite this need, the Trump administration's 2026 budget proposes defunding LIHEAP entirely. Their reasoning is that lower energy prices are on the horizon thanks to a move toward American energy dominance

and the America First platform. But here in Kentucky, the future hasn't arrived yet. Energy bills are still going up, not down.

In some Eastern Kentucky counties, low-income families pay up to 14.5% of their income on utility bills—more than double the 6% threshold that experts define as a “high” energy burden. Rural residents, especially those living in older, less energy-efficient homes, feel this pain the most. Rural areas often pay disproportionately high electricity costs due to utilities charging higher rates, in part due to infrastructure costs utilities incur covering more miles of transmission lines, etc., and in part due to utilities being owned by investors who are guaranteed a certain rate of return on their investment.

And while some cities have access to local programs that might soften the blow of high bills, rural communities often don't. That's where LIHEAP comes in. It funds weatherization improvements that make homes more efficient — reducing future energy costs and minimizing the need for repeated emergency assistance. In fiscal year 2023, the program weatherized more than 60,000 homes nationwide and helped prevent countless power disconnections.

The federal government allocated approximately \$54 million in LIHEAP funds to Kentucky in fiscal year 2025. To access these funds, individuals must meet certain requirements and provide documentation showing their need for assistance. These requirements are designed to support Kentucky's most vulnerable residents and some examples include households where someone has a health condition or disability (verified by a doctor's note),

someone is 65 or older, or a child under the age of 6 is present. This money is especially important during the extreme summer and winter temperatures Kentucky experiences. Kentucky is one of just 10 states where utility shutoffs due to nonpayment are allowed even during dangerous weather events. Sometimes families are cut off because they owe as little as \$6.

Cutting LIHEAP cannot just be a budget decision — this is an issue that needs to consider the survival of our most vulnerable neighbors. Because it's so critical, the program is housed under the Department of Health and Human Services and has received bipartisan support for nearly 45 years.

The Trump administration recently acknowledged that Appalachia is at a disadvantage due to loss of coal jobs and the opioid crisis, and because of that, they were leaving funding for another program in the budget that benefits this area. We argue that many low-income communities across the country face similar systemic challenges that have them needing a little extra help to stay and revitalize these areas of the United States.

If you have an experience to share about how LIHEAP has impacted you or your community in a time of need, now is the time to share your story.

Chris Woolery is the Energy Projects Coordinator at Mountain Association. Over his career, Chris has helped deliver residential energy efficiency upgrades to more than 800 households. He can be reached at chris@mtassociation.org.

Estill County team claims top spot in District 10 Rodeo that took place in Beattyville

For the first time since 2013, the crew from the Estill County state highway garage won the championship of the Department of Highways District 10's annual Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference and Rodeo. It was the third title for the crew from Ravenna and Irvine in the event that has been held annually in District 10 since 2006, with the exception of a two-year hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns.

Magoffin County's Stetson Allen was the overall individual champion, compiling the best total score from all seven events that make up the competition.

This year's Rodeo was held May 14-15 at the Beattyville Equipment Garage and Lee County Maintenance facility. Overcast skies gave way to partly sunny conditions both days. Rain was in the forecast, but the precipitation avoided the area during the two-day competition.

The annual Rodeo brings equipment operators from the district's maintenance garages together for a day of friendly competition and fellowship. The event allows equipment operators from the district's crews to show their skills in operating the equipment they use to maintain state highways in the district. The obstacle courses simulate actual situations equipment operators may encounter in the performance

of their duties. The event is officially known as the Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference, and participants received training in fire extinguisher safety during the event..

Individual event winners were:

- Backhoe:** Chad Conway, Menifee County **first place;** Scott Prater, Morgan County, **second place.**
- Snowplow obstacle course (single-axle truck):** Derrik Young, Morgan County, **first place;** Justin Bailey, Menifee County, **second place.**
- Snowplow obstacle course (double-axle tandem truck):** Matt Kirby, Estill County, **first place;** Ben Montgomery, Morgan County, **second place.**
- Tractor with mower:** Matt Kirby, Estill County, **first place;** Stetson Allen, Magoffin County, **second place.**
- Grader:** Stetson Allen, Magoffin County, **first place;** Jimmy Kelley, Estill County, **second place.**
- Lowboy tractor-trailer:** Ben Montgomery, Morgan County, **first place;** Matt Kirby, Estill County, **second place.**
- Skid-steer:** Mitch Tyra, Beattyville Equipment, **first place;** Stetson Allen, Magoffin County, **second place.**

The individual contest winners and runners-up will advance to a statewide competition against participants from the other 11 highway districts across Kentucky, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park June 24-25. State winners will be eligible to participate in the annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference competition, to also be held at the Kentucky Horse Park, in September.

"Our employees at the equipment garage and elsewhere in the district work hard to make our Rodeo a success every year," said Corbett Caudill, chief district engineer. "The event has expanded from one to two days, and from four to seven events, since District 10 held our first competition nearly 20 years ago. We really appreciate everyone's efforts to put on this event.

"Our county maintenance crew members have to work in all sorts of weather conditions and often at all hours," Caudill continued. "The last couple of years have been challenging. We've had to deal with winter storms and flooding rains and all the problems the weather causes. Our personnel do an excellent job maintaining our state highways and reacting to emergency situations caused by the weather or other issues. Operating the equipment used to maintain our highways year-round, and to keep them clear of snow and ice in the winter, takes a lot of skill and knowledge. The Rodeo gives our employees a chance to show off their abilities. It also lets them know that even though they work in different counties, they are all part of one team and that we appreciate all of them for their effort and hard work."

District 10 encompasses the Counties of Breathitt, Estill, Lee, Magoffin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell and Wolfe in east-central and southeastern Kentucky.

Pictured: Estill County State Highway Maintenance Crew, 2025 District 10 Rodeo Overall Crew Champions

BID NOTICE:
Lee County Fiscal Court will accept Sealed bids for supplies for Fiscal year 2025-2026
***Limestone Rock & Gravel, Asphalt, Diesel Fuel, Culverts and Double wall plastic Pipe, Drilling, steel, setting railroad steel, cribbing and back fill with limestone rock.**
Bid specifications CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE LEE COUNTY Judge Executive office LOCATED AT 256 MAIN STREET BEATTYVILLE, KY 41311, between 8am & 4pm or for more information call (606)464-4100.
BIDS CAN be mailed or hand delivered to: Lee County Judge Executive, 256 Main Street/ P.O. Box G, Beattyville, Kentucky, 41311; bids must be received by 12pm on June 12, 2025 and clearly labeled BID.
The Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and may determine, based on all criteria, that the best bid may not be the lowest bid.

All persons indebted to the estate of Nancy H Brewer, deceased, formerly of 1419 State HWY 1063 Campton KY 41301 are required to make immediate payment.
Harlan Benton Brewer Estate- Clarence C Brewer, Executor
908 Liberty Road Lexington KY 40505

Employment Opportunity

The Owsley County Conservation District is seeking a full-time District Employee to perform clerical duties and coordinate agricultural and environmental programs in Owsley County. We are looking for a courteous person to greet clients by phone and in person and is willing to attend meetings/trainings to network, partner and promote the Conservation District's objectives. This position requires a trustworthy individual that can manage staying on task with minimal day-to-day supervision while keeping in mind that they will be working for the 7-member Conservation District Board of Supervisors, which makes all decisions including overseeing and managing all employees. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, budgeting, reconciling accounts monthly, quarterly and annually and assist with audits; bank deposits, payment of bills and use of QuickBooks (training available); accurate and timely submission of reports; preparation for and attendance at monthly board meetings, including preparing meeting minutes; monthly treasurer's reports and meeting agendas. Grant writing skills are a plus, but not mandatory. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pay will be discussed and determined based on experience. There will also be various benefit packages available to choose from. These packages include paid holidays, single plan insurance and a retirement package. Random drug tests may be performed at any time. A high school diploma is required. Interested individuals should submit a cover letter with a copy of your resume that contains 3 references (that are not related to the applicant) and their contact information, as well as contact information from previous employer(s), to occd1946@yahoo.com, or mail to Owsley County Conservation District, P.O. Box 530, Booneville, KY 41314. Resumes must be submitted via email or by US mail and be received by the close of business on Thursday, May 29th, at 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call (606) 593-5183.

MISSING DOG

\$500 REWARD

Bella, a Beagle Treeing Walker Coonhound has been missing from 220 High Point Road in Beattyville, Ky., across from Hopewell Church & PRMP/ Bald Rock. Call Lisa, at 701-580-7238, Todd at 701-580-6406, Kyle at 606-560-3442, or Josh at 859-267-8125.

