

Lowe might be UK's most important piece. Page 9





ONLY \$1

Lincoln County Board approves construction changes

STAFF REPORT

The Lincoln County Board of Education approved several key action items Monday evening during a special-called meeting, including progress on the high school renovation project, changes to board policies, and a contract renewal with Lite the Nite Technologies.

Superintendent Bruce Smith

called the meeting to order, joined by board members Christine Killen (chair), Tyler McGuffey (vice chair), Jennifer Broadbent, Phillip Coots, and Gloria Sneed.

Among the items approved was a contract renewal with Lite the Nite Technologies, a vendor the district uses to assist in securing E-rate and other grant funding. Officials described the

agreement as a long-standing, as-needed partnership to help the district pursue state and federal funding opportunities.

The board also gave the green light to pay application No. 1 and change order No. 1 for the ongoing Lincoln County High School renovation project. Branscum Construction submitted the application and outlined two major updates: asbestos abate-

ment in specific classroom and gym areas, and the proposed removal of student lockers in certain hallways.

According to district officials, the locker removal would free up hallway space and eliminate the need for repainting aging metal lockers. The \$18,000 change order was described as cost-effective and time-efficient, as demolition crews are already on

site. Administrators emphasized that while the project timeline may shift by several days, the work is not expected to delay the start of the school year.

“Our target is still to open by August 25,” said director of operations Brad Smith. “We’ve had clear communication with contractors, and we’re doing everything possible to keep that timeline intact.”

See **BOE**, on 2



One of the Lincoln County Fire Department's new fire engines outside Atlantic Emergency Solutions in Shelbyville during its final inspection. (Photo submitted)

Lincoln County Fire Department adds three new fire engines to fleet

BY CASEY ROBERTS
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The Lincoln County Fire Department is adding three brand-new fire engines to its fleet, replacing aging equipment and enhancing safety and service for both firefighters and the community.

The new additions include one engine and two tanker-pumpers, each outfitted with updated technology, expanded water capacity and improved safety features that meet modern National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

“These trucks are replacing

models from as far back as 2002,” said Lincoln County Fire Chief Eric Davidson. “It’s been a long time coming, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our fire board and especially our taxpayers. We’re incredibly thankful.”

See **FIRE**, on 2

Kentucky Republicans in Congress hail bill's passage

BY JAMIE LUCKE
Kentucky Lantern

Despite Kentucky hospitals’ warnings of “devastating” consequences, four of the six Kentuckians in the U.S. House voted “yes” last Thursday to President Donald Trump’s tax and spending plan.

Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Morgan McGarvey opposed the measure but not for the same reasons.

Republican U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, whose Appalachian district is one of the country’s most dependent on Medicaid, issued a statement claiming the One Big Beautiful Bill Act “strengthens Medicaid and SNAP benefits.”

An independent analysis of the bill’s effects on rural health care found that Kentucky will suffer the biggest hit of any state — a decline of \$10 billion in Medicaid payments to rural providers over 10 years as 130,000 rural Kentuckians are expected to lose their Medicaid coverage. The analysis is by KFE, a nonpartisan health research organization.

The Kentucky Hospital Association has warned the legislation would eliminate 33,000 jobs as Medicaid underfunding forces hospitals to reduce services or even close.

The bill also trims future funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, in which 575,000 Kentuckians participate, and shifts to states part of the costs.

In his statement, Rogers hinted that the measure headed for Trump’s desk is not the final word. “Ultimately, this is not the end of our reconciliation work, and as a cardinal member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue working to improve funding options for our rural hospitals and clinics.”

Rogers, of Somerset, also said, “While the House-version of the bill would have been far better for rural healthcare, the Senate added a \$50 billion safety net for rural healthcare providers, carving out funding specifically for rural states like Kentucky, and delaying implementation of new provider tax rates to 2028.”

See **CONGRESS**, on 2

Roberts named editorial manager for Interior Journal

STAFF REPORT

Stanford native Casey Roberts has been named the new editorial manager for The Advocate-Messenger, The Jessamine Journal, and The Interior Journal, bringing a strong hometown connection and a renewed focus on community-first journalism across the region.

Roberts, who grew up in Lincoln County and began his career as a sports editor, now leads the editorial direction for all three publications under Bluegrass Newsmedia.

“This part of Kentucky means everything to me,” Roberts said. “Stanford is home, but I’ve spent a lot of time in Danville and Nicholasville over the years, and I see the same sense of pride in each

place. The people, the values, the small-town energy—it’s something worth celebrating and preserving through good local journalism.”

Roberts’ path into journalism began with a passion for storytelling and a background in athletics. Reporting on local sports helped him understand the deeper meaning behind the games—the pride, the effort, the community support—and sparked a broader interest in covering the full scope of small-town life.

Now, as editorial manager, Roberts says his mission is clear.

“My goal is to continue the strong legacy each paper already holds, while also giving new energy to the stories that make each town feel like home,” he said. “That means putting a spotlight on

students, teachers, athletes, city leaders, and the folks who make things happen behind the scenes.”

Roberts emphasized the importance of making the paper feel personal again—like it belongs to the community.

“Whether it’s a city council decision, a football game, or a feature about a lifelong local business, it all matters,” he said. “People want to see themselves, their neighbors, and their stories reflected on the page.”

He also believes deeply in accessibility and transparency when it comes to the newsroom.

“I want readers to know I’m here and I’m listening,” Roberts said. “If you have a story idea, feedback, or just want to introduce yourself, please don’t hesi-

tate to reach out.”

A childhood memory still fuels his commitment to local journalism today.

“I remember the first time I saw myself in the paper as a kid—it was just a school photo, but it meant something,” he said. “It made me feel like I was part of the bigger story of our town. I want others to feel that too.”

Roberts can be reached at casey.roberts@bluegrassnewsmedia.com for story submissions, feedback, or just to say hello.

The Advocate-Messenger, The Jessamine Journal, and The Interior Journal are all part of Bluegrass Newsmedia and remain committed to delivering meaningful, reliable local news to the people of Central Kentucky.



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