



The INTERIOR JOURNAL



Lincoln County's hometown newspaper

Vol. 164, No. 25

www.theinteriorjournal.com

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Lincoln County Fair returns July 1–5 with full slate of family fun

BY CASEY ROBERTS
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The Lincoln County Fair is back and bigger than ever, offering five full days of family-friendly entertainment, competitions, and classic fair attractions from July 1 to July 5, 2025.

The fair kicks off on Tuesday,

July 1, with the Tractor Driving and Small Engine competition at 3 p.m. The evening heats up with the Beef Show and Miss Pre-Teen pageant at 6:30 p.m., followed by Character Photos available from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Other highlights include Power Wheels racing at 6:30, the Pedal Pull at 7, and the always-popular Bull Whip Rodeo at 7:30.

On Wednesday, July 2, the fair celebrates Senior & Disabilities Day from 10 a.m. to noon. Evening events include the Dairy Show at 6:30 p.m., Team & Singles Cornhole tournament at 6:30, the Baby Show at 7, and the return of the Demolition Derby at 7.

Thursday, July 3 keeps the energy high with the Tiny Tots

competition at 6 p.m., the Goat Show at 7, and both the Little Miss & Mister Pageant and a Pizza Eating Contest kicking off at 7. The Demo Derby returns that evening at 7 as well.

Friday, July 4 brings some serious horsepower to the fairgrounds with the Lamb and Sheep Show at 6:30 p.m., the TNT Truck Pull at 7, and USWF

Wrestling at 7—back by popular demand and featuring several returning fan favorites.

The fair wraps up on Saturday, July 5, with a Poultry Show at 1 p.m. and encore performances of the TNT Truck Pull and USWF Wrestling, both beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.lincolnfair.net.



Construction crews begin removing the original gym floor at Lincoln County High School, which has served the district for nearly 50 years. The replacement is part of a larger renovation project that includes new bleachers, lighting, and facility upgrades throughout the building. (Photo submitted)

Lincoln School Board advances LCHS renovations, fills vacancy

BY: CASEY ROBERTS
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The Lincoln County Board of Education met in regular session with Superintendent Bruce Smith, Board Chair Christine Killen, Vice Chair Tyler McGuffey, and board members Jennifer Broadbent and Philip Coots present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the

district's vision and mission statements, emphasizing the commitment to preparing students to "learn, conquer, succeed."

Several key action items were approved during the meeting:

LCHS GYM, ROOFING PROJECTS ADVANCE

The board approved two agreements related to ongoing facility upgrades at Lincoln County High School. The AIA Document A101

for the bleacher replacement project in the LCHS gymnasium passed with full support, with a motion by Mr. McGuffey and a second by Ms. Broadbent. The board also approved a separate agreement for the roofing component of the LCHS renovations and sports fields project, moved by Mr. Coots and seconded by Ms. Broadbent.

See **BOE**, on 2

Wrestling the way you remember it: Inside Jimmy Walls' USWF

BY: CASEY ROBERTS
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For Jimmy Walls, professional wrestling isn't just about body slams and big entrances — it's about community, purpose and preserving a legacy.

The Lincoln County native and founder of the United States Wrestling Federation (USWF) has spent decades building a reputation as both a respected performer and independent promoter. His vision? Bring back the character-driven, hard-hitting style of old-school wrestling that once captivated generations — and deliver it to fans across Kentucky.

Walls' journey into the ring began with a chance trip to a wrestling show with a friend, where he met WWE Hall of Famer Jimmy Valiant. That moment led to formal training with Valiant and future work with regional promotions like UWA and SCW. But it was under the guidance of "Fabulous" Danny Fargo at Mountain Wrestling Alliance that Walls' in-ring persona truly came to life.

Performing as "Rated X," Walls became a heat magnet — the kind of villain fans loved to boo but couldn't ignore.

"People loved me. Then they loved to hate me. And then they loved me again," Walls said, laughing. "I always gave them something to feel."

Walls has since transitioned from performer to full-time promoter, operating USWF with a clear mission: deliver "wrestling the way you remember it." Heavily inspired by the Memphis territory days and veterans from USWA and CWA, Walls brings that southern grit and storytelling flair to county fairs, festivals and hometown gyms across the region.

"We try to keep it old-school," he said. "That's the kind of wrestling I came up on, and fans around here still love it. We just try to keep that style alive."

Under his leadership, USWF has become one of the busiest wrestling promotions in Kentucky. This summer alone, the company has scheduled more than two dozen appearances at events large and small — including shows in Lincoln, Garrard, Boyle, and Mercer counties, plus a few trips across state lines.

See **WALLS**, on 2

New Kentucky law to limit school staff-student messaging outside approved platforms

BY: CASEY ROBERTS
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A new Kentucky law taking effect June 27 will significantly change how school employees and volunteers communicate with students.

Senate Bill 181, signed by Gov. Andy Beshear on April 1, requires all public school districts in the state to designate an official digital communication platform for staff-to-student messaging. The system must be parent-accessible and capable of logging all communication. Any electronic communication conducted outside the approved platform will be prohibited unless a parent or guardian gives written consent.

The law applies to all teachers, school

employees, and school-affiliated volunteers. Immediate family members—including parents, grandparents, and siblings—are exempt.

Each district must choose a platform that meets the law's standards, including tools like message archiving and parental oversight. Popular platforms such as Remind and ParentSquare are expected to qualify, though districts may select other options.

Under the law, school principals must notify parents of the district's approved system within the first 10 days of each school year. If a staff member or volunteer needs to contact a student outside the platform—via text, email, or another method—the parent must first sign a consent form outlining the specific person and purpose. That consent can be

revoked or revised at any time.

Any suspected violations must be reported to the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), which is required to investigate complaints within 120 days. The law includes confidentiality protections for both complainants and minors.

Penalties vary depending on the staff member's certification status. Certified employees may face disciplinary action or license review by the EPSB. Non-certified employees or volunteers could lose their eligibility to work with students.

Senate Bill 181 passed with bipartisan support and is formally known as Acts Chapter 149.

OTHER NEW LAWS TAKING EFFECT JUNE 27

Roughly 140 new laws passed during Kentucky's 2025 legislative session will go

into effect Friday. Key measures include:

■ House Bill 4: Requires public colleges and universities to eliminate all diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offices, programs, and training by June 30, 2025. Institutions must also annually certify compliance and are barred from using any resources for DEI initiatives.

■ Senate Bill 22: Allows licensed mobile barber shops and salons to operate statewide under the Kentucky Board of Barbering. It also permits unlimited retakes of licensing exam sections and expands exam access to Department of Corrections programs.

■ Senate Bill 19: Mandates a moment of silence at the start of each school day in all K–12 public schools.

See **LIMIT**, on 2



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