



Siler signs with Ky. Christian University.
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Patriot award winners honored

CASEY ROBERTS
Interior Journal

Lincoln County Public Schools recognized its latest Patriot Award recipients last week, honoring students and staff across the district who demonstrate leadership, service and strong character. Representatives from each school were selected for their positive contributions to their classrooms and communities.

Among this month's honorees was Mason Smith, a staff member at Stanford Elementary School known for his reliability, work ethic and commitment to creating a welcoming environment for students and teachers. Smith said the award came as a meaningful surprise.

"I felt very honored to be recognized for the work I put in at the school," he said. "I go into work every day with a goal, and I don't feel satisfied with myself until I complete the goal I have set for myself."

Smith said the most rewarding part of his job is knowing he plays a role in helping the school day run smoothly.

"What I find most satisfying is just knowing that the staff and students will be able to enjoy the day with a clean environment," he said. "Knowing that people

will be able to go about their day with a clean environment makes me proud."

His motivation, he said, comes largely from his mother, who also worked in the school system.

"My mom gives me my motivation mostly," Smith said. "She worked in the school system for years, and I just aim to make her proud every single day. Of course I want to make myself proud, but she is my number one motivation."

Smith said the recognition encourages him to continue giving his best effort.

"It means the world to me," he said. "I always aim to be the best me I can be, and to be recognized for that is amazing. I just want others to feel motivated to do the best they can every single day. No matter what."

October Patriot Award winners include:

- Gracelyn Durham, Early Childhood
- Valerie Day, Early Childhood
- Hunter Coots, Crab Orchard
- Isaac Edwards, Highland
- Ansleigh Trent, Hustonville
- Charlotte Etue, Hustonville
- Paisley Reynolds, Waynesburg
- Gracelynn Kaufmann, Stanford Elementary



Mason Smith is recognized with a Patriot Award during the Lincoln County Board of Education meeting for his outstanding contributions to the district.

- Liam Duncan, Lincoln County Middle School
- Tim Hooper, LCMS staff
- Arianna Bennett, Lincoln County High School
- Chansler Gilbert, Lincoln County High School

District leaders said the monthly award program is designed to highlight individuals who model positive behavior, uplift others, and embody what it means to be a Patriot.

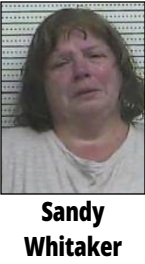
Caregiver faces charges in alleged assault

CASEY ROBERTS
Interior Journal

A Lincoln County caregiver is facing multiple charges after investigators say video evidence showed her striking a nonverbal adult under her care.

According to court records, 48-year-old Sandy Whitaker was taken into custody on Friday, Nov. 14, after Adult Protective Services notified the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office about a possible assault involving a vulnerable patient.

Deputies wrote in an arrest citation that the victim's sister-in-law reported having several recordings that appeared to show Whitaker punching the



See CAREGIVER, 2A

Crab Orchard issues sewer warning over non-flushables

CASEY ROBERTS
Interior Journal

City officials are asking residents to be more mindful of what goes down their toilets after a T-shirt was found jammed inside a sewer pump on Stanford Street, causing significant damage to the community's wastewater system.

According to the City of Crab Orchard, workers recently removed the clothing item from one of the lift station pumps, discovering that the obstruction had caused enough internal damage that both pumps at the station must now be replaced. City leaders warned that the repair costs are substantial and could eventually lead to higher sewer bills for customers.

See CRAB, 2A

Lincoln County board reviews recognitions, facilities

Staff Report

The Lincoln County Board of Education met Thursday, Nov. 13, for a largely routine session that included recognitions, financial approvals and several discussions related to district facilities. The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

The evening opened on a personal high note for many in attendance as several students were recognized, including Hunter, a student from Crab Orchard Elementary. Hunter, joined by his brothers Austin and Dakota, led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance. Hunter was also honored as his school's student recognition recipient for November.

RECOGNITIONS

The board's recognition segment began with Farm Bureau representative Ms. Blair, who presented awards to the

winners of the agency's annual agriculture-themed coloring contest. Students and staff from multiple schools were highlighted. District officials encouraged the community to visit the Lincoln County Public Schools social media pages to view the full list of honorees and photos.

REPORTS AND ROUTINE UPDATES

Superintendent requests and monthly reports made up a significant portion of the agenda, including updates on personnel actions, SBDM minutes, enrollment numbers, early childhood communication, drill reports and monthly financial statements. No significant issues were raised during this section.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

The board unanimously approved the full consent agenda, which included:

- Minutes from the Oct. 2 working meeting and Oct. 16 regular meeting
- Superintendent and staff travel
- Multiple medical leave requests for employees at Stanford Elementary, LCMS and Highland
- Facility usage requests from Lincoln County Ice and Lincoln Arsenal youth sports programs for November through spring
- A trip approval allowing LCATC students to visit Nashville on Dec. 4
- School-wide fundraising activities at Highland and Hustonville
- Donations totaling \$13,500, including \$3,500 for FFA needs, \$2,500 and \$7,500 for Highland's Family Resource Center

Board member Gloria Sneed noted the significance of the donations, pointing to the ongoing generosity of local individuals and businesses.

"Without support like this, our students would miss out on so many opportunities," she said.

The board also approved grant applications, including a \$400 Kentucky Beef Council grant for instructional use and a \$500 Forrest Turpin grant to supply Bibles for First Priority students.

FACILITY PLAN DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE

One of the evening's most notable discussions centered on the district facility plan. After months of committee meetings, the draft plan returned to the board for further consideration. Board members voted to send the plan back to the planning committee with recommendations, including:

- Making Highland and Waynesburg Transitional schools

See LINCOLN, 2A

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