



Lincoln County
High School inducts
inaugural sports hall
of fame class.

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Wade Mason inspires during heart month

By CASEY ROBERTS

Interior Journal

When Megan Mason thinks about her son Wade's journey, one image rises above the rest: pink fingers.

For much of his early life, Wade's fingers, toes and lips carried a blue tint — a visible reminder of the low oxygen levels caused by his congenital heart condition. But after his third heart surgery, something changed.

"The biggest victory was after his third surgery," Megan Mason said. "His fingers, toes and lips turned pink. They had always been blue before that. That's when we finally felt a sense of relief that he was going to be OK."

Doctors initially questioned the oxygen numbers, hooking Wade up to multiple machines to confirm what they were seeing. The numbers held. It wasn't a mistake. It was progress — and for the Mason family, a moment they will never forget.

February is American Heart Month, first proclaimed nationally in 1964 by

"Never give up. Be there with them. Learn how to care for them. Love them."

Megan Mason

Wade Mason's mother

President Lyndon B. Johnson, and families like the Masons use the month to reflect on how far their children have come — and to encourage others facing similar diagnoses.

Wade, now 7 years old, has undergone three heart surgeries. Yet today, Megan describes him not by his medical history, but by his heart in a different sense.

"He is one of the most caring people you will ever meet," she said. "He appreciates everything. He's an amazing boy who loves his family and all the people around him."

Megan said what amazes her most is Wade's perspective — or perhaps his lack of one when it comes to hardship.

"He doesn't realize the obstacles he's been through," she said with a laugh. "He's just chilled out about it. He's had three heart surgeries."

From the beginning, Wade's life held both fragility and strength. As a newborn, he looked healthy, but machines helped sustain him. His second surgery brought moments of fear — alarms sounding, doctors rushing in — memories that remain etched in his parents' minds.

But alongside the fear came kindness.

The family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House Charities, where simple comforts — a toothbrush, a warm bed, a hot shower — provided relief during long hospital days. Megan said those experiences taught her that healing is not only medical. It is also communal.

Despite multiple surgeries, Wade did

See WADE, 2A



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Wade Mason, once a "blue baby" because of low oxygen levels caused by a congenital heart condition, has undergone three heart surgeries and continues to inspire his family during American Heart Month.



STAFF PHOTO

Newly hired student intern Lukas Sneed will assist with reporting on local news, sports and community events across Lincoln County.

Interior Journal welcomes LCHS intern Luke Sneed

By CASEY ROBERTS

Interior Journal

The Interior Journal is welcoming a new student voice to its newsroom this year.

Luke Sneed, a junior at Lincoln County High School, has joined the newspaper as a high school intern, bringing with him leadership experience, a passion for storytelling and a strong interest in local journalism.

Sneed said his motivation to apply stemmed from a desire to

share stories that matter to his community.

"I was motivated to apply for the internship with The Interior Journal because I have a strong interest in sharing stories and writing about topics that matter to my community," Sneed said. "Through my experience as the Editor-in-Chief of my school's yearbook, I have discovered how meaningful it is to document important highlights and moments. I wanted to expand those skills beyond my school's

yearbook and gain real-world experience in local journalism."

At Lincoln County High School, Sneed serves as Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, Beta Club historian, Kentucky State Beta representative and Public Relations officer for Club America. He said those roles have helped shape both his leadership abilities and his appreciation for storytelling.

Through his work on the

See INTERIOR, 2A

Scholar launches youth sports drive

By CASEY ROBERTS

Interior Journal

A Lincoln County student is turning a required community service project into an effort to ensure more local children can participate in youth sports.

Brody Baker, a 2025 Rogers Scholar, is collecting donations to help cover registration fees for families participating in Lincoln County Parks and Recreation programs. The funds will go directly toward assisting children who may not otherwise be able to afford to play.

Baker said his decision was

rooted in his own experience growing up in the Lincoln County sports system.

"Throughout my childhood, I loved playing sports through the Lincoln Sports and Rec program," Baker said. "I played soccer, baseball and basketball and met some of my best friends to this day through the sports. I was thinking of a way to help kids have the best childhood possible without barriers like money stopping them."

To determine the best way to

See ROGERS, 2A

County school board OKs credit changes

Staff Report

The Lincoln County Board of Education met Feb. 12 for a lengthy session highlighted by school improvement presentations, facility updates and several action items tied to Lincoln County High School renovations and future planning.

The board approved the meeting agenda (Order #179) on a motion by Gloria Sneed, seconded by Phillip Coots.

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During presentations, Early Childhood Program

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