



Tuozzo chasing national title
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Smith resigns as Lincoln superintendent

By Casey Roberts
Interior Journal

STANFORD — The Lincoln County Board of Education accepted Superintendent Bruce Smith’s resignation and retirement during its Aug. 6 meeting while also reviewing proposed tax rates, school construction needs and security upgrades.

Smith’s resignation will take effect Jan. 1, 2027. His final day

as superintendent will be Dec. 31.

Board Chair Christine Killen read Smith’s resignation letter following the public comment portion of the meeting. Jennifer Broadbent made the motion to accept the resignation, and Phillip Coots seconded it.

Broadbent, Coots, Gloria Sneed and Tyler McGuffey voted in favor of accepting the resignation. Killen voted against the motion.

No members of the public spoke during the meeting.

The board also proposed reducing the district’s real property tax rate from 49.9 cents to 47.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The proposed personal property tax rate would remain at 53.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The tax rate proposal was added to the agenda shortly before the meeting after district officials received the necessary

assessment information. The board directed the superintendent to publish the public notice required by state law before the rates receive final consideration.

The two taxes generated approximately \$8.18 million at last year’s rates. District officials project the proposed rates would generate approximately \$8.46 million, an increase of \$277,604. The additional revenue would be used for employee salaries

and raises.

The district’s total budget is approximately \$54 million.

Much of the meeting focused on current and future facility projects, including renovations at Lincoln County High School.

The first bid package in the second phase of the high school renovation is underway. It includes construction of an electrical room for new

See **SMITH**, 2A



JOE BERRY

Heloise Reed holds a photograph taken on her first day of teaching at Pond School, which now serves as the parsonage for Pond Baptist Church.

Documentary preserves legacy of beloved Highland teacher Heloise Reed

By Casey Roberts
Interior Journal

STANFORD, Ky. — For generations of Highland Elementary students, Heloise Duncan Reed was more than a teacher or substitute. She was a familiar face in the classroom, a steady presence in the community and someone who helped shape the lives of thousands of children across more than six decades.

Now, local historian and filmmaker Joe Berry is making sure her story is not forgotten.

Berry recently released the two-part documentary, Coal Buckets to Computers: Heloise

See **DOCUMENTARY**, 2A



JOE BERRY

Heloise Reed stands outside of Highland Elementary School. Reed spent nearly seven decades connected to Highland as a student, teacher and substitute.

Pitman Creek begins major expansion

Staff Report

STANFORD — Pitman Creek Wholesale has begun construction on a 112,500-square-foot expansion of its Stanford headquarters, a project expected to increase the company’s capacity and create up to 50 jobs.

The family-owned fishing

tackle distributor said the addition will provide more room for inventory, expand its product selection and support continued growth.

“We never set out to be the biggest. We simply wanted to be the best every day by taking care of every customer,” said James Coffey, president of

See **PITMAN**, 2A



PITMAN CREEK WHOLESALE

Pitman Creek Wholesale representatives and community leaders break ground on a 112,500-square-foot expansion of the company's Stanford headquarters. The project is expected to create up to 50 jobs and be completed in summer 2027.

Medical cannabis dispensary opens in Stanford

By Casey Roberts
Interior Journal

STANFORD — Speakeasy Dispensary opened a medical cannabis location in Stanford on Aug. 6, expanding patient access in Lincoln County and surrounding communities.

The dispensary is located at 993 U.S. 27 and is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday

through Saturday.

The Stanford location offers Kentucky medical cannabis products, including flower, vape products, edibles and concentrates. Staff members are available to answer questions, explain products and help patients navigate the state’s medical cannabis program.

“As Kentucky’s medical

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