



Lincoln makes strides
in loss to Danville
Page 11A

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RYAN KIRKPATRICK

Local first responders and Lincoln County High School Public Safety Pathway students gather during a 9/11 first responder breakfast held Sept. 11 at Lincoln County high school.

LCHS students honor first responders with 9/11 breakfast

By Casey Roberts
Interior Journal

Lincoln County High School students spent the morning of Sept. 11 alongside local first responders as part of a breakfast recognizing those who serve the community and the significance of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The breakfast was organized by Ryan Kirkpatrick, a captain with the Stanford Police Department who teaches public safety and law enforcement classes at Lincoln County High School. The event brought students and first responders together at the high school for breakfast and an opportunity to talk about careers in public safety and service to the community.



RYAN KIRKPATRICK

Lincoln County High School Public Safety Pathway students share breakfast with local first responders Sept. 11. The event gave students an opportunity to interact with those serving in public safety while recognizing the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

8:30 a.m. in Kirkpatrick’s classroom. About 50 people were expected to participate, including students and members of the local public safety community.

Rather than having his students simply serve the meal, Kirkpatrick wanted them to participate alongside the first responders.

The event received support through community donations, with others helping prepare food for the breakfast. Kirkpatrick said support for the event grew more quickly than he anticipated.

The City of Stanford Fire Department thanked the Public Safety Pathway class in a social media post following the breakfast, saying the students hosted breakfast for first responders who were on duty that morning.

The department said the event gave students an opportunity to demonstrate support for the people serving Lincoln County while learning about public service themselves.

For Kirkpatrick, putting students and current first responders in the same room

See **LCHS**, 2A

Halloween 5K to support Lincoln County child battling brain cancer

By Christopher Brown
Contributing Writer

HARRODSBURG, Ky. — When Bowen Pennington, then 2, was diagnosed with DIPG in December 2025, his family’s world was turned upside down.

Bowen, now 3, lives in Lincoln County with his parents, Cierra and Ryan Pennington.

For his mother, Cierra Pennington, the diagnosis brought a reality no parent wants to face.

“As a parent, there is nothing worse than being told your child has a disease that doesn’t have a cure,” Pennington said. “There are so many ways that it makes you feel completely helpless.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Bowen Pennington, 3, of Lincoln County, is the inspiration behind Bowen’s Halloween 5K, a fundraiser scheduled for Oct. 31 in downtown Harrodsburg. Proceeds from the event will support Bowen and his family as he battles DIPG.

Although Bowen is fighting a disease that has changed his family’s life, his mother said he is as bright and energetic as any other child.

“Bowen is so much more than his diagnosis,” Pennington said. “He’s hilarious, stubborn, wild and full of life. He loves monster trucks, Hot Wheels, dump trucks, semis, airplanes and just about anything with an engine. He recently started school and absolutely loves it. He enjoys going to the park and is currently obsessed with

bounce houses. He’s just like anyone else’s little kid. He just loves life.”

That is the Bowen his mother wants people to know.

DIPG, or diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, is a highly aggressive brain tumor that develops in the pons, an area of the brainstem.

“The brainstem controls so many important things like walking, talking, swallowing, breathing, even facial

See **BATTLE**, 2A

School board eyes new school site, advances Highland sale

By Casey Roberts
Interior Journal

The Lincoln County Board of Education took the next steps toward selling the former Highland Elementary School property and approved spending for safety and communication upgrades at three elementary schools during its Sept. 10 meeting.

The board approved a BG1 for the disposal of Highland Elementary School through a sealed bid process. The action establishes sealed bids as the

method the district will use for the sale.

Earlier in the meeting, the board adopted a resolution declaring certain district property as surplus and authorizing its sale through the Lincoln County School District Finance Corporation.

The regular board meeting was then recessed, and members convened as the Lincoln County School District Finance Corporation. The corporation approved a resolution

See **SCHOOL**, 3A

INDEX

Classifieds	7A	Sports	11A
Crossword	6A	Sudoku	6A
Deaths			3A



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