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Lincoln board reviews tax rates, program agreements and policy changes

BY CASEY ROBERTS
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The Lincoln County Board of Education discussed tax rate options, approved multiple program agreements, and updated several policies during its regular meeting Aug. 7. Finance Director Lee Ann Smith presented options for 2025 real and personal property tax rates. Last year's rates were 52.2 cents per \$100 of as-

essed value for real estate and 54.6 cents for personal property. Smith recommended adopting the "4% revenue increase" option, which would lower the real estate rate to 49.9 and the personal property rate to 53.2, while still generating funds for annual salary increases. "This 4% is what allows us to provide salary increases each year," Smith said, adding that without the increase, raises for certified and classified staff would

not be possible. The district has until Sept. 13 to set the rates. The board also heard the Early Childhood Program's annual report, reviewed legislative requirements for annual data and information security, and approved a memorandum of agreement for the Gear Up program to serve students in grades 9-11. Other approvals included: ■ Use of Edgenuity and Hapara platforms to meet Senate Bill 181's traceable commu-

nication requirements. ■ Early kindergarten entry for a Hustonville Elementary student who met readiness criteria. ■ A contract with the Central Kentucky Interpreter Register for language interpreting services during the 2025-26 school year. In action items, the board approved revisions to policies 03.1233 and 03.2233 to set a start date for paid maternity leave, aligned the leave request form with the policy, and adjusted the

salary for the 21st Century Community Learning Center director to match other district program directors. The board also approved: ■ A memorandum of agreement with Midway University for student teaching placements. ■ The 2025-26 student handbook, which includes significant policy and disciplinary chart changes.

See **BOE**, on 2

Lincoln golf opens season 5-0 with strong wins



Lincoln County's Kainen Withrow, left, and Cash Baird each carded even-par rounds of 36 to lead the Patriots to a win over Garrard County on Aug. 7 at Old Bridge Golf Course. (Photo by Zach Johnson)

BY CASEY ROBERTS
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The Lincoln County boys golf team is off to a perfect start, opening the season 5-0 overall and 2-0 in conference play after a string of wins over Garrard County, Casey County and Danville Christian Academy.

On Aug. 7, the Patriots defeated Garrard County 154-178 at Old Bridge Golf Course. Cash Baird and Kainen Withrow each carded even-par 36s to lead the way, followed by Jonah White (41), Kaiden Newsome (41), Alex Hatter (49), Mason Ralston (49), Brice Johnson (50) and Aiden Pike (51). "Super proud of Cash — the

way he's been playing lately, he's put a ton of work in this offseason and it's showing right now with him being under par a lot during rounds early in the season," coach Zach Johnson said. "Also super proud of Jonah. We were missing two starters and he stepped up and gave us a great round."

See **GOLF**, on 2

Ky. community colleges working to meet student mental health needs

BY SARAH LADD
Kentucky Lantern

About two-thirds of Kentucky community college students surveyed last year say they have experienced depression or anxiety while 1 in 5 reported engaging in "self-injurious behavior." In response, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System is launching a Mental Health Strategy for its roughly 100,000 students. KCTCS President Ryan Quarles told the Lantern that since taking on his role in 2023, he's sought to prioritize mental health. "We know that half of all community college students across the country struggle with mental health issues, and the report that we see here clearly shows that Kentucky is higher than national averages," he said. "So, we still have to learn from other states, but the need is very severe right now." The largest provider of postsecondary education in the state, KCTCS will educate employees and students about mental health, create a centralized document full of mental health resources for the whole system, develop a peer wellness program in which students can volunteer as mental health ambassadors for those around them, provide staff with trainings on how to spot depression and anxiety in their students and more. This comes in response to a 2024 Healthy Minds Study that showed that in the KCTCS system, 68% of surveyed students had depression and 66% had anxiety. That survey also showed 13% of students who took the survey were at risk of an eating disorder and 20% had already engaged in "self-injurious behavior."

See **MENTAL**, on 2

EWA brings 'Firehouse Frenzy' to Hustonville

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Contributing Writer

Professional wrestling will return to Hustonville this month as Elite Wrestling Alliance (EWA) presents Firehouse Frenzy, a special fundraiser for the Hustonville Fire Department. The event is set for Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at the Hustonville Fire Department. Doors open at 6 p.m., and bell time is scheduled for 7 p.m. The night will feature high-energy action and family-friendly entertainment. Fans can expect championship bouts, including appearances by EWA Heritage Champion Jacob Ratliff — a fan favorite known for his gritty, scrappy style — and EWA Champion "Picture Perfect" Jordan Kage. Rumors are circulating about a possible no-disqualification "Firehouse Brawl" to keep the

crowd guessing. EWA promoter Braden Atwood said community-driven events like Firehouse Frenzy are central to the promotion's mission. "Being able to do community events like this, or our summer partnership with the Boyle County Public Library, is a huge part of what I love about EWA," Atwood said. "We get to bring wrestling to fans who might not normally attend one of our monthly shows, and at the same time, support a good cause. Partnering with Hustonville's first responders to bring the community together is huge." While EWA is based in Danville, Atwood said his connection to Lincoln County runs deep. "I've been a resident of the county for more than 15 years, and I want to see more entertainment and things to do in

the community," he said. "The tradition of wrestling here goes back decades, with shows in Kings Mountain, McKinney and even in Stanford. We have plans to bring even more wrestling events to Lincoln County in the near future." Known for its mix of homegrown and regional talent, EWA has built a reputation for delivering a polished wrestling product. Organizers expect Firehouse Frenzy to draw fans from across the region while raising money to support Hustonville's firefighters. **EVENT DETAILS:** ■ What: EWA Firehouse Frenzy — Fundraiser for Hustonville Fire Department ■ When: Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025 — Doors open 6 p.m., Bell time 7 p.m. ■ Where: Hustonville Fire Department ■ Tickets: Available at the door



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