



WHAT'S INSIDE: PROPERTY TRANSFERS, A7 • DISTRICT COURT NEWS, B9 • TRAVIS LEFFEW NAMED NEW LINCOLN FOOTBALL COACH, B1

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## Bus wreck, garage audit to impact cost of insurance for Lincoln schools

By Ben Kleppinger  
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STANFORD — Lincoln County's school system is facing a potential rate increase in its property and liability insurance due to recent events surrounding district school buses.

When the district asked for bids from insurance companies to insure the school system during the coming 2014-15 school year, it got zero bids back, District Finance Officer Marsha Abel told board of education members May 22.

The lack of bids was due to a May 7 bus wreck and a recent transportation audit that found multiple deficiencies with how the school district's bus garage operates, according to school board agenda paperwork filed by Superintendent Karen Hatter.

The district's current insurance company, Wright Specialty Insurance, will insure the district again, but the premium cost will likely increase, Hatter said.

Wright Specialty is conducting an investigation into the bus wreck and plans to complete that investigation before proposing a specific premium amount, she said.

A Lincoln County school bus carrying 48 students collided head-on with a pickup truck along Ky. 78 between Hustonville and Stanford the morning of May 7.

The driver of the pickup truck was cut from his vehicle and airlifted from the scene but ultimately died of the injuries he sustained in the wreck.

The bus driver and a total of 37 students were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Larry Linville with Wright Specialty told board members his insur-

See **INSURANCE**  
Continued on A10

## MEMORIAL DAY 2014



A member of Stanford's Caswell Saufley American Legion Post 18 salutes the U.S. flag during a Memorial Day weekend service at Buffalo Springs Cemetery on Saturday.

# NOT FORGOTTEN

Buffalo Springs Cemetery was a busy place Saturday morning, as Memorial Day weekend got underway. Some attended a Memorial Day service, while others visited and cleaned their loved ones' graves.

At right: from left, Laura Robbins, June Robbins, Pauline Moore and Alice Carpenter care for the grave of Laura Robbins' daughter, who died in the 1960s.

See more Memorial Day photos on page A10.

Photos by Ben Kleppinger



## Zoning amendment for farm repair shops on hold



Members of Lincoln County Fiscal Court talk Tuesday with Planning and Zoning Commission attorney Jeff Ralston, far right, about a proposed amendment to the planning and zoning laws that would allow farmers to start agricultural equipment repair shops. The amendment has been tabled until a meeting Friday.

By Ben Kleppinger  
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STANFORD — A zoning amendment that would allow farmers to start their own agricultural repair businesses has been tabled after Lincoln magistrates expressed concerns that the change would not also allow for a sawmill factory to be opened on an Amish farm.

The proposed amendment to Lincoln County's planning and zoning laws would allow the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Commission to approve conditional-use permits for farmers who want to operate a small business repairing farm machinery and vehicles, planning and zoning attorney Jeff Ralston told

## MAKING THE GRADE

Ongoing coverage of Lincoln County High School's recovery efforts following its 2011 designation as a "persistently low-achieving" school

## Audits show LCHS, district have improved

By Ben Kleppinger  
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STANFORD — Lincoln County High School and the school district office have made substantial improvements since the state first audited their academic practices in 2012, according to a pair of audit reports from the Kentucky Department of Education.

As a result of the improvements, the state has now reversed its previous ruling that the board of education was unable to lead recovery efforts at the high school, Superintendent Karen Hatter said.

But the news wasn't 100-percent positive — auditors identified a need for standardized grading and a problem with consistent student engagement in different classrooms.

State auditors visited Lincoln County in late March, about two years after an initial audit team came to the county and identified deficiencies at the high school and district office.

The audits are due to Lincoln County High School being classified as a "persistently low-achieving" (PLA) school in late 2011.

This year's auditors found that nearly all the original deficiencies identified in 2012 have been taken care of, according to the audit reports.

Auditors ruled that all six deficiencies identified at the high school had been "addressed satisfactorily." They ruled the same for five out of six deficiencies identified at the district office.

Auditors said school officials had only partially addressed the following deficiency: "The superintendent, district leadership and school community have not fostered a culture of high expectations."

Auditors noted that "the district and the school have taken important first steps," but also wrote that "classroom observations show inconsistent implementation of expected instructional outcomes," according to the district audit report.

Auditors' negative findings stemmed largely from walkthroughs conducted at the high school, where they observed students in every classroom, Hatter and high school Principal Tim Godbey said.

Hatter said while local school officials usually observe teachers to make sure they are teaching properly, the auditors used a dif-

See **AUDITS**  
Continued on A10



See **P&Z**  
Continued on A10

Photo by Ben Kleppinger