

It's Grand Reopening weekend for Lincoln Jamboree

BY ALLISON SHEPHERD
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

In July the Lincoln Jamboree was open for business and things were going great. The shows were well attended even sold out and the reopening of the restaurant things were going better than manager Jay Henderson could imagine.

"During the last week of July I thought things couldn't be better. We were having a special Friday night Elvis Show and a Saturday night impersonation show, and tickets were selling well. Grand Ole Opry star Jeannie Seely was scheduled to appear in early August and things were going great. The Jamboree was having great crowds and I thought things couldn't be better," said Henderson.

Then things took a hard about face when Henderson and other

Jamboree faithful's became ill. "I received a call from a performer that had tested positive for COVID, and was made aware that some of the people from our talent contest had also been diagnosed with the virus." Henderson admitted he thought he just a cold with a dry cough, but thought he should get tested so he could say it was safe for everyone to come. "I tested positive. That was at 6 pm on Friday night. I made plans to get another emcee and bass player and Show could go on. But something just kept telling me you need to call it off. I've always went with my gut feelings so at 9:30 that night while the Jamboree was having a special show I made the call in Walgreens parking lot to cancel. Thank God I did," Henderson said.

Henderson has always kept the health and wellbeing of the

audience, staff and performers as his top priority when having to make these hard decisions, as the spread of the virus has closed the Jamboree before. "People kept messaging me why don't you go back outside and do shows," he said, but admits that his bout with the virus had left him weak, and he wondered if things would ever get back to normal.

Kentucky's Finest Restaurant located inside the Lincoln Jamboree reopened on September 27. "We are coming back with a bang, but with safety."

The restaurant is now open 7 days a week for lunch. The Jamboree will reopen as one of the safest, cleanest places you will find anywhere this Friday night, October 15.

"We will have a special Friday Grand Reopening Show that will feature the King of Impersonators, Greg Tate

who can sound exactly like John Anderson, John Conlee, Keith Whitley, George Strait and so many more. Jamboree favorites, Classy & Grassy, Jessica Merritt, Ronnie Benningfield, Wayne Sexton, The Singing Bingham's, and we will be welcoming back Ricky Puckett full time to the show. He's even going to do his Uncle Ernie and STRINGBEAN skit and there'll be an All Male Judd's impersonation that night for comedy," Henderson said.

Saturday, the Jamboree will host the final Flea Market of 2021 from beginning at 9 a.m. and the restaurant will host a Bargain Breakfast too. Short order lunches and a big home cooked supper is on the menu Saturday night. Classy & Grassy will take the stage at 6 pm on Saturday, the Jamboree Gang with lots of special guest stars

at 7 pm and Grand Ole Opry Star Rhonda Vincent and The Rage will be in concert at 9 pm.

Tickets are still available for Friday night, but Henderson reports that Saturday night is almost a sell out and encourages everyone to call the Jamboree so they don't miss out on the fun.

Friday night's tickets are only \$20. Saturday night's tickets vary depending on where you want to sit, according to Henderson.

But this is only the beginning of the good news. With the grand re-opening this weekend, he says that Friday and Saturday shows are planned through the remainder of the year with The French Family from Australia in concert Oct. 22, and October 30, the Jamboree welcomes Georgette Jones and Eddie Miles Concert has been rescheduled for November

ber 5, with American Idol contestant Alex Miller returning to Hodgenville in November and December.

The restaurant is back open 7 days a week for lunch, which opens Mondays thru Fridays at 11am and Saturdays and Sundays at noon.

"We can't look back only forward. And the forward is going to be something people will be talking about and keep people coming for the years ahead," Henderson stated.

He added that he was so thankful for everyone who voted The Lincoln Jamboree as the "Best Place for Live Music in KY" in the Kentucky Living Magazine contest. "LaRue County is definitely well represented with lots of 'Tops in KY'." As Joel Ray Sprowls used to say about his beloved Lincoln Jamboree, "There's nothing else like it anywhere."

Coach knew Cason Wallace was special



Photo submitted (Richardson Talon News/Savannah Armitage)

Five-star combo guard Cason Wallace will make his college choice Nov. 7 and most recruiting analysts expect him to pick Kentucky.



Vaught's Views
Larry Vaught

Before he was sure how talented Cason Wallace was on the

basketball court, Richardson (Texas) High School coach Kevin Lawson knew he was going to be special.

"It's his character that I like better than anything. I would love Cason and think he was the best even if he was not good at

basketball. He is a great kid," said Lawson. "He is the type of kid, and I have been doing this a long time, who is special."

"When he walks in and sees my wife and kids he says hello to them and gives my boys a high five. When

he leaves he goes by and says goodbye to everyone. That is who he is and has nothing to do with him being one of the best players in the country.

"I just knew he was special when he started doing that. He always takes time to give my wife a hug and say hello. I just like who he is."

Wallace (6-4, 185 pounds) is also a top 10 player in the 2022 recruiting class who plans to make his college choice Nov. 7. The leader for the combo guard seems to be Kentucky where he would join 2022 commits Skyy Clark, Shaedon Sharpe and Chris Livingston. Wallace is a five-star recruit and one of the best backcourt defensive players in the 2022 recruiting class.

"He's just good at everything. He makes everyone else on the team better.

He's tough and will always guard the other team's best player," Lawson said. "He's not a kid who will score 30 points. He can do that but he almost passes too much to make others better and does not put himself in position to score 30."

"You would think he has sticky on the end of his fingers. He just sucks the ball to him on deflections, rebounds. He's just a winner and in defensive transition the way he blocks shots is off the charts. I have not seen anyone do what he does. You think a guy is going to get a layup or dunk and Cason will swallow him up."

"He might be even better on defense than offense just because of the way he changes the game and frustrates the other team. Not many players can do that. But he's so good it's hard to say what

he is really best at."

However, Lawson says fans at whatever school he picks are going to love his demeanor. He remembers a tailgate football fundraiser the basketball team did when Wallace was a sophomore. Players were bringing extra drinks from the parking lot to the basketball office.

"My wife is in the office at my desk. The players sit down and a kid reaches in to take a soft drink. Cason said, 'Hey, put that back. You didn't pay for it.' He was doing that because that is who he is," Lawson said. "My wife, Kelly, could not wait to tell me about that. I tell that story to coaches recruiting him because that really tells who he is as a person even when nobody's looking. That's just who he is and why he's special."

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Joel Ray Sprowls
LINCOLN JAMBOREE

GRAND REOPENING WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Restaurant Opens at **11 am** and
Free Camporee Begins (Free
Camping for all Jamboree
Customers)

4 pm until 8 pm •
Restaurant is open for
supper

8 pm • Grand
Reopening Show
featuring Classy &
Grassy, Greg Tate,
Jessica Merritt, and
Ricky Puckett Plus
Special Appearances
from Uncle Ernie
& STRINGBEAN and
an ALL MALE JUDDS
IMPERSONATION All Seats
Reserved \$20

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

9 am • Bargain Breakfast and Free Outdoor
Flea Market (Free Setups for Vendors &
Yard Sale Booths, Text or Call Jessica at
270-403-2235 for a Free Booth)

Kentucky's Finest Restaurant will be open
throughout the day.

6 pm • Classy & Grassy

7 pm • Jay Henderson & Joel Ray's
Jamboree Gang & Sweethearts plus
Special Guests: Tiffany Lynn Puckett,
Amy Lynn Brown, Emily Portman,
Andrea Childress, Christy Miller, &
Special Guest Star: Jackson Harris

9 pm • Grand Ole Opry Star Rhonda
Vincent & The Rage (Pricing varies
for this show. Call Jamboree Box
Office at 270-358-3545 for pricing &
reservations)

KENTUCKY'S Finest Family Style Restaurant

2579 Lincoln Farm Rd., Hodgenville, KY
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KENTUCKY'S FINEST RESTAURANT IS NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.