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School calendar could look different...or not

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Each year, there is a survey for students, parents and staff on how the calendar might look for the following school year. The response to the survey might be low as many feel the calendar is pretty much set in stone. However, this year’s survey

by the calendar committee will have some drastically different options for the 2026-27 school year. And superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon is looking for as much feedback as possible, including those in the community. Could students start classes later in August? Could students attend classes longer each day?

Could fall break be altered or shifted in the year? Could elementary students start school first and high school classes begin later in the morning? Those topics will be part of the 2026-27 calendar survey to be unveiled in the coming weeks. Bacon alerted members of the Bullitt County Public School Board on Monday about what is about to

be released to the community. Thanks to changes at the state level and with the Bullitt County Education Association contract, Bacon said districts have a little more freedom in how they deliver educational lessons to students. Traditionally, the district has not varied from the early August start and finish in May with 170 days in the classroom to fulfill the

mandatory 1,062 hours of instruction. But, a variable calendar, which is already being utilized in over 30 districts in the state, is now a possibility. However, it can’t be accomplished without a desire to make changes. Calling it a “pro-tourism” schedule, classes in the variable calendar could

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Photos by Stephen Thomas

Celebrating veterans at VFW Post 5710

SHEPHERDSVILLE — The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5710 on Highway 44 West was full of smiles during its annual Veterans Day appreciation luncheon for veterans and their families. The bellies were also full thanks to a catered meal courtesy of the Turnaround Resource Center based in

Lebanon Junction. The annual event included gift bags, raffles, useful information from Caretenders, and free flu and Covid shows were also available. For more information on the Bullitt County Memorial Post & Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars 5710 call (502) 543-5710.



Students' idea of accessible table becomes reality

BY THOMAS J. BARR
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SHEPHERDSVILLE – Brady Rosson still has a prototype sitting at his home. A project that included students from Bullitt Central High became reality last Thursday in the Shepherdsville City Park. Under the guidance of GE engineer Michael Ekbundit, local students worked on projects that would make the community better. One of the proposals was an all-inclusive picnic table. The student group brought the idea to the Shepherdsville City Council, which gave its nod of approval. Several years later, the table was unveiled. Ekbundit said the table was made possible thanks to a



Michael Ekbundit sits at the accessible table with a park visitor.

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Warren will oversee EMS, EMA in restructuring

BY THOMAS J. BARR
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SHEPHERDSVILLE – A familiar face will be leading a restructured Bullitt County EMS. Justin Warren, who has served the past five years as director of Bullitt County Emergency Management, will assume the added role of leader of the EMS. Bullitt County Fiscal Court approved the change at a recent meeting. Bullitt County Judge/Executive Jerry Summers said there had been some needed changes in the leadership of the EMS. The change has resulted in several employees leaving the service and several of the command positions have been eliminated, said Summers. In fact, only one of the command staff remains. In selecting Warren, Summers said it wasn’t difficult. He has gained praise from emergency agencies in the county, state and nationally

for the assistance and knowledge he presented during natural disasters over the past few years. Along with assistant EMA director Jon Waters, Summers said there has been much praise and commendation for the work the team has performed. One task will be to look at the financial situation. Part of the study will be to see if the department could limit the number of overtime hours, which county CFO Keith Griffiee has long been an issue. Griffiee said he had long had concerns about the operations of EMS and he is confident that Warren is the right person to tackle the task. A look will be done on training programs. Griffiee said he agrees with Warren that much of the training could be done via the computer or television. Summers said he would propose to pay Warren \$80,000 per year for the first six months. If everything

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County takes care of long-term hauling issues

BY THOMAS J. BARR
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BROOKS – For several years, residents along Brooks Hill Road have complained about several sites where disposal of rock and dirt had become a safety issue and a nuisance. Bullitt Fiscal Court recently approved a revision to a 2011 ordinance that talks about land disturbance. The revision includes several of the complaints voiced by residents. For example, a permit is only valid for one year from its issuance. The dumping of debris is limited to 6 a.m. through 7 p.m. daily. Any debris not related directly to construction sites must be no more than 50 cubic yards a day. Any applicant can ask for

a waiver but that must be approved by fiscal court. The complaints included heavy, large trucks travelling on a curvy, narrow road. Residents also complained of noise from haulers who delivered product all hours of the day and night. There was no discussion from the audience or the court members. While addressing concerns from the Brooks Hill community, the ordinance is in effect throughout the county.

IN OTHER BUSINESS
*As part of its federal MS-4 surface water program, Bullitt County contracted with the Lincoln Trails ADD to handle its reporting duties. Lesley Dennis recently reported that she had been

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