

THE

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BCPS ready to welcome students Aug. 12

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Starting his 23rd year in public education and his ninth as superintendent, Dr. Jesse Bacon still enjoys giving that introductory challenge to first-year teachers.

On Monday, Bacon enthused some and probably caused a bit of anxiety for others as his high-energy introduction to the Bullitt County Public School District meant that the first day of classes were just a week or so away.

On Wednesday, Aug. 12, students will be returning to classes in Bullitt County and it will be yet another

year of change.

From weapons detectors at the high schools to the formation of its own police department to finalizing some major construction projects, there is seldom a dull moment for local educators.

“There is a lot of excitement,” Bacon said of every opening day. “Every year is really a new beginning.”

As he addressed the new educators at the Bullitt Central High School cafeteria, Bacon said he knows some are excited and some are anxious. He would be disappointed if many felt both emotions.

“They have an opportunity to change lives,” Bacon said all the

educators and support staff in the district. “That’s exciting. It’s also challenging.”

Before students can arrive, there are housekeeping tasks which must be accomplished.

In terms of vacancies, Bacon said the number of teaching positions to fill prior to the start of school is probably less than in past years. Math and science positions are always the most difficult.

For the classified positions, the superintendent said there are many openings.

Interested but don’t know how your skills could be used? Call or go

SEE BCPS/PAGE A4



Superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon addresses the new teachers during orientation on Monday



The staff celebrating their 500th MAKO surgery in just two years at University of Louisville Health South Hospital

Robots make joint replacement easier, less painful

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW – When Dr. Andrew Swiergosz was working on his training at the Cleveland Clinic he learned about something coming down the pike.

It was the study of using robotics to assist in the replacement of failed joints.

Overwhelmed by the advancements made in the field of robotics, Swiergosz decided that he wanted to specialize in the field.

His next decision was where to

take the skills he had acquired during his five years at the Cleveland Clinic.

Dorie Shelburne, CEO of University of Louisville Health South Hospital, knew there was a major interest in launching a robotics component at her facility, which was in its infancy.

“We wanted him,” Shelburne said of Swiergosz. “But the equipment is not cheap.”

However, in less than two years, South Hospital has become a leader in the region, conducting over 500 robotic joint replacements.

As more people read about the amazing work done by the robots, he said the number of patients asking about it has grown.

There are a lot of questions but Swiergosz said that the answers he can provide is often enough for the patients to move forward with the procedure.

While there are robotics involved, Swiergosz assures the patients that he is the one driving the ship, telling the robot what to do.

SEE ROBOTS/PAGE A3

MW Council discusses current buildings over data centers

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — A large turnout expecting to hear data center issues instead heard much more discussion about just the fronts of buildings.

The Mount Washington City Council planned to discuss a potential moratorium on data centers in city limits. The topic was scheduled for discussion at the council’s July 27 meeting.

City attorney Scott Wantland provided copies of two moratoriums, one passed by Bullitt Fiscal Court and the other by the Shepherdsville City

Council.

Wantland said Mount Washington could basically make a copy of either version, with an addition of making the moratorium 24 months rather than 12, as the council had hoped.

Council member Layne Abell suggested reading the ordinances so the public could hear what the issue was all about. Council member Sandra Hockenbury, who ran the meeting in the absence of mayor Stuart Owen, said most people already knew much of it from news stories.

A first reading of a proposed moratorium is scheduled to take place during the next council meeting.

In other business:

- The council discussed the possible expansion of their business exterior improvement program, in which the city assists costs to businesses to upgrade their appearances.

The original plan assisted business located along N. Bardstown and S. Bardstown Road, focusing on the city’s downtown corridor.

After some businesses participated in the program, the council discussed expanding the program to the entire city limits.

Wantland shared concern for some

SEE MW/PAGE A2

County, BCPS to save Nichols school building

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

NICHOLS – It was back in 1851 when the first school was built in the western Bullitt County community of Nichols.

The modern school that stands today was built in 1971 and in the mid-1970s, enrollment was over 350 students in grades 1-8.

As time passed, enrollment dropped and the cost of educating each student increased. With just over 60 students projected for the school this year, the Bullitt County Public School Board swallowed the bitter pill and opted to close Nichols at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

At the time of the closure, superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon promised that the building would be used for some purpose in the future.

And Bullitt County Fiscal Court is that future.

Magistrates and school board members have both approved agreements to transfer the property to Bullitt County government.

Bullitt County Judge/Executive Jerry Summers got the first approval to take over the building and property.

With no opposition, magistrates agreed with the proposal. The county would pay the school system \$1 per year.

No definite plans have been announced. But Summers said that the American Red Cross is one agency that has expressed a strong interest in returning services to the county.

Until a few years ago, the agency was an active

SEE COUNTY/PAGE A4

Ground may soon be broken at Grand Reserve

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

CLERMONT – Work to make a grand development see reality has been done behind the scenes.

But, soon, the public may get to see the first step in the development of the Grand Reserve.

It was December 2022 when Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group displayed the vision of Indiana developer David Schuler.

The Grand Resort would be a mixture of hotels, restaurants, retail shops and residential housing on the southwest quadrant of Interstate 65 at Highway 245.

With over three years having passed without any sign of progress, Bullitt County Judge/Executive Jerry Summers understands the skepticism.

But, he feels it may be a matter of weeks before ground could be broken on the first commercial development.

“We will put a major stake in the ground,” Summers said recently.

Negotiations are close to being finalized on one or two hotels. Summers, who could not disclose the name or brand, said it would be something that can’t be found at

SEE GROUND/PAGE A4

INSIDE

Obits	A6
News	A3-7
Church Page	A2
Classifieds	B5
Sports	B1
Legal Notices	B4

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