



Local Weather

Friday

Hi 85°
Lo 63°

Saturday

Hi 88°
Lo 62°

Sunday

Hi 84°
Lo 56°

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Report

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THE BRACKEN COUNTY NEWS

PUBLISHED IN BRACKEN COUNTY, BY BRACKEN COUNTIANS, FOR BRACKEN COUNTIANS IN THE COUNTY SEAT

Volume XCVI

Number 22

Brooksville, Kentucky

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Single Copy - 75¢

Enjoy Fun, Games & Music at St. Augustine's Summer Festival This Weekend

Join St. Augustine Church for their 57th Annual Summer Festival from August 22nd-24th at 215 E. 4th Street in Augusta. Special activities are scheduled for each day.

Daily activities include a ham raffle, bingo, pull tabs, duck races and horse races, pill games, putt games, steeple games, plinko games, "big six", beer slide, darts, and a human slot machine. Enter to win a raffle with a top prize of \$2,500, and bid on silent auction items during the entire festival. Children can play in the inflatables and a dunk booth will have special volunteers willing to take the plunge into water.

The festival will open with their famous fish fry this Friday, August 22nd from 5-7 pm. Pub food and funnel cakes will also be available. Music by MAKSRBH will be performed from 7 pm until 10 pm.

A Catholic Mass will be held on Saturday, August 23rd at 4 pm, with a BBQ dinner from 5-7 pm.

From 5-9 pm children can enjoy a petting zoo and free ice cream. Pub food and funnel cakes will again be served with classic rock and country music by ReBoot from 7-10 pm.

The festival wraps up on Sunday, August 24th beginning with a 10 am Mass. Enjoy a fried chicken and country ham dinner from 11 until 3 pm. Enjoy funnel cakes from 11 am to 7 pm. Music will be performed by Jonathan New from 11 am-2 pm, then Joey Vasaset will play from 2-5 pm. St. Augustine's Father Joey will be in the dunking booth from 2-3 pm. The silent auction winners will be drawn at 4 pm and the lucky winner of the raffle drawing will be announced at 6 pm.

New AIS Gymnasium Project to Resume

After the project was put on hold approximately three years ago due to significantly increased construction costs and a budget gap, Augusta Independent's new gymnasium project is back on track. The Board of Education voted at its August meeting to revise the Gymnasium Addition BG-1, which is a construction project application, to reflect changes in the budget and anticipated costs.

Augusta Independent was recently awarded \$2.6 million in the 2025 legislative session through the School Facilities Construction Commission. A select number of districts who had made significant progress on construction projects, but then had to pause their projects due to highly increased costs, were awarded the funds. The funding can only be used for the specific construction project in question to help bridge the funding gap. For Augusta Independent, that is the construction of a new, additional gymnasium. The district had put the project out to bid, had purchased a small

Shown is a rendering of the south facing view of Augusta Independent School with the proposed gymnasium to the right.

portion of property from the city, and was deep into the design phase with the architect before the project was put on hold. With this new funding along with construction costs having decreased, project planning has resumed.

The project is expected to be put out to bid in early October, while the district expects to break ground later this year. The building addition will go on the east side of the campus along Frankfort Street. One of

the first tasks will be to demolish the old boiler building and prepare the site for construction. Some prep work has already been completed, such as the construction of the new bus parking lot on Bracken Street and the relocation of the dumpsters and recycling trailers.

Once construction is complete, the current historical 1926 gymnasium will continue to be used as well, as the need for additional space is a primary reason for the

new gym. While additional athletic space is needed, the gym addition will provide additional opportunities for physical education instruction and a needed space for large-group or school gatherings. In addition to the gym itself, the facility will have a set of locker rooms, a concessions area, restrooms, and administrative office space.

The project is expected to take about two years to complete.

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Watch for School Buses on Roads Monday, August 25

As the new school year begins, Bracken County Schools and Augusta Independent Schools want to remind all community members to expect increased traffic, especially during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. The first day of school is Monday, August 25, and school buses will be back on the roads.

Kentucky's School Bus Stop Law mandates that when a school bus stops for passengers on either a 2-lane roadway or a 2-lane roadway with a center turn, all traffic from both directions must stop. On a 4-lane divided highway with a median separation or 4-lane roadway with a center turn, only traffic following the bus must stop.

Drivers are asked to drive with extra caution, watch for school buses making frequent stops,

and be mindful of children walking or biking to school. Allow additional time for your commute and remember to slow down in school zones.

While school buses are not required to activate amber warning lights exactly 200 feet before a scheduled stop, Bracken County Schools bus drivers have been recommended to activate them up to 500 feet in advance. This gives approaching drivers ample time to slow down and stop safely.

Parents should re-

mind children to stand at least ten feet back from the roadway while waiting for the bus. In the morning, they should wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road. In the afternoon, students should wait by the crossing arm until directed to cross.

It is not recommended that children eat or drink on the bus, as this can pose a choking hazard. The exception is water.

Both school districts appreciate everyone for keeping all students safe.

Bracken County Welcomes New Agriculture Agent to Cooperative Extension Office

The Bracken County Extension office is pleased to announce that Maci Haitz has been named as Bracken County's new Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Maci grew up on a farm in Ripley, Ohio, where her family raised beef cattle, hay, and tobacco. Those early experiences shaped her deep appreciation for the land and for the people who work it.

She was active in 4-H and FFA, showing goats and participating in programs that taught her the value of hard work, community, and lifelong learning. That passion led her to earn a degree in Agronomy from Wilmington College in Ohio.

She is looking

The new Bracken County Ag & Natural Resources Agent, Maci Haitz, poses by the electronic notice board at the Bracken County Extension office.

forward to meeting new people, sharing what she has learned, and serving as a trusted resource for local farmers and landowners. Agriculture has

given her so much, and Maci is grateful for the opportunity to give back - working alongside the people who make Bracken County agriculture

strong.

Maci plans on going out and visiting farmers and talking with the community - whether it's in the field, at a meeting,

or over a cup of coffee.

She can be contacted at maci.haitz@uky.edu or at 606-735-2141.

submitted