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HAPPY BIRTHDAY...Hospital exceeds expectations

By THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW – The first year has certainly been eventful. More than that, Bullitt Countians, and their surrounding neighbors, have been able to obtain quality medical care much closer to home. Celebrating its first birthday as U of L Health - South Hospital, the numbers have

far exceeded expectations for the services provided on the expanding campus in Hillview. Dorie Shelburne, CEO of U of L Health - South Hospital, said it has been a busy but rewarding 12 months. It was on March 18, 2024, that the ribbon was cut to open the hospital. Besides an expanded ER, the facility offered 40 in-patient beds. This \$78 million facility removed Bullitt from the list of being the biggest county without an in-patient hospital. More than simply the ability for patients to stay at the facility, Shelburne said the expansion and renovation provided the opportunity to provide new specialized services to the community. While the numbers have exceeded projections, Shelburne said that was not a big surprise. “The need was great,” she said of medical services in the county. “We knew what the need was.” Simply looking at the numbers, there have been over 3,400 admissions to the hospital in the past year. The ER has seen over 30,000 patients, a 22 percent increase. Over 22,000 patient services have been provided through out-patient services, such as lab work and X-rays. Surgeries have increased by 135 percent. Before the hospital services were added, the ER might see an average of 70-75 patients a day, which Shelburne said is very busy. But, in the past year, those numbers are between 100-120 per day and growing every month. She thought that some of the increased calls have been a result of people knowing that overnight, in-patient care is available. Knowing that if a patient needs to be admitted and that the hospital is much closer to home, Shelburne

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Tornado strikes county; no one hurt Sunday

SHEPHERDSVILLE – At least one tornado has been confirmed in a series of storms which swept through the Bullitt County area on Sunday evening. Bullitt County Emergency Management director Justin Warren said that the major damage was fallen trees and downed power lines. However, the National Weather Service did confirm through a survey of the area on Monday that an EF-1 tornado struck the lower Beech Grove Road area, about four miles south of Shepherdsville. A barn was destroyed. The weather service estimated the speed of the winds at 105 miles per hour just west of Preston Highway. No injuries were reported from the storms, which hit around 9:30 p.m. on Sunday. Warren said EMA officials were aware of the tornado spotting and conferred with the National Weather Service on Monday as it was surveying the county. As of midnight, he reported 16 trees and lines were down. Power outages hit a peak of 5,500 homes and businesses with that number quickly decreasing by the morning hours. The county was expected to have another round of severe weather on Wednesday.

GBCYFL to put bid in to purchase property

By THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – If you were interested in purchasing a piece of property with limited uses due to its location in the flood plain, your opportunity has arrived. With concerns over liability of owning the property currently being leased by the Greater Bullitt County Youth Football League, the Bullitt County School District will now be accepting bids. The property, which was formerly home to the old Shepherdsville High School and later Shepherdsville Middle School on Joe B. Hall Avenue, was declared surplus by the Bullitt County School Board last September. At the time, superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon said there had been

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Salute to the Vietnam War veterans



Former chief sues Mount Washington

By STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — A former Mount Washington police chief has officially filed suit against the city over his termination. Marcus Laytham served as chief from March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, when he was officially relieved from duty after his contract was not renewed by mayor Stuart Owen. Laytham’s attorney, Brad Zoppoth, said the lawsuit, filed in Bullitt Circuit Court, cited wrongful termination. The city received a copy of the suit on March 26. According to Zoppoth, two claims are included in the wrongful termination accusation, one being a violation of the Kentucky Whistleblower Act. Zoppoth said a claim of wrongful retaliation occurred when Laytham said he and other officers were not being paid properly per city ordinance dictating the police pay scale. The other claim, Zoppoth said, was a wrongful discharge that Laytham felt took place after he refused to violate the law during an external investigation, as well as remaining neutral during collective bargaining discussions between city administrators and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 82. “(Laytham) did not support the city administration for two reasons,” said Zoppoth. “One, he is not a member of the FOP. Two, as the chief, he did not think it was appropriate to voice support as a city administrator. He didn’t follow a city directive.” Zoppoth added that Laytham mentioned retaliation by city administration in the form of requirement to work weekend shifts. “This is something they had never been required to do,” Zoppoth said. “(Laytham) was receiving retaliation by his commanding officers.” The city has 21 days as of March 26 to respond to the suit. A Mount Washington native and Bullitt East High School graduate, Laytham retired from Louisville Metro Police and served as chief deputy with the Bullitt County Sheriff’s Office. He

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