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# Zoneton Fire hopes to expand to EMS

BY THOMAS J. BARR THE PIONEER NEWS

PIONEER VILLAGE — With a goal to protect life and property, the Zoneton Fire District believes it has a new way to accomplish

The Zoneton Fire Protection District Board voted Tuesday to move forward with plans to create its own EMS.

that piece of its mission.

By virtue of its vote, the district will pursue a state certificate of need which would allow the creation of the Zoneton Fire Department he estimates the district would have and EMS

to respond more quickly, provide plans to pay off the debt within

higher-quality patient care and better four years. serve the residents and businesses of our district," chief Kevin Moulton said in a letter to the community.

The move is similar to one taken a couple of years ago by the Mount Washington Fire District.

But the creation of EMS will not come without a cost.

The district would be required to purchase ambulances and to hire medical personnel. It would also have to retain a medical director and an EMS chief.

Moulton said on Thursday that to take a loan or a line of credit "This new service will allow us for about \$5.6 million initially with

He did not know the annual expenses and revenue as it would fluctuate on the number of runs made by Zoneton.

To pay for EMS, property owners in the Zoneton Fire Protection District will be sharing the burden.

The fire department is limited to a maximum property tax of 10 cents on \$100 of assessed property. This is a rate that has not been changed for 81 years in Kentucky.

For example, a \$200,000 home would pay \$200 a year in the normal fire district tax.

If the EMS is approved, the district



SEE ZONETON/PAGE A4 Zoneton Fire Chief Kevin Moulton is shown.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL 2025**



Stephen Thomas

### New Overdale principal Dr. Josh DeWar greeted car riders to school on opening day.

on most of the faces heading into the classrooms to begin the Bullitt County Public Schools 2025-26 school year.

There were also plenty of doors to greet each student, on May 22.

There were many smiles including five new principals.

The great weather also helped to make it a special day for everyone involved.

For those who were wondering... the school year familiar and new faces at the is currently scheduled to end



Bus riders were happy to arrive at Hebron Middle School on opening day.



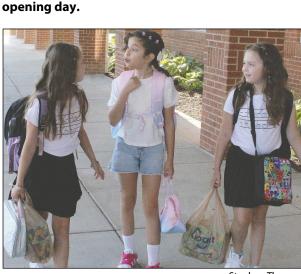
Stephen Thomas

New Hebron Middle principal Lauren Burnett provided smiles for all of her students.



Stephen Thomas

Siblings headed into Overdale Elementary on



Old friends catching up with one another while heading to the first day of classes at Overdale Elementary.

### School tax rate to decrease; revenue to increase

BY THOMAS J. BARR THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — County got some good news on Monday night.

The Bullitt County Public School Board voted Monday to lower the property tax

Superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon recommended the board lower the current tax rate of 75.9 cents per \$100 to 75.7 cents.

property owners will pay by \$6.7 million. \$757, less than the previous

Due to the growth in the county, board members had no choice but to lower the tax rate. The approved tax rate will still allow the district

to generate a 4 percent growth in tax revenue.

According to finance director Lisa Lewis, the more Property owners in Bullitt money generated by lower tax dollars, the less money supplied for SEEK funds by the state. For example, Lewis said

> million in SEEK funds in 2015. That amount will lower to \$36.6 million in the upcoming fiscal year. While the rate will lower,

the district received \$45.3

the revenue generated for For a \$100,000 home, the district would increase Of the \$10.8 million

generated, \$1.7 million is assigned to the construction fund. The district must also pay the sheriff's department

SEE SCHOOL/PAGE A6

that's just not the case. We

hope to help break that stigma and the barriers that

Balance and Beyond will

cussion panel at noon,

sponsored by UofL Health-

Peace Hospital, featuring

main speaker Troy Hilpp,

assistant director of Bullitt

County Mental Health

A former college baseball

player with the University

of Louisville, Hilpp will

discuss his personal journey

of overcoming issues

involving mental health and

substance abuse disorder.

be joined by a retired

firefighter and a military

Barr said Hilpp will

come with that."

Court.

## Balance and Beyond will make you feel better

BY STEPHEN THOMAS THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — A local event is being provided to help everyone include an all-male disfind a proper balance in

their life. Balance and Beyond: A Mental Health Jam will take place Saturday, Aug. 23. 10 am-2 pm, at the Bullitt County Public Library's Central Branch in Shepherdsville.

First held in 2024 as MindFest, Balance and Beyond was established to advocate for all aspects of mental health.

**Bullitt County Health** Department program manager Hayley Barr said this year's event would include a main focus target

of men's mental health. "It's something that is

not discussed as much," Barr said. "It's stigmatized. Men are not allowed to have issues or feelings... but

veteran who will also share experiences and advice. A question-and-answer session will also take place.

The first 30 attendees of the discussion panel will

SEE BALANCE/PAGE A4

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