



THE

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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 that piece of its mission.

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

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

“This new service will allow us to respond more quickly, provide higher-quality patient care and better 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 he estimates the district would have to take a loan or a line of credit for about \$5.6 million initially with plans to pay off the debt within

four years.

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.

There were many smiles 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 familiar and new faces at the doors to greet each student,

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 is currently scheduled to end on May 22.



Stephen Thomas

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 opening day.



Stephen Thomas

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 — Property owners in Bullitt County got some good news on Monday night.

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

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

For a \$100,000 home, property owners will pay \$757, less than the previous \$759.

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 money generated by lower tax dollars, the less money supplied for SEEK funds by the state.

For example, Lewis said the district received \$45.3 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 revenue generated for the district would increase by \$6.7 million.

Of the \$10.8 million generated, \$1.7 million is assigned to the construction fund. The district must also pay the sheriff's department

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Balance and Beyond will make you feel better

BY STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — A local event is being provided to help everyone find 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 that's just not the case. We hope to help break that stigma and the barriers that come with that.”

Balance and Beyond will include an all-male discussion panel at noon, sponsored by UofL Health-Peace Hospital, featuring main speaker Troy Hilpp, assistant director of Bullitt County Mental Health Court.

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.

Barr said Hilpp will be joined by a retired firefighter and a military 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

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