



THE PIONEER NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

WWW.PIONEERNEWS.NET

VOL. 143, No. 68 \$2

Bullitt County escapes major snowfall

THOMAS J. BARR

THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Bullitt County appeared to survive Winter Storm Fern with few problems.

Part of that was a result of early planning coordinated by the Bullitt County Emergency Management Agency.

EMA director Jon Waters said that few major issues were encountered during the storm, which started on Saturday afternoon.

While the period started with a major traffic tieup on Interstate 65, Waters said the first responders had few major incidents through Tuesday.

The EOC facility on Saltwell Road had been manned 24/7 until Monday afternoon. Throughout the storm, Waters said every first responder agency was represented to make sure everyone knew exactly what was happening.

The major issue of the snow, which unofficially averaged 5-6 inches with a little ice, was the road conditions.

For the most part, Waters said that motorists heeded the warnings and stayed home. This allowed road crews to work around the clock.

As of Tuesday morning, major thoroughfares and more heavily traveled secondary roads were in good condition.

There were a few injury accidents and EMS was called to several homes for transports.

There was a structure fire off Martin Hill Road on Saturday afternoon but no injuries were reported.

Fears of power outages did not occur. Waters said only a few homes were briefly out of service.

Warming centers were still in operation at the First Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, which is a White Flag Shelter operated by Mark 12 Ministries, and the Hillview Government Center.

With the cold weather this week, Waters said those centers planned to remain open for a few more days. Other warming centers were opened up in the Turnaround Resource Center kitchen, Sunnyside

Baptist Church, Mount Washington Fick Hall and St. Aloysius.

If the need arises, Waters said all the facilities could be opened up.

One family involved in an accident was fed and returned to their home over the weekend.

Waters praised the public for its cooperation and he also applauded the work of all the agencies.

In advance of the storm's arrival, Waters said the EOC was activated and all of the agencies had representatives meet to discuss the situation.

While he said agencies always work together in a natural disaster, it was easier this time as personnel had several days to prepare.

EMS units were based at various locations and additional ambulances were on duty.

University of Louisville Health South Hospital was prepared for any problems.

Police and fire departments were all communicating each other.

SEE BULLITT/PAGE A2



Shoveling the snow to get the schools ready for students and staff to return



THOMAS J. BARR

Mayor Jose Cubero talked with a resident about the opening of the Shepherdsville Aquatic Center, planned to open this July.

Aquatic center plans July 1 opening; tentative details released

THOMAS J. BARR

THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — As people sit through the cold and snow of winter, what better time to learn some more details about the opening of a new \$25 million aquatic center this summer.

Shepherdsville mayor Jose Cubero and officials with Sports Facilities Companies, which will manage the center, presented some details on the pool facility that is scheduled to open July 1.

"It's shaping up," the mayor told a crowd assembled at Paroquet Springs Conference Centre. "I know what it will mean to our region."

The facility will feature an indoor and outdoor pool, pickleball courts and a splash pad.

Ken Cobb, who is overseeing the management of the facility, said it will be much more than just a swimming pool with pickleball courts.

The Florida-based company manages facilities in over 3,000 communities. Cobb said the Shepherdsville Aquatic Center will be state-of-the-art. It will not only provide recreational activities, he said it will be an economic development driver in the community.

Jason Floyd has been selected to serve as the general manager with Caitlin Ridings as the activities coordinator.

While all things could change, the projected hours of operation for the indoor pool will be from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday hours would be 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. with Sunday hours being 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The outdoor pool and splash area would be from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The traditional outdoor season would be from Memorial Day to Labor Day, depending upon the weather.

Pricing is a major concern and Cubero said the goal is to make it affordable to as many people as possible.

Cobb said that there would be a daily fee if someone just wanted to occasionally visit. Toddlers 0-3 would be admitted free, with children paying \$5. Those 13-59 would pay \$7 with seniors 60 and older paying \$5.

There is a family of four plan for \$20, with each additional person at \$5 each.

If a person wanted to purchase a membership, this would allow unlimited swimming and there are three payment

options.

For children, the monthly rate would be \$30 with a season rate of \$60 and the annual cost of \$160.

For those 13-59, the monthly membership would be \$50 with a seasonal rate of \$100 and the annual charge of \$230.

Seniors would pay \$30 for a month, \$60 for the season and \$160 for the annual membership.

The membership for a family of four would be \$650 with monthly payments allowed.

The facility will also have additional features, such as a party room, pavilion party area, indoor pool rental and outdoor pool rental.

Cobb said a lot of churches, businesses and civic groups like to rent aquatic facilities.

Swim lessons is the anchor of most aquatic facilities, said Cobb. There are private and group lessons that will be made available.

Water fitness programs can be offered. And there is a possibility that the Senior Sneakers program will have activities at the facility.

Lifeguard classes would be made

SEE AQUATIC/PAGE A6

Cannabis dispensary a possibility in Hillview

STEPHEN THOMAS

THE PIONEER NEWS

held a first reading of the proposed ordinance during its Dec. 15, 2025 meeting. A hearing to allow for public comment took place prior to the Jan. 5 meeting. The only speaker was Christopher Miller, a Missouri attorney representing the property owner.

Council member Randall Hill inquired about a homeless camp that had accessed the property for about a decade. Miller said the lot had been cleared and the owners were now in the process of making it suitable for further development.

According to Miller, there would be a maximum 7,000 square feet of business space



The graduates — Angelia Hardesty and Jorden Bowen

Graduates have new hope after mental health court

THOMAS J. BARR

THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Recovery does not end with a graduation ceremony.

It is a lifelong journey with obstacles along the way. Just ask Troy Hilpp.

But the assistant director for the Bullitt County Mental

SEE GRADUATES/PAGE A2

INSIDE

Obits	A2
News	A3
Classifieds	B5
Sports	B1-B8
Legal Notices	B4

TO SUBSCRIBE
 call 502-543-2288 ext. 1



6 84578 30380 2