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Meet the **CLASS of 2021**
A Special Presentation by The Kentucky Standard
Sunday, May 16, 2021
• Commencement dates
• Graduate Columns
• Graduation Wishes

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The Kentucky Standard

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Bloomfield Middle principal resigns

Adams cites grievance filed against superintendent, plans to finish out school year

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As Nelson County Schools become engulfed in a heated controversy surrounding a potential merging of middle and high school campuses, Bloomfield Middle School will find itself under new administration once again.

BMS Principal Randy Adams announced his resignation from the position in a letter to the district's Human Resource department dated May 11. Adams said he would finish his contract through June 30, but would not return for the 2021-2022 school year.

In his letter, Adams cites a grievance he filed with the district on April 30 regarding an incident in which he believed Nelson County Schools Superintendent Wes Bradley "acted unprofessionally and unethically."

Adams did not provide additional details regarding the nature of the grievance but said he expected the issue to be investigated by the Board of Education.

"I expect the grievance process to be carried out even though I am choosing to resign from my position," Adams wrote in the letter. "There should be a clear process

See **ADAMS**, page A15



Randy Adams

'Yake!'



FORREST BERKSHIRE/The Kentucky Standard

Wally Dant, founder of Dant Crossing and Log Still Distillery, speaks at the tasting room ribbon-cutting Tuesday afternoon.

Log Still opens tasting room

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Log Still Distillery celebrated the opening of its tasting room Tuesday that included an unveiling of the facility and Gov. Andy Beshear arriving by train from The Kentucky Railway Museum.

The event marked the most recent milestone on the extensive Dant's Crossing campus near New Hope that will add a tourist destination and distillery in the southern end of Nelson County.

"For us to be able to sit up here and say, 'Yake,' today to every one of you for being here is something special and that we're very proud of here and in the county," the project's founder, Wally Dant, told the assembled crowd, using the expression associated with the area.

Dant's Crossing is being de-



FORREST BERKSHIRE/The Kentucky Standard

Wally Dant, founder of Log Still Distillery, right, and Gov. Andy Beshear, left, raise a toast at Tuesday's ribbon cutting for the tasting room at Dant's Crossing.

veloped as a bourbon tourism destination as well as a working distillery, and Tuesday's event marked its most direct connection thus far to bourbon with the opening of its tasting room that also features a small

working still and bar that incorporates materials from an old distillery that was once owned by the Dant family.

Wally Dant is a successful

See **DANT**, page A15

City looks at raising firefighter pay

Bardstown also considering across-the-board raises for city employees

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Employees of the City of Bardstown could expect to see an increase in their pay come the new fiscal year.

"Across the board we have a 2.5% increase in salaries that's going to take effect in fiscal year 2022," Chief Financial Officer Aaron Boles told the Bardstown City Council at Tuesday night's meeting. "That's on par with exactly what we did last year and a little bit more than what the Department of Local Government calculated as a cost-of-living raise."

The General Fund of the upcoming budget was the main topic of interest and took up most of the meeting. Boles was updating the city council on the budget process, but it has yet to be formally presented.

"It's a relatively conservative budget," Boles told the council. "I wanted to keep it conservative to cover any issues that may come up that may affect our revenues."

The budget would also include a one-time increase in overall firefighter pay. The firefighter's salary budget increase includes an overall increase of \$88,000 for salaries to take effect July 1, 2021.

"We've had a problem the last

See **RAISES**, page A12

"It's a relatively conservative budget."

AARON BOLES | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CITY OF BARDSTOWN

Merger talks wrap up with high school sessions

Board meeting May 18

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Initial community discussions on the potential consolidation of Nelson County middle and high school campuses wrapped up last week with forums at local high schools. The process still has a ways to go, Superintendent Wes Bradley said.

"We will continue to narrow down our focus with small groups and talking to families

and community partners in June and July," he said.

The vision announced in April would combine the district's four middle schools into two and co-locate them on the two high school campuses, creating two campuses serving students in sixth through 12th grade.

Forums held at Nelson County High School on Monday and Thomas Nelson High School on Wednesday operated differently than discussions held at elementary schools earlier in the month. There was no open mic opportunity last week for com-

munity members to voice their concerns and comments to the room at large. Instead, Bradley focused on offering small-group discussions to touch on certain topics such as middle school academics.

Officials with other districts whose campuses serve multiple grade levels were also invited to share comments by teleconference.

The forums have been attended by many of the same parents and community members

See **JUDGE**, page A2



KACIE GOODE/The Kentucky Standard

A community discussion at Nelson County High School Monday night discussed the potential merger of Nelson middle and high schools to create two 6-12 campuses. The high school forum did not include an open mic, but rather a presentation from Superintendent Wes Bradley, comments from administrators with other Kentucky school districts that have cross-grade campuses and small group sessions.

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