

## KHSAA opts to stay on schedule

Fall practice starts Monday, will go live the week of Sept. 7

BY EDWARD MARLOWE  
TIMES LEADER

Thursday's regularly-scheduled KHSAA Board of Controls meeting ended at the same result with which it started.



Julian Tackett

Fall sports across Kentucky can begin official practice Monday, and live competition in volleyball, cross country, soccer and football can begin the week of Sept. 7.

Ushered in by a vote of 16-2, there was a strong deliberation from KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett and the 18 BOC members, which painted an effective conversation of health and safety of student-athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic to the forefront of a heavily-weighted decision.

Among those with aplomb was Marshall County's Trent Lovett, who serves as Marshall County Schools superintendent and BOC Regions 1 and 2 representative.



DAVID SNOW | Times Leader

Caldwell County High School freshman Austin Crick watches his tee shot from Hole No. 1 go down the fairway Wednesday in a dual match against Dawson Springs at the Princeton Golf and Country Club. Golf is the only high school fall sport to maintain its original schedule, with players maintaining COVID-19 distancing requirements.

"Many of the schools in western Kentucky are starting back early, prior to Sept. 28, and I agree (with BOC consensus); our coaches are doing a fantastic job," he said. "Are there going to be situations that are going to come up, where we may have to make some adjustments? Yes, there will, but I think

they're going to play with or without us, one way or another.

"So I feel like we, as the KHSAA, can do a much better job than some of these other organizations that are in it to make money."

Among those with trepidation

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## Kentucky wins federal approval for extra jobless benefits

BY BRUCE SCHREINER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky won swift federal approval to add \$400 to the weekly unemployment checks for tens of thousands of people who lost work during the COVID-19 outbreak, Gov. Andy Beshear said Friday.

The state applied for the short-term, supplemental aid this week. Recipients should start receiving the payments in early September, after the state reconfigures its unemployment insurance computer system to process and distribute the extra benefits, the governor said.

Under the program recently unveiled by President Donald Trump, no extra state money will be required for the first \$300 in extra weekly assistance for each recipient.

To get the full \$400 available for the unemployed, Kentucky will dip into its federal coronavirus relief aid to make up the difference, Beshear said. He said this week that he opted for the full amount because that extra \$100 is "critically important" for recipients.

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## Postmaster says no pre-election return of mail boxes, equipment

BY LISA MASCARO,  
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Pressed by senators, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said Friday he was unaware of recent mail operation changes until they sparked a public uproar. But he also said he has no plans to restore mailboxes or high-speed sorting machines that have been removed.

His testimony raised fresh questions about how the Postal Service will ensure timely delivery of ballots for the November election.

DeJoy told senators that election mail would be prioritized for delivery as in years past. But he said that blue curbside collection boxes and sorting equipment that have been removed are "not needed."

DeJoy distanced himself from President Donald Trump's complaints about mail-in ballots that



US Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs via AP In this image from video, U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testifies during a virtual hearing before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on the U.S. Postal Service during COVID-19 and the upcoming elections Friday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

are expected to surge in the coronavirus pandemic, but he told senators could not yet provide a detailed plan about how he will ensure on-time election mail delivery.

He declared that the Postal Service "is fully capable and committed to delivering the nation's election mail securely and on-time." He said that was a "sacred duty" and his

"No. 1 priority between now and Election Day."

"I think the American people should be able to vote by mail," DeJoy testified.

The new postmaster general, a Trump donor and ally who took the job in June, has faced a public outcry over changes and delivery delays. Democrats warn his cost-cutting initiatives are

causing an upheaval that threatens the election.

They peppered him during a two-hour hearing with questions about the Trump administration's push to starve the Postal Service of emergency funds to process ballots for November. Trump had said he wants to block agency funding to make it harder for the Postal Service to handle the expected surge of mail-in ballots during the COVID-19 crisis.

DeJoy said he has had few conversations with White House officials.

He said he had "no idea" equipment was being removed until the public outcry. Democrats asked DeJoy to explain the rationale behind the changes and pressed him on how, exactly, he would ensure election mail and ballots would arrive on time.

"Do you have a more detailed plan?" demanded

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## Veteran deputy retiring from sheriff's office

BY DAVID B. SNOW  
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After nine years of service with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and a career in law enforcement that began in 1979, Deputy Steve Ladd announced he will retire at the end of the month.

Ladd's career includes a 24-year stint with the Belleview Police Department in Florida that ended in 2007 before he retired and came back to Caldwell County.

"I started (in Caldwell County) as a part-time deputy and it evolved into a full-time position," he told The Times Leader. "I've enjoyed it. I've enjoyed working with the citizens of the county; I've got a good rapport with most everybody."

"But, as I get a little bit older, I realize that it's time to take the retirement and go on to something different — probably hunting and fishing and stuff like that."



Steve Ladd

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## Geronimo reps to answer questions about local solar projects

BY DAVID B. SNOW  
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Representatives of Geronimo Energy will be at the Butler Building on Tuesday to answer the public's questions about two solar energy projects that are scheduled to be built near Fredonia.

Information meetings will

also be available later in the day online or via telephone.

The Caldwell County School Board approved the use of the Butler Building auditorium for the forum at its meeting Monday.

The two projects, called Caldwell Solar and Golden Solar, will be located near the

Fredonia Quarry near Ky. 91.

Caldwell Solar is projected to have an operational capacity of 200 megawatts over 2,000 acres. It is scheduled to be completed by December 2023 and will have a carbon dioxide emissions offset of 306,000 metric tons — about 337,300 short tons — per year, what

Geronimo states is the equivalent of taking 66,000 cars off the road.

The capital investment for Caldwell Solar is projected at \$317 million and will provide seven full-time jobs. The estimated tax revenue is \$6.6 million over 25 years of operation.

Golden Solar is projected to have an operational capacity of 100 megawatts over 1,000 acres. It is scheduled to be completed by December 2022 and will have a carbon dioxide emissions offset of 153,000 metric tons — about 168,600

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### OBITUARIES

Johnny Orten  
Newman Board

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

**Today:** Chance of showers. High 80, low 65.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. High 86, low 67.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny. High 89, low 68.



**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny. High 89, low 68.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny. High 89, low 70.

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