

COMMUNITY

New Superintendent says return to Bath County like “coming home”

By Cecil Lawson
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The Bath County News-Outlook took a few minutes to speak with newly-hired Superintendent Dr. Michael Melton before Monday’s Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Melton is a familiar face to most in the Bath County School District. He served as Transportation and Facilities Director from 2021 to 2023, but he has had a long career in public education in Eastern Kentucky.

Melton worked in the Letcher County School District for 25 years before coming to Bath County, and over the past two years, he has served as Superintendent in Elliott and Lewis Counties.

“God blessed me to be able to be offered the job here in Bath County, and I get to come back home,” he said. “This is starting year number thirty.”

Melton thinks that Bath County has the potential to be one of the top districts in the state. He said his administrative team has worked diligently to identify the gaps and deficiencies it needs to address as well as the resources it needs to do that.

Melton describes himself as “a servant leader at heart.” “I want to serve my people and serve my community and be a good example for all of those,” he said. He said he also trusts his people to do their jobs. The administrative team will meet frequently, and he said he is a strong proponent of oversight and follow-up. “That has served me well over the last 29 years,” he said. “But I also know when to take the lead, too.” He said he has a very good administrative team in Bath County who have been ready and willing to

trained by Ryan Blackburn, Corbin, owned by Ginger Williams, London; 2) I Am Fearless, ridden and trained by RM Kellett, Murfreesboro, TN, owned by Spencer and Carrie Benedict, Murfreesboro, TN; 3) Bobby Bones, ridden and trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead, owned by Jared Osbourne, London; 4) Blind Sided, ridden and trained by Mike Oney, Cynthiaiana, owned by Shane and Kim Back, Mt. Sterling

LION’S CLUB HORSE SHOW RESULTS

trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris; 2) Dixie Special, ridden and owned by Kerrington Stamper, Hustonville, trained by Regina Swinford, Cynthiaiana; 3) Jazz and Everything, ridden by Shane Smith, owned by Rose and Collins, Harrodsburg, and trained by Darrell Collins, Brodhead

38) Open Show Pleasure Walking (RC): 1) I Sure Am, ridden and trained by R. M. Kellett, Murfreesboro, TN; 2) Georgia Florida Line, ridden, owned, and trained by Brent Grider, Columbia; 3) Evan Williams Black Label, ridden and trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead, owned by Jacob West, Corbin; 4) Pacheco, ridden by David Bullock, Mt. Vernon, owned by Shane Mullins, Brodhead, trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead

39) Pleasure Racking Optional Attire: 1) Queen B, ridden by Kaden May, Salt Lick, owned and trained by James May, Salt Lick

40) Open 3 Year Old Stallions (RC): 1) Emmitt, ridden and trained by RM Kellett, Murfreesboro, TN, owned by Spencer Carrie, Murfreesboro, TN; 2) Honor That Revival, ridden and trained by Ryan Blackburn, owned by Martin Cox, London

41) Juvenile Country Pleasure Walking 17 & Under: 1) Light Up The Knight, ridden by Hadley Thomas, Richmond, owned by Justin Thomas Family, Richmond, trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris; 2) She’s X’s and D’s, ridden by Avah Martin, London, owned by Osbourne and Collins, London, and trained by Darrell Collins, Brodhead; 3) Cha Ching It’s Charlie, ridden and trained by Kerrington Stamper, Hustonville, trained by Regina Swinford, Cynthiaiana; 4) I’m A Little Funky, ridden and owned by Davany Bullock, Mt. Vernon, trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris; 5) Delta World, ridden, owned, and trained by Adyson Wichman, Burlington

42) Open 3 Year Old Mare & Geldings (RC): 1) Oh I Am, ridden and trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead, owned by Allen Riddley, Kings Mt. NC

43) Speed Racking: 1) Dusty’s Moonshine, ridden, owned, and trained by James May, Salt Lick; 2) Sidewinder, ridden by Kaden May, owned and trained by James May, Salt Lick

44) All Day Pleasure Racking Attire Optional: 1) The Midnight Dollar, ridden and trained by Paige Smith, Perryville, owned by Steve Calhoun, Perryville; 2) Dixies Desire, ridden, owned, and trained by Aubrey Derrickson, Morehead; 3) Sidewinder, ridden, owned, and trained by Kaden May, Salt Lick

45) Amateur Owned & Trained Walking Horse: no entries

46) Junior Walking Horse Championship Stake (RC): 1)My DDH Lala, ridden and trained by RM Kellett, Murfreesboro, TN, owned by Derek Caudill, West Oil Springs; 2) Beach Bum Bruce, ridden by Brent Grider, Columbia, owned and trained by Bob Roach, Elizabethtown; 3) Angry Bird, ridden and trained by Jimmy Baumgardner, owned by Ginger Williams, London

47) Country Pleasure Walking Championship:

1) Habanero Picante, ridden by Shane Smith, Brodhead, owned by Rose and Collins, Harrodsburg, trained by Darrell Collins, Brodhead: 2) Light Up The Knight, ridden by Hadley Thomas, Richmond, owned by Justin Thomas Family, Richmond, trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris; 3) She’s X’s and D’s, ridden by Avah Martin, London, owned by Osbourne and Collins, London, trained by Darrell Collins, Brodhead; 4) I’m A Little Funky, ridden and owned by Davany Bullock, Mt. Vernon, trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris

48) Amateur Specialty Championship: 1) A Lucky Strike, ridden by Aubrey Derrickson, Morehead, owned by Ralph Derrickson, Morehead, trained by RM Kellett, Murfreesboro, TN; 2) Milagro’s Command, ridden, owned, and trained by Karen Gaither, Townsbin, OH; 3) I’m Nashville, ridden by Jacob West, Corbin, owned by West and Perkins, Corbin, and trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead

49) Specialty Action Racking Stake: 1) I C Ritz, ridden, owned, and trained by Newton Park, Murfreesboro, TN; 2) A Strong Statement, ridden by Ava Martin, London, owned by Jared Osbourne, London, and trained by Robby Bradley, Brodhead; 3) I Am Queen THE, ridden and trained by Jimmy Baumgardner, Corbin, owned by Sharon Dorsey, Newport, TN; 4) Mr. MorningStar, ridden, owned, and trained by Paige Smith, Perryville

50) Trail Pleasure Walking Championship: 1) Diva By Daddy, ridden, owned, and trained by Claire Hankins Kincaid, Paris; 2) Dixie Special, ridden and owned by Kerrington Stamper, Hustonville, trained by Regina Swinford, Cynthiaiana; 3) Jazz & Everything, ridden by Shane Smith, owned by Rose & Collins, Brodhead, and trained by Darrell Collins, Brodhead; 4) I’m Big Bad Jon KW, ridden, owned, and trained by Hayle Machal, Crittenden; 5) Once Is Enough, ridden by Christy Adams, Morehead, owned by Carl Deiter, trained by Wayne Norris, Morehead

51) Grand Championship Open Specialty Walking Horse Stake (RC): 1) Warbird, ridden and




Photo by Cecil Lawson
A meet-and-greet was held on Monday evening for the newly-hired Bath County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Melton, center, who is beginning his 30th year in public education. From left, Board of Education members Ashley Beadle, Carla Bowling, Dr. Melton, and Board members Kim Karrick and Eric Conkwright. Board members Barbara Razor was not present.

get started to work.

When asked about his priorities, Melton said getting foundational skills in reading and math in place, as well as getting a unified system in place across the district “focused on educational attainment and progress.” He noted that Bath County students have always scored well, especially among the 16th Region, but “I want to set my sights broader than the Mountains and Northeastern Kentucky.”

Melton said Bath County’s kids have the ability to achieve, but the district will have to work to overcome barriers to learning. These barriers include poverty, substance abuse problems in the home, and lack of outreach by the district to the community. “I think we need to get back to the point where we are reaching out with our services to the community and inviting our community to come into our buildings and finding opportunities to do that that aren’t always associated with an athletic event,” he added.

Bath County’s biggest strength, according to Melton, is family atmosphere. He said the community has been very welcoming, people have a good work ethic, and kids are well-behaved and respectful. Melton said when he first came to Bath County in 2021, “I felt like I had been here all my life. You don’t find that everywhere. That’s something special. It makes this place very endearing.”



Free Backpacks w/ supplies (until we run out)



50/50 raffle winner drawn @3pm

2025 Backpack Bash & Car show

August 2 10 am to 5 pm

Judy Drive In

A Family Event

Silent Auction ends at 3pm

Vendors from 10-5 concessions

Free Haircuts


Let’s Cruise Entertainment with DJ and music

Enchanted Rainbow Bubbles


McCarty Inflatable

Bethel/Sharpsburg Fire Dept w/ truck and fire safety tips

Lemonade w/ Cotton candy & Snow cones and SO MUCH MORE!!!



Car/Bike show 12-4 pm



Kids entertainment

Shelf stable food for the Resource centers

NOTHING REFRIGERATED OR FROZEN!!

Microwavable instant oatmeal (any flavors)

Microwavable meals/pastas ex: ravioli, mac and cheese, rice a roni, cup of noodles

Crackers (any kind)

Fruit snacks

Cereal bars, granola bars, protein bars for kids

Snack sized packs of mixed chips and pretzels

Microwavable popcorn

Small bottles of Gatorade or waters or juice boxes

Water flavoring packets

Vienna Sausages

Packs of cheese and cracker or bread sticks and crackers

Pop- Tarts

Breakfast bars

Beef Jerky

Slim Jims

Chex mix, trail mix, dehydrated fruits like pineapple or banana chips

Fruit cups

Applesauce cups

Snack sized Ziploc bags

Chips

Canned cheese spread

Does not have to be name brand on anything!!

Backpacks handed out while supplies last

Supporting Bath, Montgomery, Nicholas and Fleming Schools

Hosted by: Butterfly Blessings, Let’s Cruise Entertainment and Judy Drive IN

What type of donations for the Backpacks

Backpacks

Pencils

Erasers

Notebook Paper (college and regular ruled)

Spiral bound notebooks

Dry erase markers

Glue Sticks

Crayons

Safety scissors

Pencil Boxes

2 pocket 3 prong folders


Composition notebooks

Divider pages for use in Binders

Markers

Highlighters

Thank you to our sponsors!





NOTICE

Pursuant to KRS 160.463 and HB 366, the Menifee County Board of Education has made available the FY 2024/2025 Pre-Audit Annual Financial Report. Balance Sheet and Vendor Payment List on the school website: www.menifee.kyschools.us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lorri Bartley, CFE, CSFM, Director of Finance, Menifee County Board of Education at (606) 768-8002.

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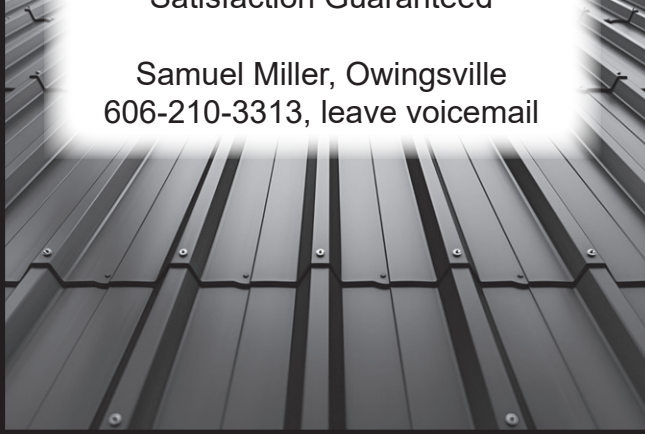
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47) Country Pleasure Walking Championship: