

THE

PIONEER NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 • WWW.PIONEERNEWS.NET

VOL. 142, NO. 52 • \$2

BCPS in solid financial footing

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — One problem Bullitt County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon is not worried about — financial stability.

While neighbors to the north are looking for ways to cut \$132 million in the next budget to overcome a \$188 million deficit, Bacon said that sound financial spending in Bullitt County has kept the local district in good fiscal shape.

“Our budget is balanced,” said Bacon.

Part of the confidence it that there are checks and balances. Plus, the school board members receive three updates on the budget

prior to final approval.

Bacon said that draft budget is the “wish list” for school personnel. But that draft budget is due to the state Department of Education by the end of January.

Between January and March, Bacon and finance director Lisa Lewis will meet with each department to review their draft budgets to prioritize the needs and to see if anything is needed to be added to the original estimates.

By the end of May, the board gets to see the tentative budget. Bacon said this gives everyone a clearer vision on the SEEK funding and other projected revenue.

While the state require-

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ment is 2% of the budget for contingency, the district's goal is to be at 5 percent.

Tax rates are approved

into place.

To keep track of spending throughout the fiscal year, Bacon said that there is a function of the accounting system that will not allow a purchase order to be granted if there is not sufficient funds in the budget.

So how can Bullitt County have a solid contingency fund when Jefferson County is searching to find dollars or to make cuts?

“In Bullitt County, we have taken proactive steps to address revenue pressures by adjusting property tax rates, pursuing grant fundings and considering school realignments to reduce costs and balance enrollment,” said Bacon.

The district just approved a realignment plan that would affect students in all but seven schools and would also close down Nichols Elementary after this school year.

While talks of property tax increases have surfaced for Jefferson County, Bacon said there are limits without facing the voters on the ballot.

Most government agencies are bound by House Bill 44, which limits the amount of revenue increase to 4 percent. Anything above a 4% increase in revenue — minus new development — would give property owners a chance to get

SEE FOOTING/PAGE A8

Kosair for Kids provides peace of mind for families

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Chris and Holly Exley know the importance Kosair for Kids can play in a family's life.

It is not something that folks want to get assistance from but the organization is a lifesaver for many families.

Holly Exley held her son Jace as she addressed those in attendance at the recent Bullitt County Community Impact Breakfast.

This annual event is for individuals, organizations and businesses to listen to the good works of Kosair for Kids and then decide to make a contribution.

Dorie Shelburne, chief executive officer for UofL Health South Hospital, gave some of the facts about the impact of Kosair for Kids.

Over the past five years, the organization has provided \$232,500 in grants to non-profit groups to help in a variety of ways, according to the event chairperson.

And, the organization has provided 25 children from Bullitt County with a com-

Thomas J. Barr

Jace Exley stole the show as the family appeared at the Bullitt County Community Breakfast for Kosair for Kids

bined \$184,551 in financial assistance.

Barry Dunn, director of Kosair for Kids, said it is a wonderful thing to help children and then to listen to their stories.

But, he said the assistance needs a lot of individuals to

make a difference.

To the assembled group, Dunn said donations are needed. The organization also needs to know about those who are in need of assistance for their children.

He said there are non-profit groups and individuals

who know of families who have a need but might be afraid to ask for it.

“Lets not let pride get in the way,” said Dunn.

Of the requests, he estimated that 99% get some

SEE KOSAIR/PAGE A8

Thinking pink continues to help save lives

BY STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — How important is the Bullitt County's annual Think Pink event?

Important enough that the Lieutenant Governor hopes to attend.

Jacqueline Coleman is scheduled to to make an appearance at the 2025 Think Pink program, hosted by the Bullitt County Health Department and sponsored by the Kentucky Cancer Program and the Bullitt County Cooperative Extension Service.

Liz McGuire, BCHD director of health education, said Coleman will attend and speak during the event pending her busy working schedule.

While Coleman is technically not a breast cancer survivor, she has had a significant history of cancer in her family. She received a preventative double mastectomy, avoiding a lifetime of constant monitoring and worry.

According to McGuire, Think Pink is part educational, part memorial, and part celebrational, with all survivors being honored at the end of the event.

“The Health Department hosts our annual breast cancer awareness event to celebrate survivors, to honor those we have lost, and to remind the community of the importance of early detection,” she said.

McGuire mentioned an increasing trend in breast cancer among younger women. She said national data via the American Cancer Society showed an increase of invasive breast cancer incidences in women under age 50.

“This is an important context when interpreting state numbers,” she added.

This year's guest speaker will be Katy Williams, a genetic counselor with Baptist Health. McGuire said Williams will discuss and promote the importance of genetic testing.

A special video presentation will be viewed during the program, featuring three local breast cancer survivors and telling their individual success stories.

McGuire mentioned that WDRB News personality Fallon Glick will return for a third consecutive year as the event's emcee.

“She has shared her story, she knows this event, and she agrees to do it every year,” McGuire said.

Informational resource booths will be hosted by local and regional organizations supplying information on various health issues. Organizations include UofL Hospital South, Gilda's Club of Louisville, Derby City Dragons, Kort Physical Therapy, and the Kentucky Cancer Program, among others.

McGuire said BCHD will supply flu shots, reminding that each participant must show proof of identification and an insurance card.

Dinner is also provided at Think Pink, with this year's fare including baked potatoes and chili.

As always, everyone is encouraged, but not required, to wear pink in commemoration of October being designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The 2025 Think Pink celebration is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 20, at Paroquet Springs Conference Centre. Doors open at 5:30 pm for booths and exhibits, with food served at 6:15. McGuire said the program will begin at 6:30 pm.

The event is free, but reservations are required and space is limited. To check availability, make a reservation, or for more information, call the Bullitt County Health Department, (502)955-5355.

Relax along the Mindfulness Trail

BY STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — The Bullitt County Cooperative Extension Service hopes to remind everyone to be mindful of maintaining a healthy mind.

The Extension Service is providing the Mindfulness Trail, a series of signs that can be placed along any walking path, designed to offer advice and practice to help relax while providing social and emotional learning tips.

Ruth Chowning, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, said the University of Kentucky worked with other specialists to establish the trails as a state initiative for mental health.

“People can read them while they are out walking,” Chowning said. “You can use them with a class,

Stephen Thomas

The Mindfulness Trail is set up at the Shepherdsville

in a school, or at work. There are a lot of avenues. They are not like story walk signs that need to be placed in a specific order. Each contains different

mindful activities.”

According to Chowning, workplaces and schools can implement the signs to provide employees and teachers with stress-coping skills

and activities.

“It's there to help support people,” she said. “You can even repeat the walks, while you read and learn the skills, which you will be able to then use in other places.”

The Mindfulness Trails consist of a number of A-frame or yard-style signs, each listing various activities or suggestions that encourage walkers to focus on relaxation, either with suggested actions or distracting thought ideas.

“They are geared to work toward any scenario,” Chowning added.

The first Mindfulness Trail signs were on display at the Shepherdsville City Park. Chowning worked with city Parks and Recreation director Samantha Satterly to determine where to place the A-frame signs.

SEE TRAIL/PAGE A8

INSIDE

HAPPENINGS

SPORTS

CLASSIFIED

PUZZLES

A4

B1

B8

B9

6

84578 30380

2