

# THE PIONEER NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

WWW.PIONEERNEWS.NET

VOL. 142, No. 58 \$2

## BULLITT CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

BY STEPHEN THOMAS  
THE PIONEER NEWS

In a tough year, it's more common than ever for folks to begin their traditional yuletide celebrations.

Bullitt County is well-represented in that spirit, with a number of local events and festivities to get everyone into the proper mood.

Below is a list of city-sponsored events provided to the community, all free to experience, as a way for families and individuals to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year:

### HOLIDAYS IN HILLVIEW

These days some people and

places go straight from Halloween celebration into Christmas cheer. The City of Hillview didn't forget Thanksgiving, however, still serving their annual free community turkey meal on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Meals will be served at the Hillview Government Center, 283 Crestwood Lane, from 11 am until 7 pm or until the food runs out. Live music will be provided to dine-in participants by Travis Cox from 2-7 pm.

A large quantity of turkeys will be prepared, along with traditional sides and plenty of desserts. Carryout is available. For more information on the Thanksgiving meal call

(502)957-5280.

Prior to even the Thanksgiving meal, Hillview always kicks off the holiday season with their annual Winterfest event, scheduled this year for Saturday, Nov. 22, 4-7 pm, at the government center.

City recreation director Chris Gomez said the free family-friendly event will include a magic show, train rides, face painting, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Other celebrity guests scheduled to appear at Winterfest include Frosty the Snowman and The Grinch. DJ Joe will also be in attendance, providing music for a fun kids dance party.

Winterfest includes free chili and hot dogs, as well as water and tea, served while supplies last. For more information call (502)957-4444.

The success of the city's Scareview Haunt venue for Halloween led to Hillview's newest public attraction, the Festival of Lights.

Gomez said the city was working with resident Cam Bullock, who provided all of the Scareview Haunt decorations.

Bullock has plenty of holiday decorations to display in the walk-through event, which will be placed at the Eadens Resource Center lot, 1191 Hillview Boulevard. He will be working in association with the

recreation department to organize and establish the display.

According to Bullock, select nights will feature special guests, including the biggest guests of the season, Santa and Mrs. Claus. He said actors who assisted with Scareview Haunt will serve as actors in the many different-themed areas.

"We're trying to bring something to Hillview," Bullock said, mentioning theme areas such as Toy Story, Disney, snowmen and Gingerbread Lane.

Festival of Lights will be set up close to Hillview Boulevard, with

SEE HOLIDAYS/PAGE A4



Thomas J. Barr

Mom Edna is joined by the grandchildren to cut the ribbon on Jessica's Garden.

## Garden to remember Jessica Dishon, could help others

BY THOMAS J. BARR  
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – It was a time of reflection and a time for hope.

Several dozen family and friends of Jessica Dishon made the walk from the Farmers Market to a spot located in the Shepherdsville First Street Park.

At the end of the journey was a special place of recognition and remembrance of a teenager who lost her life too early.

Back in September 1999, a 17-year-old Bullitt Central student was taken from her home. It would be 10 days later that her body would be found.

Jessica's uncle, Stanley, would enter a guilty plea years later that he was



Her sign has numbers for those seeking help.

SEE GARDEN/PAGE A6

## Mobile tribute displayed for War on Terrorism victims

BY STEPHEN THOMAS  
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Following the 9/11 attacks in 2001, President George W. Bush officially declared a war on terror.

James Thornton, ambassador for the local group Warrior Rounds, reminded that the war still officially continues.

Those whose lives were lost as a result of the initial attacks, as well as active military who perished in the

line of duty during ongoing related combat missions, are being remembered by the new Global War on Terrorism Tribute.

The memorial was established by American Veteran's Traveling Tribute, an organization dedicated to honor, respect, and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while educating future generations on the nation's past.

AVTT first came to Bullitt County in July 2024 featuring a scale replica on the Vietnam Memorial Wall located

in Washington, DC, at Shepherdsville City Park.

According to Thornton, the Global War on Terrorism Tribute is designed in similar fashion, with 88 feet of wall displaying the victims of the 9/11 attacks including World Trade Center and Pentagon employees, airplane crew members and passengers, and fallen First Responders at the scenes.

Thornton said military members who perished during Tours of Duty in Iraq

SEE MOBILE/PAGE A3

## Schools show improvement on state assessment

BY THOMAS J. BARR  
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – It may not be fast enough for local educators but the latest indicators from the Kentucky State Accountability show that Bullitt County students are moving forward.

The 2024-25 KSA data was released on Wednesday and Bullitt County officials are pleased that there is continued improvement in all areas.

The standards look at a variety of measures, including college and career readiness and school climate.

In the six indicators – reading, math, science/social studies/writing, English Learner progress, school climate and safety, post-secondary readiness and graduation rate – superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon said Bullitt County showed districtwide improvement.

With the scoring being more than just test results, the district said elementary schools overall improved their scoring by 1.7 points. High schools improved 4.1 points with the middle schools seeing the largest growth by 7.1 points.

In this accountability system, all of the middle schools recorded the highest color of green in all indicator areas.

Of the district's 22 schools, 17 showed increased state scores. Six of those schools – Bernheim Middle, Bullitt Central High, Bullitt Lick Middle, Eastside Middle, Nichols Elementary and Zoneton Middle – saw the color rating improve from the previous cycle.

In terms of quality of school climate, all schools scored in the medium to high levels. As a district, the score increased by 1.6 points.

Four out of six students reported that they strongly agree they have an adult who will listen to them if they need help. The students reported that school is a place of safety at a rate of 71.2 points for elementary schools, 68.2 points in middle

and 70.2 points in high school.

And three out of four students feel that their school is a caring place.

Another area that doesn't revolve around test scores is life readiness indicators.

Post-secondary readiness rose from 95.9 points to 98.9 this year, which lands the district in the blue area for being very high.

Individually, Bullitt Central and Bullitt East were blue schools.

Career and technical education participation was up 7 percent and those completing dual credit courses rose 5 percent.

A total of 1,212 advanced placement exams were taken by students.

Officials believe that the community partnerships attribute to the 6-10 point increase in academic growth and better school climate ratings.

Over 1,500 project based learning experiences were created in grades K-12 last school year.

As of this month, the district is partnering with 92 community organizations supporting 177 educators, 24 classroom projects, four educator events and six partner-led opportunities for students.

While encouraged by the steady growth, Bacon said there is still a lot of work to be done.

Reading and math scores remain in the mid-50s, with a district average of 54.2 points.

This means that more work needs to be done in doing data-driven intervention work and continuing its Tier 1 work.

There is also a need to implement more Kentucky Department of Education approved high-quality instructional resources in the high schools for the areas of social studies and science.

Even more attention to the data would be required through instructional decisions made through the refined professional learning communities and bi-weekly

SEE SCHOOLS/PAGE A4

### INSIDE

Classifieds  
Sports  
Legal Notices

B5  
B1-3  
B4-7



6 84578 30380 2