

THE PIONEER NEWS

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Early voting underway at new locations

THOMAS J. BARR
 THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Election time has arrived in Bullitt County as the primary winners will be determined over the next few days.

Early voting will be held on Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16, at some new locations.

After receiving pushback from the Bullitt County Board of Education on the concerns about closing school during the early voting days, County Clerk Kevin Mooney opted to find alternate locations.

From 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on

the early voting days, Paroquet Springs Conference Centre, First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and the Jesse Schott Memorial Gym in Hillview will be open.

On Tuesday, May 19, voting will take place at those four locations as well as Bullitt Central High School, Bullitt East High School, Zoneton Middle School, Lebanon Junction Elementary School, Nichols Elementary School and Hebron Middle School.

Hebron Middle will replace North Bullitt High as a voting location due to a new gym floor being installed.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. If you are in line at the 6 p.m. deadline, you will be allowed to cast a ballot.

In Bullitt County, you are allowed to vote at any of the locations, no matter your precinct.

This year is a countywide election as many offices are on the ballot. However, most will be for the Republican Party as only two races will involve Democrats.

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

In the race for county judge/executive, incumbent Jerry Summers is facing challenges from Tony Thompson and Sheila Metcalfe.

In the sheriff's race, incumbent Walter Sholar will face Kenneth Proffitt.

The jailer's race will feature incumbent Bryan Whittaker and challengers Dewey McMillen and John Claypoole II.

The most crowded race will be for the open seat of county clerk as incumbent Mooney is not seeking re-election. Debbie Johnson, Allen Maricle, Rita Parsons, Cody Waters, Sheri Webber and Mark Williams will be on the ballot.

Each of the four magistrate races will be contested in the primary.

Incumbent Vera Sanders will be challenged by Anthony Hester in

the First District.

With incumbent Shaun Logsdon not seeking re-election, Bruce Gooden and Gary Lawson will be on the ballot in the Second District.

In the Third District, incumbent Karen Johnson will face challenges from Gary Hatcher and Mike Rice.

And in the Fourth District, Joe Rayhill will be seeking to regain his seat against current incumbent Brian Bleemel.

Several constable positions will be on the Republican ballot.

In District One, it is an open seat as Robert Watkins was redistricted

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Students learn choices matter from real experience

STEPHEN THOMAS
 THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Tammy Gweedo McGee provided a sobering message of safety and love to local students during prom season.

McGee represents Choices Matter, an organization of speakers providing real-life stories that inspire students to make positive life-changing choices.

The Kentucky Office for Highway Safety sponsored McGee's visit to the Louisville area, including stops at Bullitt Central High School and Riverview Opportunity Center. The event included virtual driving, vision-impairment goggles and posters for students to sign committing to make good choices.

McGee, a Virginia resident, told students about her own personal experience involving her son, Connor.

"A total of 2,375 teens died in 2019," McGee said. "That's important to me... one of them is my son. He never graduated high school, he just became a statistic. He should still be here, but because of choices someone else made, he isn't."

Connor, a goalie on his high school soccer team, attended a homecoming dance when a transfer student offered him a ride to a party afterward.

"The (transfer student) was driving to school every day... with no license," said McGee. "And no one knew."

McGee knew her son might attend a party afterward, but never thought about reckless driving.

"It was just one mile (to the party)," McGee said. "Conner jumped in, and asked a friend to jump in. An unlicensed driver and three teens in the vehicle. The driver revved the engine in the parking lot. They went 500 yards and were at 70 MPH, twice the speed limit."

According to McGee, the driver lost control at a curb, went off the shoulder, overcorrected, and then flipped the car, killing all three boys.

"All three gone because of choices," she said. "We later found out (the driver



Tammy Gweedo McGee sharing her real-life experience with students at Riverview Opportunity Center during the Choices Matter program.

Photos by Stephen Thomas

Parks board to recommend fate of Maryville pool

THOMAS J. BARR
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PIONEER VILLAGE — Magistrate Karen Johnson has been adamant over the years that the old Maryville pool needs to be renovated and reopened for the northern community.

She recently revisited what has been a lack of action over the past few years. However, her enthusiasm couldn't sway fellow magistrates to jump in and get the project started.

Instead, it appears Johnson's next stop will be to meet with the newly-created parks and recreation advisory board in June.

The pool had fallen into a state of disrepair with leaks and stricter federal safety standards. It was closed several years ago and the county's only other public pool was taken over by the city of Mount Washington.

Johnson went through a timeline on the attempts to refurbish the pool. Back in 2023, bids to complete the project and reopen the pool were \$2.1 million.

She said the county received a matching \$250,000 grant and she secured companies that would donate electrical, plumbing and welding services.

With the donations and the grant, Johnson felt the pool could be reopened for \$500,000 or less.

The county's budget has had \$1 million for the pool; however, with concerns by MSD over its capacity to handle the facility, discussions were put on hold.

Johnson said that MSD has recently said it could accommodate the pool facility.

She said the city of Paintsville got the same grant

SEE POOL/PAGE A3

Hillview denies zoning to expand Sober Living

THOMAS J. BARR
 THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW — A planned expansion of a current Sober Living facility off Highway 1020 will not get permission to expand.

The Hillview City Council voted 4-0 to accept the recommendation of the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission to reject the rezoning request of Arlis Hill.

The council's rejection will have no impact on the current structure being used for a Sober Living facility. But it will reject plans to build two other residential structures.

Hill was seeking to rezone the property from R-1 Residential to R-3 Residential on the former hardware store on the corner of Griffis Lane and Highway 1020.

The decision came after a one-hour public hearing in which residents spoke in support and in opposition.

The applicant did not speak.

Attorney Steve Porter, representing several of the

Brooks residents, said there are no plans for the facility and there are many hoops that must be jumped to operate a Sober Living facility. Those include approval from the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Committee and the state.

To operate a good facility, Porter said the provider must be experienced and the location must be right. The proposed operation is near residential homes and also in close proximity to places to secure alcohol.

In looking at the current structure, Porter said it appeared to be in a state of poor condition and there is no guarantee the owner will fix it up properly.

"You shouldn't approve this zoning with a

SEE SOBER/PAGE A4



RE-ELECT
BRYAN WHITTAKER
 BULLITT COUNTY JAILER

★ Career Law Enforcement
 Individual
 ★ NO Deaths...NO Lawsuits
 ★ Leadership you can trust

Paid for by Re-Elect Bryan Whittaker for Bullitt County Jailer 2026

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