

THE PIONEER NEWS

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What's all the fuss: Data center info provided to community

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — A public event was held locally to provide more data on the national issue of data centers.

Kentucky Resources Council senior attorney Byron Gary spoke to a large audience at the Bullitt County Public Library Central Branch providing information on data centers, what they are, their positive and negative impacts, and their positive and negative benefits.

The event was hosted by the Bullitt County Democratic Party, but was presented as an open, non-partisan

community event for anyone wanting to attend.

Gary said KYRC was assisted by the Sierra Club of Kentucky in acquiring information. He said there were many inquiries throughout the commonwealth as citizens learned of new and potential data center locations.

According to Gary, the centers were basically built like giant warehouses that stored computer services.

"They've already been around for decades," he said. "But there's been a vast increase in the past three

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Stephen Thomas

A full room of concerned citizens and local officials gathered to discuss data centers at the Bullitt County Public Library Central Branch.



Stephen Thomas

Byron Gary, senior attorney with the Kentucky Resources Council, shared information.



MIKE FARNER

First runner-up Makenzie Marshall, Miss Bullitt County Fair Lainie Gerkins and second runner-up Rayahna Bunnell

Gerkins scores Miss BC Fair crown

MIKE FARNER
THE PIONEER NEWS

CLERMONT — Come for the basketball, stay for the Miss Bullitt County Fair Pageant.

That plan worked out to perfection for Lainie Gerkins on Monday as she capped the Bullitt County double by being named the 2026 Miss Bullitt County Fair on Monday night under the pavilion.

A resident of Meade County, Gerkins had it all planned out. Her Lady Green Wave basketball team was set for a summer scrimmage event at North Bullitt on Monday morning. She would just stick around the community before arriving at the Fairgrounds for the big event that night.

Basketball and pageants are both a big part of Gerkins' life. She was already the 2025 Miss Meade County Fair and had competed over the winter in the state-wide event. She could not enter the Meade County event again, but she wanted to return to the state finals. So, she sought out a nearby community to compete in. It was several years ago that the



MIKE FARNER

A very excited Lainie Gerkins is crowned the 2026 Miss Bullitt County Fair winner

state pageant rules shifted to make all County Fair events 'open' to any contestant from any part of the state.

Gerkins bought a dress especially for her summer pageant circuit. The dress will now have to stay in storage for a little bit as she cannot compete in any other county events before the

state pageant in December. "I had seen this pageant on Facebook and I wanted to compete in the state event again," Gerkins said after emerging from the dressing area. "Then I saw that my basketball team was going to be at North Bullitt in the morning so it all just worked out."

Gerkins will be a junior

at Meade County for the upcoming school year.

Monday started with Gerkins wanting to win at one event and then duplicate the feat that evening.

"I am a very competitive person," she said. "I wanted to win. But, I also like to have fun."

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Zoning never changed on land near Fox Chase

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

FOX CHASE — Residents along West Hebron Lane have been up in arms since dirt started moving on a tract just west of the city of Fox Chase.

There was a proposal by GNS Express LLC to locate a truck parking lot on the previously vacant property, which runs along the east side of Interstate 65 just south of West Hebron Lane.

However, the latest notification from county officials to company owners may result in litigation.

Last Tuesday, GNS Express received notification from Charlie Spalding, director of Bullitt County Planning and

Zoning, that the tract was not zoned as originally thought.

"After diligent research into the zoning record of parcel 004-000-00-001E, it has been discovered that the correct zoning for this parcel is R-2 Residential, not I-L Light Industrial," Spalding wrote. "Given this newly discovered information, our office must revoke the previously issued Land Disturbance Permit."

While the site plan had not been approved, the land disturbance permit would allow a certain amount of dirt to be moved to or from the property.

"For any further development to take place on this

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Traci Gould with her Turn the Page Book Bus.

Gould retires after two decades providing for SES community

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Traci Gould recalled being in first grade at Cedar Grove Elementary with her favorite teacher, Judy Graham.

"(Graham) made a difference to a kid's life in that I'll never forget," Gould said. "It's because of her, that example made me want to pursue this."

Graham's example was Gould's first step toward her career as a Family Resource Center coordinator. She is retiring after 20 years with Shepherdsville Elementary.

Gould is the only FRC coordinator in the short history of SES, hired by former principal David Pate in the school's second year.

"I knew Pate from Cedar Grove," she said. "He invited me in for an interview and I thought it was a good fit."

According to Gould, the challenge of a larger school

in a low-access area was the SES FRC's primary challenge.

"In many ways our school is a basic needs school," she said. "Families don't always have the access. That's where we come in. Many families were trying hard to make it before resources were available to them, living in areas without access to transportation, or stores. Places were difficult to get to."

Gould learned immediately that whatever students needed, their families also needed.

"It made sense for the resources to be available through the school," she said.

Megan Hatter, Bullitt County Public Schools director of grant management and community/family programs, first met Gould in 2007 when Hatter served as a district middle school level Youth Services Center coordinator.

"Traci has been a fierce advocate for logical and

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