

THE

PIONEER NEWS

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Council still sinking teeth into chicken issue

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – A life without discussions about chickens, would be a city council meeting without “fowl” exchanges.

The Shepherdsville City Council opened up the floor to discussed a proposed ordinance that would regulate whether chickens could be housed in residential areas.

As presented for the first reading by city attorney Katherine Dozier, the city would allow chickens if they are

kept in coops or runs. There would be limits depending on the size of the property.

The smallest lot of under .25 acres could house four chickens, Unless you have two or more acres, roosters would not be allowed.

The chickens cannot run freely on a person’s property and the coops must be kept in good condition.

There must be a sanitary environment with no odors escaping to neighbor properties.

Noise, odor or standing water would not be allowed.

While a big crowd may have been expected, only a few appeared to speak to the council.

Shannon Layman read a letter from Jessica Hoch, who could not be present.

That letter supported responsible owners of chickens. If the owners couldn’t manage their chickens, she said that would be another matter.

She wanted everyone to be protected in the process.

Dennis Hooper said that he saw no

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Kosair Kids shows that agency does miracles

THOMAS J. BARR
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SHEPHERDSVILLE – Community leaders gathered for breakfast.

It was a breakfast that was for a very good cause.

The annual event was to raise funds for the Kosair for Kids program.

Formerly known as Kosair Charities, Kosair for Kids is a continuation of a program started more than 100 years ago.

Event chairman Rick Clements of Wesbanco led the breakfast.

CEO Barry Dunn said that the organization never says no to someone in need.

The organization helps those with children in need through a variety of ways. From medical bills to therapy to equipment needs, Dunn said the organization is always willing to help a child in need.

Kosair for Kids assists individual families as well as non-profit agencies which provide services to children.

Not only is the breakfast important for generating funds, Dunn said the organization is always looking for families who are in need.

“We want to help,” said Dunn.

Over the past five years, Kosair for Kids has provided financial assistance to the tune of \$89,249 for Bullitt County families.

During that time, the organization has also donated over \$290,000 to non-profits in Bullitt County.

But it was Grayson, who stole the



THOMAS J. BARR

Grayson was the star of the breakfast.

show on this particular Thursday.

His mother, Jennifer, said she was pregnant with twins when it was determined that she would have to have the babies after just 29 weeks.

Due to a bowel perforation,

Grayson had brain damage due to a lack of blood and oxygen to the brain. He underwent surgery just seven days after birth and his parents would be told that cerebral

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Three enter guilty pleas in death of Hillview teen

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Just minutes away from a tribute to Cole Bullock that would be on display, three men entered pleas for their roles in the Hillview man’s death on Halloween night in 2024.

Having just turned 18, Bullock was murdered on Oct. 31.

Last Thursday, three men were present in Bullitt County Circuit Court to enter guilty pleas.

Joe Angel Ortiz entered a plea to manslaughter and three counts of wanton endangerment. If served consecutively, the sentences could amount to 30 years in prison.

Ortiz, 19, is currently housed in the Bullitt County Detention Center.

Jason Lannon entered a plea to a charge of facilitation to murder, as well as complicity to robbery. He could serve 15 years in prison.

The person admitting to driving the getaway vehicle, Jadyn Molina-Holland, was charged with three counts of wanton endangerment for a five-year sentence.

The other two defendants are out on bond.

Final sentencing will be held on Nov. 10 and both parties would have the opportunity to present testimony. Family members would also be allowed to present statements to the judge.

Circuit Judge Rodney Burruss would ultimately be responsible for deciding the final sentence for each.

Cam Bullock, one of Cole’s brothers, started a Halloween event in the victim’s honor. Scareview Manor was a haunted house in Hillview, which had so much attendance that a larger venue was needed.

Each Friday and Saturday night in October Scareview Manor will be presented at the Shepherdsville City Park. Cam Bullock started the Halloween event as his brother loved the holiday.

It is held from 6-7:30 p.m. for the non-scary visitors with the spooky stuff running from 8-11 p.m.

Judge affirms recommendation of two life sentences

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW – A Bullitt County Circuit Judge has affirmed the decision by a jury panel in a case where two individuals were killed in a traffic accident.

Circuit Judge Rodney Burruss agreed with the jury’s recommendation to convict Dawn Marie Middleton on two counts of vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and disregarding a traffic device.

During final sentencing on Thursday, Burruss did not reduce the pair of life sentences imposed by the jury. The two would run concurrently for a total of 40 years.

Middleton, 33, was originally charged with

two counts of murder.

It was on June 5, 2024, when Richard and Phyllis Elzey were driving on Preston Highway and Middleton’s vehicle struck the couple’s vehicle.

Commonwealth attorney Amanda Hernandez Troutman and assistant commonwealth attorney Michael Van Sickle presented a number of individuals to testify during the trial, held over two weeks in late August.

Hillview Police Department handled the investigation of the case. Wyatt Rossell led the inquiry.

Mike Dennis, another Hillview police officer, recalled arriving at the

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Mount Washington candidates express viewpoints

THOMAS J. BARR
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MOUNT WASHINGTON – An attentive audience may have learned a little more about the candidates they will be voting for in the Nov. 3 general election.

The first of three candidate forums, hosted by the Bullitt County Chamber of Commerce and The Pioneer News, was held Thursday at Fick Hall in Mount Washington.

Candidates for Bullitt County Circuit Court Family Court Division 3, Mount Washington mayor and city council were part of the forum.

FAMILY COURT

Elected to a position created in 2018, Monica Meredith is seeking to retain her judicial seat.

With over 30 years in the law profession, Meredith said she had a varied background of experience to bring to the bench, including a term as county attorney, a stint as deputy county judge/executive, service on the Chamber board of directors and her

work defending clients in the courtroom.

During her first term, Meredith said COVID changed the way life happened both in and out of the judicial system. She presented figures on how her court is leading Kentucky in the number of electronic filings.

She is also proud that the time it takes to resolve a case has improved tremendously.

With the heavy workload on the two existing circuit judges, Bullitt County was behind. And he is pleased that the speed in which cases are resolved is much better.

But, she said that while the desire is to resolve the cases quickly, Meredith said there must be fairness and integrity in every situation as people on all sides deserve to be treated properly.

A growing trend in court is the number of individuals who do not have legal representation. She said establishing a five-day period in which all exhibits must be submitted is a way to not blindsides the other party.

She is also proud that less than 6 percent of her rulings have been

appealed and that there have been 31,000 orders issued this year.

One thing people may not realize is that she is on call 24/7 and that is a huge responsibility for any judge.

Meredith said she hopes to help people in the judicial process. But she also knows that there are a lot of people who leave the courtroom who are not happy.

Seeking her first elected office, Amanda Spalding has experienced the court system from her days as an assistant county attorney prosecuting cases to her time as an attorney representing her clients.

In all of the areas associated with family court, Spalding said she has experience for the past 20 years.

She understands there are bad times in court but there are also happy ones, such as in the adoption process.

Spalding said she understands the need for getting cases through the system but she said there must be quality in the orders written by the judge.

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**Don't Forget the next political forum
hosted by the Chamber and Pioneer News
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m.
Paroquet Springs Conference Centre**



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