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# **County elections quiet, turnout low**

#### By Scott Pearson Associate Editor

The Marshall County general election last Thursday passed without too many sparks, despite a 13 page ballot.

Voters didn't appear particularly energized either with a disappointing turnout, lower than the last two elections.

Overall, 5,799 voters went to the polls out of just under 21,000 registered, a 28% turnout.

Less than 2,500 votes were cast on the day of the election, compared to 3,200 cast during the early vote.

Only two of the countywide races were contested.

Incumbent Register of Deeds Dorris Wayne Weaver fought off two challengers in Joey Young and Robbie Russell. Weaver garnered just under 55% of the vote, receiving 2927 votes to Young's 30% (1605 votes) and Russell's 15% (801).

Trustee Scottie Poarch held on to his seat after a challenge from Curtis Johnson, winning with 3,107 votes to Johnson's 2,425.

County Mayor Mike Keny, running unopposed for a second term, received 4,554 courtesy votes.

Other incumbents elected to an additional term are: Sheriff Billy Lamb, 4,922 votes; Circuit Court Clerk Mike Wiles, 4,404 votes; County Clerk Daphne Girts, 4,810; and Superintendent of Roads Jerry Williams, 4,555.

The County Commission races generated more interest from candidates.

The only uncontested commission races were in the two northernmost districts. First District Commissioners Dead Delk and Craig Blackwell return with 391 and 399 courtesy votes, respectively. Likewise, 2nd District Commissioners Joseph Warner and Debbie Hill return with 358 and 302 votes cast.

The six-way race for the two 3rd District seats saw very tight margins.

Incumbent Anna Childress



holds on to a seat with 241 votes. John McCullough edged out incumbent Tony Nichols for the second seat, 235 to 228 votes.

Shawn Hawkins received 165 votes, former Commissioner R.L. Williams 132 votes, and Anthony Parker received 86 votes.

The 4th District also saw an incumbent lose.

Commissioner Roger Murphree finished third in the contest with 198 votes. Ken Lee will take the seat after receiving 410 votes, along with incumbent Commissioner Mickey King with 396 votes.

Curtis Denton ended up with 131 votes in the district.

District 5 saw the closest margin of the night with Commissioner Tony Beyer retaining a seat over challenger Mary Cedeno by six votes, 327 to 321. Terry Dunnivant topped the district with 420 votes.

Sheldon Davis and Cannon Allen both retain their seats in District 6 with 210 and 162 votes each. Shaun Arndt with 143 votes and Toby Adams with 122 round out the field.

Keith Hollingsworth and Seth Warf will represent District 7, receiving 189 and 162 votes. Danny Morgan finished third with 129.

One seat in District 8 remains unsettled. Jeff Poarch was reelected with 241 votes. Current 5th District Commissioner Lynn Stocstill finished second with 176 votes. However, Stocstill was unable to complete her planned move between the districts by election day, leaving her unable to take up the seat.

According to Election Administrator Andrew Robertson, the vacant seat will probably be included as a special election on the November ballot.

James Hopkins, who recently appointed to the commission to fill a vacancy, finished with 153 votes and Joey King finished with 143.

Ninth District incumbent Glen White holds his District 9 seat with 417 votes and will be joined by newcomer Nathan Johnson with 357.

Trailing in the district were Andy Reed with 236 votes and Walt Redding with 153.

None of the county or district-wide judicial races were contested with every incumbent returning to office.

Circuit Court Judges Forest Durard and Wyatt Burk, Chancellor J.B. Cox, District Attorney Robert Carter and Public Defender Donna Hargrove will all serve another term.

General Sessions Judge Lee Bussart retains her seat as well with 4,658 courtesy votes.

### **Cornersville revises liquor laws**

#### By Scott Pearson Associate Editor

The Cornersville Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved amendments to the town's liquor by the drink ordinance at their monthly meeting last Thursday.

The amendments to the ordinance, which was approved by referendum years ago and has been dormant since then, are aimed at providing better definitions and more guidance, especially for package stores.

for owning such an establishment.

The new language sets a maximum of two liquor stores within the town limits. Previously, no limit for the number of retail stores was included.

The board also discussed excluding package liquor stores from areas zoned as C-1, which could be done by limiting the acceptable use table in the zoning guidelines to C-2 zoned areas.

As originally written, the

Aldermen wanted to check the IDB bylaws for membership requirements. The town IDB, which does not meet regularly, has vacancies which must be filled and Mayor John Luna would like to see the board meet annually at least.

An engineer briefed aldermen on the widening project for East Hill, Underwood, and Polk Streets.





The amendment eliminates distance requirements from certain locations, as well as the residency requirement ordinance had no location restrictions.

The board tabled discussion of membership for the town's Industrial Development Board until next month.

A handful of right of way issues need to be resolved but the project is close to bid.

He estimated a mid-summer completion next year, barring any unforeseen delays.

The Cornersville High School cheerleaders passed out schools supplies to kids to help get them ready for going back to school at the Fun Friday in Lewisburg on the square.Front row from left to right: Aubrey Luna, Kyleigh Neill, Lia Chilton, Mollie Gonzalez, Myah Taylor, Serenity Tate, and Maddie Martin. Back row from left to right: Leavie Solomon, Becca Eguia, Andi Kay Edwards, and Ashlyn Willis.

# Lewisburg sees two council changes

**Municipal election recap** By Scott Pearson Associate editor

The Lewisburg City Council will see some new faces in the future as two of the three incumbent councilmen lost their bids for reelection.

Vickie Michael unseated Ward 2 Councilman Jack Cathey with 344 votes to Cathey's 288.

Cathey had been appointed by the council to fill the remaining term of Artie Allen.

Two-term Councilman Jerry Gordon lost in Ward 4 to challenger Tommy Burns. Burns received 213 votes to Gordon's 155.

The only council member to retain their seat was Ward 3 's Peggy Harwell.

She defeated challenger Harry Lee Douglas, Jr. by 13 votes, 81 to 68.

Harwell was appointed to the seat to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, C.H. Harwell.

Incumbent Lewisburg Mayor Jim Bingham was challenged by current Ward 5 Councilman Joe Bradford for the seat.

Voters reelected Bingham to another term as mayor with a 966 to 712 vote total over Bradford.

Barbara Medley, running unopposed, was reelected as Lewisburg city judge with 1,460 courtesy votes.

Chapel Hill Mayor Mike Faulkenberry was returned to office with 209 courtesy votes. Faulkenberry served as an alderman before being appointed by the board to finish the term of Jackie King who resigned from the

position.

Despite having three candidates for three open positions, the town will see one new face on the Board. Benjamin Piper Sr., with 180 votes, fills the seat of Alderman Brian Williams, who chose not to run for reelection. Incumbents Jonathan Gilbert and Dale Brown also return to the board with 191 and 166 courtesy votes respectively.

Cornersville alderman races appear on the November ballot.

## **Chapel Hill paves the way for food trucks**

By Scott Pearson Associate Editor

Chapel Hill began easing the road into town for food trucks at the monthly meeting on Monday night.

Aldermen approved on first reading a draft amendment to the municipal code, reintroduced from early 2021, which would establish regulations for food trucks in town.

The owners of Mother's Subs spoke on their experience with current rules, noting that Chapel Hill charged \$50 every two weeks for a transient vendors license, compared to other municipalities like Lewisburg, Murfrees-

boro, and Nashville which charge the same amount per year.

Town Attorney Todd Moore explained that the only ordinance currently on the books that would cover food trucks is the transient vendor licensing, intended for very seasonal vendors, such as fireworks tents.

The 2021 amendment would establish guidelines specifically for food trucks and lower the license fee. One hundred twenty dollars per year, in line with Brentwood or Franklin, was proposed for an annual license.

The measure will return next month for a final vote.

more flexibility in adjusting water bills for customers faced with leaks or other one-time issues.

As written, policy only allows adjustments to be made on sewer bills, which did not serve as the best remedy.

The board will be presented next month with a resolution allowing the change to address water bill adjustments on a case by case basis.

Aldermen voted unanimously to add annual membership with AirMedCare to the benefits package for town employees.

Town Administrator Danny Bing-Aldermen agreed to allow staff ham said that, considering the low cost to the town compared to the very high cost of air ambulance services the addition was a very cost effective way of improving the town's benefit package.

Aldermen passed on first reading a measure, deferred since January that would set guidelines for food providers in town to prevent fats, oils and grease for cooking into the town sewer system.

Non-water soluble fats clog pipes and can damage water treatment equipment. Additional detail and engineering will be presented next month prior to the second vote.

