

Candidates for clerks participate in forum

The forum for circuit clerk and county clerk candidates was the best attended of the first three.

No forum is scheduled for this Thursday. On April 25, from 6 to 8, a forum will be held for magistrate candidates.

Thursday's forum began with the candidates for circuit court clerk.

Stephanie Brinegar, the current clerk, stated that she had updated the office to include e-filing and the Rocket Docket program.

Her opponent, Sharla Plowman, said she has over 23 years experience in the court system, including 11 as

a circuit clerk.

Plowman resigned at the circuit clerk's office to work for then county attorney Heather Combs. She has continued to work for Combs after she became Commonwealth's Attorney.

Candidates for circuit clerk must pass a test before they can run for that office.

Brinegar said the state's new drivers license will begin on January 1 and will be completed in the first four months of 2019.

The new licenses are good for eight years.

Plowman said the state no longer notifies residents when driver licenses need

renewing. She stated that if elected, she would mail out renewal cards at her own expense.

She also added that she was not opposed to coming in on Saturday so people would not have to take off work to get their licenses renewed.

Brinegar stated that she has opened the office after-hours by appointment to make license renewals.

She added that opening the office after hours is also a safety issue.

Because of increasing case loads, Brinegar said she was in court the night before until 9:30 p.m.

The idea of extended hours was also a topic with the county court clerk candidates.

On most Saturdays that office is open until noon. On some holidays, the office has closed for the state to make computer upgrades.

Brian Crowe was the first candidate to mention extending the hours in the county clerk's office.

He said he wanted to explore waste in the office and to educate youth in the voting process.

"Treat people like you want to be treated," stated Chris Carroll.

He added that he would

extend office hours two times a month.

Felicia Fike Campbell said she would use her cross training from her present job as secretary to the superintendent of Estill County Schools to the clerk's office.

She plans to cross train the clerks in the duties of the office to extend office hours.

Elizabeth Walling was the only candidate with experience in the county clerk's office. She worked there years ago and continues to work most elections.

She has a Master's degree in business education.

She plans to use her 17 years experience at Marcum

& Wallace Hospital in grant writing. She wants to preserve and digitize documents in the clerk's office.

C.J. "Taylor" Neal said she has wanted to be county clerk since she job-shadowed the current clerk, Sherry L. Fox, while in high school.

Neal is a branch manager for Citizens Guaranty Bank.

She added that she wants to make the office more accessible to the public and update the clerk's website.

She stated that she was open to suggestions.

A sixth candidate, Ernest Morris, did not attend the forum.

Resident petitions for parking on Laurel

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Megan Addison, a resident of Laurel Street, approached the council on Monday night, April 9, to discuss the parking situation along the street.

Addison said that she had visited each house on the street and ten of the residents had signed a petition to reinstate the parking on the street.

She went on to say that most people who live on Laurel Street do not have adequate parking in the rear of their homes, therefore, there is not room for anyone to park who comes to visit.

She added that cars speeding up and down the street have also become a big concern and if nothing else she would like to see the street deemed as a one way street.

"It's become a very big inconvenience to most of us," Addison stated.

Councilwoman Nelle Williams said she travels that street often and visits with

people down there, and the council would take this into consideration.

Police Chief Brad Smith spoke to the council about a pay increase for officers employed by the city.

Currently, there are five officers that work in Irvine. All but one have been certified through the police academy, and he is half way through his training.

Smith said that money to increase the officers salary would come from the ABC fund which generates approximately \$70,000 per year.

Smith said that the police department has been able to purchase a new cruiser each year from the revenue of alcohol sales and he feels confident in the cruisers that are on the road at this time. He added that giving the officers a raise out of the alcohol fund would be a viable solution considering the city's finances.

Councilman Tim Burkhart

said that his only concern was that a loss in alcohol revenue could put the city in a bind later on down the road.

"We have trained so many officers and lost them and I think it's worth consideration," stated Nelle Williams.

Councilman Billy Arthur agreed that the council should give it a try. City attorney Rodney Davis advised the council that they would have to amend the pay scale ordinance to reflect those changes at the next council meeting.

The council discussed delinquent tax bills and what their options were to recover some if not all of the old tax bills. Some of the old tax bills date back as far as 1998.

Rodney Davis said that in some instances a property owner may be deceased and someone else is getting the tax bill and just not paying it. He said that each year a letter is sent to those people that owe back taxes from his

office, and that the council could consider foreclosing on those properties who have not paid their bill.

The cost to the city would be between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per property but they would get their money much faster than if they had a delinquent tax bill sale each year.

Councilwoman Williams mentioned the shape that some of the properties in city limits are in. She said she thought that they should take a look at some of the ordinances because it was a shame that people have couches on their front porches, and that the town is looking so trashy especially when thousands of people will be coming into town for the Mountain Mushroom Festival.

The city picks up any unwanted furniture and other items on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone that has items that they would like to be picked up free of charge can call city hall and get their name added to the list.

The council granted a privilege license for Andrew's Shaved Ice which will be located at 104 River Drive. The business is scheduled to open sometime before the end of the month.

Local police Activity

Monica Neal, 27, of Flinchum Road, Irvine was arrested April 11 by IPD Officer Brian Cloyd. She was charged on Broadway with alcohol intoxication.

Tim "Slick" Charlton, 55, of McKee Road, Irvine was arrested by IPD Chief Brad Smith on April 11 on Broadway. He was charged with alcohol intoxication third or greater offense.

On April 11, Chief Smith served four arrest warrants on Robert J. Clark, 40, of Richmond.

Two warrants were from Pikeville District Court. One warrant says that Clark failed to pay a \$25.00 non-payment bond fee for criminal trespassing second degree and burglary third degree.

The second warrant asked for \$200 because Clark allegedly missed his arraignment on charges of theft by unlawful taking and criminal trespassing third degree.

The other two warrants were for arrearage on child support. One warrant states that as of Feb. 13 this year, Clark owed \$2,460.43.

The second warrant states that Clark was in arrears of \$2,845.02 as of March 8, 2018.

Christopher Earl Conley, 38, of Richmond was arrested by Officer Cloyd on Wallace Circle, Irvine on April 11.

Conley was charged with alcohol intoxication in a public place and possession of marijuana. Estill County man after he was arrested in Rockcastle County.

The warrant for Glenn R. Cockrell, 38, of Walling Road, Irvine charges him with second degree criminal mischief and third degree burglary.

It says that on December 25, 2017, Cockrell entered a storage building at A&W Sports.

The citation adds that Cockrell used a crowbar to break a security light and the lock on the door before entering the building. He then allegedly shone his flashlight around the building then proceeded to leave.

In addition to a broken security light and lock, damages to the door were estimated in excess of \$500.

Cockrell pleaded not-guilty on April 13 during his arraignment in Estill District Court.

Judge Wm. Leach scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 25.

Millers Creek couple arrested for cultivation of marijuana

A couple living on Millers Creek Road was arrested April 12 by KSP Trooper Ty Robinson for cultivating marijuana.

Robinson and another trooper, a deputy sheriff and an IPD officer went to the Millers Creek residence around midnight to serve a warrant on Isaac Dewayne Neal, 49.

The citation states the trooper had received an anonymous tip that Neal was cultivating marijuana.

While Robinson was still outside, he said that he could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the evidence.

The troopers reportedly told Neal there was enough probable cause, due to the extreme smell, to walk through the residence to see if there was marijuana inside.

The citation states that when Trooper John Northern opened the first door on the left, there were 36 marijuana plants in cups.

There was also several grow lamps, an amp, an irrigation system for watering the plants, potting soil and other miscellaneous items used in the production of marijuana.

Trooper Robinson said he located four more plants growing outside in a box of potting soil.

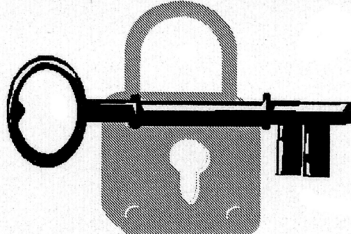
Neal was charged with cultivating marijuana, five plants or more, and persistent felony offender first degree.

His bond was set at \$20,000 cash. Trisha D. Burchett, 46, was also charged with cultivation of marijuana (five plants or more) because she lived in the residence.

Burchett posted a \$2,500 cash bond. Neal pleaded not-guilty to both charges during his arraignment. His preliminary hearing will be held April 18.


Burchett's arraignment was postponed until May 16 because she had mail bail.

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