



# ADAIR COUNTY COMMUNITY

# VOICE

50¢

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34 pages

## ELECTION FALLOUT

### Arnold files lawsuit over election discrepancies

Ben Arnold, who ran an unsuccessful write-in candidacy for mayor, has filed a lawsuit asking that results of the Nov. 4 mayoral election be thrown out and a special election be held.

Arnold and three city residents who say they were not allowed to vote in the mayor's race are listed as petitioners in the lawsuit filed in Adair Circuit Court Monday. The three residents are Ruth Smith, William Burton and Andrea Waggener.

Listed as defendants are the county board of elections, the county clerk, the city of Columbia, Curtis Hardwick and June Parson. Hardwick and Parson were also mayoral candidates, with Hardwick winning the election.

The election was marred with numerous errors following redistricting that moved precinct lines, changing where some people voted. Somewhere along the way, some people who live in the city limits were identified as county residents and some county residents were listed as city residents.

The lawsuit also claims that city annexations have not been updated with the County Board of Elections for all residents to be entitled to the right to cast a vote in the city election.

Also mentioned in the lawsuit is the fact that one county precinct went without written ballots for three hours, disrupting the voting process.

The lawsuit mentions that County

Clerk Joyce Rodgers instructed poll workers to ask voters if they paid city taxes and determined their eligibility based on their answer. It also claims poll workers gave the wrong ballots to voters, which may have allowed voters who were not eligible to vote in city elections.

In the suit, the court is asked to find the election invalid and order a special election. It also asks that the three voters be allowed to file suit as a class action, representing others who were similarly affected and to hold defendants responsible for all court costs.

The lawsuit was filed in Adair Circuit Court Monday by Lebanon attorney Elmer George.

By Sharon Burton  
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## Christmas in Columbia

### Friday & Saturday

### Christmas Memories

FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
AND SUNDAY:

**"Journey to the Manger"**  
Live Drive-Thru Nativity

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.,  
Picketts Chapel and Tarters Chapel  
churches. North Hwy. 61, left on Hwy.  
768.

SATURDAY

**Edgar Troutman Memorial Rotary Breakfast**

7 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Columbia Baptist Church, \$5 each

**Artist Open House**

Hearts Image Studio and Gallery,  
(Also held Sunday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)  
980 G Taylor Rd., noon-4 p.m. (270-250-8518)

Highland Raku Studio and Gallery,  
(Also held Sunday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)  
7917 Wheeler Hill Rd., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (270378-6421)

**Christmas Arts and Crafts**

Historic Courthouse, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(Adair Heritage Association Chili/Soup Fundraiser)

**Christmas Carnival (and Arts and Crafts)**

LWC Holloway Health and Wellness Center,  
1 p.m.-4 p.m. (Christmas Caroling, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.;  
Santa arrives by fire truck at 1:30 p.m.)

**Old Fashioned Carriage Rides:**

Public Square, 3 p.m - 6 p.m.

**Christmas in Columbia Parade:**

6 p.m. WWII veterans are grand marshal

**Lighting of the Christmas Tree:** 6:15 p.m.

## City gives police chief a contract

Columbia's police department, which cost more than \$1 million to operate this past fiscal year, became a highly debated issue during the mayor's race.

Now, less than a month before Mayor-elect Curtis Hardwick takes office, the city council is implementing new policy to secure the police chief's job and make sure police officers can take home cruisers.

The council voted Monday night to enter into a contract with Police Chief Jason Cross for a five-year period. The contract does not change his pay scale but limits the mayor and council's ability to terminate

him. Cross earned \$61,066 during the previous fiscal year, including overtime, vacation and holiday pay.

Under the agreement, the contract cannot be terminated without just cause, which is defined as unlawful conduct, an act that is an infringement on the rights of others, or the failure to perform required duties.

The mayor appoints the police chief and city clerk with approval by the council. All other positions are filled exclusively by the mayor.

### CONTRACT COMES AFTER HEATED ELECTION

The council's decision to offer a

contract to the police chief is legal but unusual for communities the size of Columbia, according to Mayor-elect Curtis Hardwick. Hardwick attended Monday night's council meeting.

During an interview Tuesday, Hardwick said he believed the council made policy changes Monday night "trying to handcuff what the mayor can do."

Prior to the Nov. 4 election, Hardwick was accused of saying he planned to cut four officers from the department if he were elected. Cross

See CITY, page 2

## Workshops set for payroll tax

The City of Columbia will host two payroll tax workshops for employers on Tuesday at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at City Hall.

The workshops will be held to answer any questions employers may have in regards to reporting and paying the tax, which goes into effect Jan. 1. Call 270-384-2501 for more information.

## INSIDE:

ACHS BASKETBALL

Special Section

LOCAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE

Earn a chance to win

one of four \$50 gift

cards when you

SPOT THE ELF

(See details inside)



Republican candidate for governor James Comer (center) talks with county attorney Jennifer Hutchison-Corbin and David Cross during a campaign stop in Columbia. Comer, who is currently agriculture commissioner, stressed the need for Kentucky to "change direction" to offer a positive business climate. He promoted privatizing projects when possible and said an honest discussion is needed to solve the state's debt due to a burdening pension system. Comer said Adair County is well suited for job growth because of infrastructure and workforce.

## Veterans recall life during, following World War II era

Dec. 7 marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the event that brought the United States into World War II.

For the next several years, young men faced deadly situations to defeat the Axis alliance. Eventually, after many sacrifices, they were successful.

"I wouldn't want to go over it again," said Gilbert Burton, a

WWII Navy veteran, "but I'm glad I went."

Burton and several other local WWII veterans recently shared stories of some of experiences during the war.

### Life during the war

The veterans enrolled at different times and served in different roles, but they all travelled the globe and bravely did their part.

After he turned 18 in 1943, Burton joined the Navy and served as a seaman first class.

Brooks Coomer, an Adair County native, joined the Army in 1943 when he was 19 years old and served in the Infantry and then the Military Police.

Carl Burris, another Adair County native, joined the Air Force in 1942 when he was 20 years old and served as a supply

truck driver.

These men remember different things from the war.

Burton remembers the fear and desolation, mixed in with some humor.

Although he did not visit Hawaii until 1943, he said it was still "tore up bad" with ships still sticking out of the water.

See VETERANS, page 8



Carl Burris