

White, Greer take home wins

Continued from front page

White said he looks forward to serving the people of Adair County.

"I will do the best job I can do. I will be dedicated to my job," he said.

Greer received 58.89 percent of the vote in the county clerk's race, defeating Democrat Veronica Mouser.

Greer received 4,179 votes and Mouser received 2,917 votes.

"I'm overwhelmed. I just want to thank everybody. It overwhelms me, it really overwhelms me, the support Adair County has given me," Greer said. "I look forward to serving them for the next four years."

Greer said she realizes there is a lot to learn in the office of county clerk but she believes her 15 years of experience in county government has helped prepare her for this moment.

"I'm just thankful I've got the experienced staff to help me through it," she added.



New Judge Executive

Newly elected as judge executive Michael Lee Stephens visited the courthouse annex Tuesday night and posed for a photo with family.

School board incumbents fall

School board incumbents Greg Willis and Joseph Payne were defeated by newcomers in Tuesday's election.

Payne was defeated by Lisa Burton, who received 714 votes, com-

pared to 420 for Payne.

Terry Harvey, a retired teacher, defeated Greg Willis and Billy Bloyd. Harvey received 608 votes, Willis received 225 votes, and Bloyd received 186 votes.

Mayor, council include familiar faces

Curtis Hardwick, a former Columbia mayor, will return to the office in January.

Hardwick defeated council member June Parson and write-in candidate Ben Arnold.

Hardwick received 562 votes, Parson received 328 votes, and Arnold received 383 votes.

Council members Craig Dean, Charles Grimsley, Ronald P. Rogers, and Linda Waggener kept their city council seats. They will be joined by Mark Harris and Anthony C. Lasley. Council member Robert Flowers was the seventh highest vote-getter vying for the six council seats. Kenneth Dulin was eighth.



Joey White is congratulated for his win in the jailer race by school board member Quinn Lasley.

Democrat Feese defeats Republican write-in Thompson for PVA

Jeff Feese, the appointed incumbent, for PVA received 3,478 votes compared to write-in candidate,

Brandon Thompson with 1,994 votes.



Constable Shannon Rowe (left), who ran unopposed, looks over precinct totals with magistrate Daryl Flatt. Flatt, the incumbent in District 2, defeated William "Wid" Harris to retain the seat another four years. Terry Hadley won the magistrate seat for District 7 and Greg Caldwell won the District 6 seat.

See more election results on page 7

Tuesday's election plagued with problems

A number of problems plagued the voting process in Tuesday's election, resulting in 10 complaints to the Attorney General's election fraud hotline.

Some complaints came after South Columbia 2 ran out of paper ballots. While voters could still use an electronic voting machine, the machine is tedious and can be intimidating for people uncomfortable with technology or with limited literacy skills.

Vicki Pike, precinct sheriff for South Columbia 2, said she noticed there were only 50 ballots for county voters at the precinct just after 7 a.m. Tuesday and contacted the clerk's office.

At 9:19 a.m., they ran out of ballots for county voters. There were plenty of ballots for candidates voting for county and city races.

It wasn't until 12:45 p.m., more than three hours later, before more paper ballots were provided for voters.

At least one candidate reported to the Community Voice that two potential elderly voters said they left without voting

and failed to return later in the evening to vote. They were not comfortable using the electronic voting machine, the candidate told the Voice.

Other complaints during the day included people who live in the city limits who were unable to vote for city races. Pike said each situation was handled individually and it wasn't until 2 p.m. that they were told to allow voters to access city ballots if they said they pay city property taxes.

The cases filed with the Attorney General's office included four procedural questions, two complaints of electioneering with 300 feet of the polls, one residency issue, one voter assistance, one voting machine issue and one voter identification issue.

ARREST MADE

The Adair Sheriff's Office responded to an incident at the Gradyville-Nell voting place around noon. Law enforcement was called after an altercation with voting officials and an individual regarding policies.

Jeffrey Franklin, 46, was re-

portedly on his cell phone talking loudly about who to vote for and who not to vote for while at the ballot. According to police, officials told Franklin he was not allowed to be on his phone or discuss who to vote for during the process and he became hostile toward ballot officials. Franklin then reportedly attempted to leave the facility with his ballot but was told he could not and also became irate, refusing to place the ballot in a spoiled ballot envelope once outside.

Upon arrival Deputy Aaron Rainwater spoke with Franklin and officials privately and he was told again to place the ballot in a spoiled ballot envelope. Franklin then reportedly tore up the envelope and attempted to feed it into the ballot machine while cursing at officials.

Deputy Rainwater placed Franklin under arrest, charging him with disorderly conduct 2nd degree, a misdemeanor, and removing/tampering with ballots, a class D felony.

Franklin was lodged in the Adair County Jail.

Grimsley hired as county's first economic ambassador

Holly Edwards Grimsley will serve as Adair County's first economic ambassador.

Grimsley was hired by the Economic Development Authority board on Friday.

Gimsley will be expected to work 24 hours a week with an annual salary of \$20,000.

"I feel like the Economic Development Authority Commission/Board is a really good group of people trying to wrap their minds around what's best for Columbia and Adair County as far as industry and the whole economical picture, and I'm looking forward to

working with them," Grimsley said.

Grimsley believes her past and current experience will help her in her position as ambassador. For eight years, Grimsley was an elected official in North Carolina. She served on various boards and commissions, including the Board of Education as the chair, the Economic Development Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

She has operated and is currently running several businesses, including the North Carolina construction company Blackwelders and

Associates, Inc.,

She married local business owner Charles Grimsley, and together they operate Grimsley's Jewelry in Columbia, which is expanding with a new location in Glasgow.

"I feel like I have some background and some knowledge that may bring some really good experience to an area (that) is just trying to get this off the ground," Grimsley said.

Grimsley believes one thing Columbia needs is to find and develop a market that works for the area.

"My personal concerns



are that we have our kids graduating from high school and college, and not only going out there to compete with their peers but also

with adults that are out of work due to the economical times and have much more experience, skills and knowledge," Grimsley said.

Grimsley and the board worked together to develop a list of goals and responsibilities. According to a press release, Grimsley's responsibilities will include visiting with businesses to explore opportunities to help strengthen and expand those businesses, developing a panel of various leaders in the county to help promote community collaboration and economic growth, and building strong

relationships with economic development entities and representatives.

Grimsley said in North Carolina there was a similar board of local leaders called the Summit Board, and it was very beneficial.

"One person typically cannot answer all those detailed questions, but that board collectively can put that information together," Grimsley said.

Grimsley will begin working in her new position on Monday.

By James D. McIntosh Jr. james@adairvoice.com