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Arson charge against White dismissed

By Charles Mattox
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A Carlisle woman accused of burning her home had her arson charge dismissed at the end of a preliminary hearing in Nicholas District Court last week.

A criminal charge of facilitation to commit arson, second degree, against Mary White was not found over to the grand jury by Honorable Judge Jay Delaney following a preliminary hearing in Nicholas District Court May 7, but rather dismissed at the request of White's attorney Jeremy Mattox after testimony was given by veteran Kentucky State Police Dry Ridge Post Detective Clinton Graves.

Graves testified for approximately one hour during the hearing after being called to the stand by County Attorney Dawn Letcher.

Under direct questioning by Letcher, Graves explained the details of his investigation into the criminal charges against White, which he said began when he was called just after midnight in the extreme early

morning of Feb. 26, 2008 from officers at KSP Dry Ridge Post to respond to Carlisle, and that Mary White had been shot and her house had been set on fire.

Graves said he immediately contacted KSP Arson Investigator Curtis Combs and then traveled to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where White was being treated for a gunshot wound to the left side of her abdomen.

Graves testified that after a brief initial interview with White at the hospital, her story of what occurred the night of the fire at her home on South Walnut Street, in Carlisle, continually changed.

"There were numerous inconsistencies of her statements," Graves said and added that White had denied talking to her insurance agent on the day of the fire in one of the later interviews when he knew that she had, according to his testimony.

"Mrs. White had contacted an agency early on the 25th and asked about her premium," Graves said. "She wanted to make sure her deceased husband's name was off the policy

in case something happened." Graves testified that White told him she had been shot during a struggle with two men who had entered her home that night and that she had lost consciousness after

being shot during a struggle with the larger of the two alleged perpetrators. Graves testified that White told him that she had later awakened to find the home fully engulfed in flames and she had crawled

out of the house and dialed 911. Graves said White told him she was wearing cotton pajama pants at the time of the fire and he noted that she was still wearing them at the hos-

pital and they had no smudges, soot or any discoloration to them.

"These pants were not hurt at all," he said while testify-

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Photo by Charles Mattox
Mary White, left, and her attorney, Jeremy Mattox, both appear relieved as District Judge Jay Delaney dismisses the arson, second degree, charge against White at the conclusion of her preliminary hearing.

Three arrested for burglary of liquor store

By Charles Mattox
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A weekend burglary of a Carlisle business has led to the arrest of an alleged third-day bandit and her two male accomplices.

Tiffany Rothwell, Carlisle, who turned 20 years old on Sunday, was arrested Monday night along with two

friends, Justin Lanville, 19, also of Carlisle, and Johnathan McClain, 19, of Mt. Sterling. The three close friends were each charged with one count of burglary, first degree.

The trio was charged in connection with the weekend burglary of AK Liquors of Concrete Road, Carlisle. "We've collected solid evidence in this case," said Car-

lisle Chief of Police William Denton.

According to Denton, White was contacted early Monday morning in reference to the weekend burglary by a number of employees of the business. Employees had arrived to notice a section of the wall beneath the drive-thru window in the rear of the building had been demolished.

"We believe that is how the

burglars gained entry," Denton said of the demolished section of wall. "While inside they removed a large number of items, some cash and a handgun."

Carlisle Police Officer Mike Kukalon and Kentucky State Police Dry Ridge Post Trooper Eric Barnett, also joined Denton at the scene.

The trio began processing the crime scene, and were

joined later in the investigation by Sgt. Darrell Lane and Officer Brad Weaver, both also of the Carlisle Police force.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Benno Backler also joined the investigation as it progressed.

It was a good investigation and everyone worked very well together," Denton said. Rothwell, Lanville and Mc-

Clain remain lodged in the Montgomery County Jail. They are scheduled to be arraigned in Nicholas County District Court later this week.

Chief Denton says the investigation continues and other charges may be pending. Anyone with any information related to the crime is urged to contact the Carlisle Police Department at 288-3710.

Candidates for State Representative answer questions for voter consideration

By Charles Mattox
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Below are ten questions for the candidates for State Representative of the 72nd District, which covers Nicholas, Bath, Bourbon and portions of Fayette County. Responses are in alphabetical order, with no preference to any candidate.

These are the answers from candidate Roy Baber.

What are your goals if elected?

"I want every constituent to be comfortable with speaking to me. I want to see infrastructure maintained and be able to move more jobs into our area. We live in what I

consider a farmer's community and I'll try to help farmers every chance I get. I'll be trying to reduce the state tax on gasoline."

Why should voters elect you?

"I think we have three good candidates for state representative of the 72nd district but the difference with me is that I have a wider range of experience than my opponents. Both of my opponents are attorneys, and attorneys are fine people, but I have more experience. I've managed county budgets and developed and maintained community infrastructures. I have also served in the private sector with health care providers and have a total of 14 years experience in my service to large and medium corporations. I have maintained multi-million dollar budgets."

I am acutely aware of employee concerns with health care. Attorneys simply do not have that type of experience. I have negotiated and managed major health insurance contracts with employees and for employees. I'm confident in my experience and also confident that neither opponent has my experience. I have experience managing fiscal government and many diverse groups. I am a great negotiator and am not easily intimidated."

What specific action will you take to help pro-

vide the local economy if elected?

"I have a wealth of experience when it comes to writing state and federal grants. It can be a complicated and lengthy process but I want voters to know I will apply for and try to obtain every dollar out there to help better serve the community. I believe I am the most experienced candidate when it comes to writing and obtaining grant money. I want to get more jobs into our communities. I believe we have the adequate infrastructure, such as water and utilities, and I will focus on recruiting jobs."

How expensive do you believe gasoline will be per gallon by the end of summer, and what will you do to try to help keep gas prices lower?

"I have no doubt gasoline will soon reach \$4 a gallon. There has been some discussion on state legislators and tax breaks. It is a National issue and not just a state or regional issue. I'll certainly do everything I can to support cheaper gas."

What strengths do you have that you believe your opponents do not have?

"I don't think serving a term or two 10 or 12 years ago, or serving recently in the past four months as a



Photo by Charles Mattox
Nicholas County Fiscal Court members L-R, Mike Webb, Jeff Randolph, Steve Hamilton, Avery Bussell and Daryl Stacy gather around State Representative Sannie Overly, Water District Chairperson Mary Jo McCormick, Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher and Senator J.J. Palmer with two checks totaling \$185,000 for water line extension programs along Ky. 1658 and Ky. 1308.



Photo by Charles Mattox
State Representative Sannie Overly and Senator R. J. Palmer are shown presenting a check for \$1.1 million for the Lake Carnica area sanitation system project to Dr. Wendall and Virginia Kingsolver, center. Surrounding the group are members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court L-R, Mike Webb, Jeff Randolph, Steve Hamilton, Avery Bussell, Daryl Stacy and Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher.

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