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Wellness Has
New Director
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Fall To
Colts
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The Estill County Tribune EstillTribune.Com

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Deputy says man abused and imprisoned mother



Steven Deaton
Photo/Three Forks Jail

A Booneville man has been charged with knowingly abusing or neglecting an adult by Deputy Chris Coffey.

Coffey said that Estill Dispatch (911) received a hang-up call early Sunday, Jan. 12. When the dispatchers called back, a male answered the phone, and they could tell he was upset.

The dispatchers could

also hear a female victim in the background yelling for help. She was identified as the man's mother.

Coffey responded to the residence on Dry Branch Road, along with three units from the Irvine Police Department.

When he arrived, he said he could hear screaming and the female victim calling for help.

Coffey said he went to

the victim while the Irvine police officers stayed with the male.

He stated the woman grabbed him in a hug and asked him to please help her. She stated her son was hurting her and to not leave her.

The citation states that she begged the officers to stay with her because she was so afraid.

Coffey said the victim

had bruises on the left side of her face and on her nose. She stated that she was tripped and pushed down a few days earlier.

She said this night, he had pushed her on the bed and wouldn't let her leave her room.

An IPD officer plugged her phone back into her room, because her son had allegedly disconnected it and had it in the liv-

ing room.

She reportedly told the officers she waited until the son was asleep to call for help.

The citation states the victim had marks on her hands where her son had grabbed her. It adds that the abuse has been going on for awhile.

Estill EMS responded to check out the victim.

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7 republicans file for Irvine council

Two Estill residents file to run for 91st district state representative

As of Monday afternoon, four incumbents had filed in the Estill County Clerk's Office for re-election to a two-year term on the Irvine City Council.

Three other candidates had also filed. The clerk's office said all seven are registered as republicans.

Council members filing for re-election are Leslie Withers, Glenwood "Woody" Tipton, Tim Burkhart, and Billy Dean Arthur.

Others filing include a former long-term council member Tommy "Tobo" Bryant, Kristopher Lee, and Gregory Kirby.

Irvine Mayor James Gross has two years left, because mayors are elected for four year terms.

The local filing deadline is not over, but there will be a May primary for council because the seven are from the same party and only six can be elected to the council.

This year for the first time, the filing deadline in Frankfort was on Friday, January 10. The deadline to file for local offices is Tuesday, January 28 at 4 p.m. in the office of County Clerk Brian Crowe.

The Ravenna Coun-

cil will also be elected this year, as well as three school board positions. Because the Ravenna council and school board members run non-partisan races, their filing deadline is not until August.

Two Estill residents have filed to run for state representative of the 91st district, along with five others.

Billy Wesley of Ravenna and Billy F. Williams II of Irvine have filed for that position.

Democrats running include Paula Clemons-Combs of Jackson, Letha Noble Hogan of Beattyville, and Bruce Shouse of Booneville.

Also running on the republican ticket are Michael Brent Duncil of Beattyville and Shawn Lee Thatcher of Jackson.

The current representative, Cluster Howard, of Jackson, chose not to run again.

Albert Robinson, a republican, is seeking re-election to the 21st state senate seat.

He is being challenged in the May primary by Kay Hensley and Brandon Jackson Storm.

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Construction has begun on the new Estill County Schools Transportation Center. The new bus garage is located on property across the road from the high school. The old bus garage was torn down for construction of the new area vocational school. The picture above is the architect's drawing.

Irvine mayor announces John Sturniolo as the new chief of police department

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Members of the Irvine council met on Monday night and began the meeting by moving money within the budget from the fire department maintenance to cover a \$668 deficit for fire department uniforms.

Councilman Tim Burkhart questioned when they would get another bill for uniforms, and Fire Chief Tony Murphy said that this should get them by.

Mayor James Gross reported that the building on Main Street that was leased to Donnie Isaacs has been leaking. He said that Murphy had inspected the building and repaired one of the leaks.

They thought one of the

walls was leaking as well and getting the floor wet. Gross stated that the lease agreement that Isaacs signed with the city states that Isaacs will be responsible for maintenance on the building.

A lengthy discussion ensued about upgrading the computer systems at the police department as well as city hall. City Attorney Rodney Davis made the suggestion that the city utilize their line of credit and pay it back when the state aid money comes in.

Councilman Ernest Farmer asked if the money could be taken from the ABC fund to pay for the upgrade. Davis said that they might run into trouble with that when it came time for the yearly

audit and also stated that with all the surrounding counties recently going wet then there would not be revenue generated in the ABC account like there had been.

Mayor Gross introduced John Sturniolo as the new police chief. Gross said that the job had been advertised "in house." With over 20 years of leadership skills Sturniolo fulfilled all of the requirements.

Chief Sturniolo said that he planned to move the department forward into the digital world and would implement upgrades as efficiently as possible.

He stated that he plans on implementing a detective position, a second K-9 officer, utilizing resources,

and continuing to serve the residents in the best possible manner.

Sturniolo introduced Jim Marshall as a new officer for the Irvine Police Department. He said that Marshall had worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and recently with the sheriff's department.

Mayor Gross said that several delinquent tax payers who had signed an agreement to pay their bills had not adhered to their end of the agreement and had not made payments in a couple of months.

Davis said if the mayor would get him a list of non-compliant payers, he would take care of the matter.

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Councilwoman questions if salaries are legal

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

The Ravenna council held the first meeting of 2020 on Monday night, and a short agenda quickly turned into a lengthy discussion about the salaries of the mayor and council members being illegal.

According to Council member Valerie Flinchum, it is the council's responsibility to make sure the ordinances are up to date and followed.

She states that the salaries have been illegal since 1998. She also added that

any changes to an ordinance must be read at two council meetings and then published. According to her findings that has not been the case in the past 22 years when increases have been made to the mayor's salary as well as for the council members.

Flinchum provided documentation that showed in June 2011 a motion was made by then council member Danny Crowe and seconded by Estine Tipton to increase the mayor's salary from \$300 per month to \$800 per month and to

also increase the pay of each council member from \$25 to \$100.

However, there was no further documentation showing proof that the amended ordinance had been read at two council meetings and published in the newspaper, therefore, the increase was not lawful.

Flinchum also added that even if the raise had been done the right way it still would not have gone into effect until the following year.

Mayor Estine Tipton

said that when she took office the city was heavily in debt and decided to reduce her salary by \$400 per month to help get the city out of debt. She was informed that she could not do that and ended up taking the \$800 per month, according to the ordinance.

Flinchum said that the city had been in this mess since 1998 and asked that council members vote to change the pay back to the original ordinance from 1998. She said she thought that people would feel better about the way

their tax dollars were being spent and added that if any former council member wished to pay back the money that they were overpaid, then they could do so and call it a donation to the city.

Council members Vicki Horn and Tammy Howell both expressed their concerns about the situation and stated that they would prefer to have legal counsel present at a meeting to discuss the situation face to face before making any decisions.

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Obituaries

Geraldine Conner, 90

Dr. Robert Doty, 84

Ruby Horn, 87

Annie Mays, 80

David Neal, 59

Edna Spivey, 88

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