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# The Estill County Tribune 50¢

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 29

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336

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## Thief breaks glass in door to get in store

An Estill County business was burglarized during closing hours early last Thursday morning.

The Estill County Sheriff's Department is continuing to investigate the break-in.

Someone possibly used a hammer to break the glass of the front door of Rose's Cash 'n Carry on Richmond Road, and then crawled through the hole in the glass.

Once inside, the intruder stole about 40 cartons of Marlboro and Marlboro Light cigarettes valued at \$900.00.

Also taken was approximately \$329.00 in change.

Deputy Randy Farthing is the investigating officer. Anyone with information on this burglary can contact the deputy at 723-2323 during business hours or 723-2201 after hours.



**Irvine Mayor Ernest Lee Farmer announced at Monday's council meeting that he would not be seeking re-election as mayor. He has served two four-year terms as mayor following a two-year term on the city council.**

## Irvine mayor will not seek a third term

Irvine Mayor Ernest Farmer announced at Monday's council meeting that he will not be seeking re-election as mayor.

Farmer is in his second four-year term as mayor. Before that, he was elected to a two-year term on the council.

The mayor said he is not seeking re-election because his hearing has been failing him in recent years.

As of Monday, two persons have filed to run for Mayor of Irvine.

W.J. Noland, a republican, and James E. "Jim" Walters, an independent candidate, have filed.

Noland has served on the city's Planning and Zoning Board. Walters moved back to Irvine several years ago after retirement.

Five council members and a former council member have filed for re-election to a two-year term. William Harold Friend, a republican, is the former council member who plans to return.

Council member Nelle Williams has not yet filed for office.

No one remembers the last time Estill County had a county surveyor, but a candidate has filed.

Justin Rogers, a democrat of Rice Street, Irvine, is seeking to become the county surveyor.

Gary Powell, a republican of Lily Ave., Irvine has filed to run in the county judge-executive race.

A fourth person has filed to run for Estill County Jailer. Chris Rader, a republican of Winchester Road, Irvine, has filed.

Paul "JP" Barnes, republican constable of district 2, has filed for re-election.

The filing deadline for offices is 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 28. Filing for local offices can be done in the county clerk's office in the courthouse. Candidates seeking offices that cover more than one county must file at the secretary of state office in Frankfort.

The filing deadline for local, non-partisan offices is not until August. This includes the Ravenna mayor and council, and seats on the Estill County School Board.

## 2,000 customers were without water for days

About 2,000 households were without water last week following a cold snap in which temperatures dropped below zero.

Most customers affected were in areas which use the Knob Lick and Winston water tanks. A boil water advisory was issued, but many customers said they had no water to boil.

On Monday, Judge Executive Wallace Taylor said that employees of the Estill County Water District worked around the clock to get the water service restored.

The water problems began last Wednesday as temperatures increased. Taylor said it was caused by low levels in water tanks which were losing lots of water.

The judge said that many people let water drip to prevent freezing. He said all these small drips add up very fast in water usage.

Then he said water lines had frozen and broken. Sometimes water had been gushing through broken pipes for hours before the homeowners discovered them.

Taylor added that he was

also a victim of frozen water pipes. It occurred at a rental property he owns in Richmond.

The water district used several things to restore water pressure. The Knob Lick tank was completely shut down, but the Winston tank could not get enough pressure.

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## Citizens complain to council

The Irvine council heard complaints from several citizens at Monday's council meeting.

Jim Walters of High Street asked to re-address an issue he had discussed with the council over a year ago.

He said a neighbor's property was better than it was, but it still had blocks and building material around it.

He was concerned because of 20 copperheads found on the property this past year.

The council told Walters that Police Chief Brad Smith can write a letter to the property owner and asked for the building materials to be cleaned up.

Walters said that he didn't think Smith had time for

writing letters and it was more important for Smith to be fighting crime.

The council said Smith can assign the job to one of his five officers or another person.

Louise Holbrook asked the city to check a storm sewer on Main Street. She said she has never had problems before, but her basement had flooded which ruined her furnace.

Mayor Ernest Farmer told Holbrook the city cleans the storm drain periodically. He said the drain there goes from 30 inches down to 20 inches. He said that city workers have pulled bed sheets, t-shirts, and other items of clothing out of that storm drain.

Joe Crawford with Estill Development Alliance updated the council.

The council passed a resolution to apply for grants to make Irvine a Trail Town.

Besides the river, the state bike route and the transamerica bike routes go through Irvine.

Crawford said that Irvine was left out of the Promise Zone probably because Estill is not a coal producing county.

Privilege licenses were granted to Willis and Rebecca Estes to operate an antique vintage and craft mall and a real estate office on Main Street.

## Ravenna Finances Are Still Raising Questions

by CATHY DAWES  
The Estill County Tribune

The Ravenna city council held their first meeting of the new year on January 14, 2014. As usual, the financial report raised several questions from council members and was discussed in depth during the meeting.

William VanCleve asked why the gas expense was almost \$200 more a month as compared to the last fiscal year. According to the report, during the 2012-2013 fiscal year the gas expense for the city was around \$545 per month. He said that for the 2013-2014 fiscal year the expense has been approximately \$743 per month. VanCleve said that he couldn't figure out why it would be so much higher when the city doesn't have a truck anymore to furnish gas for, and the school system is purchasing the gas for James Gross' vehicle.

City Clerk Susan Lay said that the gas is charged on a credit card each month and that there were several months that the city was trying to get caught up on their payments. She said that in July 2013 the bill was over \$1,600 but that was caught up now.

"Are we up to date on all the bills now?" asked VanCleve.

"Yes. Everything is paid up except for the bills that

came in today," replied Lay.

William VanCleve and Louis Officer also questioned Lay about a \$250 miscellaneous expense that was on the financial statement.

Lay explained that the \$200 was for a Christmas bonus for fire chief David Harvey.

"We didn't vote on that, only four employees were approved for bonuses during that meeting and they were all full time employees. Ken White, Terry Johnson, James Gross, and Susan Lay were the ones that were approved to get the bonus," stated VanCleve.

"I have gotten a Christmas bonus every year for the 26 years that I've been here," said Harvey.

The council discussed the fact that city employee Terry Johnson had been given a \$200 bonus in November and had left his position soon after receiving his bonus to work at a different location.

"Well, if David has to give his check back then so should Terry," said Betty Hisel.

The council decided to vote on whether or not the two should give the bonuses back to the city. The vote resulted in a tie which Mayor Tipton settled by voting to allow the two men

to keep their bonuses.

Kathy Collett of Elm Street approached the council about a storm drain not working properly and backing up in her front yard. She described her front yard as a lake and asked if there was anything that the council could do to fix it. Several of the council members and the mayor had visited the property and agreed that something needed to be done to fix the problem.

VanCleve said that he would still like the council to consider lowering the insurance premium tax to ten percent before the deadline is up. He said that since July the city had collected almost \$46,322.04 from the insurance premium tax, which is up more than \$2,000 from this time last year after lowering the tax rate by 2 percent.

He said that possibly more people had insurance this year and the insurance premiums going up were contributing factors to collecting more money in the past six months.

"That's good, maybe we can stay afloat," stated Amy Crowe.

Susan Lay said that the city would be hiring someone soon to fill the position of city employee Terry Johnson. She said that it wouldn't be a full time position so that would save the city some money as well.

**Obituaries**

Bonnie Brooks, 77  
James H. Crowe, 85  
Tina Goosey, 85  
James Linkous, 48  
Rosa McKnight, 73  
Victor Muncie, 97  
Beverly Watson, 73  
Earline West, 78  
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Casey A. Jones, 27  
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**Joe Crawford, director of Estill Development Alliance, updated the Irvine Council at Monday's meeting.**

