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Sikeston DPS releases Jetton incident report

By Rudl Keller
• Southeast Missouri News Service

SIKESTON -- The Sikeston Department of Public Safety incident report on the initial investigation of felony assault charges against former Missouri House speaker Rod Jetton details numerous items of physical evidence along with the statements made by the woman who claims he beat her during a sexual encounter.

The report, released to the Southeast Missourian after a Sunshine Law request, recounts the woman's story that Jetton, a friend of hers for several years, beat her, used a belt to restrain her and left her in pain following unwanted sex.

Neither Jetton nor his attorney Stephen Wilson could be reached for comment. Through Wilson, Jetton has denied the allegations. Wilson also issued the announcement that Jetton, who from 2001 to 2009 represented the 156th District, which includes Bollinger County, was closing his political consult-

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ing business.
A message left for Scott County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Boyd was not returned.
Jetton is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 6 in Benton, Mo., for an initial arraignment.
Evidence collected in the investigation includes photos of the woman's injuries, an empty wine bottle, an empty glass, liquid from "Black Swan" wine, a full wine bottle and a corkscrew, officer Shane Washburn reported. In addition, the officers gathered sheets, pillows and a comforter, swabs from her couch and living room floor, a washcloth and hair from an unknown person that was on her bed.
There are differences between the narrative included in the incident report compared to the one prepared by detective Betty McDermott for the probable-cause affidavit filed with the documents charging Jetton with felony assault.