

Merging Two Cities

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While Ravenna does not have a 24-7 police department, the city is covered by officers on call, the sheriff's department, and state police.

Irvine can also use the services of the county sheriff's office and state police, because all property owners pay county and state taxes. During a recent round-up of suspected drug dealers, Irvine was assisted by state police.

Irvine's fire department is staffed 24-7 by three full time and three part time volunteers. The city recently received an ISO rating of 3.

Those for the merger suggest that Ravenna residents would see a decrease in their insurance rates on their homes because of the lower rating. Not all insurance companies lower premiums based on the ISO ratings.

Ravenna's fire department has a part-time fire chief and volunteers.

Irvine has four full-time employees for streets and sanitations. Ravenna has one part-time street worker and outsources their garbage pickup.

Residents of both cities are charged \$15 a month for garbage pickup.

Both cities have parks, but Ravenna's Veterans Memorial Park is the most visited park in the county.

Irvine Mayor Farmer said that with a merger at Irvine's present property tax rate, that Ravenna residents would save \$45 a year in property taxes.

In comparing privilege licenses, Ravenna and Irvine had restaurants as common businesses. Ravenna charges \$70-\$80 for a restaurant and the cost is based on seating. Irvine's restaurant rates are based on the number of employees, and their three restaurants are each paying \$150 a year.

Some assume that Ravenna will go wet if there is a merger. However, Ravenna makes up its own voting precinct. There will have to be a wet-dry vote for that precinct before it goes wet.

City council members from both towns are paid \$100 a meeting.

Ravenna has a general fund of \$285,606. This does not include the fire fund, municipal aid funds or LGEA funds.

Irvine's budget is \$1,058,745, including all special funds.

Both cities have property taxes, tangible taxes, utility franchise, and insurance premium taxes.

Ravenna residents are being told the city will go bankrupt if they do not merge. If this happens, they will be taken over by the county and will lose their street lights and nuisance ordinances.

The county can have different tiers of property taxes to provide street lights and other services.

Ravenna's debt on Friday was \$36,252.30. Mayor Estine Tipton said the former mayor had made several loans. The current council consolidated the loans.

Irvine owes approximately a half million dollars on building the fire department and combined city hall and police station.

Ravenna is better at getting grants than Irvine. In recent years, the city has gotten two Community Block Development Grants to renovate and build new homes in Ravenna. A few years back, they got a large grant for new park equipment and to build restrooms.

Those for the merger are quick to tell what the advantages are for Ravenna residents.

So, what's in it for Irvine.

"I think in the long run, it's going to make the City of Irvine bigger than it was," said Robin Sewell, Irvine city clerk.

She said with a larger population, this may help the city to obtain grants.

ROTC addresses school board

by CATHY DAWES

The Estill County Tribune

Four members from the ROTC at the Estill County High School addressed school board members on Thursday, October 16th to inform them about the growth of the program. Jessica Riddell, Tory Charles, Allen Meyers, and Matthew Young represented the ROTC program and talked about the many advantages of being a member of the growing program at the high school.

Senior officer Tory Charles stated that the program is not a recruitment program like many people believe it is. He said it is a character building program and a way to also build citizenship in the community.

The ROTC, according to Charles, participate in many community events including the annual drug march, Operation Santa Clause, and just giving back to the community in general.

Currently there are 200 students enrolled in the class at the high school and 40 of those students participate in after school activities. Charles said that the program relies on fundraisers and do-

nations from the community in order for them to be able to participate in competitions. Anyone that would like to donate to the program may contact Traci Arthur or Valerie King who are in charge of the booster program.

Lisa Reese, principal at South Irvine Pre-K Center said, "Great things are happening at South Irvine Pre-K this year."

Reece said that students are focusing on a new math program that teaches them enduring schools and how to make a connection between Reading and Math. She also said that attendance was much better so far this year and that the goal that her and the staff at South Irvine hope to achieve would be for eighty percent of the students to be in the seventy-fifth percentile or above.

Jessica Mullins, principal at Estill Springs, told the board that her staff is implementing extra time in the morning and afternoon of each day to focus on areas where students need improvement. Mullins also was pleased to announce that Estill Springs had received a \$2,000 grant from Dollar General Stores in which

they were able to purchase additional content books in Social Studies and Science.

After a brief retirement, Randall Christopher was in attendance to give a construction update on the project at the high school. He said the rest rooms and locker rooms were 98 percent completed. The issue with the tile in the areas where moisture had been an issue has still not been completed but he hopes to add that onto the next phase of renovations which will be installing new bleachers in the gym.

For the bleacher project, Christopher said that he would like to see both upper and lower bleachers replaced and to have new wireless scoreboards installed that way they would be compatible for both volleyball and basketball.

During the board member forum Jon Bicknell had asked that several issues be addressed such as filming and recording all meetings that way the board would have something to refer back to. School board attorney Jerry Gilbert advised the board that is illegal to film or record meetings which occur in closed session.

Bicknell also said that the community was interested in knowing the budget and balances of the school system each month.

"Why don't they show up here if they want to know?" asked Charlie Bill Muncy.

"Are they scared to come in here and ask, it's an open forum," added Amy Thomas.

Thomas added in regards to a statement that was made about board members dropping their pay to \$1 and giving it back to the children that it didn't make sense to drop the pay down to \$1 and then turn around and pay someone to film or record the meetings each month. She also included the fact that city council members in the city of Ravenna make \$100 each month for their time and service and that Ravenna is struggling financially.

During consent items, the board approved three out of state trips for the jump rope team and granted permission for the Emergency Management System to place sirens on the telephone pole behind the tennis courts at the high school.

3,000 acre ATV Park to open in 2015

A 3,000 acre ATV park may open as early as next spring.

The acreage in Estill will be 800 acres. Other counties involved in the park are Lee, Powell, and Wolfe. It is located where the four counties come together.

Board member Donnie Benton said that right now the four counties are leasing the land from oil companies. They must purchase the properties in six years.

Each of the four counties has two board members.

At Monday's fiscal court meeting, Judge Executive Wallace Taylor said this park could be bigger than one at Black Mountain in Harlan.

The Estill Fiscal Court approved the park agreement. The other three counties have just approved te agreements.

The park may present other tourism opportunities, such as rock climbing. Taylor said Wolfe County has one of the best search and rescue teams in the area.

Animal control officer Tommy Mullen said the

shelter has accepted 1400 dogs this year, which is less than the two previous years.

He said they have installed an indoor drop box so that animals would no longer be left in the heat or cold.

The shelter is using a Facebook page to get animals adopted. The page normally has 10,000 views a week.

No bids were presented for an environmental impact study or core drilling, both to be paid for out of CSEPP

funds. The court authorized Fred Rogers to get at least two verbal bids for each.

Only one bid was submitted for Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses for the fire department. Fire chief Derrick Muncie said the bid of \$67,935 was within budget and met specifications.

Taylor said that a newly hired employee had left the road department abruptly. He added this leaves the county one man short for two snow

removal shifts this winter.

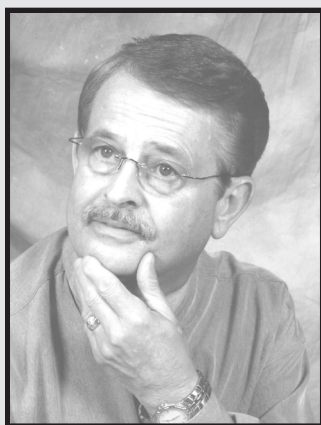
He also stated that one of the last men hired for the road department never showed up, meaning the department is now two short.

He recommended the fiscal court advertise for two temporary employees to help with snow removal this winter to push snow. Commercial drivers' licenses will not be required.

The court will also be advertising for a part-time employee at the animal shelter.

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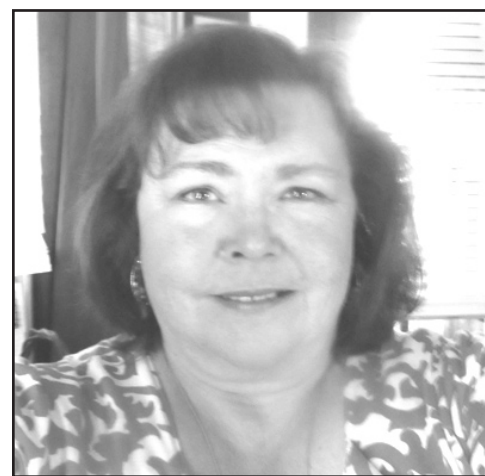
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VOTE Jason "J.D." RILEY Estill County Attorney

My name is Mona Cahal Henry. I am a graduate of Estill County High School; I work as site manager at Stacy Lane Apartments and currently reside in Ravenna. My son Jason "J.D." Riley is a candidate for Estill County Attorney in the upcoming November election.



Mona Cahal Henry

Jason was raised in Estill County. I have fond memories of watching him play baseball at Kiwanis Park in Ravenna, play drums at the Engineers' football and basketball games, compete on the academic team, participate in 4-H, and grow and learn in Estill County. As Jason got older, I was proud to see him focus on his education, attain a scholarship, graduate from ECU and law school, and grow into a man who is dedicated to his family and



Jason "J.D." Riley

I am asking the people of Estill County to help support one of our own and vote to allow Jason "J.D." Riley to serve as our next Estill County Attorney.

Paid by Jason Riley for Estill County Attorney