

Ravenna ceases 'fire and police merger' with Irvine

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"That (payment) kept our doors open," Flinchum stated. She added that is not all that is owed to IRS, and she has given Mrs. Oliver a power of attorney to negotiate with them.

"Why don't you go ahead and pay it?" Councilmember Amy Crowe asked.

Flinchum replied the city does not know what is coming down the pike.

"We're behind three audits," she stated.

She expects they will cost \$10,000 apiece. Until the city has those audits, it will not receive Municipal Road Aid monies from the state.

Flinchum said the city will be receiving approximately \$16,000 in interest payments on CDs around June and July. She wants to use that interest money to pay the outstanding bills.

The Ravenna Council has already announced plans to reinvest the CDs to get a higher interest rate. The CD money was left to the city from the Arthur Long estate for special projects.

Mayor Flinchum said that she had met with Irvine Mayor James Gross and Police Chief John Sturniolo about merging Ravenna's police and fire departments with Irvine's.

Irvine has an ISO rating of 3 on its fire department, and Ravenna has a 5.

"(The rate) would not immediately go down in Ravenna," stated Councilman Budd Tucker.

Fire Chief David Harvey said that ISO ratings are revisited about every 10 years.

If Ravenna gets a lower ISO rating, the residents should benefit in reduced fire insurance premiums.

Chief Harvey said Ravenna's fire department is about equal to Irvine's, except Irvine has a ladder truck.

Each volunteer fire department receives \$11,000 a year in state aid. If merged with Irvine, that fire department would not receive Ravenna's state aid.

The audience could see no benefit to a merged fire department.

At an earlier meeting, Flinchum had stated that Ravenna's fire trucks were "parade quality."

Chief Harvey said one of the trucks is in A-1 condition. He said there are issues on the other one because they are awaiting parts which have been slow to come in because of the pandemic.

Flinchum had a brush fire at her house, and she said the fire truck malfunctioned. She had her doubts the city fire department could put out a house fire.

"You're literally exaggerating the incident that happened at your house," Harvey told the mayor.

Volunteer fireman Ricky Williams had responded to Flinchum's fire. He said he had made a mistake while fighting the fire.

Another fireman explained to Flinchum that when a fire is toned out as a brush fire, usually one or two trucks respond. If its a house fire, he said all available units respond.

Residents Christina and Louis Officer praised the fire department for

when they had house fires in the past.

Dwight Rogers said a neighbor's house got on fire, and Harvey asked him to evacuate. Rogers stated he was confident in the fire department and went back to bed.

Rogers said he had served on the Ravenna Council. A merger with Irvine and Ravenna was on the ballot, and it was voted down by the citizens of Ravenna.

Over a year ago, former Mayor Estine Tipton presented a plan to merge Ravenna's police department with Irvine's. It was voted down by the council.

One Ravenna resident said that Irvine had wanted Ravenna to pay them the chief's salary plus donate their vehicles to Irvine at that time. They expected that Irvine would now want the fire chief's former salary and the fire equipment donated to them.

Flinchum said that Irvine could provide 24/7 services.

Resident Dixie Wise did not expect Ravenna residents to have a voice in police and fire if they merged.

Harvey said the fire department has \$35,000 in its fund, which was to have been spent on air packs. He added that CSEPP had bought the city air packs which saved them about \$30,000.

"I've given 32 years of my life to this place," Harvey stated.

After Flinchum was chosen mayor, she cancelled Harvey's monthly salary of \$600 a month.

When questioned about that on Thursday, she said that the chiefs of

Stanton, Clay City, and Beattyville fire departments are unpaid volunteers. She added those three cities have larger populations than Ravenna's.

"And you're paying that lawyer," Sharon Snowden stated. Snowden is a resident and business woman in Ravenna.

Four members of the council are donating their salaries back to the city to help with the debt. Councilwoman Amy Crowe is taking her salary of \$25 a month and donating it to the fire chief.

Flinchum said she was against merging the two cities. Her goal was to improve the services in Ravenna.

Snowden said she had not heard one reason to get rid of the fire department.

Flinchum was also asked why Irvine annexed the property belonging to Estill Steam Engine Museum.

She said the property was in the county. She thought Irvine was chosen instead of Ravenna because that city is wet.

Councilman Tucker made a motion to cease and desist with all negotiations on merging the Irvine and Ravenna police and fire departments. That motion passed unanimously.

Flinchum said she would notify the city attorney Michael Fore, on Friday of the council's decision.

Fore was working with Irvine's attorney, Rodney Davis, on the merger of the police and fire departments.

Flinchum announced at the meeting that Ravenna will be presenting a resident or business an honorary key to the city each month.

KSP arrests 1 for drugs

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While they were talking, the citation says Sheriff Flynn observed a large bulge in Woolery's back pocket. The trooper stated that when questioned about it, Woolery sat down and would not get back up.

Robinson said he advised Woolery that he was under arrest and to place his hands behind his back. He added that Woolery refused and had to be physically restrained and handcuffed.

The citation states that Deputy King removed a small black pouch from Woolery's back pocket, which contained nine individually wrapped pieces of paper that contained a gray substance, suspected heroin.

Robinson said Woolery had \$169 in cash in his pocket.

The citation states that a digital scale was found under the table.

Woolery was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (heroin), trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, and resisting arrest.

He was lodged in Three Forks Regional Jail.

Library board votes to expand curbside service hours during pandemic

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Members of the Estill County library board met virtually last Wednesday afternoon.

Director Kathy Watson provided statistics to the members of the board on the circulation of items during 2020.

She said that even though the bookmobile is not operating at this time they are still delivering items to people's homes and providing curbside services at the library.

Watson said that the amount of items that have been checked out

from the library through those two services have the numbers from 2019 to 2020 very close.

Watson presented an idea to the board about potentially using the old library building on Main Street to host a blood drive.

She said that she recently donated blood at the First Community Church.

With restrictions on the amount of people that can be in the space that also limits the amount of blood that can be donated each time.

She said that the

church hosts the blood drive every other month, and she thought it would be a good use for the old library building to host a blood drive there on the months that the church isn't having theirs.

Watson stated she would also like to see if Kiwanis would be interested in partnering with the library on the blood drive.

"I think it would be wonderful to see the building being used," stated board member Ann Miller.

Watson said that the grant established by the Long family was a long

term grant in the amount of \$2,563.11. She said the grant is for construction but she would speak to them and see if they had any specifications on how they would like that money spent.

The board approved to extend curbside services for those individuals who cannot make it to the library by 5 p.m.

The hours will be extended until 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday each week.

They will also be offering curbside services on Saturdays from 10 to 5.

Police Activity Report

Irvine Police Detective Sam Hensley served three bench warrants Sunday on **James Sparks**, 29, of Walnut Grove Road, Irvine.

Two of the warrants were from Estill County. One was for contempt of court, libel, slander, resistance to court and the other was for failure to appear.

The third warrant was from Madison County.

Last Wednesday, Officer Stewart Morris served a bench warrant for contempt of court on **Brian Parsons**, 45, of Turner Avenue, Irvine.

Officer S. Morris served a Lee County indictment warrant Friday on **Crystal Slone**, 36, of Beattyville. She was indicted in Lee County for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Slone was arrested on Kirkland Avenue in Irvine.

Jonathan C. Horn, 34, of Misty Hollow Road, Irvine was arrested following a traffic stop on Friday night made by Officer S. Morris.

The citation states that Horn was operating his vehicle on River Drive, but the vehicle registration plate and receipt had been cancelled by the Department of Transportation for failure to maintain insurance.

Morris said he stopped the vehicle on Main Street, and Horn could not provide a valid proof of insurance.

The officer performed field sobriety tests on the driver.

Horn was charged with no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, first offense, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of

alcohol, second offense.

On Saturday, Officer Russell Morris served an Estill County indictment warrant on **Colleen P. Yates**, 35, of Bertha Wallace Drive, Irvine.

She was indicted for criminal abuse first degree, child 12 and under.

Officer R. Morris also served an indictment warrant at the same time on **Joshua Cartwright**, 33, of Bertha Wallace Drive, Irvine.

Cartwright was indicted for serving alcoholic beverages to minors, second offense.

Irvine Police Chief John Sturniolo arrested **Aneisa Fox**, 43, of Booneville, Ky. Thursday at the Irvine Probation and Parole Office.

The citation states that Fox had slurred speech, was unsteady on her feet, and displayed HGN. She reportedly stated that she had snorted methamphetamine the night before.

The chief said Fox stated that she had been prescribed suboxone pills and gabapentin in 600 mg. The citation states that she had 10 suboxone strips, 23 gabapentin in 800 mg., and two clonazepam in her possession.

He added that she also had a set of black "brass" knuckles and a folding knife.

Sturniolo charged Fox with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), possession of a controlled substance, second degree, possession of a controlled substance, third degree, and carrying a concealed deadly weapon by a prior deadly weapon felony offender.

Regular monthly meeting of Estill County School Board

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Supt. Saylor said that with each student lost, the district loses approximately \$6,000 per child. That's a loss to the district of around \$500,000 in the new budget.

He added he hopes that after numbers start declining with the COVID virus that students will re-enroll in school.

Approximately 200 COVID vaccinations were given to staff members last week. The Estill County Health Department partnered with school nurses to administer the first round of vaccines.

Saylor said that the second dose should be available sometime in February and after that he hopes to get the kids back into school.

The board approved consent items and Saylor said the school calendar for the 21-22 school year had been set. The first day of school for students will be on August 5th and they will receive a full spring and fall break as well as a lengthy break at Christmas.

Ten days of non traditional instruc-

tion days are also factored into the school calendar with the tentative date of May 16, 2022 to be the last day for students.

The contract between NFHS and the district is working out well for those who cannot attend home games.

It was reported that several people had made the purchase to be able to watch games from their homes.

Saylor said that the guidelines for ballgames had been posted on the district website so people could view that online.

He said that until the metric number drops below 30 percent then there would be no tickets sold to fans. It would be limited to only parents, however, if that number reached a certain point then parents would not be allowed to attend. It would be only players, coaches, and referees.

Board member Bryan Covey asked when cameras would be installed at the baseball and softball fields, and Saylor said that would be done once the renovations were completed on those areas.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

