

Superintendent proposes only one booster club

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Isfort said this was one of the promises that they made to the citizens of Estill County.

She stated it was her honor to accept the bid of \$11.8 million on the final phase of the high school renovations and to move forward with the project. Construction is scheduled to begin August 1.

Mr. Saylor informed the board that there was a \$20,000 price increase through Liberty Mutual who currently holds the property and insurance policies.

Saylor said the board had the option to switch to a different company but warned them that if they chose to do so then any past liabilities would not be covered. He said there is still a pending lawsuit over something that happened several years before he became superintendent and stated that he did not recommend switching insurance companies at this time.

The board gave conditional approval for an out of state trip for the band. Mr. Saylor said he was encouraging the band to make arrangements so they would be able to get their money refunded if the number of COVID cases were to go back up.

Saylor said he would make that call if he had to because his main priority is to

protect the kids and in-person instruction that will begin on August 5th.

A contract renewal between the school district and the sheriff's office was approved by the board in the amount of \$38,000. Josh Rison is the School Resource Office and according to Saylor works mostly at the high school and the middle school.

Rison does spend time at West Irvine and Saylor said he appreciates the work that is provided to the school district by the sheriff's office as well as the Irvine Police Department who he said works closely with Estill Springs.

Saylor discussed a change in the ticket policy for those attending sporting events. He said there is a major deficit in the athletic departments at the high school and middle because of COVID and the change in the new policy would not give free admittance to school employees unless they were working during those games.

He said he had never understood why school employees were allowed into games for free, and if anyone should have been allowed into games free of charge then it should have been the students.

A potentially big change in the booster clubs could happen in the near future if board members agree to the new policy. Saylor said that each sport has

their own booster club and does their own fundraising.

Usually there is only a couple of people who end up doing the work which has led to problems in the past, most recently when a treasurer for one of the booster clubs stole around \$30,000. Not only is that an issue, but another issue that comes into play is that some sports are able to raise more money than others.

He said that with the policy there would only be one booster club and there would be more accountability of the money that is coming in and going out.

Boardmember Tammy Hardy was concerned because she said that some activities cost more than others, and said she didn't think this would work. Saylor said that the marching band is separate from other sports because they have their own tax exempt number, but he realized that some sports were more costly than others and said that it costs around \$750 per player to get the football team on the field for their first game. He also said that people raising money was wearing out the local businesses asking for donations and he thought this would be more equitable to players and easier on the parents.

Boardmember Carrie Smallwood asked if booster clubs were not fol-

lowing the guidelines that were implemented a few years ago by using the Red Book.

Saylor said that each club was supposed to submit a budget and what types of fundraising they would be doing, but most of the time the paperwork was not turned in like it was supposed to be.

He added that by doing one booster club across the board it would also allow the board to do a Hall of Fame to showcase the talent that has come from Estill County.

No action was taken on the policy but board members decided they would discuss the topic more at the next meeting.

Mr. Saylor announced that the mask mandate for students and staff had been lifted last week, and that students would no longer be required to wear a mask while on the bus or in the classroom.

He also stated that with the restrictions being lifted that all meetings would be open to the public again, and there would be no option for the public to submit their questions and comments online like they have been doing for quite a while.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Central Office.

State representative and engineers discuss bridge and KY 82 safety

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

On Monday afternoon Representative Bill Wesley met with two civil engineers from the Kentucky Department of Transportation to discuss the upcoming work on the Irvine bridge as well as the safety of Highway 82 that leads into Powell County.

The bridge has been scheduled to get a face-lift sometime this fall and will be closed down for at least two months while the project is going on. Traffic that typically uses the bridge will have to use the bypass to reach the other side of town but, this is something that has to be done during the painting process.

Jeremy Scheffel, engineer, said that the bridge has been inspected and is structurally sound, however, if they find that the current paint on the bridge is lead based then they will wrap the entire bridge in plastic, sandblast it, and use a vacuum system to remove the old paint from the enclosure.

There are a few minor spots in the bridge that will be repaired while it is shut down.

Wesley asked the engineers about the possibility of creating a walkway on one side of the bridge since so many citizens of Estill County walk across it each day.

Corbett Caudill, the other engineer, stated that would be a lengthy process and could take up to five years to complete due to the amount of money that

would be involved in a project of that magnitude.

He added that the bridge is extremely long and that when adding a walkway to it they would not weld it onto the existing structure but would use bolts to attach it to the side of the bridge.

The three men also discussed the possibility of doing some work along Highway 82 due to the amount of wrecks that have happened there in the past several years. Several of those accidents have resulted in fatalities and according to data provided to Wesley by Fire Chief Rob Forehand there are approximately 150 accidents along that stretch of roadway between Estill and Powell County each year.

Three areas along that road have been the scene of multiple accidents and after the Department of Transportation put down some anti-skid blacktop, one of those areas has seen a reduction in accidents by fifty percent.

The first curve on 82 heading toward Powell County is a major problem area, and Wesley said he was told that some of the bank would be removed and the curve straightened out as much as possible.

The other area will get some minor work as well as new guardrails added to it. There is no definite time frame on when these projects will start but they have been added to the 'to do list' as hazardous safety improvements.



Need some good Estill County honey? Judi and John Ruczynski are selling it on Fridays at the Estill County Farmers Market. The honey is produced on their Sunny Ridge Farm on Red River Road.

Irvine council gives 2nd reading to budget before July 1 deadline

The Irvine Council gave second reading to a revised budget for the fiscal year which starts on July 1.

The original budget was revised to include the salary and fringe benefits for a seventh police officer.

At their regular meeting this month, the council discussed paying for the officer from CARES money they had received in the amount of \$278,920.

City Clerk Robin Powell said she had called the auditor's office. Those salaries have already been paid, so this was reimbursement. The city could spend the money however they needed it.

Powell recommended the city not pay the new police officer's salary out of this fund because it may not be there next year.

Instead, she recommended they pay off their line of credit, \$36,663.12, and pay off the sanitation truck, \$149,161.50.

"Whenever you pay off something, you're not paying interest," stated Council member Tommy Bryant.

"The city has got to eliminate some debts," stated Powell, who has been city

clerk for 14 years.

Councilman Billy Arthur asked that the city put aside so much money each month toward the purchase of a future sanitation truck.

Powell said the salary and fringe benefits for the new officer will total \$58,567.63. With the revised budget, that money was coming from several different accounts including money not designated totalling \$82,764.21.

The clerk stated that will leave the city finishing the year in the black with an estimated balance of \$50,859.70.

She recommended the city adopt a simple form to report the overtime of policemen and firemen. She said the purpose of the form is to keep track of what overtime money is spent for, such as at a fire scene or an officer in court or on an investigation.

Powell said the city is expecting revenues of \$1,468,144.58 and will spend \$1,407,284.88 during the upcoming budget year.

Mayor James Gross announced the council will not be meeting next Monday night.

Ravenna woman arrested by IPD

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The officers conducted a search of the area, but could not locate Delucio.

It was determined that Delucio had two outstanding warrants for her arrest. On June 15, Irvine Officers Russell Morris and Jason Conrad received a tip that Delucio was staying in a camper on S. Winn Avenue.

The owner of the camper gave Deputy Josh King and Officer Jason Conrad consent to check

the camper. Officer Conrad said Delucio was hiding in a back room of the camper.

Officer Conrad said they asked Delucio to exit the room and go to the living room. He said Delucio attempted to flee and run past the officers.

The citation states that Delucio ran past Officer Conrad, but he was able to grab hold of her. Officer Conrad said the woman resisted arrest as he and Deputy King tried to ar-

rest her. He said she also resisted and pulled away from officers as they were walking Delucio to the patrol units.

Officer Conrad charged Delucio with resisting arrest. Officer Russell Morris served the two warrants on her for failure to appear for court in Estill County.

Sgt. Hensley then charged Delucio with fleeing or evading police, second degree (on foot) for the June 5 incident.

Woman is charged with trafficking

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In view in the backpack was an open container with a large clear baggie and a small yellow baggie. Both baggies contained a crystal like substance which Conrad expects to be methamphetamine.

He added there was an orange pill inside the container, which was identified through Poison Control as suboxone 10 mg.

The citation states there was a digital scale, multiple clear plastic baggies, and six empty syringes inside the backpack.

Conrad said he located a baggie in the room which contained a crystal like substance, two empty syringes, one syringe containing a clear substance, and one containing a red substance.

The officer seized \$425 in cash out of the backpack. He charged Kaylen Lashe Dunn, 22, of Richmond with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (greater than or equal to two grams of methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance, second degree, and drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess.

Ravenna held special meeting to accept mayor's resignation

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

A special meeting was called on Saturday afternoon by members of the Ravenna council to accept the letter of resignation that was submitted to them by Mayor Valerie Flinchum on Friday afternoon. Flinchum had walked out of the meeting on June 14th stating that she could no longer do the job as mayor and turned over her keys as

she left. According to the Kentucky League of Cities' website in order for a resignation to be valid it has to be submitted in writing. Flinchum sent the letter of resignation on Friday afternoon and the council immediately called a meeting for the following day to accept her resignation.

A second special meeting has been called for June 22nd to appoint a new mayor and to re-

move the names of Flinchum and the city clerk as authorized signers on the bank accounts owned by the city of Ravenna. The newly appointed mayor will also need to hire a clerk as well as a maintenance man to replace the two employees who unexpectedly quit last week. During the special meeting two people will be designated to sign on all accounts at Citizens Guaranty Bank.