

# Irvine Council is updated on festival, highway construction

by CATHY DAWES  
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Francine Bonny was a guest at the Irvine city council meeting on Monday night. Bonny said that a date for the 26th annual Mountain Mushroom Festival had been set for April 23rd and 24th and spoke about how technology has changed the festival over the past 26 years.

Bonny said that with social media and the festival's website they are able to reach people all over the country. She said that a couple from Virginia had made the trip last year and stayed the entire weekend. She added that they had recently e-mailed her and said that they had such a wonderful time last year that they are planning to return again this year. The couple had found the event by searching for festivals on the internet.

Bonny said the theme for the festival for 2016 is "Pride in Our Community" and that she appreciates all the help that she gets from the city and police officers during the festival.

Project Development Manager Eric Skaggs and Project Manager Darren Bach

from the state highway department were in attendance to answer questions regarding the expansion along Highway 89 and Main Street. Skaggs said that this project has been in the works since April of 2012 and is almost ready for the construction phase. Skaggs said that there were 62 properties along the stretch of roadway that had to be acquired by the state in order to start the project. He added that a few of those buildings that were purchased by the state will be demolished in the upcoming weeks.

The expansion will begin on Main Street at the intersection of Rice Street and will go all the way down to the bypass on the Winchester Road. Skaggs said that Walker Construction won the bid for the construction phase of the project which is estimated to cost 7.8 million dollars. Skaggs said the whole project from acquiring the properties along the route until finished would cost approximately 10 million dollars and was expected to last until 2017.

Councilman Tim Burkhart asked about the traffic flow during the time of construction and how it would affect residents living

on Geneva Avenue. Skaggs replied that traffic would never be completely stopped during construction but would be rerouted in different locations such as Clearview Drive and Geneva Avenue. He said the project will not just be the roadway expansion it will include guttering, culverts, a sidewalk along the entire length of the expansion, and two new bridges. One bridge will be located at Estill Springs and the other bridge located at White Oak.

Skaggs said that they have a similar project going on in West Liberty at this time and that he has heard nothing but positive comments about it. He said that the expansion will not only provide a turning lane which will prevent collisions and traffic problems but will also bring a new modern look to that area of roadway.

Jim Walters attended the meeting and was once again throwing out random questions to the city council. Walters wanted to know who was in charge of hiring and firing the city clerk as well as how much money the council members make each year. He said that he had asked three different council

members and that no one answered his questions.

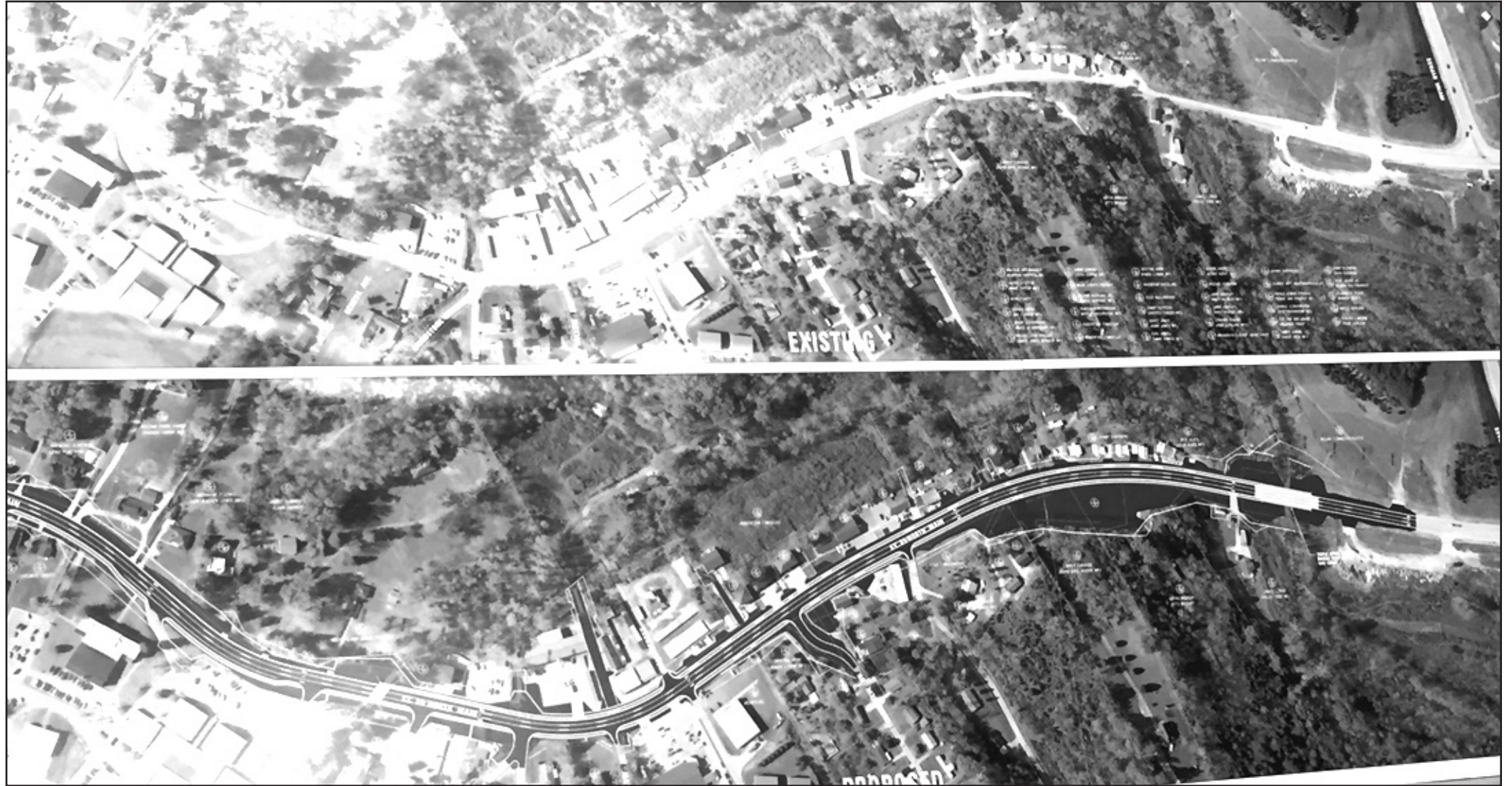
"I don't know why you come to these meetings and do this, Jim. This year is starting out just like last year and we got nothing accomplished," stated Billy Arthur.

Mayor Noland said that he was going to contact four accounting firms and see how much it would cost to have them do the city's payroll and taxes. He said if they paid someone to do the payroll and taxes it would save the city between \$50,000 and \$60,000 per year. He said that he had asked the workers to cut out overtime last year and they had not.

Councilwoman Williams said that she thought they should table the discussion to a later date.

Councilman Tim Burkhart commended Officer John Sturniolo for the work that he does with K-9 Fritz. Burkhart said that Sturniolo had brought Fritz to the middle school before Christmas break and that he does an excellent job with him.

The next council meeting will be held on January 25th at 7 p.m.



Representatives from the state highway department displayed the project board of the proposed expansion on Highway 89. The top part of the board shows the existing roadway and the bottom part shows how the new road will look when the project is complete.

## Two hurt in collision; driver is charged

Jesse Rice of Copperhead Road, Irvine was arrested December 31 by KSP Trooper T. Robinson after a single vehicle collision on KY 89 North (Winchester Road).

Robinson said when he arrived, Sheriff Gary Freeman was on the scene. He saw Rice in the driver's seat, with the door shut, keys in the ignition, and the car running.

Rice reportedly told the trooper that he was having severe pain in his back and his legs.

The trooper cited that Rice's speech was extremely slurred. His pupils were constricted and not reacting to light. He said that Rice admitted to taking a loratab, suboxone strip, smoking marijuana and taking a valium earlier that day.

Rice was transported to

Marcum & Wallace Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

The trooper stated that he located a clear baggie inside the car Rice was driving, a 20001 white Ford Contour. The baggie was tied in a knot and contained a white powder, suspected to be methamphetamine.

Rice's female passenger, Loretta Jones, was injured during the collision. She

was transported to UK Hospital by Estill County EMS.

Rice was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), wanton endanger, first degree, operating on a suspended or revoked license, and failure to wear seat belts.

## City of Ravenna inherits 1/4 million from late resident

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Davis advised the council that he felt like the best thing to do with the Vanhuss home would be to declare it as a surplus property and sell it an auction. The money made from the sale of the home would be put into the account with the rest of the money.

Councilwoman Sharon Snowden asked if a new police cruiser could be purchased out of the money. Davis said he would look into the matter and let them know what he decided about the cruiser.

In other news Amy Crowe asked the council if they could vote on a raise for city employee Ricky Williams. "He works hard and I think he deserves it," said Crowe.

The council agreed upon a \$1 per hour raise for Williams.

Councilwoman Thompson asked for approval to set the date for the volunteer picnic for September 24th. Thompson said she would gladly accept donations for the picnic at any time.

During the meeting last month she stressed how important the volunteers are to the city and county. Volunteer firefighter Zach Clevenger had passed away last month prior to the meeting and a moment of silence was held for him during that meeting.

Fire Chief David Harvey said that something needed to be done about the log trucks and the semi trucks being parked within the city. He said he has seen the log trucked parked on Elm Street loaded down with the logs and that he fears that too much heavy traffic on the roads in Ravenna will do more damage. Harvey also said that an incident had occurred last week with one of the trucks that was parked on the CSX property. He said that the truck was leaking fuel and thankfully the situation was not any worse than what it was but he thinks that the loaded trucks are a potential hazard.

Mayor Estine Tipton said that she knew that there were signs on the CSX property that prohibits trespassing but she would have to contact someone to make sure that the truck drivers didn't have permission to park there before she turns the matter over to Police Chief Ken White.

## Activity by local police agencies

Daniel W. Brezeale, 27, of West Cedar Grove, Irvine, was arrested Saturday, Jan. 9 by Irvine Police Chief Brad Smith on an out-of-county warrant.

Madison District Judge Charles Hardin issued a warrant on Brezeale for non-payment of fines. Brezeale had been on the fugitive docket in Madison County since Dec. , 2014.

Judge Hardin said that Brezeale could post a cash bond of \$193.00.

Two criminal complaints from Montgomery County were also served on Brezeale.

Both complaints were obtained by Tina Roe and stated that Brezeale had issued a bad check for \$66.24 to Home Town Video and one for \$41.94 to Express Mart. The checks were dated in July of 2012. The criminal complaints were signed in 2014.

The complaints charge Brezeale with theft by deception, including cold checks.

A warrant for a parole violation was served by Chief Smith on Monday,

Dec. 28 on Shannon Hardy.

The warrant states that Hardy was found guilty of two counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument, second degree, theft by deception over \$500 and under \$10,000, and escape second degree in Estill County.

It adds that Hardy was paroled on 12/04/2014.

The parole board states that Hardy has violated his parole by absconding parole supervision, using controlled substances, and failing to complete the VOA program as directed.

A warrant of indictment was served by Chief Smith on December 30 on Justin Patrick, 27, of Sandhill Road, Irvine.

Patrick was indicted for tampering with physical evidence and four counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument, second degree. No bail was set.

Devin T. Coffey, 19, of Glory Street, Irvine was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, second offense on Sunday, Jan. 10 by Sgt.

Mike Gross.

The citation states that the officer received a call about a car parked in the road on Broadway. The sergeant said he found Coffey slumped over the steering wheel of the vehicle which was still running.

He said Coffey had a strong odor of alcohol and could not stand up. Coffey refused a blood draw.

Estill District Judge William Leach issued a bench warrant for Joshua Ledford, 45, of Cantrill Sreet, Irvine.

Ledford was found guilty in December 2013 of failure to wear seat belts, operating on a suspended or revoked license, and failure of owner to maintain required insurance in 2013.

The warrant was issued because Ledford had failed to pay fines. He could post bail for \$60.00 cash. The arrest warrant was served Sunday, Jan. 10 by Chief Smith.

An Estill bench warrant was served Sat., Jan. 9 by Chief Smith on John W. Tipton, 37 of Tuggle Road,

Ravenna for failure to pay a fine of \$168.00.

Tipton was found guilty of operating a motor vehicle under the influence in August, 2010. Three other charges, no registration receipt, no registration plates, and failure to wear seat belts, were dismissed.

Tipton could pay the \$168.00 or serve 17 days in jail.

Bobby White, 35, address unknown, was arrested January 9, on Wisemantown Road and charged with second degree assault. Trooper T. Robinson had investigated the assault on December 31 and had arrested Larry White. The victim, Michael Arvin, told the trooper that the Whites had assaulted him at Wisemantown Apartment 11. Larry White was arrested that date.

The trooper said the victim received a major injury to his hand and had lost a substantial amount of blood. He added that Bobby White fled the scene prior to the trooper's arrival.

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