

Bright red-topped mushrooms are found
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Kentucky's last Pearl Harbor survivor passed away in 2020
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The Estill County Tribune

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Firefighters from the Irvine, Ravenna, Estill County, and Hargett Fire Departments fought a house fire on Stevens Avenue in Irvine on Wednesday morning which claimed the life of and 84 year old resident, Charles Reed.

Photo courtesy of Tommy Mullen

Man dies in house fire Wed., on Stevens Ave. 2 other families lost everything in fires

Three house fires, included one with a fatality, destroyed homes this past week, as cold weather set in.

Irvine Fire Chief Justin Patrick said the city fire department received a call at 7:08 a.m. last Wednesday.

"When we got the call, they said it was an occupied structure, and possibly a subject inside," Patrick stated.

Irvine's fire department was on the scene five minutes later to see heavy smoke coming from the front and the second floor of the home.

An occupant of the home, Charles Reed, 84, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Estill County Coroner's Office.

The fire department remained on the scene until 1:45 p.m. They were assisted by the Estill County, Hargett, and Ravenna fire departments.

The cause of the fire and Reed's death is under investigation by the Kentucky State Fire Marshall and Kentucky State Police Arson Investigator Pat Alford.

Patrick said that a house next door to Reed's home received some damage to one side.

Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncie said the county fire department answered a call at 4:08 a.m. last Wednesday on Jodi Lane.

Muncie said the female homeowner woke up to heavy glass breaking and saw flames inside the home.

He added that she woke up her family members and got them out of the house. They were wearing what they had on and no shoes. Muncie said they went to the house next door because of the freezing temperatures.

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Irvine Council approves hiring of two fulltime police officers

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

The Irvine city council met in special session on December 7th to discuss several items that needed immediate attention. The first item on the agenda that the council approved was the annual longevity pay for all city employees.

The council then discussed amending the pay scale ordinance and the 20-21 fiscal year budget at great length.

The reason for the discussion was because two city employees had requested a pay raise, and Chief John Sturniolo had asked for the approval to hire two full time police

officers.

Councilman Ernest Farmer stated that a committee had looked at the request for the pay raises a few months ago and had agreed not to do it. He said at that time the committee agreed to not amend the budget to give the employees a raise but would discuss it again in June when it was time to discuss the new budget.

Farmer said that he was still against the pay raises but would agree for Chief Sturniolo to hire one full time officer and to move a part time officer to a full time position.

Councilman Billy Arthur made a motion to approve the hiring of two officers but to keep the pay scale ordinance the same for now.

City clerk Robin Powell was unable to attend the meeting but had written

a letter to the council to ask that they consider the raise that she requested a couple of months ago.

In the letter Powell said that she had been employed with the city for 13 years and that one department was not more important than any other.

She added that she worked hard for the city of Irvine, and that currently the police department is \$11,000 over budget with 7 months still left in the fiscal year.

Chief Sturniolo said that hiring two full time officers would not eliminate the overtime within the police department but would certainly help with it. He said there will always be overtime to an extent because of in-service training, vacations, and sickness.

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ABOVE: Santa and Mrs. Claus waved at children as they passed by their sleigh at the 40th annual Elizabeth Witt Christmas party on Saturday morning. Because of Covid-19 regulations, the children did not get to visit with Santa.

AT RIGHT: A young girl looks out the window of her vehicle to watch Santa and Mrs. Claus wave. Nearly 600 children received gifts at this year's party, which as more than was planned for. (See story on page 14 of how the Witt committee accommodated the extra children.)



Obituaries

- Lonnie Adkins, 39
- Vicie Alcorn, 98
- Gregory Conner, 45
- Rollie Cox, 89
- Darlene Hall, 92
- Sharon McKinney, 67
- Charles Reed, 84
- Willard Rogers, 83
- Ryan Sweat, 45
- Hershel Townsend, 44
- Earnest Woosley, 65

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See Updated Obits

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Elizabeth Henry Walling

Walling is selected as Public Health Director

The Estill County Board of Health is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Henry Walling has been selected as the new Public Health Director of the Estill County Health Department.

"I am honored to be chosen as Public Health Director and am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve my community," Walling said. "I appreciate the faith the Estill County Board of Health is placing in me to serve in this role and look forward to working with our residents, local health care providers and community leaders to continue to improve the overall health of Estill County."

Walling replaces Tim Gould, who retired in May of this year after nearly 27 years of service at the Estill County Health Department.

Walling brings more than 19 years of health care leadership and community health experience to this position. Prior to joining the Estill County Health Department, Walling served as Vice President of Operations at Mercy Health- Marcum and Wallace Hospital

where she oversaw strategic planning, outpatient operations, marketing, community relations, and numerous grant funded health programs and projects.

Walling earned her master's degree in health care administration from Indiana Wesleyan University and her bachelor's degree in health care administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

Walling has also actively served on numerous community-based boards, including the Estill County Development Alliance, Project HOME, KY ASAP (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy), West Irvine Family Resource Center Advisory Board, and the Estill County Board of Elections.

The search for the Estill County Health Department's new leader was led by the Estill County Board of Health.

"We, as a board, are excited to welcome Elizabeth to our Health Department and look forward to supporting her in her new role," said Tina Pasley Caroland, Board Chair.