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Estill County Christmas Parade and Elizabeth Witt Christmas Party – Pages 14 & 15

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Local fireman dies in line of duty



Estill County Firefighter Zachary Chase Clevenger (photo inset) died Saturday morning. He had helped his department fight a structure fire on Rice Station Road Friday night. Firemen escorted Clevenger to Frankfort on Saturday and back to Estill and Lee counties on Sunday. A flag was draped across KY 52 and balloons were released near the location of the Estill County Fire Department on Clear Creek Road. The inset photo is courtesy of the Estill County Fire Department and was made after Clevenger #415 received his new turnouts.

A paid, part-time firefighter for the Estill County Fire Department on Clear Creek Road died Saturday morning. The fireman was identified as 30 year old Zachary Chase Clevenger, a resident of Irvine.

Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncie released a statement about Clevenger's death. He said that Clevenger had volunteered to fight a structure fire on Friday night and returned home before midnight.

The structure on Rice Station Road was gutted.

Clevenger's wife, Christina, found him unresponsive on Saturday morning. Clevenger was taken to Marcum & Wallace Hospital, where efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Firemen left the hospital just before 10 a.m. to escort Clevenger's body to the state medical examiner's office in Frankfort. The local firefighters were joined along the way by firefighters from Waco, Madison County, and Lexington.

The procession of local fire trucks left the hospital in view of hundreds of children

who were lined up on Main Street in Irvine for the Kiwanis parade and Christmas party. Most people thought the fire trucks were headed to Ravenna to join the parade.

During this time, enough firemen were left in Estill County to fight a fire if one should occur. The Ravenna fire department stayed behind to participate in the Kiwanis parade.

After the autopsy was completed in Frankfort on Sunday, Clevenger's body was escorted to Newnam Funeral Home in Beattyville.

Hundreds gathered along the route, including KY 52, to pay their respects to the fallen firemen.

Muncie's press release said that Clevenger had been a volunteer with the Estill County Fire Department for eight years. A year later he was hired as full-time for Montgomery County Fire & EMS where he advanced to the rank of Captain/E.M.T.

In 2013, Clevenger was hired as a part-time firefighter with the Estill County Fire Department on Clear Creek. **Continued on Page 14**

Driver, passenger are hurt in wreck on Leighton Road; Driver now faces DUI charge

Two men were transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital after a one vehicle wreck on Leighton Road Sunday night.

According to the investigating deputy, Randy Farthing, the wreck occurred about 14 miles east of Irvine.

The officer said the driver failed to negotiate a curve, causing the vehicle to strike an earthen embankment. It then clipped a utility line guidewire, which caused the vehicle to go airborne for 70 feet before landing and striking a tree.

The collision report

states the vehicle was a 1994 Toyota 4-Runner. It received very severe damages to the front.

Farthing said the vehicle had been junked, so there was no title or registration. It was also not insured.

The driver was identified as James Richardson of Barnes Mountain Road, Irvine. Farthing charged

him with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure of non-owner to maintain insurance, and expired or no registration plates.

The passenger was Loyd Bowles of Redbud Lane, Irvine.

Both men reportedly were treated for minor injuries.



Santa holds newborn baby, Kenton Sewell. At left are Kenton's mother, Sheila, and his brother, Gavin. Mrs. Santa accompanied her husband to the annual Elizabeth Witt Christmas Party.

Obituaries
 Rose Carol Abner, 69
 Zachary Chase Clevenger, 30
 Wanda Tiffany Barnes, 58
 Gregory Floyd Edmonson, 41
 Billy Paul Graham, 62
 Larry Michael Hunt Jr., 38
 Gene "Bobby" McIntosh, 76
 James Preston Shuler, 80
 Martha Jean Smith, 87
 Douglas Ray Thomas, 72
 Darrell Gene Tipton, 82
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Larry Stewart, center, the administrator of the estate of Charlie VanHuss, presented \$5,000 checks to the Estill County Middle School and High School academic teams. Pictured are Joy Brown, Academic booster; Greg Horn, Academic sponsor at high school; Stewart; LaVelle Tipton, middle school academic sponsor; and Michael Wilson, academic booster. Vanhuss' gifts were welcomed because the academic team does not receive revenues from admission or concessions as many sports teams do. A new computer is needed for the middle school team. Tipton

said they could have used overnight lodging last year instead of driving home in a snowfall while they were competing in regionals at Letcher County. The high school usually goes to international competition. Stewart said Oakdale Cemetery in Irvine also received \$5,000 as did the Cecil Fry Cemetery in Virginia where VanHuss' father is buried. The Ravenna Christian Church received \$10,000. At least two more organizations will receive money from VanHuss' estate. Those will be announced later.