



The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 43 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 20 PAGES



The remains of a burned garage and a home nearby are shown in this photo made by the Irvine Fire Department. The fire could be seen for miles. The left photo was taken from across the Kentucky River. In the bottom right can be seen the bridge across the Kentucky River and a cell-phone tower. The Kentucky Division of Forestry says over 100 acres burned before the fire was brought under control early Sunday.

Fire on the mountain Many Irvine homes were endangered by fire

Over 100 acres in a forest fire threatened numerous homes in downtown Irvine on Saturday.

The fire occurred just six days after the spring fire season ended.

Irvine Fire Chief Tony Murphy said the call came in at 2:35 p.m. that a garage was on fire on North Madison.

An older truck inside the garage burned. Inside the garage, there were also propane tanks which exploded.

Chief Murphy said he suspects that someone was burning trash, and the wind caused the fire to spread to the garage.

Two houses were endangered by the garage fire. The fire spread into the nearby wooded area.

Murphy said the fire department then began concentrating on the forest fire.

The Irvine Fire Department was assisted by the Estill County Fire Department, Ravenna Fire Department, and Hargett Fire Department.

Murphy said the Kentucky Division of Forestry was called. They bulldozed a line around the fire which brought it under control about 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, eleven hours later.

Initially, the fire was expected to burn until the rain moved in Sunday night.

Until the rain arrived, the fire department kept checking the area for hot spots.

Murphy said at least 20 homes on North Madison Avenue alone were threatened by the fire. He didn't count the homes that were in danger that are located off Court Street.

"The fire even made it over to Chestnut Stand," Murphy stated.

The fire could be seen for miles. Smoke covered much of Irvine.

Murphy said there were three hydrants on North Madison, and the fire departments used all of them.

The area of North Madison where the fire started was apparently outside city limits.

Murphy justified the city fire department fighting the fire because it endangered city homes. The fire departments also provide mutual aid.

The Irvine chief said they had nearly every piece of equipment the department owns at the fire.

Parking's back on Laurel Street

Residents of Laurel Street can once again park their vehicles in front of their homes.

The council has received complaints from the residents not being able to park in front of their homes since nearby Rice Street was closed for construction last year.

While some residents accessed the back of their homes from an alley, others did not have anywhere to park close to their homes.

The residents were patient. They did not say anything while Rice Street was closed. The street reopened last December but they were still not permitted to park on Laurel Street.

Dan Biddle told the council that with no parking, that speeding was now a problem on Laurel Street, which has a speed limit of 20 mph.

He added that his father,

who is on oxygen, cannot visit him because of the parking situation. Laurel residents cannot have yard sales.

Councilman Woody Tipton, who lives on the street, said that speeding was not a major problem when parking was allowed on the street.

He added there is about 40-50 feet section where no parking is not allowed to the end of the street.

Only one school bus travels on Laurel Street. Tipton said that only a few parents use the street after picking up their children at Estill Springs Elementary.

Mayor W.J. Noland said he was waiting until a traffic light was installed at the Rice - Main Street intersection before permitting parking on Laurel.

Councilman Tim Burkhart said at least 70 percent of the residents on Laurel Street wanted their street parking

back.

"If that's what they want, put it back," said Councilwoman Janice Bush.

Councilman Tobo Byrant said he hated to single out Laurel Street residents. He said that was the only street in Irvine where residents could not park on the street.

The council nixed a discussion about making Laurel Street only one way.

City Attorney Rodney Davis read the council the ordinance about parking on streets.

A vote of the council is required to regulate the parking on city streets. The council stated they did not vote for no parking on Laurel Street.

"It would appear to me that there would still be parking on the street," Davis stated.

Davis said the ordinance also has a clause which addresses parking during emer-

gency situations. The closing of Rice Street was considered an emergency situation.

"We're being inconvenienced by everyone else's convenience," stated resident Meagan Addison.

The attorney said no vote was necessary, but the council voted unanimously to allow parking on Laurel.

City clerk Robin Powell presented health insurance quotes to the council. One set was for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Councilman Burkhart presented copies of the upcoming fiscal year budget with numbers to be filled in by the council members.

He said the city had contributed \$91,400 this fiscal year for employees' retirements. Retirement contributions are expected to go up to \$43,000 in the upcoming fiscal year.

Continued on Page 2

School board discusses 3 construction projects

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

School board members met on April 20th for their regular monthly meeting. While the agenda was quite lengthy, the main focus was on construction of the new technology center, Estill Springs, and the Estill County Middle School.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor regrettably informed the board that the state did not equalize the recallable nickel like he had originally anticipated. The state only matched the recallable nickel with 25 percent equalization for the next two years and will not match it at 100 percent until the year 2020. The bonding potential for the district as of July 1, 2018 will be \$12,415,000.

Saylor said that there had been a good level of interest in the construction projects that are due to start in May. He said all bids are due in his office by April 26th and the board will have a special meeting on May 2nd to hire contractors.

Construction for the middle school project will begin on May 25th and should be completed sometime in December. The construction on Estill Springs will be divided

into two phases with a completion date of March 2019.

Board member L.W. Beckley asked if it would be better to hire two different roofing companies so the projects would be completed faster.

Architect Roland Mueller explained that it would cost more money to hire two roofing companies and that the plan was to work on the common areas of Estill Springs first and then move on to the second phase of the project. Mueller also said that if testing was going on during that time the contractors would not be working.

Board member Donna Isfort said that she was shocked when she saw the completion date for Estill Springs was set for March of 2019. She said that she thought the whole reason for them rushing to get out of school for the summer was so the renovations would be completed by the time school started back in the fall.

Mr. Saylor said that when school starts in the fall that phase 1 of the project should be completed but it would be impossible to renovate that facility in that length of time.

Continued on Page 2



Meredith Dooley, 18 months old, was crowned Toddler Miss Mushroom Festival on Saturday afternoon. Winners were crowned in five other categories, along with a king. More pageant winner photos inside. The Mushroom Festival will be held in downtown Irvine this weekend.



Miriam Richardson, left, was recognized by the school board on Thursday night for her academic achievements. Presenting the certificate to Ms. Richardson is Board Member Jenny Jo Neace.

Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

Obituaries

Christopher
Estes, 41

Mary Jo Gould, 95

Austin Hughes, 21

Cathy Isaacs, 60

Richard Isaacs, 57

Billy Mansfield, 65

James Martin, 67

James Muncy, 62

Edyth Puckett, 79

Michael Sexton, 64

See Page 6

New Obits at
EstillTribune.com