

# State confirms three winter storm-related deaths in Johnson County

By Mycca Decker  
Appalachian  
Newspapers

Johnson County Judge-Executive Mark McKenzie said Jan. 29 the state has confirmed three storm-related deaths from the recent winter weather. “We were advised yesterday by the state that Johnson County has three indi-

viduals who passed away and their deaths have now been determined to be storm-related,” McKenzie said. According to McKenzie, the state requested coroners submit reports on any deaths that may have been connected to the storm. “The coroner sent these reports on these three individuals and the state uses criteria to make that deter-

mination,” he said. “They determined that they were storm-related.” McKenzie said one case involved a 71-year-old man who fell while walking from his apartment to another to check on a friend. Another 71-year-old man died after his off-road vehicle left the roadway and pinned him. The third case involved an individual who suffered a

cardiac event while emergency responders were delayed due to weather conditions. “We certainly express our thoughts and prayers to those families who have lost loved ones to the storm,” McKenzie said. “It’s a very challenging situation on a lot of levels and we want to encourage everyone to be diligent and be safe.”

# PSC to hold public information meetings regarding nuclear generation

Special to Appalachian  
Newspapers

The Kentucky Public Service Commission announced in a statement Jan. 30 it will be holding public meetings throughout the state to listen to Kentucky citizens, businesses, academia and local officials’ ideas and concerns regarding nuclear generation. The statement said the PSC determined these meetings would be an essential part of the case record since the potential impact of nuclear generation and storage on any given community could be significant. These public meetings, as well as the case in general, are part of the PSC’s compliance with 2024 Senate Joint Resolution 140, in which the Kentucky General Assembly directed the Public Service Commission to make all staffing, organizational and administrative preparations necessary to be ready to discharge its regulatory duties relating to applications for the siting and construction of nuclear energy facilities in the commonwealth, according to the statement. The public information meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. in Morehead at Morehead State University, Ronald G. Eaglin Space Science Center, 235 Martindale Drive;
  - March 17 at 5 p.m. in Louisville at the University of Louisville, J.B. Speed School of Engineering’s Student Success and Research Building, 201 Engineering Drive;
  - March 25 at 5 p.m. in Lexington at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Newtown Campus, 500 Newtown Pike;
  - April 1 at 5 p.m. in Paducah at Western Kentucky Community and Technical College, Emerging Technology Center, 5100 Alben Barkley Drive;
  - April 6 at 5 p.m. in Highland Heights at Northern Kentucky University, University Center, Budig Theatre, 1 Nunn Drive; and
  - April 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Bowling Green at Western Kentucky University, Amy and David Chandler Hall, Houchens Industries Auditorium, 410 Regents Avenue.
- “As our nation struggles to keep up with rising demand for electricity, nuclear energy is increasingly seen as a reliable, dispatchable, clean energy source, and as such, is experiencing a resurgence in the United States,” said Kentucky Public Service Commission Chair Angie Hatton. “Recent technological advances have made nuclear energy potentially more affordable and attainable. However, the technology is still very expensive, and we want to make sure we examine all angles of this potential power source, including its impact on ratepayers, electric grid reliability, our environment, economic development and our workforce in Kentucky as we explore our options.” The order setting the meeting and other records in the case are available on the PSC website: [psc.ky.gov](https://psc.ky.gov). The case number 2025-00186.

# House fire claims life of Floyd County woman

An Appalachian  
Newspapers  
Staff Report

A residential fire has resulted in the death of a Floyd County woman. The Mud Creek Volunteer Fire Department, along with representatives from the Floyd County Sheriff’s Office and the Kentucky State Fire Marshall’s Office, responded to a fire in the Harold community on the night of Jan. 30. According to the Floyd County Coroner’s Office, Juanita Hall, age 79, was pronounced dead shortly before midnight. No foul play is suspected, as the death has been deemed accidental, according to the coroner’s office. Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said a coal stove is being blamed for the fire. “The origin of the fire was a coal stove burning fire,” he said. “We believe the stove busted, or split, and caused the material inside (coal, wood, etc.) to spill out on the floor. There were two residents in the home, a mother and daughter.” Hunt said the daughter was able to get out of the home and was transported from the scene to receive medical treatment. Her name and current condition have not been released.

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