

# Retired high school librarian to celebrate 100th birthday



Sara Noland at one of the Blue/Gold alumni reunions. Tickets were sold for items in the background to raise funds for scholarships.

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A bookmobile was also donated which was used to take books to schools and to residences throughout the county.

Mrs. Noland participated in a Foxfire workshop led by Elliott Wigginton, where he emphasized the importance of each student.

She was a member of the National Education Association, the Kentucky Education Association and Kentucky School Media Association. She served on a committee to revise standards for school libraries and was chairman of the Central Kentucky Education Association.

When the Nolands returned to Irvine after the war, she became an active member of Irvine United Methodist Church where she has taught Sunday School and Bible

School from kindergarten through high school ages.

She also led senior high and junior high youth groups.

She was a member of the Council of Ministries, a church planning group.

She served as a 4-H leader in cooking and sewing. Sometimes, her daughters were the only ones in her group. She also was a leader of Girl Scout troops.

She encouraged her high school reading club to participate in the community clean up campaign.

She was passionate about and volunteered with adult literacy and Project Graduation, an after-prom event.

In 1996, Mrs. Noland became the first recipient of the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service.

Twice, she was com-

missioned a Kentucky Colonel for her work with the public library and the high school academic team.

Estill County's bicentennial celebration was in 2008. Penny West, chairperson, planned a reunion for Irvine High alumni. Mrs. Noland her youngest daughter, Amy Noland-Hughes, planned a reunion for Estill High alumni.

The mother-daughter team continued a Blue/

Gold Alumni reunion for the alumni of both schools until 2013. Although Cecil and Sara Noland both taught at Estill, their three older children, Susan, Joel, and Nancy graduated from Irvine High School.

Mrs. Noland went to the middle school as a librarian when that position became open because it was a smaller school. Then she went back to the high school before retiring in 1991 with 42 years of service.



Mrs. Noland at her desk in the library in the old Estill County High School, where the central office now is located on Main Street.

The Estill County Public Library is hosting a Birthday Car Parade in honor of

Sara Noland's 100th Birthday Sunday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Meet in the Parking Lot of the New Estill County Public Library located at 184 Broadway in Irvine

We will line up and caravan to around the block for Waves and Wishes

Decorate your car, Make a Sign, Bring a can of food for the Estill County Community Food Bank

## Police Activity

**Brandy Gail Freeman**, 41, of Blakes Way, Irvine was charged by Det. Sam Hensley on Sunday evening with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, 2nd offense.

A citizen contacted Hensley at IPD and said a woman was outside in her car. It had a tire which had been completely run off the rim.

He asked Freeman if she knew she had a flat tire, and she replied, "no."

She told him that she came from home and asked to be taken back home.

The officer said she told him that she was on a prescription medication.

He recognized her because he had arrested her the previous week for a DUI.

She reportedly told him that she had been drinking vodka. He said she blew .311 on a blood alcohol test.

**William Austin Blake**, 20, of Meadows Lane, Ravenna, was arrested early Monday by Officer Jason Conrad on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, driving on a DUI suspended license, first offense, and criminal littering.

The officer said he observed Blake traveling east on Main Street in Ravenna. He added that Blake threw a cigarette butt out his window and it bounced off Conrad's police cruiser.

Blake reportedly told the officer that he had been drinking and also had smoked two marijuana cigarettes.

The officer administered field sobriety tests on Blake, who submitted to a blood draw.

Detective Hensley assisted at the scene.

On July 24, Officer Stewart Morris arrested **Billy J. Gross**, 49, of Broadway, Irvine.

He charged Gross with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, first offense, possession of an open

alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, and license to be in possession.

The citation states that Officer Morris received a complaint that a blue Dodge pickup was driving recklessly in the Cantrill and Oak Street area.

Field sobriety tests were administered and blood was drawn according to the citation.

**Paul Edgar Crabtree**, 51, of Wallace Circle, Irvine was arrested Wednesday, July 29 by Officer Conrad for alcohol intoxication in a public place.

The officer said he observed Crabtree sitting in the driver seat in front of his residence. He said it took Crabtree a few seconds to respond to him. He added that Crabtree had slurred speech and smelled of alcohol. He was also unsteady on his feet.

Officer James Marshall served a bench warrant for Estill District Court on Saturday, August 1 on **Bruce T. Neal**, 29, of Dawes Road, Irvine. The arrest was made at Northwood Apartments.

Deputy Josh King charged **William Tyler Flynn**, 18, of Grindstone Road, Irvine on July 28. He charged Flynn with no/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plate, operating on a suspended/revoked operator license, and failure of owner to maintain required insurance.

Irvine Officer Conrad assisted at the scene.

**Larry Hall**, 28, of Ruby Lane, Irvine was arrested July 29 by Deputy Brad Smith and charged with fourth degree assault (domestic violence).

Hall's handicapped mother reportedly told the deputy that her son had grabbed her twice aggressively.

The citation stated that she had left the residence and went to a neighbor's for her safety.

## Almost half of counties still lack syringe exchanges, including 20 of those most vulnerable to drug-related disease outbreaks

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Besides Bracken, the new counties are Christian, LaRue, Marion and Martin.

Christian County's program is the latest to be approved, but is not yet operational. Bracken County's exchange is still marked as not yet opera-

tional on the state's map, but it started operating July 8.

Among the 54 Kentucky counties that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified as being most vulnerable to outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis C among IV drug us-

ers, 34 have operational exchanges.

The vulnerable counties that have not approved an exchange include Bell and Clinton, which rank sixth and 11th on the national list of 220 vulnerable counties; Cumberland, Casey, Edmonson, Harlan, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Monroe, Rockcastle and Wayne, also in Appalachian Kentucky; and eight in the rest of the state: Carroll, Gallatin, Green, Breckinridge, Grayson, Allen and Hickman.

Christie Green, public health director of the Cumberland Valley District Health Department, said their program saw a brief dip in participation in March and April, and it has since increased. Early in the pandemic they only offered services every two weeks as a way to limit interactions, she said, but have since gone back to their weekly schedule.

"As restrictions were lifted," she said. "most of our participants preferred to come every week."

Green said they also increased usage of their mobile harm-reduction unit in Clay and Jackson counties.

"So, instead of bringing them into the van, which is set up kind of like a little lab on the inside, we shifted it all to outside, under a canopy with a table beside the van," she said. "If someone wants a test, then we mask them and bring them inside."

Scott Lockard, public health director of the Kentucky River District Health Department, which has a program in each of

the seven counties in the district, said its use has held steady or better.

"People are still thankfully coming in and getting the supplies they need, because the last thing we would have wanted to see was a big uptick in HIV or hep C right now too," he said.

"Our services are being utilized more than ever" Lockard added.

John Moses, harm-reduction team leader at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, said it has seen a steady increase in participation, with record numbers in the last month.

"The good thing about our program is that we were able to continue all of our services through the syringe exchange with really minimal interruption because of covid," he said. "We simply moved our program outside and are using our mobile unit to see our clients."

Jamey Whaley, harm-reduction and peer-support specialist with the Buffalo Trace District Health Department, said that one of the biggest changes he's seen in its program since the beginning of the pandemic is a shift from methamphetamine to heroin, because limited meth supply has driven its price up.

"So I have seen more people who have gone in the direction of heroin, which is a little unsettling because of the risk of potential overdose," Whaley said. He added that he has seen some of the program's former participants relapse since the pandemic hit, and that he has added a good number of new participants.

## Stolen Medical Equipment

VETERANS POST  
by Freddy Groves

It's hard to fathom how low some criminals will go. Right in the middle of the COVID crisis, a respiratory therapist working for the Department of Veterans Affairs was nabbed for theft.

Hospitals were sweating out having enough space and equipment to take care of patients, and medical personnel were struggling to find enough protective gear for themselves. So what was this respiratory therapist doing? He was stealing ventilators and selling them on eBay.

He stole not only ventilators but bronchoscopes and other respiratory support equipment -- just the medical stuff COVID patients need to keep breathing while their bodies heal. Among other things, he sold on eBay a whopping five ventilators in two months -- March and April -- right in the middle of the COVID chaos.

Staff at the VA hospital knew the items were missing, of course, and had reported each instance. They probably did a daily count of materials, worried about how they would cope with an influx of patients. Then some-

one thought to check sales of those medical items on eBay, and there they were.

The VA Office of Inspector General stepped in, as well as the U.S. attorney. The suspect initially denied involvement, of course. Criminals always do. He said someone else was using that seller name on eBay, that he hadn't stolen anything, even though eBay listings and IP addresses traced back to his house.

Search warrant in hand, the authorities collected all manner of stolen medical equipment from the guy's house, including CPAP machines and masks, ventilation tubes and more. eBay sales records were found, complete with serial numbers of the missing items. The U.S. Attorney's Office spoke with buyers of some of the equipment.

But one piece of the evidence was damning. The final nail in the crook's coffin was his own cellphone with photos of some of the items he stole.

Theft of government property can net a 10-year prison sentence. Hopefully, that 10 years will apply to each individual piece of equipment this criminal stole.

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