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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Principal at West Irvine has retired

Friday was unofficially Lorretta Cruse day at West Irvine Elementary.

On her last day as principal at the school, Cruse was surprised by students as soon as the day got started. She was called to go to the gym for a student disruption, but when she got there all the students were in there. She was seated in a rocking chair and the students performed for her.

Later, she was surprised with a potluck dinner by the staff. Former staff members also stopped by to wish Cruse well, along with former Supt. Bert Hensley and his wife, Cindy.

Cruse became principal at South Irvine Elementary just over 12 years ago. Schools were realigned and Cruse was moved to Estill Springs. Another re-configuration of students three years ago brought her to West Irvine.

"I thought I would continue this entire year," she stated. "After the first week,

I just felt like it was time for new energy."

"You just know it right here," she said pointing to her heart.

She said her father hasn't been well. She also has three granddaughters and is expecting her first grandson. Then she turned 55 in September.

Her age and 33 years of experience qualified her for better retirement pay and 100 percent medical benefits.

Cruse was the first of 11 children in her family to graduate from college. There were six children older than she was. Her mom stayed at home, but the family worked hard and never starved on their Madison County farm.

"I was a free lunch kid," Cruse said. When she was older, she often went without lunch to avoid the embarrassment of using the blue lunch card.

"I feel like I paved the way (with college)," she stated.

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Lorretta Cruse, right, principal of West Irvine Elementary, retired Friday after 12.2 years in Estill County. She has been principal at South Irvine, Estill Springs, and West Irvine. McKinley Meek, left, a senior at Estill High is also a student worker at West Irvine. She was a student at Estill Springs while Cruse was principal there. West Irvine's staff wore t-shirts printed with Cruseisms, the "often heard" sayings of Ms. Cruse.

## Man arrested for falsely reporting robbery at store

A false report of a robbery at South Irvine Quick Mart was made to the 911 dispatch center on Sunday.

The male caller allegedly and falsely identified himself to the dispatcher as Sam Crowe.

When Deputy Russell "Doc" Morris arrived on the scene, he said he saw Danny Rose running down South Irvine Road in traffic.

Morris said that Rose, 42, of Traylor Road, Irvine had

slurred speech, was paranoid, and was unsteady on his feet.

The deputy added that Rose admitted that he had made up the robbery.

The deputy said that Rose possessed suboxone strips and benzodiazepines.

Rose was charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct, two counts of possession of a controlled substance third degree, and falsely reporting an incident.

## Police are led on foot chase Friday at Dark Hollow

A deputy sheriff and Irvine officer were involved in a foot chase Friday afternoon after they went to 930 Dark Hollow Road to serve a warrant.

Deputy Daniel Smith wrote in the citation that he saw a man running up the hill behind the house. He yelled at the man to stop.

Irvine Officer John Sturniolo and the deputy began chasing the man. The citation says he ran up a steep rocky hill, through the woods, and through a barbed wire fence.

Smith stated he caught the man in a thicket.

He said that during the foot chase, the officers could have been injured.

Smith added that during the search before the arrest, the officers found small plastic wrapper with a clear

crystal like substance and a needle.

The arrested man, Jimmy Fowler, 33, reportedly told the officers the substance was meth.

Officer Sturniolo used a methamphetamine field test kit, and the substance tested positive for methamphetamine, the citation states.

Fowler was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine) - buy/possess, wanton endangerment, second degree, police officer and fleeing or evading police first degree (on foot).

Fowler's bail has been set at \$15,000 cash.

The officers also served the bench warrant for Fowler's arrest.

## Local schools improve in academics

State test scores were released last Thursday, and Estill students have made improvements in most academic areas.

"It's hard to compare the numbers from one year to the next," said Superintendent Jeff Saylor.

"Overall, we didn't do worse," he stated. "We just didn't improve as much as other districts."

At the elementary level, students scored higher in social studies, writing, and math. The scores dropped slightly in reading, from 38.8 to 38.4.

Middle school students increased their test scores in math, reading, social studies, and writing.

Math scores remained the same at the high school, while students scored higher in science. Their test scores went down in social studies, reading, and writing.

Lisa Reece, test coordinator, said there are other factors in the test scores. One factor was the students who

scored novice last year. The middle school increased their overall achievement, but the number of students scoring novice didn't change. Therefore, the middle school did not meet their goal.

"We've got a lot of work with novice kids," said Saylor. "I hate to use the word novice."

The goal is for students to reach proficiency at all levels.

The high school is also rated on College and Career Readiness. The school exceeded its target of 73.8 and went to 76.9.

Kindergarten readiness had a target of 50.8 and they scored 58.5.

The high school attained a level of proficiency. The district, West Irvine, and the middle school were rated as needing improvement.

"We are better today than we were last year at this time," Saylor stated.

He added the Dept. of Education does not rank

school districts as best or worst. The state's two largest newspapers do that.

"School districts shouldn't be competing against each other," Saylor said. "School districts should be working together."

Other factors besides novice reduction are accounted for in the final numbers, such as GAP groups, which includes students with special needs or those on free or reduced lunches.

"Novice reduction is going to be our central focus," stated Tim Burkhart, principal of Estill County Middle School.

Chris Winkler, principal at Estill County High School, said the high school teachers work together in the classroom. They're all part of a Professional Learning Committee which stays after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays to work as a team.

West Irvine Elementary has also had a Professional

Learning Committee for several years.

Winkler said the school's graduation rate is above state average.

Principal Lorretta Cruse said that West Irvine put a writing plan in place three years ago. She said their biggest gain was in writing, with the number of students scoring proficient.

Principals from South Irvine P-K and Estill Springs (1-2 grade) attended the meeting but students from those schools were not involved in the testing.

Supt. Saylor said however, those schools are the foundation for future academic growth.

This is the fifth and last year of "Unbridled Learning" achievement tests. There will be a next test given in the spring to meet federal standards.

For more information on test scores, please visit the Kentucky Department of Education's webpage at [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov).

## Obituaries

- Ike Boyd Jr., 77
- Jeanette Mays, 80
- Jessie Mays, 60
- Draxie McMillan, 94
- Juanita Muncie, 74
- Frances Reed, 82
- Scotty Winkler, 81

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## Main Street Market and Vendor Fair

The 2nd Annual Main Street Market Craft & Vendor Fair will be held at the Estill County Courthouse on Saturday, October 8th starting at 9 a.m.

The event is open to the public to help get an early start to Christmas shopping. There will be lots of local vendors and crafters, including the Estill County farmers market.

Call 859-314-7483 or 606-975-3084 for information on vendor space availability.



"See You At The Pole"

Last Wednesday, students met with local pastors and other religious leaders around the flag poles at Estill County Schools and had prayer before classes began. The group at Estill High is pictured above. Pastor Bill Wesley of the Body of Christ organized this year's event locally.