

Cruse retires as West Irvine principal

Continued from Page 1

A few others in her family have gone on to college. A younger brother played for the Kansas City Royals.

She knew when she was a senior in high school that she wanted to go to college, and she received a couple of small scholarships.

Her best friend was Kathy Kidd, daughter of ECU Football Coach Roy Kidd. They were at a basketball game when Coach Kidd asked Cruse if she had filled out papers for financial aid. He had her come to his office the following day and one of his assistants filled out the paperwork for her.

She received paperwork back in the mail but didn't really know what it meant. She presented it at the long registration line at EKU,

and the clerk handed her back \$1,500.

"I'd never had \$1,500 in my hand, ever," she said.

She asked where did she go next to pay the \$1,500 for her college classes.

She was told that was her money to buy books with and to live on that semester.

Cruse attended ECU the first two years on grants and scholarships. Then she stated she did something crazy and got married.

She graduated from ECU in 1983 with double majors in special education and elementary education. She obtained her master's degree in 1988 in Learning Disabilities.

Cruse got a job with the Madison County School System. She taught 21 years there, five years at

the elementary level and the others at secondary.

In 2003 she became certified as a supervisor of instruction and received her P-12 principalship.

That's when she got the job at South Irvine. She even thought that someday she would go back to Madison County to work. The drive to Estill County was worth it.

"I grew to love the kids at South," she stated.

Some of them reminded her of herself growing up poor.

"I knew that all these kids, that some people had counted out, could make it," she said.

Cruse talked about the criticism that she sometimes received from parents.

She said that whatever

she did, she did what was best for the students.

One of those times she was criticized was just after she became principal at South. She didn't let parents in the building until students were ready to go home. She said that a parent who arrived early disrupted the learning going on.

In the three years she has been at West Irvine, scores have improved. Cruse said the foundation has been planted for more growth.

"I'm not ready to quit completely," she stated. She plans on getting a part-time job some day.

No replacement for Cruse has been named. The school's site-based council has met several times over the last few weeks and have interviewed candidates for the principal's job.



Former Estill Superintendent Bert Hensley returned Friday to honor West Irvine Principal Lorretta Cruse on her retirement.



Staff and other visitors had a crazy photo opportunity at Friday's observation. Photos will be given to Ms. Cruse to remember the staff and friends.



Teachers brought dishes for a potluck lunch on Friday. Former staff members from the South Irvine and Estill Springs stopped by.



ESTILL COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS:

ESTILL COUNTY – WE ARE INVITING YOU TO COME SING WITH US!!!

CALLING ALL SINGERS in ESTILL COUNTY!!!!!!
 The **Estill County Community Chorus** started back up on **Thursday evening, September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

We have accepted and named a new Chorus Director. Her name is **Rose D. Daniels, Ph. D.** We are so honored and excited to have her extend her services, and long list of credentials (Ph. D in Choral Music Education, Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Music and a Bachelor of Music Education,) to direct our Community Chorus, for this Christmas Concert!!! We are now officially into the Fall Season, so it's that time again to start preparing for Christmas music (our favorite time of the year, with all its fun music and carols.) Also, and **MOSTLY**, we just enjoy seeing each other again to sing and fellowship, and prepare for another wonderful and challenging Concert. It stretches us to learn more, do more – our minds and voices!

We are encouraging **ALL SINGERS - ALL AGES – Middle School, High School and Up, Past Members, Present Members and NEW MEMBERS** to join us!!!!

We welcome you to come and be a part, no matter whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. **NO AUDITIONS! Just bring your VOICES!!!** Spread the word! Invite a friend! Come and give us a try! We have **FUN** singing familiar songs and learning new songs. If you love to sing, that's all you need, **SO** give us a little of your time, and inspire the Community with your vocal talent. You don't have to have any formal training. We do practice though, to make our Community proud of us, when we perform at our Concerts. The Chorus is a form of the Estill Arts in Irvine, to represent our Community and the Arts.

COME OUT TO WELCOME ROSE DANIELS –

ESTILL COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS'S NEW DIRECTOR!!!!

We meet every Thursday night, and rehearse – from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m., at Irvine United Methodist Church-243 Main St., Irvine, KY.

We will be performing our **Christmas Concert** on **Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**

For More Info: Robin Reed – (606)-723-4678, Debbie Carlyle – (606)-531-0465



Ladies Night Out

For Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

You're invited to a Ladies Night Out!

Join us for a free dinner and presentation by **Vicki Blevins-Booth, Kentucky Cancer Link Executive Director** and **Sharon Whitaker, Marcum & Wallace Hospital Radiology Director**

Tuesday, October 25
5:30 p.m.
Estill County High School Cafeteria

Sign up for this free educational event by Friday, October 21 by calling 606-726-2106 (option 2).

All women who attend will receive a free dinner, gift and door prize chance. Educational booths will also be available.



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