

# Library Happenings

## Estill Public Library

by Shannon Horn

Wow. All I can say is I am worn out! We only have two full weeks of Summer Reading left and I can tell. It has been such a fun summer, but I must say I am ready to take a nice deep breath and relax a couple days after! Like I said, we only have TWO weeks left and there is a lot going on, so let me go ahead and share some of it with you!

### Week in Review

Boy, we have been so busy this week... and that is great!! You better believe I'm excited about all that has gone on. We had another wonderful Pickin' in the Park concert. Shout out to Troy Estes for a job well done. Wednesday we followed up with a fun Storytime where the kiddos got to recreate the homes of the three little pigs! My favorite part of this week though had to be our visit from Princess Belle! I couldn't imagine a more entertaining program. I

even teared up at one point, because I saw how much fun the kids were having. And you better believe that some of the adults were having fun too. I know I did.

### Kentucky Career Center

If you are looking for a job, but you aren't really sure where to start, stop by the library from 1:00-4:00 on Wednesday the 17th. A rep from the Kentucky Career Center will be here to talk with anyone who needs information on finding a job. I know she has helped out some people the last couple of times she has been to the library and she is willing to work with anyone that comes in. You can call ahead and make an appointment with her or you can just come on down to the library. The rep's name is Trina Bumble and her number is 859-361-9315.

### Triple Threat Magic

Triple Threat Magic will be joining us again this year for another awesome magic show. I have seen these guys perform before and they are wonderful. We will only have one show at 1:00, so make sure you come get a seat.

### Movie Mania

On Monday, July 22nd we will be hosting a Movie

Mania day. Starting at 9:30 we will be showing movies for families. Starting at 9:30 we will be showing The Sword and the Stone, followed by A Goofy Movie, Pete's Dragon and The Nutcracker and the Four Realms. We tried to select movies that would work for any kid 18 and under. Just drop in. You can watch one or stay with us all day for the entire marathon!

### Pickin' in the Park

Don't forget that we have Grits and Soul coming to perform on the 23rd at 6:30. And believe it or not it is time for me to list the FINAL performer of the month of July. How crazy is that? Josh Richardson will be here on the 30th to share his talent with us. Make sure you come out for those concerts. While you are there, pick up one of our Pickin' in the Park t-shirts for just \$13.

Just a reminder, that Summer Reading will be wrapping up in a couple of weeks. We have lots of prizes to give away to those who have been reading and participating in our activities. There will be more information to come about our Summer Reading Wrap-Up next week. Just stay tuned so that you are up to date.

# 9-Banded Armadillo makes brief debut in Estill County

One of the most-looked-at and most-shared stories on Facebook over the last week was a 2018 entry by television station WKYT about the sightings of armadillos in Kentucky.

An incident that excited the subject was the brief debut of an armadillo in Estill County that was apparently hit by a car in front of the Estill County High School on Winchester Road. Although many in this area pride themselves on being about to identify "road kill," this particular one sparked enough interest that cars were stopping on the side of the road and photos were being taken of the creature and shared on the internet.

Most were really surprised by the sighting and remarks included, "Really?" "YES" "Nastyyyy" "I have no idea why but this makes me real happy" and "If I find one it's getting domesticated."

Although this is the first known sighting, live or dead, of an armadillo in Estill County, the fact is, it has been known to have been in Kentucky for more than 20 years, having been seen regularly in the Land Between the Lakes area of western Kentucky since about 2009. The first live sighting was by a farmer on a tractor who saw one feeding on the edge of a field in the LBL area in 2002.

Steve Bonney, northeastern region wildlife coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, encountered a road-killed armadillo in Rowan County in 2009 on the way to work. He said it kind of shocked him so

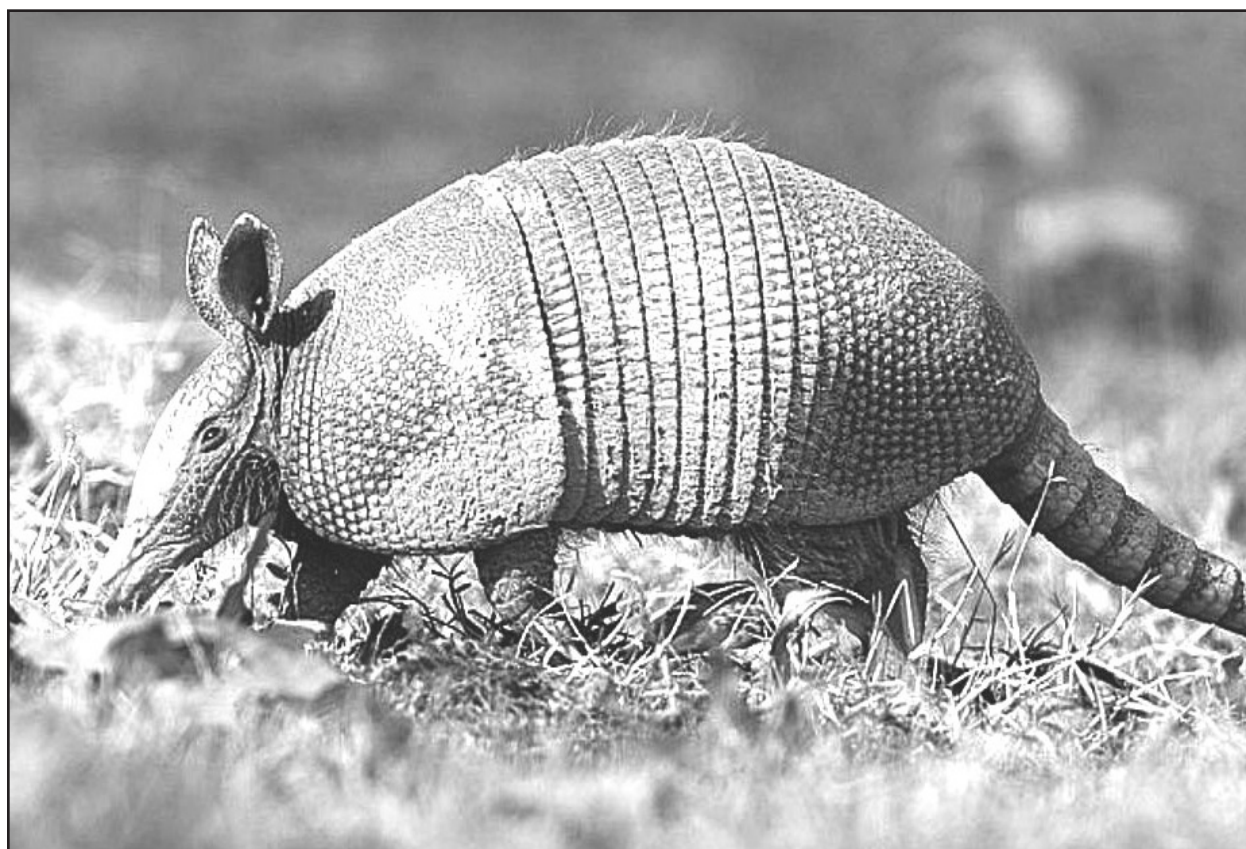
he drove back up to Farmers, Kentucky to take a picture of it. There have also been reports of sightings in Illinois and Indiana.

The armadillo originates from Mexico where there are about 20 species, but the species spreading northward is the 9-banded armadillo. Biologists say populations in Florida and Georgia merged in the 1980's with those coming out of Texas and Louisiana. They are established in at least 15 southern states and are moving northward into the Appalachians and up the Atlantic coast. They have been reported as far west as Nebraska and along the eastern coastline in South Carolina as winters have become milder.

Rivers, lakes and small streams are not an obstacle to range expansion, according to James Loughry, a zoologist and armadillo expert at Valdosta State University in Georgia. He says it's a misconception that they're desert animals and believe they're more adapted to areas with wet soil and may move along watersheds.

Although they have been sighted swimming, Loughry says they don't swim well but can gulp air to inflate their stomach and intestines to help them float.

The armadillo's armored appearance makes it look reptilian, but this almost hairless animal is a mammal, sporting fine tracts of hair. They are warm blooded, give live birth, and feed their young milk. Unique among mammals, armadillos give birth to four identical quadruplets every



A 9-banded armadillo similar to this one was found dead beside the Winchester Road in front of the Estill County High School on Saturday and brought several photo-takers to the area.

time. A common joke and misconception describes armadillos as "possums in a half shell," but they're related to anteaters and sloths while opossums are marsupials, like kangaroos; and armadillos belong to a group of mammals found only in the Americas.

Armadillos, which are primarily nocturnal, like to dig in loose soil, leaf litter and rotting logs looking for grubs, beetles, ants, termites and worms to eat, which they lap up with their sticky tongues. They also will eat amphibians, small reptiles, fungi and plant tubers.

The nine-banded armadillos typically weigh 12 to 22 pounds, with an overall length of 20 to 42 inches, including

their tails, according to a story by wildlife writer Art Lander.

Loughry says the two most likely things to cause armadillo mortality are being eaten by coyotes and getting run over by vehicles on roads.

Roadways and disturbed areas provide perfect pathways for the armadillo but brings them into the path of automobiles. They have a strong sense of smell but their eyesight and hearing is very weak. Although they are better known for curling in a ball for defense, John Pollpeter, lead naturalist at Woodlands Nature magazine says they have a habit of jumping straight up when startled, landing them in the center of a car's grill.

A small percentage of ar-

madillos do carry leprosy. But, according to Pollpeter, this population is located mostly in the Deep South and Florida. Luckily, modern hygiene and antibiotics provide the best weapons against armadillos transmitting leprosy. According to the Center for Disease Control, the risk is low for catching leprosy from an armadillo.

The area in front of Estill County High School may seem an unlikely place for the appearance of rarely-seen animals, but it seems to be a natural pathway where deer, coyotes, red foxes and even a gray fox have been seen. So the sighting of a live armadillo or a wild species of cat would not be an impossibility.

ESTILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# NEEDLE EXCHANGE



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365 River Drive  
Mondays | 8:00 – 5:30

**You must bring in used needles to receive new needles.**

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- Clean needles
- Confidential Hepatitis C testing (optional)
- Onsite treatment referral (optional): 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- FREE confidential HIV & Syphilis testing (optional)
- Education



**QUESTIONS?**

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